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# ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITISATION

This chapter of the UFPP provides guidance on implementation. It sets out short- and long-term actions, and the strategic alignment, funding and deliverability assessment process.

Planning guidance for implementation is provided, including the evidence-based high priority streets and open space guidance.

## THE OBJECTIVES OF THE URBAN FOREST STRATEGY ARE

The Action Plan on the following two pages highlights how this UFPP addresses the five objectives.

1. Objective 1: Increased canopy cover on public and private land for a liveable, sustainable, equitable and vibrant city.
2. Objective 2: Cooler and greener city which is resilient to more extreme weather and changes in rainfall.
3. Objective 3: Our community is engaged, trees and plants are valued, and we build partnerships to green our urban environment across all land types.
4. Objective 4:A well-managed forest, including tree health and quality, pest and disease management, and succession planning for iconic species and locations.
5. Objective 5: A biodiverse urban forest with diverse species, healthy ecosystems, and habitat.

## WHAT IS THE ACTION PLAN?

The Action Plan - contained on the following two pages - has been prepared for the Balaclava and East St Kilda neighbourhood to guide investment in the urban forest. Each of the twelve Key Actions identified at the start of this document (Page 6) have been assessed for the objectives from the Urban Forest Strategy they achieve, the short- and long-term possible opportunities they create, and the departments responsible for actioning these opportunities.

## HOW HAVE THE ACTIONS BEEN CHOSEN

The short-term actions have been selected to be fundable and deliverable based on available resources over the next two (2) years, subject to Council plan and budget. The actions are delivered by teams across Council to leverage multiple co-benefits to deliver urban greening aligning with transport safety, water sensitive urban design and civic amenity programs, as well as dedicated programs to uplift tree and biodiverse planting.

Some actions involving larger projects where redeveloping streetscapes can significantly bolster tree canopy, urban cooling and biodiversity, will require additional resources. Some will be able to be undertaken within the budget allocated to urban greening. There is limited financial flexibility to invest in some forms of urban greening due to increasing costs in construction, rate capping, costs associated with contaminated land and costs associated with minimising utility infrastructure conflicts.

For high-cost actions, we will conduct feasibility assessments and progress with design development and costing, whilst also considering associated benefits of the projects. Funding will be considered through Council's annual budget process, alongside other Council priorities. We will look at available funding, including the likelihood of funding from other sources such as State and Federal Government, and actively be ready for and seek co-funding opportunities. We will give consideration to ensuring a spread of projects across all neighbourhoods in Port Phillip as urban forest precinct plans are developed.

We will assess our capabilities and capacity to deliver the project, which will assist in prioritising project delivery. The strategic alignment, funding and deliverability assessment process is outlined in the adjacent diagram.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT, FUNDING AND DELIVERABILITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

**1 Strategic alignment assessment**

- Equity – adding canopy cover where we need it most
- Achieving one or more objectives identified in the Urban Forest Strategy.
- Multiple uses or benefits

**2 Funding assessment**

- Partnership opportunities
- Council budget position
- Cost/cost benefit analysis of projects

**3 Deliverability assessment**

- Portfolio capacity and capability

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# ACTION PLAN

| Key Action (refer table on Page 6) | | Urban Forest Strategy Objectives Addressed (refer text on Page 65) | Specific Opportunities | Responsibility |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Prioritise larger tree planting for shade provision along key pedestrian routes to improve equity and pedestrian comfort. | Objective 1: Canopy Cover<br>Objective 2: Cooler Greener | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Initiate feasibility and detail design on High and Medium priority streets<br>• Delivery of one high priority street based on outcomes of feasibly and design process. Current hierarchy for delivery (in this neighbourhood) is Fulton St, Nelson St and Alma Rd<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• Continue feasibility and detail design on High and Medium priority streets<br>• Actively identify and seek funding partnerships to deliver tree planting projects<br>• Deliver two projects annually. The delivery order will be reviewed post design process and will be based on benefit, funding and once other precinct plans are developed it will consider whole of municipality | UF, CD, PD, T, P |
| 2 | Investigate and implement new street designs to improve canopy cover. | | | |
| 3 | Improve biodiverse planting and tree canopy by aligning with parks, traffic safety and water sensitive urban design projects and programs. | Objective 1: Canopy Cover<br>Objective 2: Cooler Greener<br>Objective 4: Well Managed<br>Objective 5: Biodiverse | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Planting uplift of garden beds in public open space and streetscapes<br>• Map WSUD opportunities<br>• Map joint Transport Safety and Greening opportunities<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• Regular planting uplifts of garden beds in public open space and streetscapes<br>• Deliver new WSUD based on opportunity mapping within current budgets as feasible<br>• Deliver new joint Transport Safety/Greening opportunities within current budgets as feasible<br>• Actively identify and seek funding partnerships to deliver projects | P, W, T |
| 4 | Plant trees in the vacant spaces (tree plots) where there are currently gaps in street tree provision. | Objective 1: Canopy Cover | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Plant trees in all vacant tree plots (infill planting)*<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• Continue tree removal and replacement program, replacing trees when tree removals occur | P |
| 5 | Gradually transition to new street tree species to improve canopy cover. | Objective 1: Canopy Cover<br>Objective 4: Well Managed | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Develop species transition into asset management, and develop community engagement on species transition^*<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• Gradually deliver species change as tree replacement occurs | UF, P |
| 6 | Develop tree replacement programs where trees are failing to thrive to improve canopy cover. | Objective 1: Canopy Cover<br>Objective 4: Well Managed | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Identify poor performing trees and develop replacement program<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• Deliver replacement program | UF, P |
| 7 | Work with State Government, neighbouring Councils and other agencies to improve tree planting and maintenance along roads, rail reserve and non Council land. | Objective 3: Engaged Community | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Working with Department Transport and Planning (DTP) to deliver tree planting on Brighton Rd.<br>• Work with Glen Eira City Council on street tree planting along shared border<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• Continue to advocate for, and seek partnerships with other land holders to improve greening outcomes | UF, OS, P, T, A |

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| Key Action (refer table on Page 6) | | Urban Forest Strategy Objectives Addressed (refer text on Page 65) | Specific Opportunities | Responsibility |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | **Develop new open spaces with 40% canopy cover. Additional greening goals to be determined when community engagement is finalised in April 2025.** | **Objective 1: Canopy Cover** | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Design development of new public open spaces<br>• Delivery of new public open spaces with biodiverse planting and trees to reach 40% canopy cover | OS, PD |
| 9 | **Develop/expand community gardening opportunities, including plots in open spaces such as Hewison Reserve, Te Arai Reserve, Pakington St Reserve.** | **Objective 3: Engaged Community** | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Design and deliver raised community garden beds in Hewison Reserve, expanded Pakington St Reserve<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• Continue to support community led greening initiatives in public space | UF, OS, PD, P |
| 10 | **Maintain canopy cover and species diversity with tree succession planning in Alma Park.** | **Objective 1: Canopy Cover**<br>**Objective 3: Engaged Community**<br>**Objective 4: Well Managed**<br>**Objective 5: Biodiverse** | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Develop tree succession plan<br>• Start tree planting according to succession plan<br>• Enhance biodiverse planting, working with Work with Friends of Alma Park<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• Continue tree planting according to succession plan | UF, P |
| 11 | **Increase tree planting and other greening solutions at public transport stops where summer shade provision is low, partnering with other agencies.** | **Objective 2: Cooler Greener**<br>**Objective 3: Engaged Community** | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Plant trees adjacent to public transport stops where possible<br>• Engage with public transport companies and Dept Transport and Planning to initiate alternative vegetated shade opportunities where tree planting is not feasible<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• In partnership, deliver vegetated shade opportunities at public transport stops as feasible | UF, T, P |
| 12 | **Carlisle St and Inkerman St are covered by two separate streetscape plans, both currently in development. Inkerman St community engagement occurred 2024, Carlisle St upcoming in 2025.** | **Objective 1: Canopy Cover**<br>**Objective 2: Cooler Greener** | **Short term (2025-2027)**<br>• Deliver the Inkerman Street Safety Improvement Project<br>• Develop Carlisle Street Streetscape Plan<br>**Longer term (2028-2035)**<br>• Detailed design and delivery of Carlisle St Streetscape Plan as feasible<br>• Actively identify and seek funding partnerships to deliver streetscape project | CD, T, PD, A |

*Streets for infill planting and species transition are identified on the map Page 68.

## RESPONSIBILITY ACRONYMS

- A – Advocacy
- CR – City Design
- T – Transport
- PD – Project Delivery
- OS – Open Space
- P – Parks and Trees
- UF – Urban Forest
- W Water/Sustainability

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