
7 URBAN FOREST STRATEGY - OUTCOME OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Report prepared by: Open Space Planner

File No.: GRP/23/12 - BP23/53

REPORT SUMMARY

Council considered the draft Urban Forest Strategy at its meeting of 27 September 2022 and resolved to place the draft on public exhibition. This occurred between 13 October 2022 and 10 November 2022.

A total of 6 submissions were received and considered as part of the process for finalising the document.

This report summarises the submissions and responses, their implications and recommends minor adjustment to the Strategy. The submissions were highly supportive of the draft Strategy, congratulating Council on recognising the importance of urban forest and/or the comprehensiveness of the draft Strategy, and endorsing the draft Strategy's directions and Actions.

However, some of the responses raised concerns regarding achievability of at least some of the Actions and propose additional ideas/mechanisms to address this. Council's response to the feedback received through the public exhibition period is summarized in the body of this report. Through the process of reviewing the document, some additional minor changes to the draft Strategy has also occurred.

The Strategy highlights the challenges that Council face in achieving its stated target of having a 40% canopy by the year 2030. To progress towards this target the following actions need to be a high priority;

- Collaborating with private landholders such as Macquarie University, the Department of Education, Developers, and NSW Crown Lands to implement tree plantings on their land.
- Ongoing partnering with other agencies such as Landcare Australia and the NSW Department of Planning to obtain resources and funding to increase the number of tree plantings within the LGA.
- The planting out of the full 21,000 (approx.) opportunities identified on Council's Road Reserves.
- Additional protection of the removal of trees from private land through review of the Development Control Plan – Tree Protection and greater enforcement.

Implementation of the above actions will lead towards targeting an increase of the tree canopy across the LGA towards 30% by 2030, with a view to increasing this further as soon as practicable.

As such, this report recommends the adoption of the amended Urban Forest Strategy – **ATTACHMENT 1** for the reasons outlined in this report.

ITEM 7 (continued)**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That Council adopt the amended City of Ryde Urban Forest Strategy, dated 28 March 2023, prepared by Edge Environment, as detailed in this report.
- (b) That staff write to thank all residents who participated in the City of Ryde Urban Forest Strategy public exhibition and inform them of Council's resolution.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Urban Forest Strategy - For Adoption - CIRCULATED UNDER SEPARATE COVER
- 2 Council response to submissions received during public exhibition

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ITEM 7 (continued)

Background

The directions proposed in the draft Urban Forest Strategy (the Strategy) are based on extensive community engagement and a detailed review by consultants Edge Environment Pty Ltd.

The community engagement identified that while concerns remain surrounding aspects of the maintenance and management of trees in public places, there is very strong support for the provision of more trees.

The Edge Environment review provides a strong evidence base for enhanced Urban Forest management, with its focus on:

- The social, environmental, and economic importance of the Urban Forest,
- Current tree canopy cover and trends (showing significant canopy loss in recent years),
- Scenario testing of achieving Council's 40% 2030 tree canopy target,
- The main challenges to achieving the canopy target,
- Street tree planting priorities, and
- Guidelines for best practice tree planting and asset management processes.

Based on the review outcomes, Edge Environment developed a strategic framework and action plan to meet tree canopy targets and pro-active tree management imperatives and incorporated these within the draft Strategy. These actions clearly articulate Council's role in protecting and expanding the urban forest, including through partnerships with large private land owners and incorporation of more trees within road reserves.

The draft Strategy provides Council with a clear evidence-base in which to grow and protect its urban forest over the next 20-30 years. It will guide Council's on-going investment in tree planting and a review of planning controls relating to trees.

Council Resolution

Council considered the draft Strategy at its meeting held on 27 September 2022 and resolved:

- That the draft "Urban Forest Strategy" be placed on public exhibition for twenty-eight (28) days plus 14 days for submissions to be received.*
- That a further report be provided to Council should any objections be received during the consultation period.*

ITEM 7 (continued)

- (c) *That should no objections be received, the Strategy is adopted and implemented as outlined in this report.*
- (d) *That Council endorses the Significant Tree Register Manual as attached to this report.*

Public Exhibition

In accordance with part (a) of Council's resolution, the draft Strategy was placed on public exhibition on 13 October 2022 and remained on display for a total of 28 days until 10 November 2022.

Interested residents and others were invited to have their say on the Strategy by providing comments or submissions via an on-line submission form, e-mail or post.

A total of 6 submissions were received. Of these, 5 Have Your Say (HYS) page comments were received during the Public Exhibition and one, from Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society, was received on 28 November after close of the exhibition.

Generally, the HYS comments were highly supportive of the draft Strategy, with all 6 congratulating Council on recognising the importance of urban forest and/or the comprehensiveness of the draft Strategy.

Notwithstanding this high level of community support, some submissions raised concerns regarding the proposed revised timeframe for the canopy target and the achievability of some of the objectives and actions.

The submissions proposed a range of ideas and amendments to address the concerns, including:

- Not revising the timeline for the 40% canopy target to beyond 2030,
- Stronger controls on private land tree losses,
- Optimal maintenance and monitoring of new plantings,
- Encouragement of tree plantings on private land, and
- Maximising canopy success and biodiversity via correct species selection.

Some of the submissions also sought clarification on aspects of the methodologies used in developing the draft Strategy.

ITEM 7 (continued)

A summary of the key issues raised in the submissions, and Council's proposed response, is provided in the following table.

Issue/concern	No. submissions	Proposed addition/amendment	Council response
Canopy target timeframe	1	Concern re Action 1.11 ('revise timeframe to achieve tree canopy cover') that stated canopy targets may be reduced (despite strong support for the canopy target in the first section of the UFS)	The UFS is clear on the physical and economic non-feasibility of the 2030 target. The target should be achieved as early as possible but supported by feasibility and affordability criteria. No amendment to the Strategy.
	2	Increased funding is obviously needed for Council to reach its target of 40% canopy within a reasonable timeframe	This is emphasised in the Strategy. Availability of funding to achieve the target is considered with all other pressing needs for funding during Council's business planning processes. Grants will significantly assist in achieving the target. No amendment to the Strategy.
	1	Proposals of increasing the tree canopy throughout Ryde to be prioritised ASAP	This is implied in the adoption of the Strategy. No amendment to the Strategy.
Controlling/minimising tree loss on private land	1	The significant tree register needs to be reviewed	Council endorsed the Significant Tree Register Manual at its meeting on 27 Sept 2022. No amendment to the Strategy.
		Support retention of trees on private land and a review of DCP controls.	Support acknowledged. Addressed by Action 2.4 <i>Updating Council's DCP</i> , Action 3.4 <i>DCP controls to protect trees on private land</i> . No amendment to the Strategy.
	2	Established trees are being removed from private land at an accelerated rate and not replaced. Council to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain a register of newly planted trees on private land • provide assurance that it is following up on completed developments (via spot inspections) to ensure trees have been maintained. 	Addressed by Action 3.5 <i>Establish tree protection compliance approach</i> and Action 3.6 <i>Increase DA tree planting compliance</i> . Action 3.6 could be strengthened to be more specific re a 'register' and 'spot checks'.
	1	Need to ensure that DCP controls improve tree protection on private land and in new developments. Concern	Feedback to be considered when Action 2.4 <i>Updating Council's DCP</i> and Action 3.4

ITEM 7 (continued)

Issue/concern	No. submissions	Proposed addition/amendment	Council response
		that change in tree removal exemption rule (from 3 to 4m) is inconsistent with Action 3.4 (DCP controls to protect trees on private land) and Focus Area 5 in Sec. 13.2	<i>DCP controls to protect trees on private land</i> are undertaken. No amendment to the Strategy.
New tree plantings monitoring/optimal maintenance	1	Street tree planting needs to be monitored - especially during dry/drought periods	Addressed in Actions 4.3 to 4.7. No amendment to the Strategy.
	1	Encourage/educate the public to report damaged trees or trees that need to be watered/maintained to Council.	Adequately addressed in Action 4.4 <i>Advocate for increased funding to support additional community education and engagement programs</i> and Action 5.3 <i>External community education and awareness</i> . No amendment to the Strategy.
Encouragement of tree planting on private land	1	Free tree giveaways to residents - with type of tree to be appropriate to the location.	Adequately addressed in Actions 1.5 <i>Review Species Planting List</i> and Action 2.5 <i>Establish a Growing Contract</i> . No amendment to the Strategy.
	1	Local residents to “adopt” a street tree to increase chance of survival - rebate or vouchers, a say on species selection, and encouraging them to “tag” their tree on social media or running a competition etc	Adequately addressed in Action 2.3 <i>Encourage tree planting on private land</i> and Action 5.3 <i>External community education and awareness</i> . No amendment to the Strategy.
	1	Tree plantings on golf courses - with golf courses being opened up to walkers, as they do in other councils.	Implied in Actions 1.8 <i>Improve understanding of private trees</i> and Action 2.3 <i>Encourage tree planting on private land</i> . No amendment to the Strategy.
Optimising biodiversity via appropriate species planting	1	Species selection of canopy trees to reduce territorial/aggressive bird species (mynas, magpies, butcher birds) which reduce the diversity of other small species and rely on a high canopy and open grasses with no mid-canopy shrubs.	This is covered by Target 5.2.7 of the Biodiversity Plan. It is also foreshadowed in Action 1.4 <i>Build the business-case for trees</i> with the proposal to “complete an I-Tree Eco assessment of the City’s public trees to quantify and value ecosystem service benefits provided by the trees”. No amendment to the Strategy.
	4	Plant selection to favour local natives and a range of size of plants - range of groundcover, mid-level shrubs and canopy species, which provides retention of soil moisture as	Adequately addressed in Action 1.2 <i>Quantify species diversity and resilience of the urban forest</i> , Action 1.5 <i>Review species planting list</i> and Action 1.6 <i>Identify priority street tree</i>

ITEM 7 (continued)

Issue/concern	No. submissions	Proposed addition/amendment	Council response
		well as encouraging native habitat.	<i>planting locations that correlate with wildlife corridors.</i> No amendment to the Strategy.
	1	Important to expand funding for remnant bushland pockets – to maintain their health, as they are integral to the City’s environment health and native biodiversity.	The funding of bush regeneration and bush care is considered in the <i>Biodiversity Plan (2016)</i> . No amendment to the Strategy.
Methodology issues/ clarifications	1	Need for more canopy trend data - to see what the yearly average number of planted trees has been over the 2010-2020 period, for comparison with the A-E scenarios.	This data was not collected for those years. Moving forward, as Council implements Action 1.1-3, year of planting will be recorded. This information will then be able to inform future strategies. No amendment to the Strategy.
	1	Because of the high proportion of impermeable surfaces resulting from much larger housing & dual occupancy footprints, the quantity of ‘plantable space’ in the City needs to be ground-truthed.	Adequately addressed in Action 1.9 <i>Verify public domain plantable opportunities</i> and Action 2.3-4. No amendment to the Strategy.
	1	Many of streets in the Street Tree Prioritiser results have already had tree plantings – and some streets with lower Integrated Priority Assessment scores have already been planted while streets with higher scores have not {page 103}.	This has been noted. It is due to the AI limitations and resolution of the aerial imagery causing recently planted trees not to be captured (as the trees were too small for detection). This issue will be addressed through the implementation of Actions 1.1-3,8.

A detailed summary of the six (6) submissions received is provided for in **ATTACHMENT 2**.

Discussion and Recommended Amendments to Final Urban Forest Strategy

Based on a detailed assessment of the issues raised in the six (6) submissions – with Council’s recommended responses summarised in the right-hand column above – it is proposed to only amend Action 3.6 (on page 57) of the draft Strategy, as follows:

Action 3.6 to be amended from “Where resources allow, implement regular monitoring of consents within DAs to plant trees” to “Where resources allow, establish a register of consents within DAs to plant trees and implement regular monitoring and spot checking of compliance with these consents.”

ITEM 7 (continued)

Further refinement of the Strategy has also occurred to align actions to different accountable teams due to the recent organisational restructure. This includes refinements to the timeframes for the following three Actions due to capacity restrictions; 1.11 (1 year changed to 1-5 years), 2.4 (Ongoing changed to 2-3 years), and 3.4 (Ongoing changed to 2-3 years).

In addition, some editorial errors (e.g. incorrect numbering in Sections 14 and 15) and expansion on some sections to improve intent have been incorporated in the final Urban Forest Strategy.

Financial Implications

As this report and the final Urban Forest Strategy do not propose changes to the Delivery Plan, there are no financial implications should the recommendations of the Strategy be adopted. Any change to funding to implement the recommendations and actions of the Urban Forest Strategy will be considered during Council's business planning process and is subject to funding availability.

Council has been approached by Landcare NSW regarding a NSW Government grant that funds the planting of 200,000 trees. Officers are currently liaising with Landcare NSW to identify potential locations for a portion of these trees.

Conclusion

The final City of Ryde Urban Forest Strategy provided in **ATTACHMENT 1 – CIRCULATED UNDER SEPARATE COVER** is therefore recommended for adoption. The Strategy provides Council with a clearer understanding of Council's urban forest and provides achievable and legitimate actions to improve its' scale and resilience. The Strategy is informed by city-wide community engagement (as detailed in the 27 September 2022 Council report) and predominantly positive feedback received during the public exhibition period.

The actions contained in the Strategy and outlined below have been identified as a high priority to lead towards targeting an increase of the tree canopy across the LGA towards 30% by 2030, with a view of increasing this further as soon as practicable.

- **Action 1.8:** to monitor the urban canopy every 2 years to determine canopy change and to determine the change/impact of implemented Actions.
- **Action 2.1:** Implement a 4-year prioritised Street Tree Planting program
- **Action 2.4:** Updating DCP controls to enhance protection of mature trees.
- **Action 3.5:** Establish tree protection compliance approach.
- **Action 4.1:** Seek additional Council funding to support expanded tree planting programs.
- **Action 5.3:** External community education and awareness for tree plantings on land owned by others.

ITEM 7 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 2

ATTACHMENT 2

URBAN FOREST STRATEGY PUBLIC EXHIBITION - COMMENTS/SUBMISSIONS

Name	Location	Positive comments	Issues/concerns	Priorities/directions	Council response
Submission 1	North Ryde	<p>A very comprehensive report. Thank you.</p> <p>I like the idea of incentives for tree maintenance on private land.</p> <p>I very much look forward to seeing the recommendations in the Draft Urban Forest Strategy come to fruition and we are able to enjoy the many benefits of a greener Ryde.</p>	Established trees are being removed at an accelerated rate from private land and not replaced. Those that are, often are removed within a few years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals of increasing the tree canopy throughout Ryde to be prioritised ASAP Council to maintain a register of newly planted trees on private land and to spot inspect to ensure they have been maintained. 	<p>This is implied in the adoption of the Strategy.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p> <p>Addressed by Action 3.5 Establish tree protection compliance approach and Action 3.6 Increase DA tree planting compliance.</p> <p>Action 3.6 could be strengthened to be more specific re a 'register' and 'spot checks'.</p>
			Concern re 3m exemption rule being altered to 4 meters resulting in more trees being removed e.g. 16/9/22 a mature healthy gum tree was removed from the backyard of 13A Wilson St North Ryde - reported to Council - removal had not been approved - apparently on review the tree was removed citing the new 4 meter rule.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These removals are inconsistent with Action 3.4 DCP controls to protect trees on private land Focus Area 5 in Section 13.2 Need to ensure that DCP controls improve tree protection on private land and in new developments If Council truly desires to increase tree canopy then the 4 m rule must be reinstated and enforced. It costs far less to preserve healthy trees than to plant new ones that will take up to 30 years to mature. 	<p>Addressed by Action 2.4 Updating Council's DCP and Action 3.4 DCP controls to protect trees on private land.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p>
			Concern re Action 1.11 ('revise timeframe to achieve tree canopy cover') that stated canopy targets may be reduced (despite strong support for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not reduce canopy target - present target must be met at a minimum. It is already noted that more trees are being lost than planted. If the council reinstates the 3m rule, takes on an 	<p>The UFS is clear on the physical and economic non-feasibility of the 2030 target.</p>

ITEM 7 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 2

Name	Location	Positive comments	Issues/concerns	Priorities/directions	Council response
			the canopy target in the first section of the UFS)	ambitious target of 40% by 2030 and seeks innovative ways to achieve this, it may well be achieved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If not achieved, Council can note why and make relevant changes to address shortfalls. 	The target should be achieved as early as possible but supported by feasibility and affordability criteria. No amendment to the Strategy.
			Street Tree Prioritiser (STP) results table (page 86) does not take into account wildlife corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I fully support the authors recommendation that biodiversity and wildlife corridors be considered for priority planting 	Support acknowledged – no need to amend the UFS.
			Many of streets in the STP results have already had street tree plantings – and some streets that have lower IPAs such as Morshead St North Ryde has already received plantings whereas others higher on the list have not (page 103).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am hopeful that this has been noted and that this may result in more areas to be planted that are not currently being considered. 	This has been noted. It is due to the AI limitations and resolution of the aerial imagery causing recently planted trees not to be captured (as the trees were too small for detection). This issue will be addressed through the implementation of Actions 1.1-3,8.
			Typo -Page 55 is missing Item 2.6. Hence the item numbers in 15 implementation Plan do not correlate to the item number in 14 Principles, Objectives and Actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust numbers 2.7 to 2.9 - change to 2.6 to 2.8 	To be amended in Final.
Submission 2	Gladesville	This looks to be a very comprehensive document. Well done! We particularly appreciate the following sentiment	We are pleased with the reinforcement of utilising local native species of trees to create solid habitat connections along roads between bushland areas but would also like to see a commitment to plant local species of trees in all or at least the majority of Parks, Reserves and along creek lines to help to expand and connect habitat for our native fauna. There appears to be no detailed plan for these important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is hoped that Council will embrace this strategy and apply sufficient funds to implement it It is important to expand funding for bushland management so as to keep the pockets of bushland that exist healthy and constantly improving as they are integral to the health and wellbeing of our environment and our native biodiversity. 	This is implied in the adoption of the UFS and the recommended Strategies and Actions The funding of bush regeneration and bush care is considered in the Biodiversity Plan (2016). No amendment to the Strategy.

ITEM 7 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 2

Name	Location	Positive comments	Issues/concerns	Priorities/directions	Council response
		from page 39 ¹	areas as to which areas are to be planted.		
Submission 3	Meadow-bank	I endorse all 8 actions proposed in this study.	A number of important trees have been removed in my location since I have moved here	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The significant tree register needs to be reviewed 	Council endorsed the Significant Tree Register Manual at its meeting on 27 Sept 2022. No amendment to the Strategy.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I support retention of trees on private land and a review of DCP controls. 	Support acknowledged. Addressed by Action 2.4 Updating Council's DCP, Action 3.4 DCP controls to protect trees on private land. No amendment to the Strategy.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased funding is obviously needed for Council to reach its target of 40% canopy within a reasonable timeframe 	This is emphasised in the Strategy. Availability of funding to achieve the target is considered with all other pressing needs for funding during Council's business planning processes. Grants will significantly assist in achieving the target. No amendment to the Strategy.
			During the drought, there was some attrition in my street, Adelaide Street, West Ryde.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street tree planting needs to be monitored 	Addressed in Actions 4.3 to 4.7. No amendment to the Strategy.

¹ 'With appropriate consideration though, the co-benefits to biodiversity from tree plantings can be leveraged towards rebuilding connections of biodiversity corridors, replenishing habitat and food resources, restoring natural ecosystem processes, and inhibiting pest species incursions. In particular, identifying species of conservation concern within the region and their requirements and sensitivities should be used to inform the selection of tree species as well as the spatial location of plantings.'

ITEM 7 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 2

Name	Location	Positive comments	Issues/concerns	Priorities/directions	Council response
			Free tree giveaways to residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The type of tree given needs to be discussed to ensure it is appropriate to the location. 	<p>Adequately addressed in Actions 1.5 Review Species Planting List and Action 2.5 Establish a Growing Contract.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p>
			There is little diversity in plantings in new developments near me - most are low-care such as buxus, gardenias and murrayas which do little for wildlife or canopy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More native plantings for biodiversity As a bush carer, I encourage the planting of more trees and understory on public land. 	<p>Adequately addressed in Action 1.2 Quantify species diversity and resilience of the urban forest, Action 1.5 Review species planting list' and Action 1.6 Identify priority street tree planting locations that correlate with wildlife corridors.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p>
Submission 4	Gladesville	I like the suggestion of infrastructure being replaced with trees. That can work by replacing open car parking with underground car parking and parkland above it. This also works well with the Net Zero action plan, which aims to reduce the number of cars on the road.	Need for more trend data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In section 8.2 and Table 2 especially, it would be nice to see what the yearly average number of planted trees has been over the 2010-2020 period, for comparison with the A-E scenarios. 	<p>This data was not collected for those years. Moving forward, as Council implements Action 1.1-3, year of planting will be recorded. This information will then be able to inform future strategies.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p>
			Additional options for plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree plantings on golf courses - with golf courses being opened up to walkers, as they do in other councils. 	<p>Implied in Actions 1.8 Improve understanding of private trees and Action 2.3 Encourage tree planting on private land.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p>
Submission 5	North Ryde	The planting & management guidelines look comprehensive and specific.	Doubt City can meet its canopy target with the high level of development throughout the LGA and the high proportion of impermeable surfaces resulting from much larger housing &	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plantable space needs to be ground-truthed. 	<p>Adequately addressed in Action 1.9 Verify public domain plantable opportunities and Action 2.3-4.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p>

ITEM 7 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 2

Name	Location	Positive comments	Issues/concerns	Priorities/directions	Council response
		A tree register and tags for street trees is a good idea	<p>dual occupancy footprints, as well as pools and paving</p> <p>What process is in place for Council or the certifying / planning authority to follow up on properties that have removed large trees for a development to check if they have planted another one once the development has been completed, as part of their DA approval/sign off.</p> <p>Other issues (additional to those in the UFS) with relying on street trees as a key delivery of canopy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vandalism (e.g. along Coxs Rd a few years ago), • lack of "ownership" which will reduce the likelihood of success of those plantings, • lack of maintenance (e.g. watering, grass/weeds growing around them), • limitations of the types of species that can be planted to ensure that they don't grow too tall / damage pavements / hinder kerb access, as well limitations as to where large plant species can be planted as there are many street verges that are simply too narrow. • Vulnerability of single street trees to heat stress from nearby roads especially during summer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need assurance that Council is following up on completed developments (canopy may even increase if promised trees are actually planted as per their DA requirements). • Local residents to "adopt" a street tree to increase chance of survival - rebate or vouchers, a say on species selection, and encouraging them to "tag" their tree on social media or running a competition etc • Species selection of canopy trees to reduce territorial/aggressive bird species (mynas, magpies, butcher birds) which reduce the diversity of other small species and rely on a high canopy and open grasses with no mid-canopy shrubs. • Plant selection to favour local natives and a range of size of plants - range of groundcover, mid-level shrubs and canopy species, which provides retention of soil moisture as well as encouraging native habitat. 	<p>Addressed by Action 3.5 Establish tree protection compliance approach and Action 3.6 Increase DA tree planting compliance. Implementation of this action is dependent on financial resources.</p> <p>Adequately addressed in Action 2.3 Encourage tree planting on private land and Action 5.3 External community education and awareness. No amendment to the Strategy.</p> <p>This is covered by Target 5.2.7 of the Biodiversity Plan. It is also foreshadowed in Action 1.4 Build the business-case for trees with the proposal to "complete an I-Tree Eco assessment of the City's public trees to quantify and value ecosystem service benefits provided by the trees". No amendment to the Strategy.</p> <p>Adequately addressed in Action 1.2 Quantify species diversity and resilience of the urban forest, Action 1.5 Review species planting list' and Action 1.6 Identify priority</p>

ITEM 7 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 2

Name	Location	Positive comments	Issues/concerns	Priorities/directions	Council response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage/educate the public to report damaged trees or trees that need to be watered/ maintained to Council. 	<p>street tree planting locations that correlate with wildlife corridors.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p> <p>Adequately addressed in Action 4.4 Advocate for increased funding to support additional community education and engagement programs and Action 5.3 External community education and awareness.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p>
Submission 6		Society "is pleased Ryde Council has recognised the importance of urban forest and how to improve tree cover in the Ryde LGA"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving the 40% tree canopy target set by the NSW state government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In determining which plants to use, we strongly encourage the widespread use of local native plants. Not only will this assist local biodiversity but, being indigenous to the area, are better suited to withstand the effects of climate change. 	<p>Adequately addressed in Action 1.2 Quantify species diversity and resilience of the urban forest, Action 1.5 Review species planting list' and Action 1.6 Identify priority street tree planting locations that correlate with wildlife corridors.</p> <p>No amendment to the Strategy.</p>