



IMAP Projects

Urban Forest Plan – Project Proposal

<p>Name and purpose of the project/action</p>	<p>Name: Urban Forest Project</p> <p>Purpose: Develop an urban forest plan aimed at protecting existing trees and increasing tree planting and green infrastructure on private land. The objective is to increase tree canopy and landscape cover to improve the environmental quality of the IMAP region, human health, amenity, liveability and appeal.</p>
<p>Alignment with IMAP Goals and Strategies;</p>	<p>Goal 5 – Leadership in achieving environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation</p> <p><u>Strategy 5.4</u> – We will increase the uptake of environmental sustainable design (ESD) outcomes across the Local Government, development and community sectors. Opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating demonstration and education projects for sustainable building and green infrastructure provision, including green roofs and vertical greening. <p>Goal 4 – Distinctive , high quality neighbourhoods and places</p> <p><u>Strategy 4.2</u> – We will work together to integrate water sensitive landscapes, substantial tree canopies, biodiversity and habitat into the design of all parks and public space (i.e. streets) areas right across Inner Melbourne. Opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating to implement urban forest strategies to increase the shading by tree canopy cover and associated green infrastructure
<p>Investment logic analysis (e.g. what are the problems, benefits, potential strategic responses and solutions)</p>	<p>Public land managers are achieving great results in managing urban forests on public land. Most Councils are well advanced in the implementation of their Urban Forest Strategies which primarily focuses on streets and open spaces.</p> <p>The capability of private land to contribute to the urban forest is unknown as development activity is contributing to the removal of existing trees and limiting opportunities for new tree planting.</p> <p>The IMAP Urban Forest Plan proposes a number of strategies to improve the environment of the IMAP region through education, data assessments and planning policy which would be tailored to suit the needs of individual Councils.</p>

<p>Project scope and timeframe;</p>	<p>Following IMAP Committee approval, a brief for services will be developed which requires a consultant team (led by a Planning consultancy) to detail the importance of Urban Landscapes (trees and green infrastructure).</p> <p>The project is being developed to provide a value add and uplift to the other Urban Forest initiatives such as Resilient Melbourne and Vision 2020. The Urban Forest Plan will focus on private land and the mechanisms to retain urban landscapes, particularly trees through guidelines and policies that may involve incentives or deterrents such as the use of tree bonds.</p> <p>The urban fabric of the IMAP region is becoming denser. This presents challenges for the growth and longevity of urban landscapes including trees. The IMAP Urban Forest Project seeks to outline how landscapes (trees, shrubs, understorey, lawn) can all contribute to the Urban Forest, present responses to climate change, water needs and the environment through three main mechanisms that IMAP Councils can deliver.</p> <p>As detailed in the attached storyboard, the deliverables for the IMAP Urban Forest Plan focus on three main components, education, data assessment and planning policy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education will be directed to three main areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Council Planners, to ensure there is sound knowledge of environmental objectives (climate change, green infrastructure, tree retention) B. Development Sector, to ensure the sector is aware of the value of trees and urban landscapes (not only environmentally but commercially) how to protect existing trees and where new tree and green infrastructure opportunities can be accommodated in development concepts. C. Community, how can the public contribute to the urban forest on their existing property? The form of education (promotion) can be tailored differently which may involve the production of fact sheets, guidelines and training. 2. Baseline data and measuring is required to track progress in achieving the urban forest across the IMAP region. 3. Planning policy mechanisms – State/Council. Policy / Local Law / Guidelines. Examine and present incentives for tree protection and deterrents for removals such as bonds. Examine options for requiring minimum tree planting and green infrastructure requirements through new development.
-------------------------------------	--

	<p>The deliverables of the Urban Forest Plan would be tailored and presented so that each IMAP Council could act on the mechanisms that best suit their needs.</p> <p>Timing - 12 months from appointment.</p>						
Project cost and funding sources;	<p><u>Project cost:</u> \$80,000 - 120,000 (TBC once project brief is finalised)</p> <p><u>Funding sources:</u> IMAP budget – current funding configuration provision (Source: <i>IMAP Three Year Implementation Program</i>)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2018/19</th> <th>2019/20</th> <th>2020/21</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$80,000</td> <td>\$20,000</td> <td>\$20,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	\$80,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21					
\$80,000	\$20,000	\$20,000					
Lead Council and project team	<p><u>Lead Council:</u> Maribyrnong City Council</p> <p><u>Project team:</u> Matt Slavin, Project Team Leader, Manager City Design, CoMar</p> <p>David Callow, Team Leader Urban Forest and Ecology, CoM Robyn Hellman, Planning Policy, CoM Tiffany Crawford, CoM Lindy Fetherston, CoM Kelly Hertzog, Urban Forester, CoM Lee Harrison, Ecologist, CoM Simon Roberts, Landscape Architect, CoPP Greg Mitchell, Senior Tree Management Officer CoPP Aidan O'Neill, Coordinator City Strategy, CoPP Alexandra Hodgson, CoPP Simon Holloway, Manager Parks Enviro Assets and Services, CoS Mark Phillips, Senior Arborist, CoS Steve Watt, Arborist, CoS Michael Oke, Coordinator Environmental Sustainability, CoY Courtney Deans, Sustainability Officer, CoY Craig Lupton, Coordinator Streetscapes and Natural Values, CoY</p> <p><u>Advisors:</u> Dr Joe Hurley, RMIT, Sustainability and Urban Planning Martin Hartigan, The Nature Conservancy Meg Caffin, Urban Forest Consulting</p>						
Assessment against IMAP project criteria;							
<i>Alignment with the IMAP vision -</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the project/action demonstrably enhance the liveability of Inner Melbourne by delivering defined outcomes which contribute to achievement of the goal and aims of the plan? 	<p>The loss of broad canopy trees is a major concern to all 5 IMAP Councils. Evidence to date indicates increases in the cover in the public realm, the streets and open spaces. These gains however are being offset by the loss on private land.</p> <p>To achieve gains and develop a region wide urban forest, IMAP's Urban Forest Plan will seek to examine new ways of protecting and increasing tree planting and green infrastructure (urban landscapes) on private land.</p>						

	<p>The objectives of the plan are consistent with improving the environment and liveability of inner Melbourne and achieving the goals of IMAP. Including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 4 - Distinctive, high quality neighbourhoods and places, in particular, Strategy 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4; and • Goal 5 - Leadership in achieving environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation, in particular Strategy 5.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project/action align with potential programs and/or funding opportunities within the state or federal government, or elsewhere? 	<p>The project aligns with the following policies:</p> <p><u>Infrastructure Victoria - 30 year Infrastructure Strategy</u> Need 16: Help preserve natural environments and minimise biodiversity loss</p> <p>16.3.1 Green infrastructure. Increase the amount and quality of green infrastructure in urban settings over 0-30 years to support a range of outcomes, including creating open space for planned and incidental exercise, improving biodiversity by increasing forested and planted areas and supporting water-sensitive design to mitigate flooding events. The immediate first step is to produce a statewide green infrastructure plan in partnership with local government, leveraging opportunities to unlock restricted public land held by, for example, water or transport authorities (ref. UFF).</p> <p>16.3.2 Habitat corridors. Deliver expanded habitat corridors over 5-30 years to protect biodiversity from emerging challenges, including climate change, by connecting remnant vegetation with areas such as rivers and roadsides, providing incentives (including tax relief) to private land owners, and undertaking strategic land purchases, supported by fencing and revegetation (ref. HCL).</p> <p><u>Plan Melbourne Outcome 6</u></p> <p>Melbourne is a sustainable and resilient city <i>Directions and policies</i> Make Melbourne cooler and greener</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a cooler Melbourne by greening urban areas, buildings, transport corridors and open spaces to create an urban forest • Strengthen the integrated metropolitan open space network <p>Protect and restore natural habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a network of green spaces that support biodiversity conservation and opportunities to connect with nature <p><u>Resilient Melbourne Strategy</u></p> <p>Metropolitan urban forest strategy (Flagship Action) Extend and link existing urban greening, reforestation and nature initiatives across Melbourne, to improve wellbeing and reduce our exposure to hazards such as heatwaves and flooding</p>
Regional benefit -	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the project/action's benefits accrue to a broader region (i.e. more than just one local authority)? 	<p>The project benefits will apply to all 5 IMAP Councils. The deliverables of the IMAP Urban Forest Plan can be tailored to other Local Government Areas</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there sufficient agreement amongst the IMAP members to undertake the project/action? 	<p>An IMAP Urban Forest Project working group has been established to guide the scope of the Plan. A strong theme from the consultations has been on education and planning policy to drive positive change with urban landscapes on private land.</p> <p>The Urban Forest includes all landscapes, not just a focus on trees.</p> <p>The project outline has been distributed to all working group participants and presented to the Neighbourhoods and Places Steering Group.</p>
<p>Shared resources -</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there opportunities for resource sharing and/or economies of scale? 	<p>There is the opportunity to access research and data from RMIT and Melbourne University.</p>
<p>Focus on results -</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project/action present opportunities to find new or better ways to address issues/challenges facing Inner Melbourne? 	<p>It is considered the Education and Policy components of the Urban Forest Plan offer soft and robust actions to bring about positive change. It was considered that the issue of private land needed to be addressed through multiple actions rather than one deliverable.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the expected results of the project/action be clearly defined? 	<p>Yes, there is a data capture and measure component of the plan which will assist in tracking the gains in the urban landscape on private land.</p>
<p>Timeliness -</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the desired result be achieved within a 5-10-year period? 	<p>Yes, but the implementation will be on going.</p>
<p>Effectiveness -</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the expected outcomes warrant the expected investment of time and resources? 	<p>Yes, most Urban Forest Strategies focus on public land, with little emphasis on the contribution of private land in achieving Urban Forest objectives. The Urban Forest Plan addresses a gap in current work being pursued.</p>
<p>Value add -</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project/action overlap, duplicate or enhance other strategies being undertaken elsewhere? 	<p>The IMAP Urban Forest Plan has been developed not to replicate existing work but to enhance current strategies including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan Melbourne Resilient Melbourne Metropolitan Urban Forest Strategy Work of RMIT and DELWP
<p>Sponsor organisations and potential partners;</p>	<p>RMIT, Melbourne University, Resilient Melbourne</p>
<p>Recommendation.</p>	<p>That the IMAP Implementation Committee support the scope of the Urban Forest Plan and approve the development of a project brief and appointment of a suitable consultant team to deliver the project to the timelines and budget outlined in this submission.</p>

IMAP URBAN FOREST PROJECT

