

## Inner Melbourne Action Plan

### Progress Report

#### G4.P1 Urban Forest and Biodiversity Strategy & Approach: Update on the IMAP Urban Forest Plan

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#### BACKGROUND

1. At the IMAP Implementation Committee meeting of 25 May 2018, the Committee considered the Urban Forest Draft Project Brief and resolved to:
  - a. support the scope of the Urban Forest Plan, and
  - b. 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.
2. Strategy 4.2 of the Inner Melbourne Action Plan 2016-2026 notes the opportunity for the IMAP Councils to collaborate “to implement urban forest strategies to increase the shading by tree canopy cover and associated green infrastructure.”
3. As noted in the approved project brief, the deliverables of the project will focus on three main components –
  - a. Education - directed at council planners, the development sector and the community
  - b. Data assessment – baseline data and measuring to track progress achieving the urban forest
  - c. Planning policy mechanisms – policies and incentives/deterrents addressing losses of trees on private property

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.

#### DISCUSSION

4. The Working Group membership has been finalised and a first meeting held on September 7 2018 to finalise the project brief.
5. It became apparent through discussions that there was a strong synergy between the ambitions of the planning policy mechanisms component of the IMAP project (protecting trees on private land) and current work being undertaken by the City of Melbourne looking at similar planning policy options. The Project Team Leader has since followed up with further discussions with staff at the City of Melbourne to ascertain the potential expansion of the Melbourne CC brief to include IMAP.
6. Planning staff at the five IMAP councils have been canvassed and are all supportive of participating in the potential expansion of the work being undertaken by City of Melbourne. This would address part of the IMAP Urban Forest brief and ensures the Councils do not duplicate effort in this area.
7. Gail Hall, Coordinator Green Infrastructure from the City of Melbourne will attend the IMAP Implementation Committee to brief the IMAP Councils on the City of Melbourne’s work in this area and seek the Committee’s support for exploring a joint approach around this policy development.
8. Other components of the IMAP Urban Forest Project would proceed as approved by the Committee.

#### RECOMMENDATION

9. That the IMAP Implementation Committee resolves to:
  - a. Note the progress report on the IMAP Urban Forest Plan
  - b. Support a joint approach towards development of planning policies for the management of trees and greening on private land.

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