



URBAN TREE AND BUSHLAND POLICY



Adopted 31 October 2011

Document review and approval

This document has been approved by

	Name	Minute No	Date approved
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2			

Revision history

Version	Author	Date	Revision
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1. BACKGROUND

The landscape of the Sutherland Shire is characterised by significant areas of bushland, beautiful waterways and a distinctive tree canopy. These elements combine to create a unique sense of place and identity. Community surveys have established that residents have a strong connection with the natural environment. This proximity to nature and the access to varied recreational opportunities that natural areas deliver provides a lifestyle focused on the outdoors. It is this natural legacy which helps create the Shire's unique local identity. Consequently residents place high importance on the protection and enhancement of the Sutherland Shire's natural environment.

Trees and bushland provide many environmental, social and economic benefits that improve the quality of urban life. They soften the built landscape, temper the harsh climate, and connect us to the natural environment. Trees also assist in maintaining a healthy environment by protecting the soil, improving water quality, reducing stormwater runoff, producing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide.

Remnant urban bushland is an irreplaceable environmental resource and an important part of our natural heritage. Bushland is a complex association of trees, vegetation and other organisms that combine to form essential habitat for indigenous flora and fauna. Bushland contributes significantly to the Shire's rich biodiversity.

Indigenous trees and pockets of bushland in public open spaces and on private property form links and can enable the development of vegetation corridors between larger areas of bushland. Linked areas of bushland create a more unified and integrated landscape. This green web of vegetation woven through our suburbs creates the cohesive character of the Shire. Local variation in landform and vegetation create distinct local character, providing a strong sense of place for communities throughout Sutherland Shire.

Sutherland Shire is fortunate in having a legacy of canopy trees, however many of the trees are remnant specimens and are nearing the end of their life span. These trees will need to be replaced if the Shire's character is to be preserved. The Shire's tree canopy is under pressure from increased residential densities. Lot sizes have reduced over time and houses have become larger. Lifestyle demands have resulted in more paving and in-ground pools, reducing the space available for the planting of trees.

Fact: In 2010 Council granted approval for the removal of 4878 trees located on both public and private land. If this trend is maintained an area of canopy approximately the size of Grays Point will be lost over the next 10 years.

This policy represents Council's commitment to improving local biodiversity through increasing native habitat and enhancing links for wildlife across the Shire. It is a proactive policy that seeks to address the loss of canopy trees through the Shire and ensure the next generation of canopy trees is planted so that the unique local character we enjoy today will remain a fundamental quality of life in Sutherland Shire for the next generation.



Vision

Our vision is of a leafy Shire where trees and bushland are valued for the important contribution they make to local biodiversity and the wellbeing of the community by creating a healthy, attractive living environment and unique sense of place which residents enjoy.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a holistic, integrated and consistent approach to the management of trees and bushland on both public and private lands across Sutherland Shire. The policy demonstrates Council's commitment to the planting, protection and maintenance of trees and bushland. The policy is consistent with Council's key direction for 'Abundant and Healthy Native Flora and Fauna' and provides strategic direction for a consistent approach to the management of trees and bushland in Sutherland Shire. The policy also establishes a framework for the development of more specific strategies and plans that will direct its implementation.

Policy Objectives

- To protect remnant bushland from inappropriate development and use.
- To improve the quality and increase the quantity of bushland and the tree canopy throughout the Sutherland Shire.
- To recognise the importance of bushland and indigenous trees and the crucial role they play in providing habitat for native flora and fauna.
- To increase and enhance the extent of tree canopy throughout the Sutherland Shire through planting of appropriately selected trees in streets and open spaces.
- To increase the planting of appropriately selected indigenous vegetation on private land as part of redevelopment.
- To develop standard procedures and systems for the consistent assessment, retention, planting, maintenance and management of trees and bushland.
- To balance the protection of trees and bushland with public risk.
- To improve awareness of the importance of trees and bushland and to encourage residents to participate in appropriate tree and bushland management practices.



Scope of the Policy

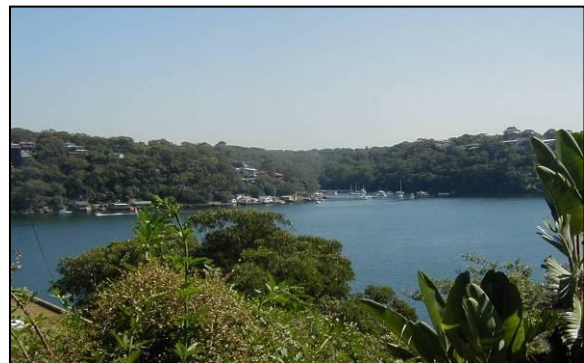
Council's Urban Tree and Bushland Policy brings together and guides a number of Council's functions and responsibilities so that all activities are focused on the common goal of preserving and enhancing habitat and wildlife corridors and planting the next generation of canopy trees. The specific components of the policy are detailed below:

- Tree and bushland protection AND development control
- Tree and bushland species selection
- Street tree planting AND maintenance
- Reserve planting AND maintenance
- Greenweb
- Bushcare
- Enforcement

Implementation

The Urban Tree and Bushland Policy provides the broad framework to guide Council's actions and decisions in relation to the management of trees and bushland throughout Sutherland Shire. However in order to effectively implement the policy further detail is required in several areas relating to both operational issues and management. These specific actions are outlined in the Implementation Strategy. The Strategy identifies the specific actions necessary to deliver on Council Commitments outlined in the Policy. The Strategy also identifies the department or unit responsible.

It is anticipated that in the first year of implementation the majority of actions will focus on a planning and development phase then move to a more implementation and management focus in subsequent years. Accordingly the Implementation Strategy will be revised every 12 - 18 months.



2. TREE AND BUSHLAND PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Bushland and the tree canopy have inevitably been impacted upon since Europeans first settled in the Sutherland Shire. The remaining remnant indigenous trees and bushland are an important, irreplaceable connection to the original environmental landscape. Bushland can be protected and restored but it cannot be recreated or replaced.

Vegetation in the Sutherland Shire continues to be under threat from urban development and the installation and maintenance of infrastructure and services. Urban consolidation, the development of smaller lot sizes and larger dwellings result in fewer opportunities for the retention or planting of trees within residential properties. Trees and vegetation are also under pressure as a result of natural ageing processes, storm events and the need to manage potential risk to public safety. These urban pressures place increasing pressure on Council to protect remnant vegetation and to plant trees on Council managed land.

Fact: In 2010 Council assessed 3505 applications to remove trees on private land. Trees were approved for removal in approximately 80% of cases

All trees and bushland in Sutherland Shire are protected from wilful damage by the provisions of the Sutherland Shire Local Environmental Plan 2006. A person cannot remove or wilfully damage a tree or bushland in Sutherland Shire without first having the consent of Sutherland Shire Council. Sutherland Shire Development Control Plan 2006 contains detailed assessment criteria that show how Council will determine whether a tree on private land may be removed. The assessment principles establish a pragmatic balance between protecting significant trees and addressing risks.

Sutherland Shire Development Control Plan 2006 also requires that existing trees are sensitively considered throughout the design and development process. Specific provisions of Chapter 3 of the DCP require the landscape design of all development to include canopy trees within suitable setback areas, to retain existing canopy trees where ever possible and to provide street trees in the road reserve. In areas of environmental sensitivity the DCP requires habitat corridors to be retained and enhanced. Together these controls ensure that new development replaces what it removes and makes provision for the next generation of canopy trees across the shire.

Council's Commitment

- Identify and protect significant trees and vegetation from inappropriate development.
- Manage bushland in a manner that maintains or enhances its scientific, educational, scenic and social qualities.
- Apply consistent assessment criteria for removal of trees and bushland on public and private land.
- Require replacement tree planting at a rate of 2 to 1 for approvals to remove trees on private land and 5 to 1 on public land.
- Require use of predominantly indigenous species for developments throughout the Shire.
- Consider the use of introduced species on public land only where it is appropriate to conserve cultural planting or achieve the desired landscape amenity.

What can Residents do?

- Carefully design development to retain trees and bushland.
- Utilise indigenous species for landscaping.
- Consider planting a few indigenous trees on your property that will become the next generation of canopy trees for the Shire.



3. TREE AND BUSHLAND SPECIES SELECTION

Sutherland Shire has local variations in topography and soil types. The micro-climates that these differences create have produced different ecological communities across the Shire. Council is committed to respecting this local variety through ensuring that indigenous species are used which are consistent with the underlying soil type and local micro-environment. In order to facilitate the planting of locally appropriate species Council has developed an Indigenous Plant Guide to assist with species selection for both public and private developments.

While plants found within the Sutherland Shire may also occur in other areas beyond the Shire, those within the Shire are often uniquely adapted to our environments. Sutherland Shire Community Nursery grows plants from locally sourced seed and cuttings to conserve this local genetic stock and maintain the health of our local flora.

This integrated approach ensures that planting carried out on both private and public land is consistent with best environmental practice, helping to preserve and enhance the unique local landscape character of Sutherland Shire and building on local biodiversity.

Fact: In 2010/2011 the Sutherland Shire Community Nursery supplied the following plants - 4,227 for Council projects, 6,305 for Greenweb, 17,071 for Bushcare, 3,385 for schools and community groups and 8,420 given away in the annual issue to the public.

Council's Commitment

- Use local provenance plant species in Council tree planting, revegetation and landscaping projects.
- Require appropriate local species to be incorporated into development proposals.
- Provide a tailored local species list for the Sutherland Shire made available to staff and the community through Shire Maps.
- Maintain a 'bank' of local provenance seed to preserve the genetic diversity of the Shire's plants
- Make local provenance species available at Council's nursery for Council and community projects.

What can Residents do?

- Choose indigenous species and preferably local provenance when planting on their land.



4. STREET TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE

Council is committed to increasing the number of canopy trees across the Shire through a proactive street tree planting program. Street trees play a critical role in establishing local landscape character because they are highly visible and help to offset the bulk of buildings. Through providing shading to roads and hard surfaces, street trees make a valuable contribution to controlling heat radiated from urban surfaces.

In addition street trees are particularly valuable as links between areas of core habitat. The movement of species between localities is critical because patterns of urban development can result in islands of habitat, leading to limited gene pools and localised extinctions. Links between habitats means populations have a better chance of moving and a better chance of recovery, particularly following bushfire.

Fact: In 2010 Council received over 6,200 requests from the community to inspect, manage or remove trees in public places.

In order to maximise the potential of street trees as environmental assets, Council is committed to a proactive planting program. Indigenous tree species lists will be developed for all localities within the Shire.

Council Commitment

- Maintain street trees to manage known risk to life, property and infrastructure.
- Actively plant street trees to ensure that there is no net loss of tree canopy.
- Undertake best practice pruning of street trees.
- Give priority to street tree planting in areas of greatest ecological benefit or visual amenity.
- Plant indigenous trees appropriate to the environmental setting.
- Plant indigenous trees in conjunction with Council works.
- Select species that are less likely to cause problems with branch loss, root damage to footpaths and avoid conflict with overhead power lines.
- Provide tailored street tree species list for the Sutherland Shire, made available to staff and the community through Shire Maps.
- Require street trees to be planted as part of the redevelopment of properties.

What can residents do?

- Request a street tree from Council for you to plant outside your property.
- Assist with care and maintenance of newly planted trees, eg watering.



5. RESERVE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE

Planting indigenous vegetation in urban areas helps connect fragmented bushland, enhance habitat for native fauna and reinforce the bushland character of the Shire. To ensure the perpetual benefits of a healthy urban tree canopy consideration must be given to a tree replacement strategy. Revegetation and individual tree planting also perform important amenity functions by beautifying streetscapes, providing shade and generally improving the quality of urban life.

Sutherland Shire has a legacy of small pocket parks scattered throughout urban areas that provide an opportunity for tree planting and revegetation. These parks were originally acquired by Council to meet the needs of young families when neighbourhoods were first settled. However demands have changed greatly over time with these parks now experiencing little use as families now seek out high quality recreation facilities and are prepared to drive to them.

Fact: Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of over 650 parks and reserves across the Shire.

Small pocket parks are typically grassed. These spaces become a maintenance burden to Council, particularly during high summer growth rates, consuming resources and contributing very little to neighbourhood amenity. Council is committed to utilising the potential of this valuable legacy of unbuilt upon land to create areas of new habitat. Elements of the spaces will be set aside for play equipment or picnic spaces where needed, and regenerated bush can act as creative play space for neighbourhood children once it is established.

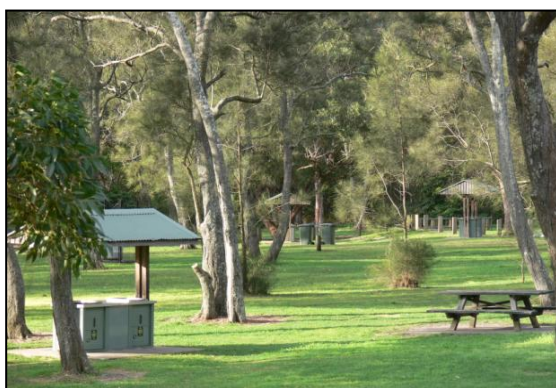
Opportunity also exists for planting on the edges of the Shire's playing fields. Peripheral planting in left over spaces can be combined with walking tracks to enhance local biodiversity while also increasing the value of the reserves for passive recreation.

Council Commitment

- Plant and maintain indigenous species appropriate to the environmental setting.
- Identify appropriate open space for tree planting and revegetation.
- Maintain trees in public open spaces to manage known risk to life, property and infrastructure
- Give priority to areas of greatest ecological benefit or visual amenity when undertaking planting programs.

What can Residents do?

- Join tree planting events promoted by Council in your local area, such as National Tree Day and Environment Week.
- Become a Bushcare Volunteer.



6. GREENWEB

Council has developed a Greenweb network to protect and enhance native plant and animal populations by identifying key areas of bushland habitat and establishing interconnecting linkages between them. These corridors, which run through both public and private land, connect “islands” of bushland habitat making it easier for the movement of fauna and dispersal of flora. This strategy helps maintain healthy populations and species diversity, ensuring the long term sustainability of the natural environment.

A key component of Greenweb is the Greenweb Volunteers Program which encourages residents in Greenweb localities to manage their land so that its habitat value is maximised. Through the program residents can access expert advice, free plants and additional green waste removal if they are removing weeds.

In 2010 there were 526 properties voluntarily participating in the Greenweb program. Between 2006 and 2010 over 26,500 endemic native plants were issued through this program and approximately 50 tons of weeds were collected.

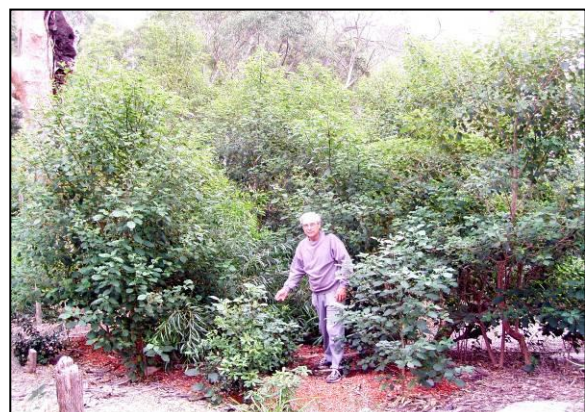
The success of the voluntary program has now spread to a program for schools. This program takes a wider view and involves educational events and environmental walks as well a bush revegetation of school land. Many schools still contain areas of remnant bushland or have areas of open space that are ideal for tree planting or creating native gardens.

Council Commitment

- Support the Greenweb Volunteers Program, including advice, plant issue, grants and weed collection.
- Encourage the use of indigenous species in landscaping projects within Greenweb areas.

What can Residents do?

- Join the Greenweb Volunteers Program.



7. BUSHCARE

Bushcare is a volunteer program with the aim of preserving and regenerating bushland on council land. Volunteers work under the direction of council's Bushcare staff in accordance with recognised bush-regeneration techniques. It is a hands-on volunteering program.

The environmental benefits of Bushcare are that it:

- Protects indigenous flora, fauna and remnant vegetation,
- Rehabilitates natural areas for future generations,
- Increases areas of native habitat, and
- Encourages active community involvement to manage bushland areas.

In 2010 there were 728 active Bushcare Volunteers managing 204 parks and reserves. That year they dedicated over 19,000 hours of their time to bush preservation and restoration.

Council manages over 440 areas, totalling over 3,000 hectares, which contain remnant native vegetation. Community involvement in Bushcare is essential to help restore and preserve natural areas.

Council Commitment

- Support the Bushcare program.
- Use indigenous species of local provenance in all Bushcare projects.

What can Residents do?

- Join the local Bushcare group.



8. ENFORCEMENT

Trees and bushland in urban areas are coming under increasing threat from urban development. Trees and bushland are often approved for removal to facilitate development on new sites, and expand development on existing sites. However, all trees are protected from wilful damage unless specifically exempt or development consent has been issued by Council to carry out the work. Despite this legal protection, there are many instances every year where trees are pruned and removed without appropriate approval. When this occurs Sutherland Shire Council will take enforcement action.

Fact: Council receives approximately 270 customer requests to investigate illegal tree removal each year.

Enforcement action for the unauthorised removal of trees on private property is undertaken through the use of Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs). PINs act as both a penalty to the offender and as a deterrent to the broader community.

Fact: Infringement notices for the unauthorised removal or damage of trees are \$1,500 for individuals and \$3,000 for Corporations. Council has successfully prosecuted offenders in the Local Court and the Court has imposed fines of up to \$15,000.

Council also takes legal action through the Local Court for unauthorised tree removal. Council seeks Court impose replacement planting which is covered by a bond, of up to \$10,000 per tree. Replacement planting is sought at a rate of 5 to 1 in cases of unauthorised tree removal.

Council Commitment

- Respond to illegal poisoning, damage or removal of trees and bushland on public and private land.
- Respond to encroachments and dumping which damage trees and bushland on public land.
- Utilise part of the revenue from tree removal prosecutions to fund replacement tree planting.
- Require replacement tree planting for illegal removal at a ratio of 5 to 1.

What can Residents do?

- Report incidents of illegal tree removal or damage.
- Apply for approval before any work is carried out to a tree on your property.



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY (Adopted on 31 October 2011)

Tree and Bushland Protection and Development Control

Council Commitment	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Identify and protect significant trees and vegetation from inappropriate development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain Greenweb conservation network. Maintain accurate register of threatened and rare flora. Require consideration of conservation significance in development assessment process. Where possible ensuring zoning is compatible with conservation significance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Science & Policy Environmental Science & Policy Environmental Assessment Teams Environmental Planning
Manage bushland in a manner that maintains or enhances its scientific, educational, environmental, scenic and social qualities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare site specific Plans of management for natural areas. Undertake best practice bush regeneration works. Comply with requirements of Noxious Weeds Act. Implement Feral Animals Policy. Manage environmental weeds on Council owned and managed land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Services Parks Operations Parks Operations Parks Operations Parks Operations
Apply consistent assessment criteria for removal of trees and bushland on public and private land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review tree assessment criteria for private land in DCP. Develop assessment criteria for Council trees consistent with DCP controls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Planning Infrastructure Planning & Services + Parks Operations
Require replacement planting at a ratio of 2 to 1 for approvals to remove trees on private land and 5 to 1 on public land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate compensation requirements in planning framework Develop VPA pro-forma for off-site compensatory planting. Require replacement planting following removal of trees on public land Require replacement planting when trees are removed with consent at a rate of 2:1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Planning + Environmental Assessment Teams Environmental Science & Policy + Legal Services Parks Operations + Infrastructure Planning & Services Environmental Building Compliance + Environmental Assessment Teams
Require use of predominantly indigenous species for developments throughout the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate indigenous planting requirements in planning framework Incorporate indigenous species in Council works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Planning Infrastructure Planning & Services

Tree and Bushland Protection and Development Control (cont.)

Council Commitment	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Consider the use of introduced species on public land only where it is appropriate to conserve cultural planting or achieve the desired landscape amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas where use of introduced species appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services

Tree and Bushland Species Selection

Council Commitment	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Use local provenance plant species in Council tree planting, revegetation and landscaping projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a standard, area based, species selection guide, responsive to site conditions (soil, aspect, bushfire threat), to provide consistency across Council. • Link above to GIS to provide ease of use. • Update as more specific suburb or street guides are developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Environmental Planning + Environmental Science & Policy • Land Information • Infrastructure Planning & Services
Require appropriate local species to be incorporated into development proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning controls to require planting of appropriate local species. • Utilise above planting guide to ensure consistency of species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Planning • Environmental Assessment Teams
Provide a tailored local species list for the Sutherland Shire made available to staff and the community through Shire Maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a standard, area based, species selection guide, responsive to site conditions (soil, aspect, bushfire threat), to provide consistency across Council. • Link above to GIS to provide ease of use. • Update as more specific suburb or street guides are developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Environmental Planning + Environmental Science & Policy • Land Information • Infrastructure Planning & Services
Maintain a 'bank' of local provenance seed to preserve the genetic diversity of the Shire's plants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushcare coordinators to assist Bushcare groups with collection of local seed from appropriate sites. • Nursery to maintain local seed bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushcare • Nursery
Make local provenance species available at Council's nursery for Council and community projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate community nursery. • Nursery to grow stock from locally collected seed and cuttings. • Provide free tree issue to ratepayers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery • Nursery • Nursery

Street Tree Planting and Maintenance

Council's Commitment	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Maintain street trees to manage known risk to life, property and infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop assessment criteria for Council trees consistent with DCP controls. • Develop an inspection program for street trees in high profile locations. • Provide for a range of treatment methods where trees impact on public safety or infrastructure. • Utilise appropriate planting in bushfire interface areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Environmental Planning + Parks Operations • Parks Operations + Infrastructure Planning & Services • Parks Operations • Parks Operations
Actively plant street trees to ensure that there is no net loss of tree canopy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a five year street tree planting program, incorporating streets from all wards. • Require appropriate street tree planting as conditions of consent for all subdivisions. • Provide appropriate street trees to residents free of charge for them to plant and maintain. • Use cages to protect tree planting where possible. • Identify and seek funds/grants to implement and maintain trees. • Undertake appropriate community consultation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Parks Operations + Environmental Science & Policy • Assessment Teams • Nursery + Greenweb • Parks Operations • All • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Greenweb
Undertake best practice pruning of street trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement best practice guide for pruning of street trees consistent with AS4373-2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Operations
Give priority to street tree planting in areas of greatest ecological benefit or visual amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street trees planting program to give priority to street in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenweb. • Ridges • Foreshore areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Operations + Environmental Science & Policy + Infrastructure Planning & Services

Street Tree Planting and Maintenance (cont.)

Council's Commitment	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Plant indigenous trees appropriate to the environmental setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a standard, area based, species selection guide to provide consistency for street tree planting across Council. • Link above to GIS to provide ease of use. • Update as more specific suburb or street guides are developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Environmental Planning + Environmental Science & Policy • Land Information • Infrastructure Planning & Services
Plant indigenous trees in conjunction with Council works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require street tree replacement in vicinity as part of removal process. • Continue the practice of planting of street trees with all road, footpath and stormwater projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Operations • Infrastructure Planning & Services
Provide tailored street tree species list for the Sutherland Shire, made available to staff and the community through Shire Maps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a standard, area based, species selection guide, responsive to site conditions (soil, aspect, bushfire threat), to provide consistency across Council. • Link above to GIS to provide ease of use. • Update as more specific suburb or street guides are developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Environmental Planning + Environmental Science & Policy • Land Information • Infrastructure Planning & Services
Require street trees to be planted as part of the redevelopment of properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate street tree planting requirement into planning framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Planning + Environmental Assessment Teams

Reserve Planting and Maintenance

Council Commitment	Action	Responsibility
Plant and maintain indigenous species appropriate to the environmental setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a standard, area based, species selection guide, responsive to site conditions (soil, aspect, bushfire threat), to provide consistency across Council. • Link above to GIS to provide ease of use. • Maintain trees and bushland to conserve ecological, social and scenic qualities. • Identify and seek funds/grants to implement and maintain reserves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Environmental Planning + Environmental Science & Policy • Land Information • Parks Operations + Bushcare • All
Identify appropriate open space for tree planting and revegetation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a five year open space planting program, incorporating open space from most suburbs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Science & Policy + Infrastructure Planning & Services
Maintain trees in public open spaces to manage known risk to life, property and infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop assessment criteria for Council trees consistent with DCP controls. • Develop and inspection program for trees in high profile public spaces. • Provide a range of treatment methods where trees impact on public safety or infrastructure. • Utilise appropriate planting in bushfire interface areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Parks Operations • Parks Operations • Parks Operations • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Parks Operations
Give priority to areas of greatest ecological benefit or visual amenity when undertaking planting programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space planting program to give priority to street in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenweb. • Ridge crests • Foreshore areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Parks Operations + Environmental Science & Policy

Greenweb

Council Commitment	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
<p>Support the Greenweb Volunteers Program, including advice, plant issue, grants and weed collection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice, plant issue and weed collection services to residents. • Provide Greenweb support to schools in Greenweb areas • Continue the Greenweb grants program. • Encourage volunteers to undertake training offered by Bushcare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Science & Policy • Environmental Science & Policy • Environmental Science & Policy • Environmental Science & Policy
<p>Encourage the use of indigenous species in landscaping projects within Greenweb areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a standard, area based, species selection guide, responsive to site conditions (soil, aspect, bushfire threat), to provide consistent advice to residents. • Make the above available via Shire maps to assist with ease of use. • Incorporate indigenous species requirements in EPIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Environmental Planning + Environmental Science & Policy • Land Information • Environmental Planning

Bushcare

Council Commitment	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Support the Bushcare program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue support for Bushcare groups. • Produce Bushcare newsletter. • Conduct training and events for Bushcare volunteers & residents. • Identify opportunities for new groups in ecologically sensitive areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushcare • Bushcare • Bushcare • Bushcare
Use indigenous species of local provenance in all Bushcare projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a standard, area based, species selection guide, responsive to site conditions (soil, aspect, bushfire threat), to provide consistency across Council. • All planting to be in accordance with the above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Environmental Planning + Environmental Science & Policy • Bushcare

Enforcement

Council Commitment	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Respond to illegal poisoning, damage or removal of trees and bushland on public and private land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake appropriate investigations of all reported incidents. • Undertake/seek appropriate restorative and punitive measures (replacement planting, signage, leave dead trees in situ, name and shame). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Building Compliance • Environmental Building Compliance
Respond to encroachments and dumping which damage trees and bushland on public land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake appropriate investigations of all reported incidents. • Undertake/seek appropriate restorative and punitive measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Protection & Regulation • Environment Protection & Regulation
Utilise part of the revenue from tree removal prosecutions to fund replacement tree planting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop 5 year street tree and open space planting program. • Implement planting program. • Establish accounting procedures to link replacement planting and fine revenue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Planning & Services + Parks Operations + Environmental Science & Policy • Parks Operations • Financial Services
Require replacement tree planting for illegal removal at a ratio of 5 to 1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require replacement planting at 5:1 for Council issued orders. • Request Court require planting at a rate of 5 trees replaced for every 1 tree removed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Building Compliance + Legal Services • Environmental Building Compliance + Legal Services