

BELMONT MEDIA RELEASE

CITY ENDORSES TREE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

The City of Belmont's Urban Forest Strategy is a proactive approach to enhancing the urban environment.

When a tree canopy survey revealed there had been a canopy loss of 16ha between 2001 and 2012, the City of Belmont recognised the need to act.

The canopy cover as a percentage of land area (excluding Perth Airport) in the City of Belmont in 2001 was 12.05 per cent. In 2012, this had been reduced to 11.44 per cent.

The industrial suburb of Kewdale has been identified as having the least amount of canopy coverage for its area, while Ascot and Cloverdale are considered the 'greener' suburbs.

"The Urban Forest Strategy is therefore a vital element of the City's long-term commitment to urban liveability," City of Belmont Mayor Cr Phil Marks said.

Canopy cover has been lost through population growth and the demands of building more affordable housing at higher densities.

"One of the important functions of the urban forest is to provide shade and cooling. Increased canopy coverage throughout the City will minimise the urban heat island effect and improve thermal comfort at street level," Mayor Marks said.

"The City has set a target of replacing the lost canopy to a coverage that meets the baseline year of 2001."

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Now the Strategy has been adopted, the City will develop a detailed plan of how it will be implemented.

“The City will look at adopting a multi-disciplinary approach as part of this plan that could include building awareness in the community about the value of green infrastructure, identifying available spaces for tree planting, and securing funding and resources to implement the strategy,” Mayor Marks said.

“Increased public awareness may result in a reduction of trees being lost on private property, the incorporation of trees into development design and the allowance for further planting in public spaces.

“While the management of an urban forest is often considered a local government responsibility it extends well beyond that; we all have a role to play.”

“The City’s Urban Forest Strategy is our tree plan for the future and will assist in ensuring the City remains an attractive, inviting, prosperous, liveable urban environment.”

ENDS

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