

City of Adelaide Submission on the State Government's draft Urban Greening Strategy

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Public

Tuesday, 2 July 2024

City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee

Program Contact:

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Approving Officer:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present a draft submission by the City of Adelaide (CoA) to the State Government's consultation on the draft Urban Greening Strategy, A resilient and liveable Adelaide for all (the draft Strategy) ([Link 1](#)).

The draft CoA submission includes feedback on the draft Strategy and the associated Performance Indicators and Targets Discussion Paper.

The draft Strategy sets a long-term vision for 'a resilient and liveable Adelaide for all: cooler, leafier and more biodiverse'. It includes six priority areas for action:

1. Cooler and greener infill development
2. Government leading by example
3. Building nature back in
4. Future proofing our urban forest
5. Improving greening equity
6. Scaling up impact by working together.

The public consultation was open for eight weeks from 30 April to 28 June 2024. The CoA was granted an extension until 10 July 2024 to allow for the submission to be presented to the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee and Council for decision.

The CoA's draft submission provides the following high-level feedback on the draft Strategy:

- Commends Green Adelaide and the South Australian Government for acknowledging the importance of urban greening to achieve a resilient, protected, and sustainable future and outlining a collaborative approach to implementation.
- Supports the six priorities and three performance indicators contained in the draft Strategy which show strong alignment with the CoA Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Integrated Climate Strategy 2030, draft City Plan Adelaide 2036 and the CoA's submission to the Expert Panel on the State Government's Planning System Implementation Review.
- Requests the tree species diversity indicator be expanded to include parks and reserves, state government roads, national parks and other land holdings and private land in addition to local government street trees.
- Supports definitions for urban greening, and the use of a spatial prioritisation tool to support evidence-based decision-making, as is consistent with the draft Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2030, and the CoA's City Plan approach.
- Supports a long-term strategic approach and framework that captures the value creation of urban cooling, ecosystem services, culture, health and wellbeing etc.
- Supports collaboration with Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation and a partnership approach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in delivering the Strategy.

- Seeks acknowledgement that contested landscapes, traffic demands, heritage areas, and building scales in the City of Adelaide represent a more unique set of circumstances for addressing urban greening in the CBD that requires a partnership between State and local government and the private sector.
- Requests stronger acknowledgement of the role of local open space to support growing residential populations across Greater Adelaide.
- Requests specific recognition of the ecological function of waterways and the River Torrens/ Karrawirra Pari for urban greening, biodiversity and climate resilience.
- Emphasises the importance of legislation and policy to protect and enforce greening measures, and the role the State's Planning and Development fund can play in urban greening in the City of Adelaide and the Adelaide Park Lands.

A detailed Administrative response is proposed to be included with the CoA's submission that responds to the questions raised in the public consultation materials.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 9 July 2024 for consideration

THAT THE CITY PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the draft Urban Greening Strategy, A resilient and liveable Adelaide for all, and associated Performance Indicators and Targets Discussion Paper released by Green Adelaide for consultation.
2. Resolves to provide the following feedback to the State Government on the draft Urban Greening Strategy, A resilient and liveable Adelaide for all:
 - 2.1. Commends Green Adelaide and the South Australian Government for acknowledging the importance of urban greening to achieve a resilient, protected, and sustainable future and outlining a collaborative approach to implementation.
 - 2.2. Supports the six priorities and three performance indicators contained in the draft Strategy which show strong alignment with the City of Adelaide (CoA) Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Integrated Climate Strategy 2030, draft City Plan Adelaide 2036 and the CoA's submission to the Expert Panel on the State Government's Planning System Implementation Review.
 - 2.3. Requests the tree species diversity indicator be expanded to include parks and reserves, state government roads, national parks and other land holdings and private land in addition to local government street trees.
 - 2.4. Supports definitions for urban greening, and the use of a spatial prioritisation tool to support evidence-based decision-making, as is consistent with the draft Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2030, and the CoA's City Plan approach.
 - 2.5. Supports a long-term strategic approach and framework that captures the value creation of urban cooling, ecosystem services, culture, health and wellbeing etc.
 - 2.6. Supports collaboration with Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation and a partnership approach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in delivering the Strategy.
 - 2.7. Seeks acknowledgement that contested landscapes, traffic demands, heritage areas, and building scales in the City of Adelaide represent a more unique set of circumstances for addressing urban greening in the CBD that requires a partnership between State and local government and the private sector.
 - 2.8. Requests stronger acknowledgement of the role of local open space to support growing residential populations across Greater Adelaide.
 - 2.9. Requests specific recognition of the ecological function of waterways and the River Torrens/ Karrawirra Pari for urban greening, biodiversity and climate resilience.

- 2.10. Emphasises the importance of legislation and policy to protect and enforce greening measures, and the role the State's Planning and Development fund can play in urban greening in the City of Adelaide and the Adelaide Park Lands.
 3. Authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to submit the City of Adelaide's submission to the public consultation on the draft Urban Greening Strategy, A resilient and liveable Adelaide for all, as contained in **Attachment A** to Item 7.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 2 July 2024.
 4. Authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer or delegate to make minor typographical, syntactical and technical amendments to the document contained in **Attachment A** to Item 7.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 2 July 2024.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Environment Measure: Support a net increase in street trees annually aligned to heat island data within Council's Climate Strategy Measure: Support 40% tree canopy cover by 2035
Policy	The draft Strategy aligns with the City of Adelaide's Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 and draft City Plan.
Consultation	The draft submission is informed by teams across the City of Adelaide.
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	The draft Strategy identified partnerships as a key priority for delivery.
24/25 Budget Allocation	An allocation of \$5.7M is provided within the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget to increase urban and street greening in the CoA.
Proposed 25/26 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The State Government's draft Urban Greening Strategy sets a vision for 2050.
24/25 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

Background

1. The purpose of this report is to present a draft submission by the City of Adelaide (CoA) to the State Government's consultation on the draft Urban Greening Strategy, A resilient and liveable Adelaide for all (the draft Strategy) ([Link 1](#)).
2. The draft CoA submission includes feedback on the draft Strategy and the associated Performance Indicators and Targets Discussion Paper.
3. The public consultation was open for eight weeks from 30 April to 28 June 2024. The CoA was granted an extension until 10 July 2024 to allow for the submission to be presented to the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee and Council for decision.

Alignment of the draft Strategy with CoA strategic objectives

4. The draft Strategy sets a long-term vision for 'a resilient and liveable Adelaide for all: cooler, leafier and more biodiverse'.
5. It includes six priority areas for action which show strong alignment with the goals and priorities of the CoA's Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 (ICS) and the CoA's submission to the Expert Panel on the State Government's Planning System Implementation Review:

Draft Strategy	CoA Alignment
Cooler and greener infill development	Goal 1. A climate resilient city (ICS) Priority: A cool city with no urban heat island effect (ICS) Priority: Greening supported by sustainable water resources (ICS) CoA submission to Planning System Implementation Review
Government leading by example	Goal 5. A climate leading capital city council (ICS) Priority: Climate change and sustainability are integrated into how we do business (ICS)
Building nature back in	Goal 1. A climate resilient city (ICS) Priority: Greening support by sustainable water resources (ICS) Goal 3: A city where nature thrives (ICS) Priority: Biodiversity, native grasslands and woodlands are protected and enhanced (ICS)
Future-proofing our urban forest	Goal 3. A city where nature thrives (CS) Priority: Biodiversity, native grasslands and woodlands are protected and enhanced (ICS) Priority: Karrawirra Pari, waterways, Adelaide Park Lands, streets and squares act as arteries connecting our native species (ICS)
Improving greening equity	CoA submission to Planning System Implementation Review
Scaling up impact by working together	Priority: Caring for Country in partnership with Kaurna Miyurna (ICS)

6. The draft Strategy proposes to measure performance using three indicators:
 - 6.1. Increased tree canopy cover
 - 6.2. Greater tree species diversity
 - 6.3. Reduced urban heat intensity.
7. These indicators align with the CoA's strategic targets and indicators, including:
 - 7.1. Support a net increase in street trees annually aligned to heat island data (Strategic Plan 2024-2028).

- 7.2. Support 40% tree canopy cover by 2035 (Strategic Plan 2024-2028).
8. The draft Strategy includes a section on defining urban greening, which describes elements such as urban parks, streetscapes and transport corridors, green roofs, walls and facades, and private greening.
9. This approach is consistent with the draft City Plan's use of urban design elements such as multi-functional public spaces, civic plazas, urban streets, etc.

CoA draft Submission to the draft Strategy

10. The CoA's draft submission (**Attachment A**) provides the following high-level feedback on the draft Strategy:
 - 10.1. Commends Green Adelaide and the South Australian Government for acknowledging the importance of urban greening to achieve a resilient, protected, and sustainable future and outlining a collaborative approach to implementation.
 - 10.2. Supports the six priorities and three performance indicators contained in the draft Strategy which show strong alignment with the CoA Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Integrated Climate Strategy 2030, draft City Plan Adelaide 2036 and the CoA's submission to the Expert Panel on the State Government's Planning System Implementation Review.
 - 10.3. Requests the tree species diversity indicator be expanded to include parks and reserves, state government roads, national parks and other land holdings and private land in addition to local government street trees.
 - 10.4. Supports definitions for urban greening, and the use of a spatial prioritisation tool to support evidence-based decision-making, as is consistent with the draft Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2030, and the CoA's City Plan approach.
 - 10.5. Supports a long-term strategic approach and framework that captures the value creation of urban cooling, ecosystem services, culture, health and wellbeing etc.
 - 10.6. Supports collaboration with Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation and a partnership approach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in delivering the Strategy.
 - 10.7. Seeks acknowledgement that contested landscapes, traffic demands, heritage areas, and building scales in the City of Adelaide represent a more unique set of circumstances for addressing urban greening in the CBD that requires a partnership between State and local government and the private sector.
 - 10.8. Requests stronger acknowledgement of the role of local open space to support growing residential populations across Greater Adelaide.
 - 10.9. Requests specific recognition of the ecological function of waterways and the River Torrens/ Karrawirra Pari for urban greening, biodiversity and climate resilience.
 - 10.10. Emphasises the importance of legislation and policy to protect and enforce greening measures, and the role the State's Planning and Development fund can play in urban greening in the City of Adelaide and the Adelaide Park Lands.
11. The draft submission is complemented by a detailed assessment and response by Administration to the questions raised in the public consultation materials under the six priority areas for action. Key recommendations arising from Administration's response include:
 - 11.1. Support for regular LiDAR mapping to collect data and monitor tree canopy cover, with appropriate adjustments for the city environment and Adelaide Park Lands, and stratified canopy height as a separate metric to identify different vegetation layers.
 - 11.2. Support for additional measurement of urban heat intensity through vegetation assessment (in addition to measurement of surface temperature), and more frequent monitoring of urban heat.
 - 11.3. Support to expand the tree species diversity indicator to include trees on private land as well as public land and consider broader urban biodiversity benefits.
 - 11.4. Requests consideration be given to additional performance measures that consider broad forms of greening, biodiversity and greening supported by sustainable water supplies.

Next steps

12. Pending Council's decision, the CoA's submission will be provided to the State Government's consultation process by 10 July 2024.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

[Link 1 – State Government's draft Urban Greening Strategy, A resilient and liveable Adelaide for all](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – City of Adelaide submission to the draft Urban Greening Strategy, A resilient and liveable Adelaide for all

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