

Councillor Maher - QoN - Regarding trees in the North Adelaide Public Golf Course project site

Tuesday, 28 July 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Patrick Maher

Public

Contact Officer:
Tom McCready, Director City Infrastructure

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Patrick Maher will ask the following Question on Notice:

- '1. Did the state request any CoA tree data to inform their widely reported 'over 9000' number of trees in the project site?
2. What were the figures and data we provided to the state?
3. Did the state indicate to CoA that they would undertake their own physical survey of trees?
4. Are we aware of any physical or manual tree survey being undertaken by the state?
5. Overlaying the recent tree removal map against our tree data, what is the total number of trees removed against the total number of trees remaining?
6. Of the trees removed and likely to be removed, what quantum and proportion are:
 - A) Significant or Regulated, vs smaller in size
 - B) Native species, vs non-natives, introduced or invasive
7. What definitions are CoA using for significant, regulated, native, and invasive trees?
8. What is City of Adelaide's definition of a tree?
9. How and when was the current Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy (APLMS) tree data sourced?
10. How is the public Urban Forest ArcGIS tree data sourced? Is this a progressive count (i.e. a work in progress), or is this currently considered to be fully accurate by CoA?
11. How are trees recorded in Assetic?
12. Does our Assetic record for trees include any economic information (i.e. the value of any specific tree)? If so, what is the economic cost of tree removed for the NAPGC project?
13. Does our tree data match across platforms (including Assetic, ArcGIS, APLMS, and any other park lands management systems or documents)?'

REPLY

1. Following the announcement of the North Adelaide Public Golf Course, Council was requested to provide a range of information pertaining to the North Adelaide Golf Course land and buildings.

2. The State Government requested information in March / April 2025 relating to trees within the Golf Course. Data was provided by way of a general overlay extracted from the City of Adelaide (CoA) internal spatial platform and can be viewed at [Link 1](#) and [Link 2](#). It is important to note that the data provided does not align with the Project Site as this had not been defined at the time, but rather to Possum Park / Pirltawardli (Park 1) with a 50-metre buffer.
3. The State Government indicated that they would assess the data and information provided. CoA is not aware of any physical or manual surveys that have been undertaken by the State Government as Council was not party to any processes that followed.
4. The CoA has not been provided with a tree removal map by the State Government and therefore cannot undertake an assessment of the total number of trees removed against the total number of trees remaining.
5. The CoA does not have information pertaining to the trees removed by the State Government and therefore is not able to advise on the quantum and proportion of trees removed that are significant, regulated or smaller in size or native or non-native, introduced or invasive.
6. The CoA applies the legislative definitions for significant, regulated, native, and invasive trees as outlined below:
 - 6.1. Significant and Regulated trees: *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and *Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017* (applied by local councils and the State Planning Commission through the planning system).
 - 6.2. Native trees: *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017* (applied by Native Vegetation Council and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW))
 - 6.3. Invasive trees (declared pest plants): *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (applied by Regional Landscape Boards and Green Adelaide).
 - 6.4. Roadside native vegetation: *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (SA) and the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (applied by road authorities and the Native Vegetation Council).
 - 6.5. Heritage trees (where applicable): *Heritage Places Act 1993* (SA) or local heritage overlays in planning instruments (applied by Heritage South Australia and local councils).
7. The CoA Tree Management Policy and Tree Operating Guideline define a tree as a “mature long-lived woody perennial plant greater than 3 metres in height that has one or relatively few stems or trunks.”
8. Tree data (canopy and individual tree count) for the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 was sourced from The City of Adelaide - Green Infrastructure Benchmark Data and Mapping Project (October 2022). As part of benchmarking data, Grace Detailed-GIS Services (GraceGIS) used LiDAR height data model and visual interpretation of aerial photos.
9. Council uses a number of systems to manage and record tree data. Data for ArcGIS’ online based system Urban Tree map is sourced from the same data that is held in the Assetic system, but it is produced by a manual extraction process, and so is only likely to be a 100% match with the Assetic system during a very small window after the data is extracted.
10. Trees in the Assetic system are recorded through physical inspection and input into our tree management system Forestree. We then synchronise the data into our Asset Management System - Assetic.
11. The CoA currently only assigns a monetary value to trees planted during works projects. Currently this is a total of 295 trees. However, investigations are underway into the feasibility of assigning a monetary value to all public trees. This would improve our understanding of the urban forest as a strategic asset, support investment decisions, strengthen business cases and provide a more comprehensive picture of the value our trees deliver to the community.
12. Forestree data is used to populate Assetic and is updated on a weekly basis. The Administration is working on a project to ensure a single dataset is used for all presentations of the data. Historical data such as the APLMS (56,022 trees) used older datasets which have been updated in the last two years.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 9.5 hours.
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