

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Council endorses Urban Greening Strategy

The City of Launceston has endorsed the city's first Urban Greening Strategy.

At this week's Council meeting, Councillors unanimously endorsed the City of Launceston's Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040.

The new strategy replaces the Council's old Street Tree Strategy 2012 and is based on the following vision:

*"The City of Launceston's urban forest will be resilient, connected and diverse and will contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community and to the creation of a vibrant, liveable and sustainable city."*

The strategy also contains targets under five distinct themes:

Theme 1 — Retain and increase canopy cover.

Target: Achieve a 40% Canopy Cover in the Launceston Urban Area by 2040 (Currently 19.49%)

Theme 2 — Improve urban forest diversity and resilience.

Target: To have no more than 5% of any tree species, no more than 10% of any genus and no more than 20% of any family in Launceston's urban forest.

Theme 3 — Support biodiversity and conservation of the urban forest.

Target: Develop a biodiversity health check and implement a vegetation condition assessment to ensure improvement of urban biodiversity.

Theme 4 — Develop Integrated Infrastructure to support the Urban Forest and Liveability.

Target: Increase numbers of street trees by planting 18,000 new street trees by 2040, this is equivalent to the increase of tree canopy cover to 40%.

Theme 5 — Increase Community Knowledge and Participation.

Target: Benchmark and improve community reported engagement and satisfaction through the Council's Tomorrow Together community engagement program.

City of Launceston Mayor Matthew Garwood said the new strategy represented a shift from managing individual trees to the city's entire urban forest.

"The urban forest is made up of all the trees, shrubs, grassland and other vegetation, growing on public and private land within the city, and the soil and water that supports them," Mayor Garwood said.

"The strategy recognises that urban forests have economic, social and cultural benefits and can help conserve biodiversity, maintain soil and water values and mitigate against heat impact and climate change.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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"While Launceston is known for its leafy parks and significant trees, the urban forest that people enjoy today only covers around 19% of the urban area. This is below the national standard of 39%.

"And while some parts of our community have good canopy cover, many parts still do not.

"The strategy will help us identify appropriate future locations for greenery across our city in consultation with the community so that we get some really great outcomes."

"Utilising strategic planning through the Urban Greening Strategy, our Memorandum of Understanding with the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, and partnerships with other tiers of government and community groups, we can do better for today and for future generations.

"The Urban Greening Strategy sets out a bold target aimed at more than doubling the canopy cover in our urban area by 2040.

"It's an exciting vision for the future, and one the City of Launceston is looking forward to implementing in partnership with the community."

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