

**CITY OF LAUNCESTON**

# **URBAN GREENING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

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**2023 - 2040**



Revision	Date	Author	Changes
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*Cover photo: Waverley Lake, Launceston*  
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## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1
URBAN GREENING VISION .....	1
PRINCIPLES .....	1
THEMES AND TARGETS .....	2
PLANNING AND FUNDING OF THE PLAN .....	2
DELIVERY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION .....	2
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE .....	3
ACTION TYPE .....	3
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN STRUCTURE .....	3
ACTIONS BY TYPE .....	4
PLANNING .....	4
GOVERNANCE .....	6
ON-GROUND .....	10

## INTRODUCTION

In 2023 the City of Launceston drafted its first *Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040*. This strategy replaces the *Street Tree Strategy (2012)* and shifts a focus from managing trees on an individual basis towards delivering a whole-of-forest approach.

The *Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040* sets out the vision, principles, themes and objectives for Launceston's urban forest and aims to enhance the social, environmental, economic benefits for all of Launceston residents, to create a more vibrant, liveable and sustainable city.

This *Urban Greening Implementation Plan* sets out how The Council plans to meet the vision of the Urban Greening Strategy and guides the management and resource allocation over the next 17 years to align with timings of the City's existing plans and strategies.

Considering the key challenges, opportunities, business and community feedback, this implementation plan sets out a priority list of short-, medium- and long-term actions to achieve the urban greening vision.

The Implementation Plan should be read in conjunction with the *Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040*.

### URBAN GREENING 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.*

*Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040*

## PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles of the Launceston Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040 are to:

- mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- reduce the urban heat island effect;
- transition to a water sensitive city;
- design for health and wellbeing;
- design for liveability and sustainability;
- create healthier ecosystems; and
- design for heritage sensitivity.

## THEMES AND TARGETS

To achieve the vision of the Urban Greening Strategy five key themes and associated targets have been developed. Each theme is further supported by priority objectives to assist in delivery and implementation of actions. The key themes and targets are as follows:



Figure 9. Launceston's Urban Forest Vision, Key Themes and Targets  
(Source: Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040)

## PLANNING AND FUNDING OF THE PLAN

The Implementation Plan has been segmented into four-year planning cycles or phases to coincide with the City of Launceston four-year planning processes. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis consistent with the annual planning and budget cycle for the city. The Council actions will be prioritised and funding or other resources will be sought from The Council, the private sector, grant programs, and other levels of government.

## DELIVERY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A critical component of the Urban Greening Implementation Plan is to undertake regular reviews to ensure that progress is made, targets are met, outcomes are measured, new information is considered, and the ongoing delivery of actions across the urban area are achieved.

A review of the Implementation Plan will occur annually and will include an evaluation of the progress, timelines, funding, and success criteria as outlined in the Urban Greening Strategy. As numerous actions will take many years to view results, a full review of the Strategy and Implementation Plan will take place every four years and may include revision of strategic priorities and addition or amendment of actions over time.

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

The Implementation Plan includes actions over the next 16+ years divided into the following phases. Some actions will be ongoing over the life of the planning and implementation horizon.

Stage	Timeframe
Ongoing	
Short Term	1-4 Years
Medium Term	5-8 years
Long Term	9+ years

## ACTION TYPE

Several types of actions have been identified in the plan. Some actions may span across several categories, but have been categorised by their primary aim. The types include:

Action Type	Description
Planning	Preparation of plans that inform implementation
Governance	Guidelines, processes, or governance groups that support greening activities
On-ground	Physical actions that result in greening of the urban area or actions that empower the community to participate in greening

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN STRUCTURE

The Implementation Plan has been divided into the types of actions required to implement the plan. Each section is further segmented into stages of time (ongoing, short-term, medium term, and long term). This format is designed to align with the City of Launceston planning cycles and the types of expertise or resources required to implement the various actions in the plan.

Each action identifies the themes that it addresses.

## ACTIONS BY TYPE

The actions in this section have been sorted by the type of action (planning, governance, and on-ground), sequenced over the stages of the strategy (Stage 1, Stages 1 & 2, Stage 2, Stage 2 & 3, Stage 3, and ongoing).

## PLANNING

Planning		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
P-1	Establish canopy cover targets and milestones for each priority area or green zone to achieve the canopy cover target of 40% by 2040.	▲			●	●			
P-2	Develop and implement a monitoring program to reassess the vulnerability index and monitor the land surface temperature (LST) and the evolution of the urban forest to assess results of tree planting on LST.	▲			●				
P-3	Identify opportunities for establishing an in-perpetuity funding source such as an Urban Greening Trust.	▲			●	●	●	●	●
P-4	<p>Prepare and implement biodiversity corridor plans that contain necessary structural elements for provision of habitat and safe native fauna movement, including ground cover (leaf litter, twigs/sticks, low herbage), middle storey shrubs and an over storey.</p> <p><b>Priority corridors:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kings Meadows Rivulet Newnham Creek Newnham Reserve</li> <li>Distillery Creek North Esk Trail West Tamar Trail</li> </ol>	▲	▲		●	●	●		

Planning (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
P-5	<p>Develop Reserve Management Plans for Launceston's native reserves, including vegetation management and planting plans, management strategies for threats to biodiversity (including biological threats such as virus, bacteria, fungus, and animal pest management), and climate threats.</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cambridge Street Reserve Hardwicke Street Reserve Cataract Gorge Carr Villa Memorial Bushland Youngtown Regional Reserve</li> <li>West Tamar Trail North Esk Trail Fraser Street Reserve</li> </ol>	▲	▲		●	●	●	●	●
P-6	Create incentives to encourage developers to incorporate green infrastructure into projects.		▲		●	●			●
P-7	Explore opportunities for delivering a community Native Food (Bush Tucker) / Forest Food Program.		▲						●
P-8	Work with community leaders to develop strategies to protect vegetation and deter vandalism.			▲		●			●
P-9	<p>Develop and implement neighbourhood precinct plans for identified priority areas based on the vulnerability index, with a focus on paths that link bus stops and public places such as playgrounds, schools, aged care and medical facilities.</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newnham, Mowbray, Mayfield</li> <li>Invermay, Ravenswood, Waverley</li> <li>Summerhill, Kings Meadows, Youngtown</li> </ol>	▲	▲	▲	●	●		●	●



## GOVERNANCE

Governance		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
G-1	Establish an integrated Project Advisory Group across the relevant internal departments within The Council to achieve integrated urban greening outcomes in the Council projects, masterplans, strategies and policies, and strategic and capital works projects.	▲			●			●	●
G-2	Prepare a 4-year works delivery plan, including budget and resourcing, for identified priority areas or green zones to increase canopy cover in City of Launceston's parks, recreation and open space areas, civic spaces, built environments, streets and road corridors.	▲			●		●	●	
G-3	Adopt a tool to calculate the economic value of trees.	▲			●	●	●		●
G-4	Investigate integration of tree inventory into Launceston's strategic asset management plan to better manage funding, scheduled works program and auditing processes.	▲			●	●	●		
G-5	Implement a Significant Tree Register, including policy, guidelines and procedures for management of significant trees.	▲			●	●	●		●
G-6	Develop a suite of green infrastructure guidelines and specification documents to assist in nature-based / alternative greening solutions in areas of high density or where space is limited. This can include greening buildings, green walls, green rooftops, green boxes, pergolas, canopy ladders, arbours, and other structures. Guidelines to include a list of tree species and maintenance procedures to manage vegetation to address building awnings, larger spaces, movement and transport needs.	▲	▲		●	●	●	●	●
G-7	Adopt Guidelines for micro greening (similar to City of Perth Micro Greening in the City and Committee of Sydney Nature Positive Sydney) to encourage community to make small actions towards building the urban forest.	▲			●		●	●	●
G-8	Develop an agreement or memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of State Growth (DSG) for the gateways to the City, including design and installation, ongoing maintenance and replacements.	▲						●	●

Governance (continued)		Stage			Theme				
	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
G-9	Register to become a <i>Trees Cities of the World</i> .	▲							●
G-10	Establish an Urban Greening Advisory Committee to support community participation, address community concerns and provide guidance on the management of the urban forest.	▲							●
G-11	Encourage and enable the establishment of volunteer groups such as 'Friends of' groups to work collaboratively with the Council to achieve the objectives of the Urban Greening Strategy.	▲					●		●
G-12	Update the Nature Strip Guidelines to include pictures and graphics to encourage greater engagement with verge gardens to improve biodiversity, climate resilience + health and wellbeing benefits	▲							●
G-13	Review and revise standard drawings, policies, and procedures to assist in the planting of trees and other vegetation, and engage with the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and surrounding Councils to promote widespread adoption.	▲	▲		●		●		
G-14	Adopt a standard tree offset pricing policy to compensate for removal of the Council trees for the benefit of private stakeholders.		▲		●	●	●		●
G-15	Update and maintain the tree inventory, develop a methodology/adopt a tool to consistently record data on trees and conduct an annual audit of tree health and monitoring of urban forest for potentially catastrophic vectors of decline e.g. pests, diseases, stressors.		▲		●				
G-16	Create a requirement for developers to provide a table of changes when providing updated plans to identify when changes to nominated public open space and trees or vegetation are impacted or removed.		▲		●				
G-17	Engage with service providers, emergency management agencies and other local governments to develop guidelines for co-location of underground and overhead assets and street plantings. Documentation should include guidance on pruning around overhead wires, pruning and vegetation management for hazard management, co-location of underground infrastructure within the road reserve, root pruning, cable bundling, undergrounding assets.		▲		●	●	●		

Governance (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
G-18	Develop guidelines and procedures for implementing wildlife corridors and habitat patches along transport and service corridors and encourage the application of techniques in new developments.  <b>Key existing corridors</b> include Vermont Road, Kings Meadows Connector, St Leonards Rd and East Tamar Highway.		▲		●	●	●		
G-19	Develop Greening Heritage Planting guidelines to address plantings in heritage areas sympathetic to the built environment.		▲					●	●
G-20	Develop collaborative relationships with water management entities and identify opportunities for green network integration.		▲				●	●	●
G-21	Create an online portal map for community to map the trees they have planted that contribute to the urban forest canopy targets.		▲						●
G-22	Prepare a State of the Urban Forest Report every four years to document progress on the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy. The report will align with the themes and objectives of the Strategy, report outcomes against targets, include a reassessment of canopy cover, include a biodiversity health check, identify any strategic changes impacting urban greening, and propose any modifications of the Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2040.		▲	▲	●		●		●
G-23	Develop a set of criteria for tree selection, review existing Council planting lists, and improve species diversity selection to include resilient species which perform well in both current and future climates.			▲	●	●	●		
G-24	Develop and deliver a <i>Greening Façade Improvement Grants Program</i> to encourage business owners, operators, and landlords to enhance the presentation of their buildings through greening.	▲	▲	▲					●

Governance (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
G-25	Identify community and stakeholder financial resources to support plantings and maintenance of greening.	▲	▲	▲					●
G-26	Develop principles and implement guidelines and tools for greening for new residential estates, subdivisions and large developments to achieve Urban Greening Targets by engaging with planners and private developers.	▲	▲	▲	●	●			●
G-27	Capitalise on partnerships with organisations such as Rotary, Tamar NRM, TAFE, not-for-profits and other organisations to deliver joint outcomes for the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy.	▲	▲	▲					●

## ON-GROUND

On-Ground		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-1	Create a register to collect and collate information on local soil types and appropriate species for each soil type.	▲				●			
O-2	Install planter boxes with cascading plants in the Council-owned multi-story car parks. <b>Priorities:</b> 1. Paterson St car parks (East and West) 2. Elizabeth St car park 3. CH Smith car park	▲			●		●	●	●
O-3	Install in ground trees or planter boxes in identified the Council-owned street-level car parks. <b>Priorities:</b> 1. Cimitiere St car park 2. Bathurst St car park 3. Churchill Park car park 4. UTas Inveresk car parks	▲			●		●	●	●
O-4	Develop an artist's impression to show the community what a 40% canopy cover looks like in 2040 and what Launceston's urban areas and streets will look like in 100 years.	▲							●
O-5	Create green gateways to mark important entrances to the City for our locals and visitors. <b>Priorities</b> 1. Northern Outlet - Mowbray roundabout to Forster St (swamp-tolerant native species) Southern Outlet - Westbury Rd overpass to Metro Bus Terminal 2. Tasman Highway - Waverley Lilydale Road - Rocherlea	▲	▲			●	●	●	



On-Ground (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-6	Gather seeds from thriving local trees and propagate for succession and new plantings.		▲		●	●			
O-7	Develop procedures to manage threats to the urban forest including biological threats such as virus, bacteria, fungus, and animal pest management.		▲		●	●			
O-8	Encourage community involvement on private land to enhance habitat corridors for key threatened species, including swift parrot, eastern barred bandicoot, spotted-tailed quoll and green and gold frog.		▲				●		●
O-9	Explore partnerships with privately owned car parks to install cascading or street level plantings. <b>Priorities:</b> 1. Kings Meadows shopping precinct 2. Mowbray shopping precinct 3. Central Business District (CBD)		▲		●		●	●	●
O-10	Implement a water conservation and efficiency plan for City of Launceston's assets and operations by undertaking a water efficiency analysis across all of the Council's assets to identify excessive water uses in high priority areas and implement water efficiency procedures and/or technologies identified in efficiency analysis ( <i>Also see Action 6.26 of the Sustainability Action Plan</i> ).		▲	▲		●	●	●	
O-11	Utilise stormwater to water trees and gardens and increase passive irrigation to improve soil moisture levels.		▲	▲		●	●	●	
O-12	Identify and mark key locations with feature trees that provide a memorable vista, e.g. Civic spaces in the CBD (Quadrant Mall as current example), Cataract Gorge.		▲	▲	●			●	
O-13	Identify and create green thresholds to mark important transitions for our locals and visitors.		▲	▲			●		

On-Ground (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-14	Implement urban greening opportunities for traffic calming applications, including planting in medians, outstands and chicanes.		▲	▲	●	●	●	●	●
O-15	<p>Achieve a minimum of 20% canopy cover in, and within 400m, of all schools through collaboration with Department of Education, schools, school communities, not-for-profit and community organisations.</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. schools with &lt;5% canopy cover</li> <li>2. schools with 5-7% canopy cover</li> <li>3. schools with 7-9% canopy cover</li> <li>4. schools with 9-14% canopy cover</li> <li>5. schools with &gt;14% canopy</li> </ol> <p><i>Note - priority areas identified in GeoNeon Technical report (2022)</i></p>	▲	▲	▲	●	●		●	●
O-16	<p>Replace dead trees and vacant tree sites, or consider alternative greening option where replacement is not feasible.</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete Newnham plantings (vicinity of Vermeer, Goya, Monet, Picasso, Van Gogh etc.)</li> <li>2. Invermay (e.g. Forster St, Holbrook St.)</li> <li>3. Kings Meadows</li> </ol>	▲	▲	▲	●	●		●	●
O-17	<p>Implement water sensitive urban design delivery or nature-based solutions for flood mitigation in areas for identified storm water sensitivity and flood prone areas through implementation of the Urban Waterways Health Program.</p> <p><b>Priority Catchments:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Newnham Creek</li> <li>2. Kings Meadows Rivulet</li> <li>3. Jinglers Creek</li> </ol>	▲	▲	▲		●	●	●	
O-18	Protect trees (existing and new) from collision in high traffic areas.	▲	▲	▲	●	●			
O-19	Use integrated design techniques to protect trees and other greening from potential removal due to trip hazards or other public safety nuisances.	▲	▲	▲	●	●			●

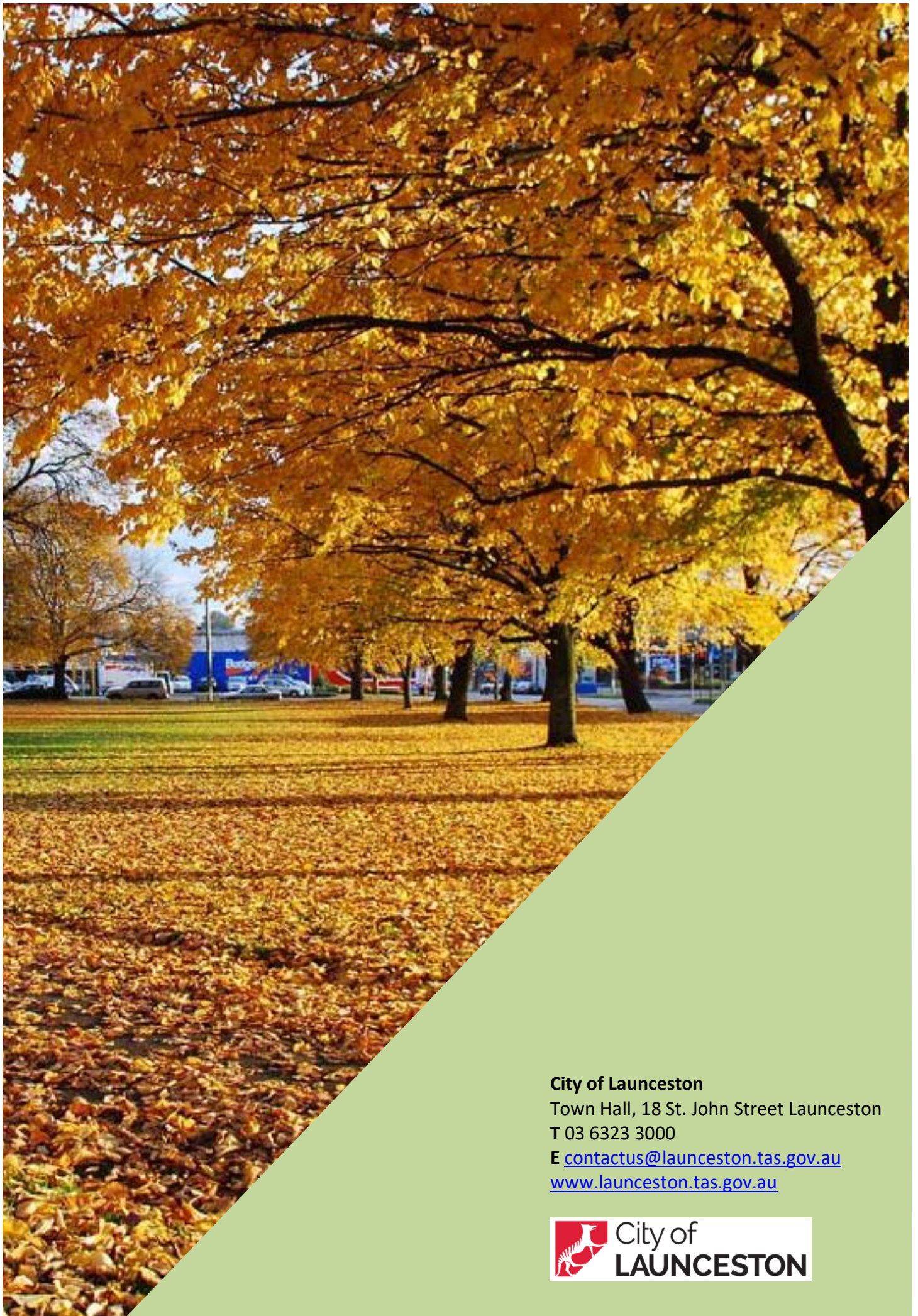
On-Ground (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-20	<p>Develop a program to encourage micro-greening in civic spaces and laneways in shopping precincts, including small interventions like simple pot plants, vines growing up a wall or hanging baskets from shop awnings; complement this greening with seating to rest and relax. Trial or pilot greening approaches in high density areas.</p> <p><b>Priority precincts:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Central Business District</li> <li>2. Mowbray</li> <li>3. Kings Meadows</li> </ol>	▲	▲	▲	●	●	●	●	●
O-21	Develop and implement a program to encourage private landowners to install micro-greening on balconies and urban rooftops.	▲	▲	▲			●	●	
O-22	Create a tree canopy avenue along Cameron St, connecting City Park with QVMAG at Royal Park.	▲	▲	▲				●	
O-23	<p>Develop and implement a staged delivery plan for identified priority areas or green zones where canopy cover needs to be increased in the City of Launceston's CBD.</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kingsway George St (Cameron - York) St John St (Esplanade - Frederick) Cameron St (City Park - QVMAG Royal Park - planning)</li> <li>2. Cameron St (City Park - QVMAG Royal Park - implementation) Charles St (Cameron - Balfour)</li> <li>3. Elizabeth St (George - Margaret) Frederick St (Charles - Margaret) Paterson St (Wellington - George) York St (George - Wellington)</li> </ol>	▲	▲	▲	●	●	●	●	●

On-Ground (continued)		Stage			Theme				
#	Actions	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
O-24	<p>Use plantings to promote sustainable and active transport especially around central activity centres, education facilities, health facilities and cycling routes.</p> <p><b>Priority investigation</b> of routes along Launceston's levee network, and routes that link to and from the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University Inveresk and Newnham campuses</li> <li>Central Business District employment centre</li> <li>South Launceston health precinct</li> </ul>	▲	▲	▲	●		●	●	●
O-25	<p>Develop and deliver an external engagement program to inform, educate and inspire community about the benefits of trees and other vegetation, provide guidance on planting and maintenance, and the role increased canopy coverage has in sequestering carbon, mitigating against climate change and reducing the urban heat effect.</p> <p><b>Priority activities</b> include: planting days, nursery open days and pop-up demonstrations, establishment of community gardens, informal seminars, and workshops on urban forest maintenance and neighbourhood character.</p>	▲	▲	▲	●		●		●
O-26	<p>Work with communities in areas of low canopy cover and high heat vulnerability index to educate and overcome resistance to trees and develop unique engagement methods that demote negative behaviour and vandalism and promote protection and connection to trees.</p>	▲	▲	▲	●				●

Back cover image: Brickfields Reserve

Photo credit: City of Launceston





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