Implementation

Street tree planting priorities

The plan identifies the numerous advantages to the presence of trees in our streets. It also establishes that in order to sustain and increase the benefits trees provide, new trees must be continually planted.

The plan outlines the many challenges to the establishment of new trees (and protection of existing trees) as an outcome of an ever-growing population, greater urban densities and the increasing extent of the urban landscape. Street trees are not only contending with less available permeable space as an outcome of these factors, they must also compete with essential services (water and sewer, power and telecommunications) within these shrinking spaces as demand continues to grow.

Despite this, many spaces in road reserve corridors that could potentially accommodate large growing trees without conflict are empty. Planting trees into as many of these spaces as possible is considered the primary street tree planting priority for the region. Potential planting locations (nodes) for investigation include intersections, roundabouts, centre medians, wide road verges, public open space areas that intersect with streets and unused areas of land around community facilities, car parks and service compounds (see *Figure 20*).

Providing shade to pathways and popular pedestrian routes is the second street tree planting priority for the region. Shading pathways around schools and community facilities and pedestrian links between shopping precincts, recreational areas and residential zones are the greatest priorities (see *Figure 21*).

The third priority for street tree planting in the short term is to enhance the general amenity and function of major avenue plantings. By infilling (planting gaps) and extending street tree avenues, regional and local gateways can be reinforced and strengthened (see *Figure 22*).

Once new trees have been planted into existing vacant spaces and priority locations, council can turn its attention to more complex issues such as; how to ensure adequate provision of space for trees in new residential developments, how to ensure consideration is given to all essential infrastructure including street trees, and what possible alternative treatments can be used to ensure the Sunshine Coast's built and natural landscapes are better balanced in the future.

Priority localities for proactive planting of street trees include the *Sunshine Coast Enterprise Corridor,* Nambour, Buderim, Eumundi, Kenilworth and Woombye.

Adopt A Street Tree Program

Council is committed to partnering with local residents to establish and care for new street trees in locations where they are wanted the most. It is well understood that young street trees that are desired and nurtured by adjacent residents have the best chance of surviving and thriving in urban landscapes.

Council is able to prioritise requests for street trees where residents elect to be the custodians of young trees. As a part of council's *Adopt A Street Tree Program*, local residents will be given opportunity to nominate their nature strip (or street where a number of residents come together to request street trees) to be included in the program. Local businesses are also encouraged to express a desire for new tree establishment in adjacent areas, as well as indicate whether they are able to partner with council in their early care and maintenance.

Council will work with local communities to identify where residents would like to see new street trees established. Streets where residents wish to join council's *Adopt A Street Tree Program* will be prioritised.

Opportunities for the establishment of fruit trees in appropriate sites (local parks for example), to be cared for as a part of a formal partnership between council and community will also be explored as a part of council's programs of tree adoption.

Figure 20: Example of tree planting priority 1: Plant trees where space permits and conflict potential is low.

Figure 21: Example of tree planting priority 2: Shade major pedestrian routes.

Figure 22: Example of tree planting priority 3: Infill and extend tree avenues on major thoroughfares.