

Urban Forest Strategy Refresh

Results of Shaping Banyule Consultation on Draft Strategies
and Actions May 2022

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Background

Council is preparing an Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The UFS will establish guidelines, principles, and further plans and actions to preserve and enhance our urban forest. The UFS will also detail goals and actions for the next ten years.

In late 2021 Banyule Councillors, together with the appointed Community Reference Group (CRG), Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee (BECAC), and the internal Project Working Group (PWG) participated in a series of workshops. The outcome of the workshops was a set of value statements and vision statements, which describe what a successful healthy, resilient and equitable urban forest looks like for Banyule.

With Mosaic Insights (the consultant) a Vision statement and draft set of Principles was developed, bringing together feedback from the workshops, Banyule's Community Visions 2041 and the current Strategic Plan.

The framework and draft principles for the Urban Forest Strategy Refresh were made available for wider public consultation on Shaping Banyule between December and February 2022. Two approaches were used: a formal survey and a social map. The responses resulted in a revised set of principles that were put to council and endorsed at the February Council meeting.

- 1. We believe the urban forest is an essential asset for Banyule, shared by all and crucial for the health and wellbeing of the community and natural environment.**
- 2. We believe a healthy urban forest is the result of strong partnerships between Council and community.**
- 3. We act today to respond to the changing climate and to leave a positive legacy for the future community, and we act responsibly, using evidence-based practice in our leadership and management of the urban forest.**
- 4. We plan, design and deliver for the people, places and natural environments of Banyule including:**
 - **Climate change and reduction of urban heat island**
 - **Liveability, amenity and neighbourhood character**
 - **Banyule's ecosystems and biodiversity**
- 5. We protect and enhance the Banyule's natural environment to care for flora and fauna.**

Guided by the framework of vision and principles six areas emerged as areas for strategic focus.

- 1. Prioritise urban forest improvements in the most vulnerable suburbs and places across Banyule**
- 2. Improve planting to complement trees**
- 3. Manage the urban forest across public and private land for resilience to climate change**
- 4. Take a long-term approach to Urban Forest management**
- 5. Build community partnership with council to protect and enhance the urban forest**
- 6. Integrate the urban forest principles into all parts of Council services**

Actions formed through the consultation with community, external and internal stakeholders had been drafted to respond to the strategic areas. The strategic areas and the actions were shared with the community via a Shaping Banyule survey from May 9th to May 20th.

Participants were provided with a [background briefing document](#) that summarised data used to assess the current state of the Banyule Urban Forest, explain the framework of vision and principles for the strategy that were derived from the earlier engagement and outline the resulting strategic areas and actions that are proposed.

Input was sought on whether the community agrees with the strategic areas and to gain the relative priority of actions within each strategic area. Text responses to each strategy area allowed questions or requests for alternative action. These text responses will be used to tailor the language of the strategy areas and actions in the final document.

Responses

55 members of the community responded to the results.

The results are in the following charts. 92% of the community agreed with the proposed strategic areas. This is a strong confirmation that the direction of the strategy is well supported.

Within the strategic areas there were some actions that resonated less with the community for priority.

The written feedback frequently called for the planting of indigenous vegetation exclusively, and for the proactive removal of weed species throughout Banyule – a sentiment shared in earlier engagement. 30% of the responders wrote comments that related to wanting only indigenous plants in the landscape.

18% of responders (10 individuals) called for more priority in the urban forest for habitat. It is worth noting that only half of those people also called for indigenous vegetation.

18% of the responders gave comments that council should take more action to restrict the ability for property owners/developers to remove trees on their land or should be subject to control from council as to what vegetation needs to be placed on private land.

16% of the responders commented that the language of a strategy area or action was not clear. Focus has been given to addressing those areas in the Draft Strategy

Two responders provided comments that called for less regulation on private land, requesting that owners be able to remove trees that were inappropriate. The same responders disagreed with the strategic areas of integrating urban forest principles within Council services.

Observations of Results

Strategic Areas

92% of responders agreed or strongly agreed with the strategic areas.

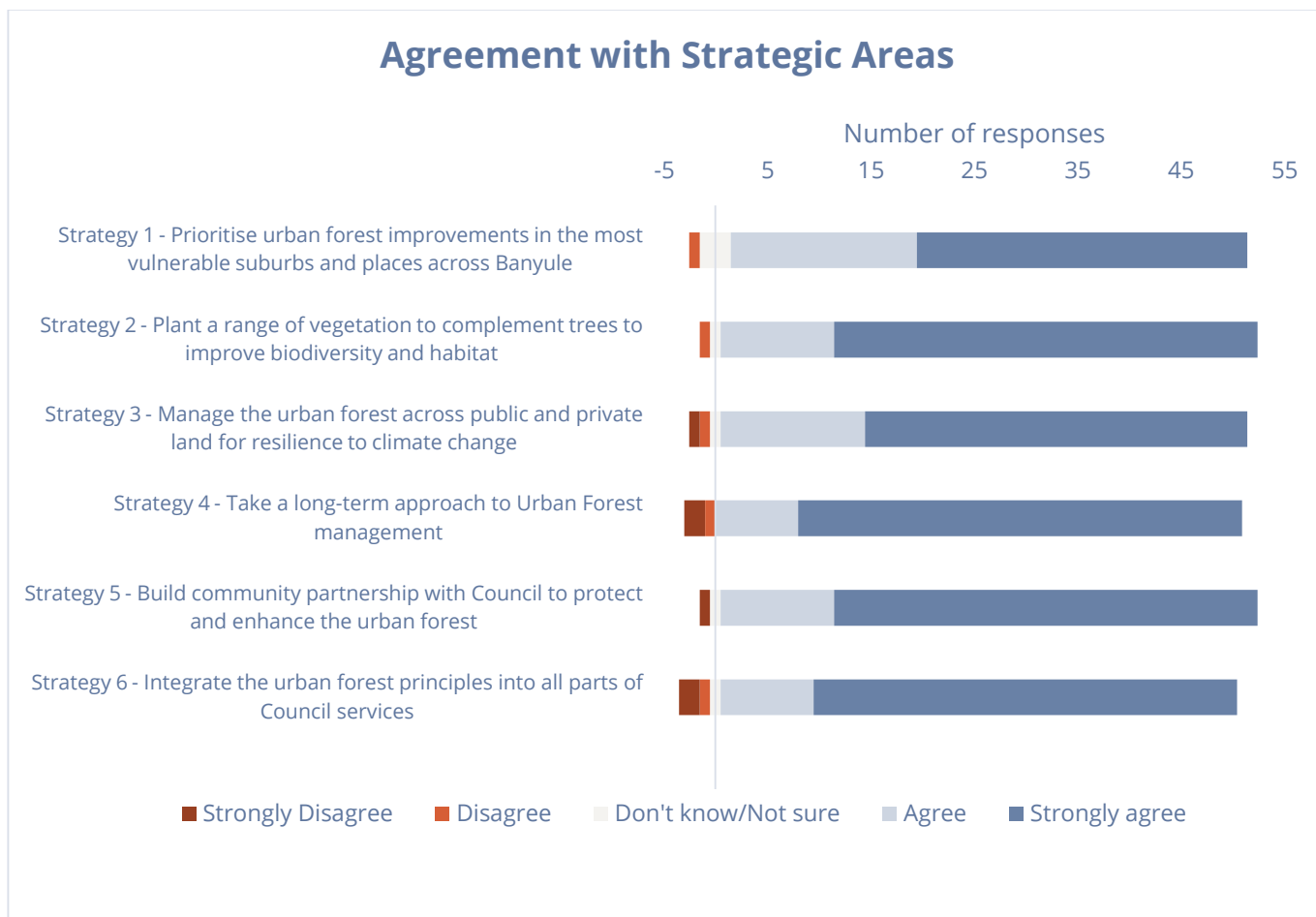


Figure 1: Agreement with Strategic Areas

Prioritising Actions

To each of the Strategic Areas the participant was asked to prioritise their top four actions. This process was not designed to filter out proposed actions, but rather to bring focus to the areas that did not resonate with the community or may need more carefully chosen language.

The Weighted Score results from 4 points being assigned to the first priority, 3 points to the second priority, 2 for the third, 1 for the fourth and no points for non-prioritised actions. This gives as a theoretical 220 as the highest possible score, i.e. if all 55 participants gave the same first priority to the same action.

Strategic Area 1: Prioritise urban forest improvements in the most vulnerable suburbs and places across Banyule

Strategy 1 had the greatest priority placed on the development of a prioritisation method for areas of most need for planning and intervention. A draft method was described in the background briefing document that combined heat island vulnerability, SEIFA disadvantage, pedestrian activity, habitat corridors, existing canopy cover and flood mitigation. This strategic area resulted in comments (Table 2) that showed the prioritisation method was not understood – it will need to be clearly explained in the final Strategy.

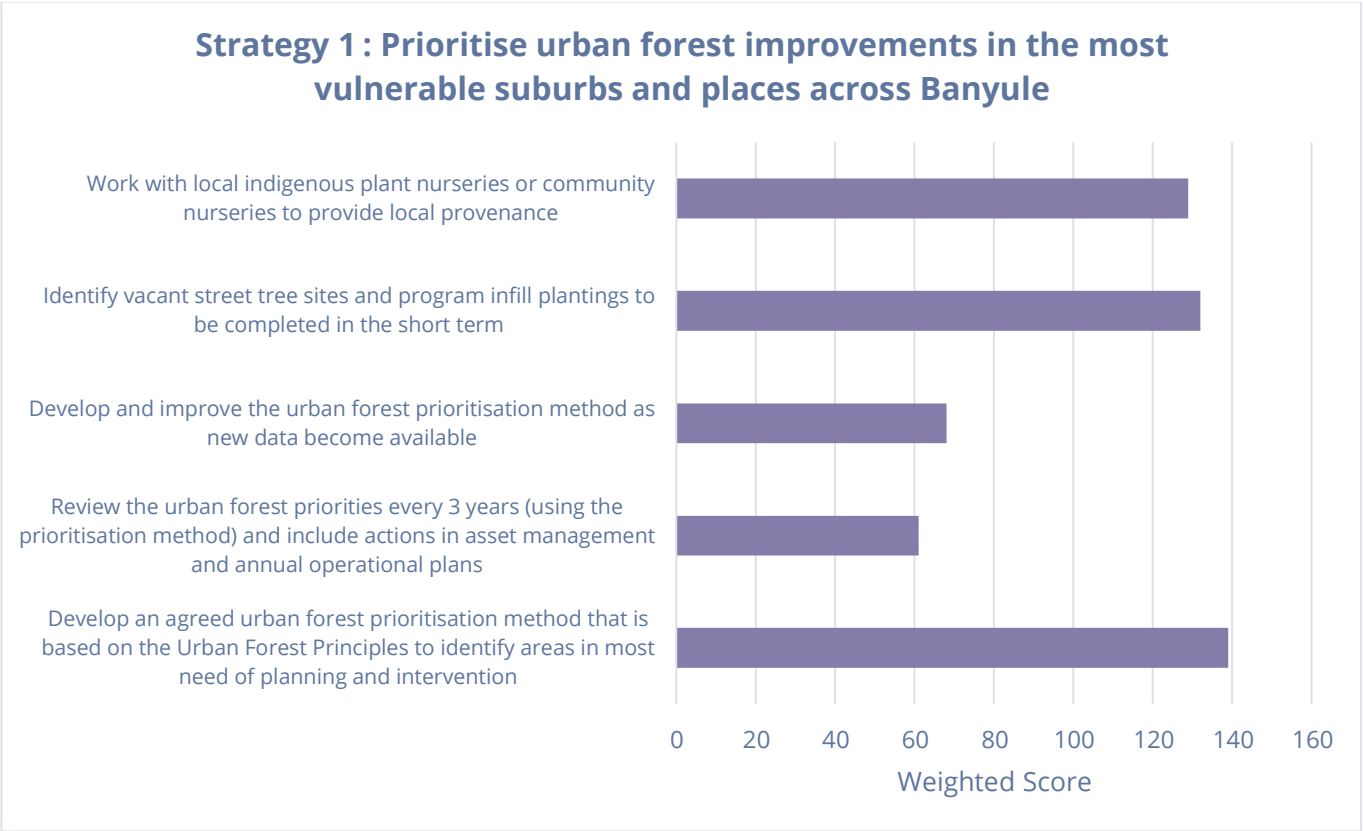


Figure 2: Strategy 1 Action Priorities

Strategic Area 2: Plant a range of vegetation to complement trees to improve biodiversity and habitat

Strategy 2 proposed to expand the urban forest complexity beyond a heavy focus on trees, to include shrubs and ground-covers to support biodiversity. There was highest priority placed on the mapping of habitat corridors so that the understory planting would be targeted in the most beneficial areas. Strategy 2 had the least priority on the action that called for co-management of new planting sites within the Urban Forest with the community. The wording of this action should be changed in the final Strategy to more clearly describe the intention to provide support to new groups and individuals in addition to the existing network of Friends groups in Banyule. There was a comment (Table 3) that cautioned to view of the community as “free labour” and that the community should be supported with resources by council.

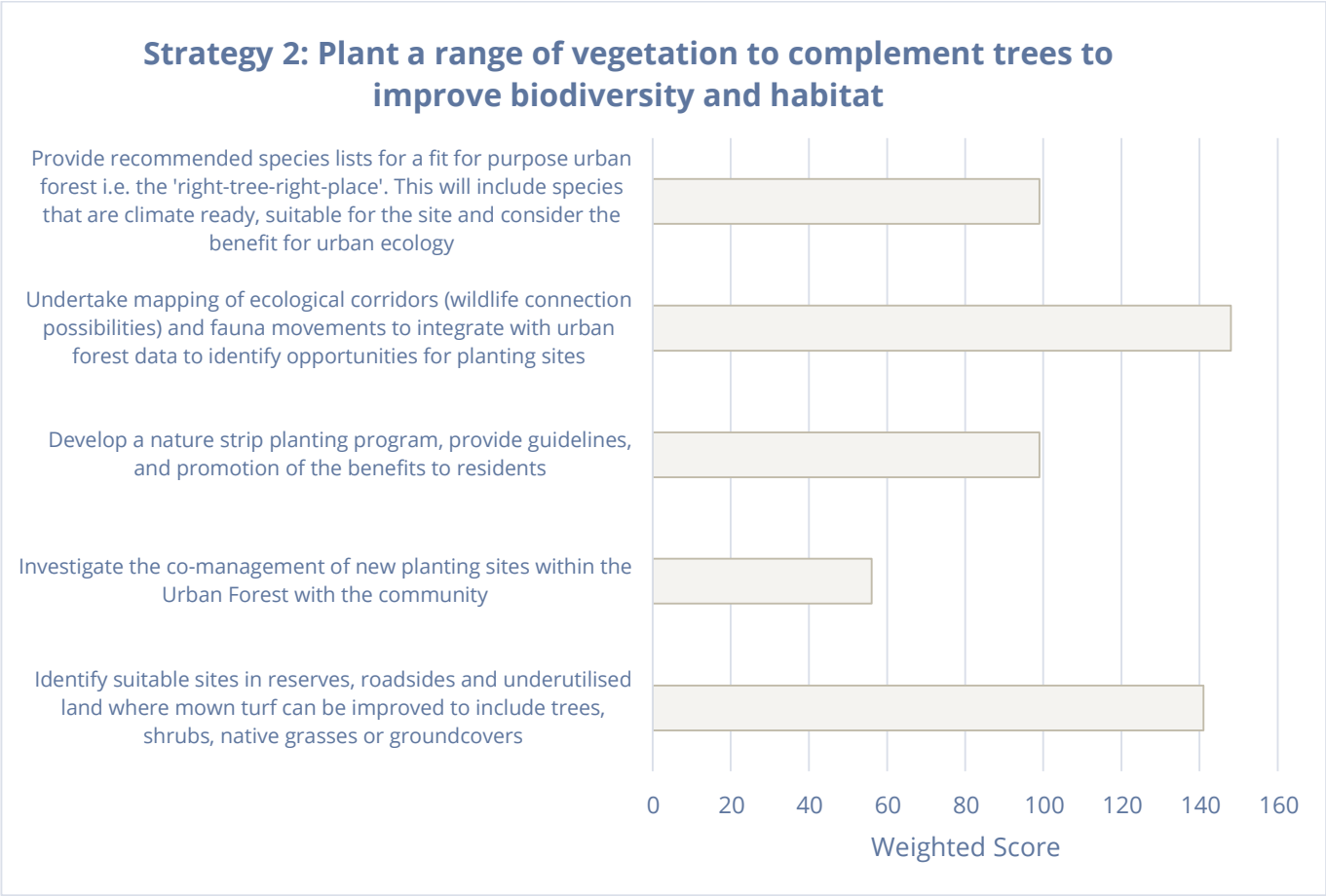


Figure 3: Strategy 2 Action Priorities

Strategic Area 3: Manage the urban forest across public and private land for resilience to climate change

Strategy 3 relates to actions that are targeted to respond to climate change. The strongest priority was assigned to action to protect and support the protection of significant trees on public and private land.

Notable comments (Table 4) included the support for passive irrigation and water sensitive urban design.

Reviewing the recommended species list when new information comes to light was the least supported action. This result had corresponding comments that criticised having any non-indigenous plants on the species list.

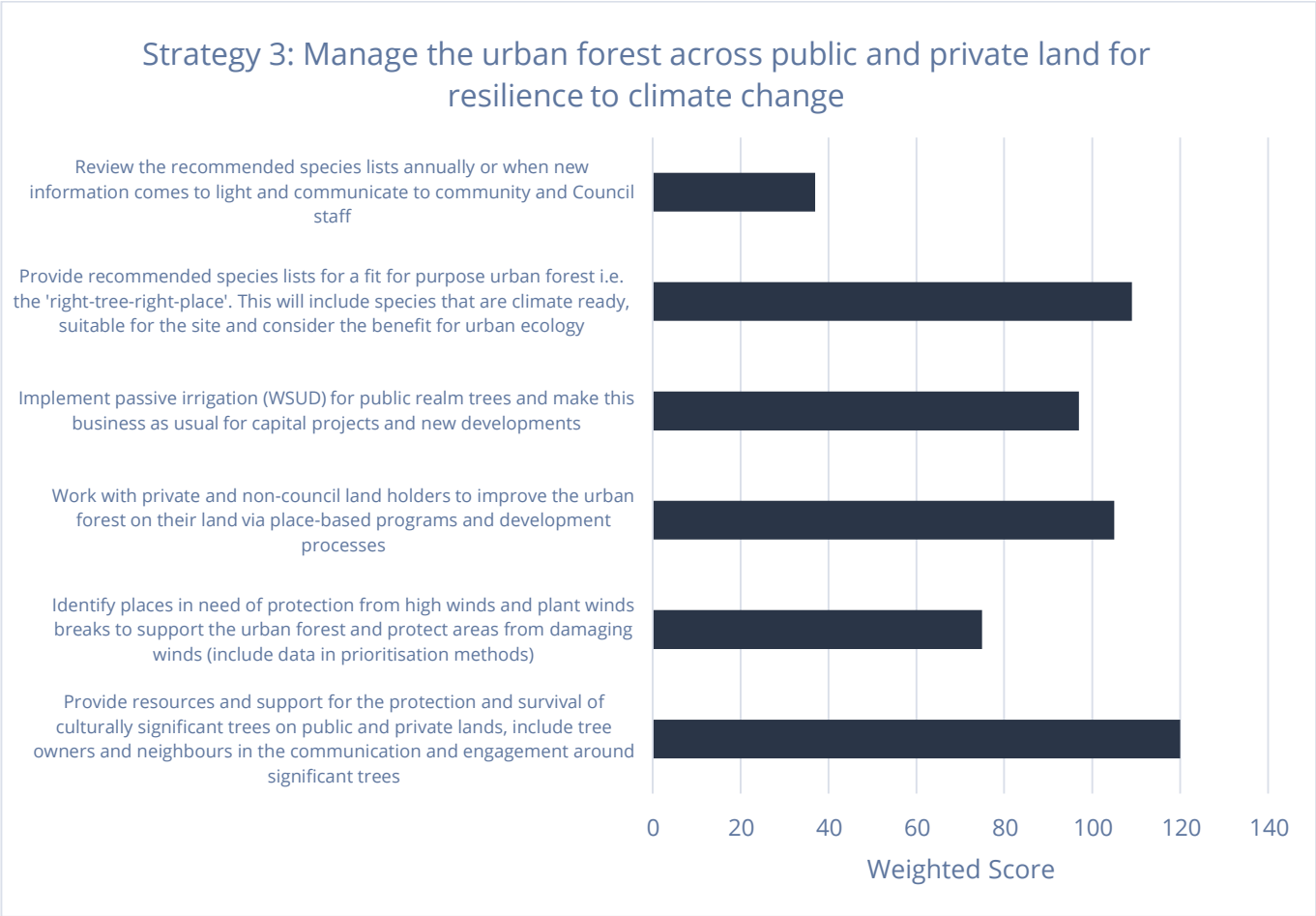


Figure 4: Strategy 3 Action Priorities

Strategic Area 4: Take a long-term approach to Urban Forest management

Strategy 4 is about the management of the urban forest, as the briefing document described the actions are more “behind the scenes” changes that the public may not see as readily in the environment around them.

The action to have place-based plans, meaning locally appropriate responses in different locations within Banyule, was given the highest priority. The action for a canopy cover assessment too and a public urban forest visual were also given a high priority. Comments (Table 5) indicated that the language of “placed-based plans” and “risk management framework” was not understood, it should be a focus of the final strategy to better articulate these actions.

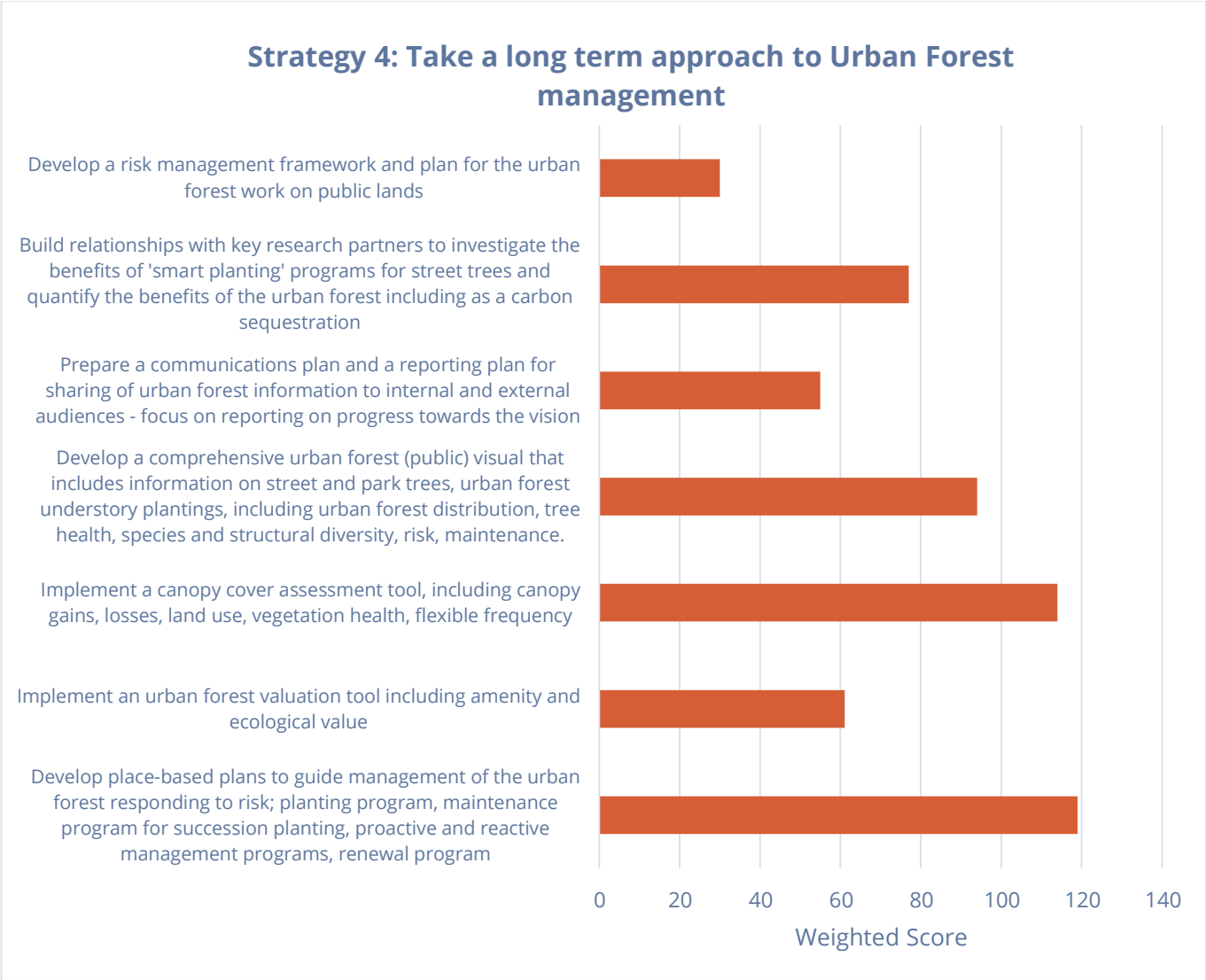


Figure 5: Strategy 4 Action Priorities

Strategic Area 5: Build community partnership with council to protect and enhance the urban forest

Strategy 5 is a focus on partnerships with the community. Engaging with the community in the design and delivery of urban forest projects was the highest priority.

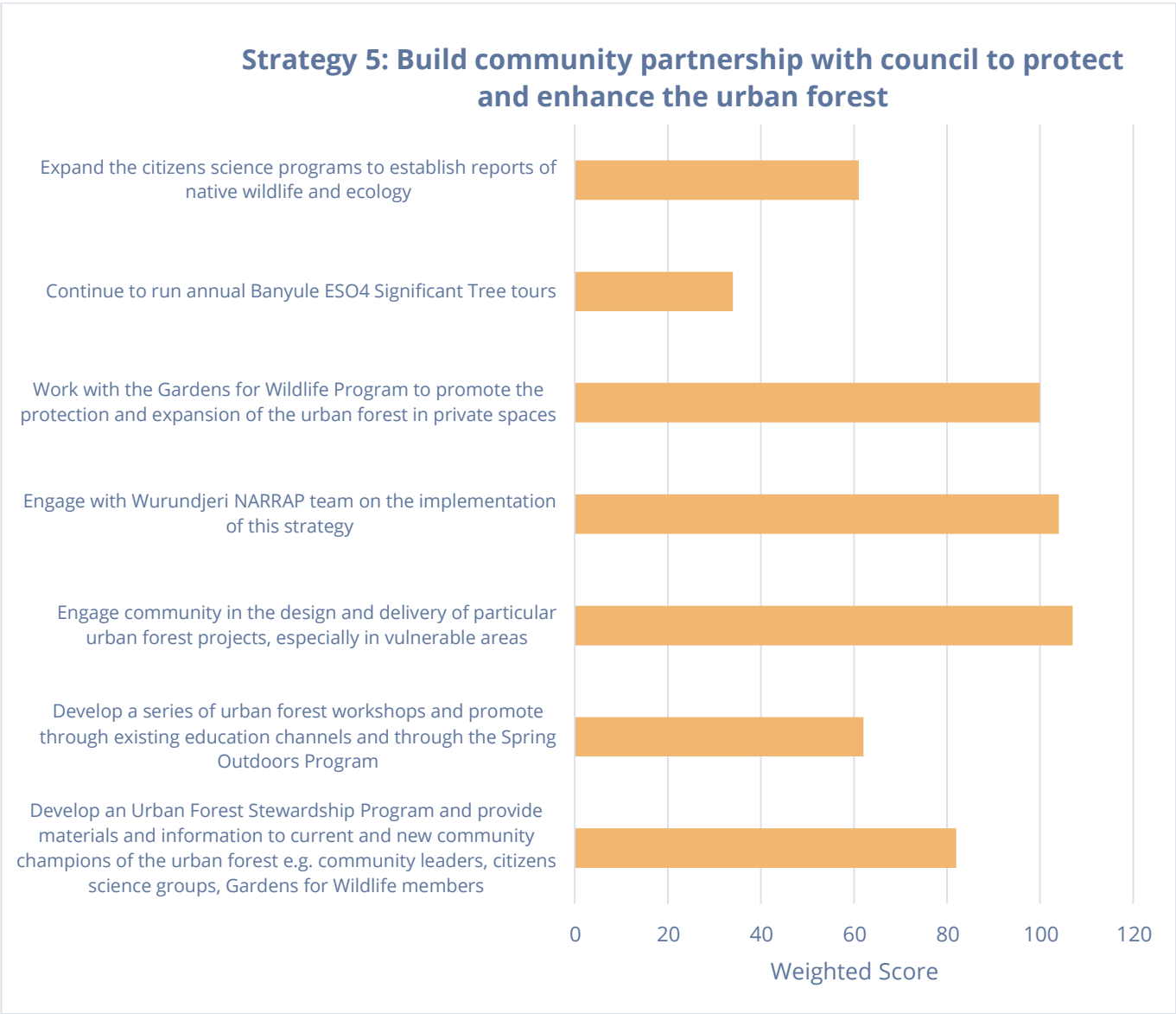


Figure 6: Strategy 5 Action Priorities

Strategic Area 6: Integrate the Urban Forest Principles into all parts of Council services

Strategy 6 is the integration of the Urban Forest strategy throughout Council operations, making it a shared responsibility for all Council functions. As these are all internally focussed actions it is expected that the community may not have a preference on which actions are given the higher priority. The actions are required to facilitate other actions, for example revising tree protection policies that will make it clearer what action Council will take.

The comments (Table 7) to this strategy included questions as to the meaning of the term “Blue-Green” in relation to infrastructure which will need to be explained in the final document. Several comments noted that all the actions are important, and all should be done urgently.

Comments were included in this section that echoed those in others, calling on Council to hold developers to the planning conditions related to tree protection and replacement planting.

Strategy 6: Integrate the Urban Forest Principles into all parts of Council services



Figure 7: Strategy 6 Action Priorities

Responding to the Survey Results

The survey feedback was used to update the language of the strategies and actions. The revised actions are listed for each strategic area in the following section.

Strategic Area 1: Prioritise urban forest improvements in the most vulnerable suburbs and places across Banyule

Two additional actions were added in response to the feedback. S1.2 is to create a specific action for training internal staff on the prioritisation matrix. S1.5 is to use the prioritisation matrix to program the operational annual planting program. This would be a change from existing operational that has focussed in recent years on replacing removed trees and on streets with low canopy, but without the context of where that street is in Banyule.

The actions that are in the final draft are:

1. Develop an agreed urban forest prioritisation method that is based on the Urban Forest Principles to identify areas in most need of planning and intervention
2. Train staff in all areas about the prioritisation method and engage the key teams in the process to deliver increased understanding and integration into other programs and annual plans not put on to Shaping Banyule
3. Review the urban forest priorities every 3 years (using the prioritisation method) and include actions in asset management and annual operational plans
4. Develop and improve the urban forest prioritisation method as new data become available
5. Program annual planting in areas with highest priority
6. Identify vacant street tree sites and program infill plantings to be completed in the short term
7. Work with local indigenous plant nurseries or community nurseries to provide local provenance

Strategic Area 2: Increase the diversity of the urban forest for biodiversity and habitat with ground cover and shrub layer plantings

The wording of the Strategic Area was altered to make clearer the intent of what the changes to planting approach aim to achieve, and how the priority has changed to expand vegetation types to include ground cover and shrub layers.

Two additional actions were added: S2.2 to establish and maintain the biodiversity plantings, the additional action makes it clearer for budget to be sought to achieve this aim. S2.7 is another action to provide information and training to staff.

The actions that are in the final draft are:

1. Identify suitable sites in reserves, roadsides and underutilised land where mown turf can be improved to include trees, shrubs, native grasses or groundcovers
2. Establish and maintain new planting locations of shrubs, native grasses and groundcovers
3. Investigate the co-management of new planting sites within the Urban Forest with the community
4. Develop the nature strip planting program, provide guidelines, and promotion of the benefits to residents
5. Map the ecological corridors (wildlife connection and known fauna movements) to integrate with the urban forest data to identify opportunities for planting sites

6. Provide recommended species lists for a fit for purpose urban forest i.e. the 'right-tree-right-place'. This will include species that are climate ready, suitable for the site and consider the benefit for urban ecology.
7. Provide training and information for Council staff on the urban forest - its definition, vision and principles and what it means for their work

Strategic Area 3: Manage the urban forest across public and private land for resilience to climate change

The wording of S3.1 was altered to be clearer on what was meant by significant trees, it incorporates Significant trees under the planning scheme, candidate Significant trees that are listed with Council and trees that are listed as Aboriginal heritage.

The actions in the final draft are:

1. Provide support for the protection and survival of listed significant trees on public and private lands, include tree owners and neighbours in the communication and engagement around significant trees
2. Identify places in need of protection from high winds and plant winds breaks to support the urban forest and protect areas from damaging winds (include data in prioritisation methods)
3. Work with private and non-council land holders to improve the urban forest on their land via place-based programs and development processes
4. Implement passive irrigation (WSUD) for public realm trees and make this business as usual for capital projects and new developments
5. Provide recommended species lists for a fit for purpose urban forest i.e. the 'right-tree-right-place'. This will include species that are climate ready, suitable for the site and consider the benefit for urban ecology.
6. Review the recommended species lists annually or when new information comes to light and communicate to community and Council staff.

Strategic Area 4: Take a long term, asset management approach to the urban forest

The wording of the strategic action was amended to include “asset management” to tie clearly to the actions.

S4.1 was reworded to include neighbourhood character and the use of the area. A risk based approach applies different management practices in response to the context of how the area is used.

S4.3 was added to make it clear that Council needs to place the same value on the amenity and ecological value of public trees as it expects from the community.

S4.4 is an action to annual measure canopy, as there was strong feedback on the importance of understanding where the canopy is being gained and lost in the public and private realm and acting accordingly.

S4.5-7 is a more detailed set of actions to have a high standard of tree data in Council's inventory and to share that data in an accessible way with the community.

S4.11 was added in response to the frequent feedback theme of making the public aware of issues around tree removals in Banyule on private and public land.

The revised set of actions for this strategic area are:

1. Develop placed based plans to manage the urban forest taking into account use, neighbourhood character and climate. Including: In-fill planting program, maintenance, street tree renewal.
2. Implement a tree valuation methodology including amenity and ecological value
3. Link the urban forest amenity value to current asset management processes
4. Adopt a canopy cover assessment method to measure canopy gains and losses annually

5. Develop a comprehensive urban forest database to allow the analysis of effort and outcome of the urban forest strategy and asset management programs
6. Develop a comprehensive urban forest interactive mapping portal that includes information on:
 1. Street and park trees
 2. Urban Forest understory plantings
 3. Reporting to include urban forest distribution, tree health, species and structural diversity, risk, maintenance.
7. Develop a "Our Trees App" using collected data for residents to engage with the urban forest
8. Prepare a communication and engagement plan and program that includes reporting to share information with internal and external audiences - focus reporting against elements of the vision
9. Build relationships with key research partners to investigate the benefits of 'smart planting' programs for street trees and quantify the benefits of the urban forest including as a carbon sequestration
10. Develop a risk management framework and plan for the urban forest work on public lands
11. Continue to build on community engagement programs and educate the public about the importance of individual tree removal decisions on the urban forest.

Strategic Area 5: Build and maintain partnerships with others in the protection and management of the urban forest

The wording of this strategic area has been amended to clearly recognise the existing community groups such as Friends groups that have long been active in engaging with Banyule's Urban Forest, and to expand the language to "others" to incorporate the importance of working with other large landholders such as utility agencies.

S5.1 was added in response to requests for the progress of the UFS implementation to be a frequent discussion of BECAAC.

S5.5 now uses the word "priority" areas rather than vulnerable to tie to the priority matrix actions.

S5.3 changes the wording from establishing report to incorporating the data in existing State of the Environment reports.

An additional action was added in S5.6 to recognise the important role that trees play in establishing the character of neighbourhoods.

To respond to the requests to further promote the importance of trees to the community an additional action was added (S5.7), for Banyule to become Victoria's first "Tree City of the World". The Tree Cities of the World Program is an international effort to recognise cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated.

The list of the actions for the draft strategy are:

1. Ensure BECAAC is consulted at milestone stages of implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy
2. Engage with community through a range of educational activities, such as Spring Outdoors, to build understanding & value of the urban forest
3. Incorporate citizen science data into Banyule's annual monitoring programs
4. Engage with Wurundjeri NARRAP team on the implementation of this strategy
5. Engage specific community groups in the design and delivery of particular urban forest projects, especially in priority areas
6. Celebrate the neighbourhood character trees for each area
7. Celebrate trees and the urban forest through becoming a recognised "Tree City of the World" - apply for recognition in July 2023.

Strategic Area 6: Integrate the urban forest principles into all parts of Council services

The actions in Strategic Area 6 are generally internally facing actions that Council needs to undertake to meet the desired outcomes for the urban forest. Some actions were not shown through the Shaping Banyule survey as they are simply required internal actions. The feedback on these actions included some confusion as to what they meant, and that Council needs to take all the required steps to fulfill the vision.

The list of actions for the final draft are:

1. Integrate the Banyule urban forest principles into the operational plans for all teams across Council
2. Advocate with Vic Government agencies and public authorities about the Banyule Urban Forest Strategy and seek support for the vision and actions
3. Work with capital works and public realm design teams (parks, streets, town centres) to:
 1. Integrate urban forest principles and action into public domain design and delivery and make space for trees and vegetation in the design through a Blue-Green Working Group / Design Review Panel
 2. Program design work a year ahead of implementation to allow for greening value add, resourcing
 3. Create a future fund for canopy and greening enhancement in capital projects
 4. Develop maintenance plans for the new works
4. Develop guidelines and training for streetscape design and maintenance including nature strip plantings
5. Revise tree protection policies and procedures for private and public trees to make protection a key outcome
6. Share data and analysis of canopy / tree losses in the private domain and focus responses on priority causes
7. Update the Planning Enforcement Framework to include urban forest outcomes:
 1. Set proactive targets for replanting permits
 2. Improve Councillor understanding of the Framework
8. Continue to implement Banyule's Biodiversity Plan
9. Integrate urban water with urban forest management and plan for WSUD and urban forest improvements to be hand in hand across streets and parks and private lands
10. Make space for large trees in urban places and plan for trees to maximise the use of the available space for tree canopy
11. Systemise urban forest needs into planning permit conditions (including species preferences) build sophistication into the tools and mechanism for updating species lists when new information re resilience is available
12. Improve data and knowledge about the species that contribute to "neighbourhood character". To assist in planning for tree replacement in private and public spaces.
13. Integrate urban forest principles and outcomes into initiatives, programs and strategies
14. Investigate urban forest opportunities while considering current zones and overlays e.g. Environmental planning overlay
15. Masterplan avenues and gateways for urban forest
16. Bring forward the vision, principles and recommendations of the UFS into the Banyule Planning Scheme, especially as relevant to planning decisions.
17. Continue participation in the Living Melbourne initiative and implement planning actions.
18. Undertake a detailed planning investigation of selected precincts to determine reasons for tree loss through planning decisions and any related outcomes that affect the extent, health and diversity of the urban forest.

19. Update the Banyule Tree Planting Zone Guidelines January 2011 to best practice and to support the UFS. Include the guidelines in the Banyule Planning Scheme as an incorporated document (e.g. plantings to have access to water and deep soils, drip line and tree root protection).
20. Continue to use General Local Law No. 1 (2015) to recognise and protect street trees as a Council asset.
21. Continue to enforce breaches of planning requirements, planning permit conditions and the local law.

Tables of Results

Full Text Responses from the survey

Table 1: Responses to "Strategies: Have we missed anything?"

Contribution ID	Text Response
16045	The forest floor: replace high maintenance exotic grass (especially on 'nature strips') with indigenous grasses native to the area
16048	clean up Banyule Let private residents clean and manage their block - STOP not letting them cut down trees that have been planted years before, in the wrong place, messy and dangerous
16051	Developers? They are the biggest offenders and they don't get a mention here.
16086	Bringing more vegetation means more wildlife and an increased need to educate people on how to co-exist with it
16087	Using urban forest strategies to address heat island and urban stream syndrome impacts. We can retrofit gravel/reed beds to catch rubbish and slow water at the same time as creating habitat for street trees. Continue street tree plantings.
16109	Stop planting large trees on nature strips directly under existing powerlines.
16111	are you just planting 'complementary vegetation' or also trees. Is planting for resilience to climate change indigenous plantings or are you using this to justify planting exotics?
16171	Could the urban forest include food plants for food security?
16207	Preserve old trees that we have
16209	Prioritise native species
16223	Having read through the document provided I am not sure it aligns with the feedback already submitted by the community. The community feedback was heavily focused on building on biodiversity using indigenous vegetation. Also, this box is too small.
16224	Banyule council has a recent history of selling off open space for housing development, so the council needs to commit to protecting the open spaces and increasing the tree coverage
16226	Prioritise future planting of trees that will be able to take the increased average temperatures and possible lesser rain falls. Regardless of them being indigenous or native.
16227	Recognise that while native plants are important, non-native established plants are vital for fauna - removal of pine trees and hawthorn has resulted in loss of food for endangered gang gang cockatoos and yellow tail black cocktoos. Especially in Rosanna

16228	The existence of street trees in the older southern suburbs should not disguise the lack of parks. Banyule essentially has a fringe of river/creek parklands - more greening is needed up the centre, particularly Ivanhoe & Eaglemont
16231	Identify and prioritise local indigenous trees, plants and grasses across the Urban Forest.
16232	Other councils keep trees. I was so furious to see housing lots cleared of all vegetation to make way for units all over the land. I've noticed across Macleid the decrease in trees and vegetation. Keep the trees!! Stop the focus on development of units.
16239	Please be mindful of the fact that it takes 150-200 years for a tree to develop hollows.
16240	Plant more natives!! We just got a heap of new maples on our street. Why not natives!?
16243	Prioritise indigenous planting to support wildlife - this aspect needs to be more specific and stronger. Set a requirement for native planting on all new housing, developments and renovations requiring council approval.
16249	Program to remove identified weed species trees and replace with trees identified as beneficial. See https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/125919/ARI-Technical-Report-287-Advisory-list-of-environmental-weeds-in-Victoria.pdf
16255	Hi there. The community engagement factor is so important to the success of this strategy - what strategies will be best to achieve this? When you talk about urban forest does this include all strata of a forest?
16256	Prioritise forest link systems to allow interaction and avoid fauna group isolation. Variety of planting should include tree varieties.
16259	Ease restrictions for private landowners where trees have grown too large for the block size
16261	Encourage residents to plant to enhance liveability of wildlife in Banyule.
16262	Urban Forest should only mean local indigenous planting to increase biodiversity that supports indigenous birds & animals. Educate people as to why they should also plant indigenous species particularly near wetlands & parkland
16266	Incorporate the Urban Forest Strategy into the Banyule Planning Scheme as a reference or incorporated document so that the key themes are important considerations for all planning issues within the city - especially for trees on private land.
16400	I would not support the definition of vulnerability to include socio economic status. Improvements and focus should be based on environment, diversity of habitat and heat sinks
16430	Educate about indigenous Biodiversity.
16488	Leverage the urban forest to create wildlife corridors across Banyule.
16514	Plant more manageable shrub like trees rather than tall trees that could interfere with powerlines or destroy footpaths

16582	Strategy 2 - what does a range of vegetation mean? If it means the range is indigenous I, agree. If not I disagree.
16591	Prioritise urban forest improvements in the most vulnerable suburbs and places across Banyule - How is the 'most vulnerable suburb' defined? Vulnerable to what? Targets for percentage canopy cover should be included but they're not mentioned at all.
16595	Preference for indigenous trees

Table 2: Responses to "Strategy 1: Have we missed anything?"

Contribution ID	Text Response
16048	Stop planting trees on nature strips that grow to big under wires, then mutilating them
16051	Bunch of jargon, I have no idea what most of it means
16209	na
16224	Prioritise urban forest over developments
16227	Consult with wildlife experts to identify the best plants to increase local wildlife. Add protections for established and old growth trees. Animals depend on hollows that take hundreds of years to form. Preservation is more important than planting new
16228	Some analysis needs to be done re home ownership versus renting to decide methodologies for getting enduring greenery into your so called disadvantaged areas.
16232	It's great to develop plans but it's vital plants and trees are preserved, maintained and improved through planting!
16240	Plant natives!
16243	Prioritise indigenous planting
16249	Introduce program to identify and remove weed trees (privet, desert ash, willows, elms, etc) as identified in Arthur Rylah Institute "Advisory List of Environmental Weeds ..."
16255	How do we manage state govt major works plans that override local councils as in the Fitzsimons Lane road project - so many trees and habitats lost.
16256	Don't limit just to street trees. Power line reserves, public utilities and institutions opportunities should also be considered.
16261	Work with local indigenous plant nurseries if planting meets changes in microclimate's with Climate Change.
16266	An important component of the urban forest improvement strategy is to identify and prioritise existing and potential biolinks thru the city to create a biolink network using parks, waterways, streets, laneways and open spaces etc.
16400	Preserve existing indigenous canopy trees as a priority.
16534	The infill planting is happening already before the strategy is passed by Council.
16545	What does "vulnerable" mean? I hope that it doesn't just refer to human communities but habitat/wildlife connections too.
16574	Not sure what you mean by 'urban forest prioritisation method'
16582	Aside from the local provenance and infill planting initiatives, actions are not well defined.
16595	Using indigenous plants

Table 3: Responses to "Strategy 2: Have we missed anything?"

Contribution ID	Text Response
16048	There are beautiful trees in Binnak Park & the undergrowth is not maintained and is a mess
16051	Nature strips are a suburban battleground. Council has ignored its responsibility to enforce no-parking on verges/tree root zones. Expect residents to dob each other in, recipe for conflict. Not allowed to plant on nature strips - ridiculous..
16087	Council could mow less extensively leaving habitat for birds and insects - example the darebin creek corridor, help establish native grasslands and tree regeneration. Using traditional indigenous fire regeneration methods in sections to control weeds.
16111	hopefully your recommendations are indigenous species
16223	Climate ready is a rubbish term. It is currently being interpreted as importing native species from warmer climates. Healthy ecosystems will provide as much, if not more resilience.
16227	Preserve existing trees and help educate the community - and other stakeholders about value of older trees. The is misinformation regarding "lifespan" of trees -- they live longer than many realise.
16228	Rail corridor & main roads opportunities, schools, churches, commercial buildings roofs.
16243	Prioritise indigenous planting
16255	I think the nature strip idea is a good one. I have developed my own one over th past few years using native plants alone. It is a joy but maybe something that can evolve over time as a result of community engagement in the urban forest strategies planned
16261	Right tree, right place to be included in all actions.
16263	The action 'provide recommended species lists' seems to have a tree focus whereas the strategy aims to complement tree plantings. In other words it feels like there could be better alignment or clarification.
16266	I haven't prioritised the nature-strip planting action, which, whilst important, is incorporated within the 'Identify suitable sites in reserves, roadsides and under-utilised land...' etc Action
16400	Co-management of new planting sites should include planting on nature strips. If you want residents to become involved in co-management YOU MUST RESOURCE THESE GROUPS rather than see environmental volunteers as free labour
16545	#4 - "Provide recommended species lists..." - must be evidence based and ecologically sound. Not one person's subjective or aesthetic horticultural opinion.
16582	Planting guide should focus on indigenous species.
16591	Nature strips should be full of nature - shrubs, grass alternatives and trees. Trees that grow tall SHOULD NOT be planted under power lines as this causes a lifetime of issues. Underground powerlines would help with planting trees.
16595	Nature strips should be planted with indigenous plants

Table 4: Responses to "Strategy 3: Have we missed anything?"

Contribution ID	Text Response
16048	Not all trees are significant if the are planted in the wrong place and pose a hazard - yet still council won't let you remove
16051	People are not aware that it is illegal to chop down or cut back protected species of trees in their own yards and on nature strips. Happens all the time. New homeowners move in and cut down all the trees in their yard, esp if they want solar panels.
16087	It's fantastic to have wsud part of the brief for future capital works. There is a lot of existing infrastructure that would benefit from improvements. Could council provide a limited number of upgrades each year nominated by local communities?
16227	Protection and survival of significant trees -- culturally significant AND old trees. Established trees are significant because of their age. The time for these trees to grow we cannot replicate and need big, established trees now.

16243	Create a requirement for new housing, renovations etc to have indigenous planting on private land.
16255	Consistent irrigation vital for success in establishment phase.
16261	Passive irrigation and right tree right place to be incorporate in all actions.
16263	It is not clear whether the aim is to make the urban forest more resilient or to maximise its contribution to community resilience. The link between culturally significant trees & resilience isn't clear. Why wind & water efficiency but not heat?
16400	Provide detailed information on the species list and develop with consultation
16545	"Resilience to climate change", although important, cannot mean sacrificing local floral biodiversity (and therefore faunal biodiversity) for the sole aim of planting to achieve a cooling and greening effect for humans.
16574	Keep existing non-native trees and vegetation while they are still healthy (unless they are weeds) - plan to progressively replace as they become too old or sick. Some of the existing mature vegetation is very important to local neighbourhood character
16582	It is unclear whether the recommended species list will focus on indigenous species. I believe it should.
16595	Species lists should comprise of indigenous plants

Table 5: Responses to "Strategy 4: Have we missed anything?"

Contribution ID	Text Response
16045	Urban Forest definition should NOT be street trees, it must encompass ALL plantings/ trees in Banyule, on both public and private land
16048	Look after public spaces but let homeowners improve their property by removing nuisance trees
16051	What the hell is a place-based plan? So much jargon.
16087	Long term planning with restoration and re-wilding principles in mind. Are we working towards re-establishing keystone species that will maintain the urban forest and ecological values for the future. Planning to support iconic species habitat.
16243	Simplify the language and include more of the why and the outcome / benefit
16262	Don't worry about tools being developed use specialists to establish a plan & follow it - this is not Rocket Science just do it
16266	The three actions I've not prioritised are almost equally as important as the 4 actions prioritised.
16400	Transparency in decisions should allow public access to internal reports
16545	Key research partners must include those organisations who restore/revegetate habitat for ecological values.
16582	Very hard to judge as the information provided in the descriptions is limited.

Table 6: Responses to "Strategy 5: Have we missed anything?"

Contribution ID	Strategy 5: Is there anything we have missed?
16048	Leave private land alone. Property owners should be able to plant or get rid of what they want to.
16051	New homeowners should be letterboxed to inform them cutting down trees is illegal - before it happens. Most people just buy a house and the next weekend, out come the chainsaws.
16087	Recently an important ecological resource - a row of aging sheoakes were cut down by council. Planted 30 odd years ago by the local wildlife group. If council wants to engage community, it needs to actually engage before making decisions like that.
16203	Comprehensive GPS survey of all trees in public places and have data available to public to interact. Survey data also helps with planning appropriate species diversity.

16243	Strengthen the strategy to "significantly increase and restore the urban forest" not just protect the remnants we have. Strengthen the strategy towards 're wilding' as part of climate change actions.
16261	Identify whether any damage is being done to our urban areas and put security in place to deter this, eg dumping of rubbish, dumping of oil, etc. and damage or taking of animals/birds and cutting down of trees in these areas.
16263	I feel that some of the actions from my 3rd and 4th choice and options not chosen are specific and could be encapsulated in what seem to be higher level actions.
16266	See comment for Strategy 4
16400	Probably need all these actions. If council want to work with volunteers in promulgating these programs they need to actively increase volunteer numbers. Many volunteers face burn out within a few short years of becoming active
16534	Not enough choices because all these community engagements are important and worthwhile

Table 7: Responses to "Strategy 6: Have we missed anything?"

Contribution ID	Strategy 6: Is there anything we have missed?
16048	Referring to #4 - also protect homeowners health and safety & property
16051	Stop council contractors cutting healthy branches off street trees just to meet their quota. Let people plant vegetation on their nature strips. Stop people parking cars on nature strips. Stop people hiring private "arborists" to slash street trees.
16111	you need to include something on enforcement of planning permit conditions and improved standards to protect vegetation on development sites.
16207	Prevent developers from clearing
16227	Tree replacements must be considered a last resort option - avoid tree replacement and protect existing trees
16232	Development overrides protection of trees on private lands. Trees should stay not be allowed to be replaced.
16243	Strengthen the strategy to significantly increase the canopy cover and set a target with XX trees planted by 2025
16249	Ensure that trees that are protected are not weed species (again, refer to Arthur Rylah Institute "Advisory List of Environmental Weeds ..." instead of the current very limited list of "Weeds of Banyule" so that appropriate trees are protected/removed.
16255	What does blue/green mean?
16261	Improvement of data and knowledge of which urban spaces impact Banyule residents.
16266	All of these Actions are important and should be prioritised. However, unless the UFS is inserted into the local planning scheme its importance will be diminished in terms of actions taken.
16400	Preserve existing canopy trees as a priority. Consider biodiversity and supporting fauna in planting selections
16514	Large trees not required on nature strips. 'Right trees for right place'. Nature strips are not the right place!
16534	Choices very hard. All important goals
16545	The loss of tree cover on private land in recent years is enormous and more needs to be done not just to protect but to assist landowners to replant with appropriate species. Lots of unused space in Banyule and pointless lawns...
16574	And do it urgently!

Response Themes by Contributor

The table counts the number of comments allocated to the major theme of the response from each participant. For example the participant with Contribution ID 16243 gave a text response to 5 different questions that council should only be focussed on indigenous plant species.

The feedback in this survey was consistent with the feedback in the January/February Shaping Banyule survey that informed the development of the Principles.

Table 8: Response Themes by Contributor

	Sum of Manually Coded Responses												
Contribution ID	More indig plant species	Less control on private land	More control on private land/development	Priority for wildlife	Urban cooling action / More trees	Less large trees	Preserve old trees	UF mix should include exotics	All vegetation strata important	Action or detail provided not clear	Opposed to suggested action	Endorsing suggested action	All actions should be prioritised
16045	1								1				
16048		5				1							
16051			3							2	1		
16086				1									
16087	1			1	2								
16109						1							
16111	2		1										
16171													
16203													
16207			1				1						
16209	1												
16223	2			1							1		
16224			1		1								
16226					1								
16227	1		1	2	1		3	1					
16228								1					
16231	1												
16232			2										
16239				1									
16240	2												
16243	5		2							1			
16249	1												
16255							1		1	1		1	
16256				1	1								
16259		1											
16261	1		1										
16262	1			1						1			

	Sum of Manually Coded Responses												
Contribution ID	More indig plant species	Less control on private land	More control on private land/development	Priority for wildlife	Urban cooling action / More trees	Less large trees	Preserve old trees	UF mix should include exotics	All vegetation strata important	Action or detail provided not clear	Opposed to suggested action	Endorsing suggested action	All actions should be prioritised
16263										3			
16266			1	1						1			2
16400	1			1			1						1
16430	1												
16488				1									
16514						2							
16534													2
16545	2		1							1		1	
16574							1	1		1			
16582	3									1			
16591						1							
16595	4												
Total	30	6	14	11	6	5	7	3	2	12	2	2	5
% of Responders:	31%	4%	18%	18%	9%	7%	9%	5%	4%	16%	4%	4%	5%