GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Urban Greening Strategy

WHADJUK (PERTH) AND BINDJAREB (PEEL)

Acknowledgement of Country

The Western Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) peoples of the Noongar Nation, whose land and waters are integral to this strategy.

Since time immemorial, the Noongar people have inhabited these lands, known as Noongar boodja (Country).

We pay our respects to Ancestors and Elders, past and present, and honour their enduring connection to sky, land, waters, community, animals and plants.

As one of the oldest surviving living cultures on earth, we recognise the Noongar practice of intergenerational care for Country and its relevance to our work – a practice that continues to guide stewardship of boodja today.

This strategy provides a bidi (pathway) to improve the health and vitality of Noongar boodja for our future.

We acknowledge Danjoo Koorliny and express our gratitude to the Elders who have shared their support for this strategy and ongoing program of work that will bring it to life.

We remain committed to listening, learning and strengthening our partnership into the future to grow urban greening outcomes that benefit Noongar people and the broader community.

‘Whadjuk’ refers to the Country, people and dialect of the Greater Perth region. ‘Bindjareb’ refers to the Country, people and dialect of the Peel region.

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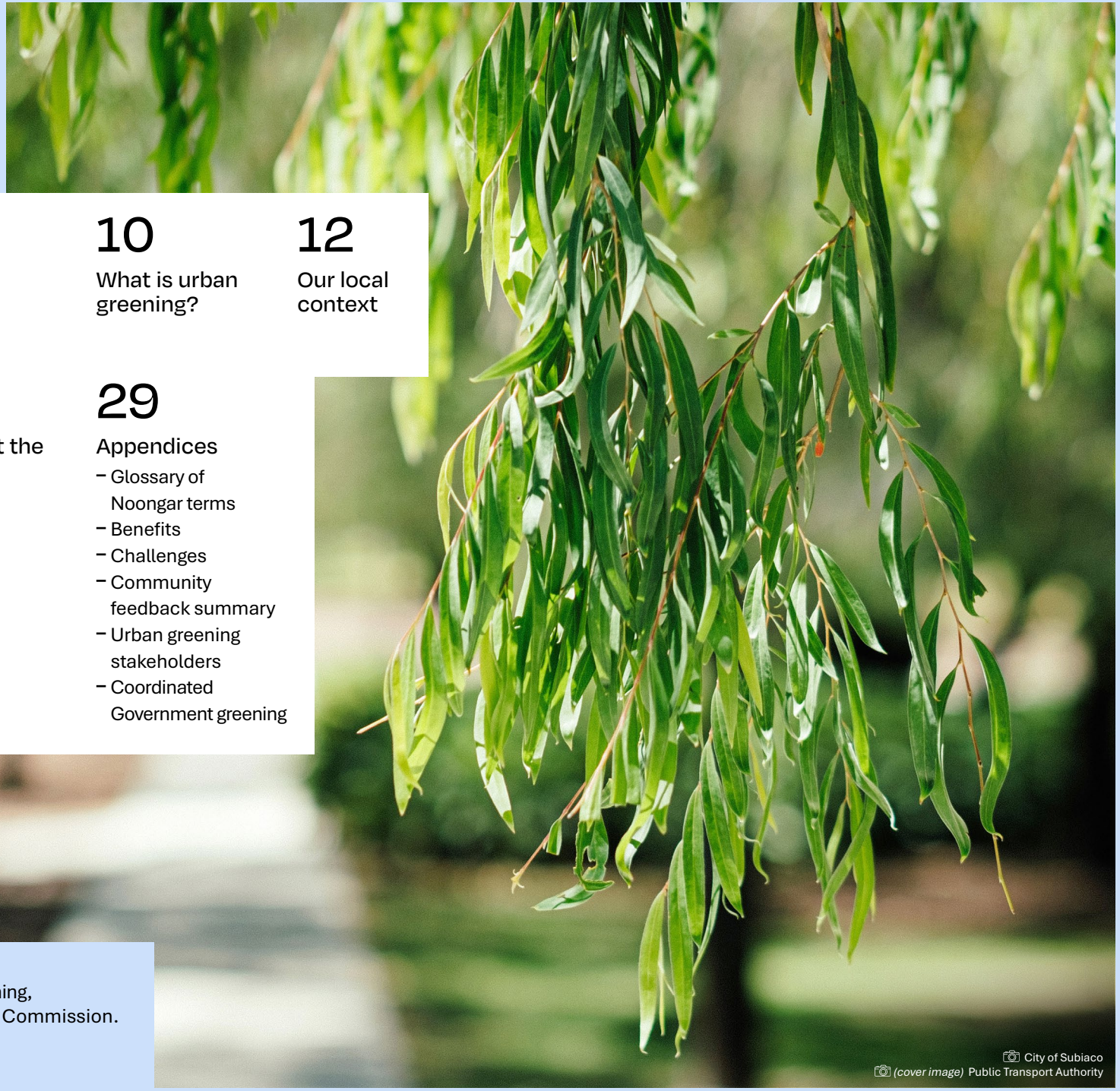


City of Subiaco
(cover image) Public Transport Authority

WAPC Western Australian Planning Commission

Tel: 08 6551 8002 | **Email:** info@dplh.wa.gov.au
Website: wa.gov.au/letsgrow

This document has been produced by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission. If you require other formats, please contact the Department.

Let's grow

Thank you to the many individuals and organisations who contributed to shaping the first-ever Urban Greening Strategy for Whadjuk and Bindjareb.

It provides a roadmap for achieving our shared vision and meeting the ambitious target.

We all have a responsibility — local government, industry, landowners and community — to undertake urban greening.

By working together we can achieve far more than any of us could alone, growing an essential community asset that we can all enjoy, and one that depends on everyone playing their part.

The State Government remains committed to delivering housing and essential infrastructure that our growing communities need.

Taking a coordinated, pragmatic and positive approach, this strategy will help ensure that trees, plants and green spaces are integrated into our communities, improving their liveability.

I encourage everyone to embrace the opportunities urban greening offers.

– Hon. John Carey
Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure

Around the world, urban greening is being adopted as a response to global challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss.

This strategy reinforces the need to grow tree canopy and vegetation to cool our neighbourhoods, improve community wellbeing and boost biodiversity.

But more than just planting trees, urban greening helps protect and enhance the natural world that sustains us all.

It preserves our water resources and clean air, boosts wildlife habitat and protects our unique biodiversity.

A collective effort is needed to care for our environment.

Together, we can — and we must — create a city that is not only more liveable, but more climate-resilient and nature-rich for generations to come.

– Hon. Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Minister for Environment; Community Services; Homelessness

The WA Planning Commission proudly supports the release of this important strategy.

Urban greening underpins our quality of life in our neighbourhood streets and across our metropolitan suburbs. It helps to create places where people and nature thrive together.

A contemporary and coordinated approach to greening shapes neighbourhoods that are cooler, leafier and healthier. This is all the more pressing as our city experiences more heat, and as our suburbs grow and evolve.

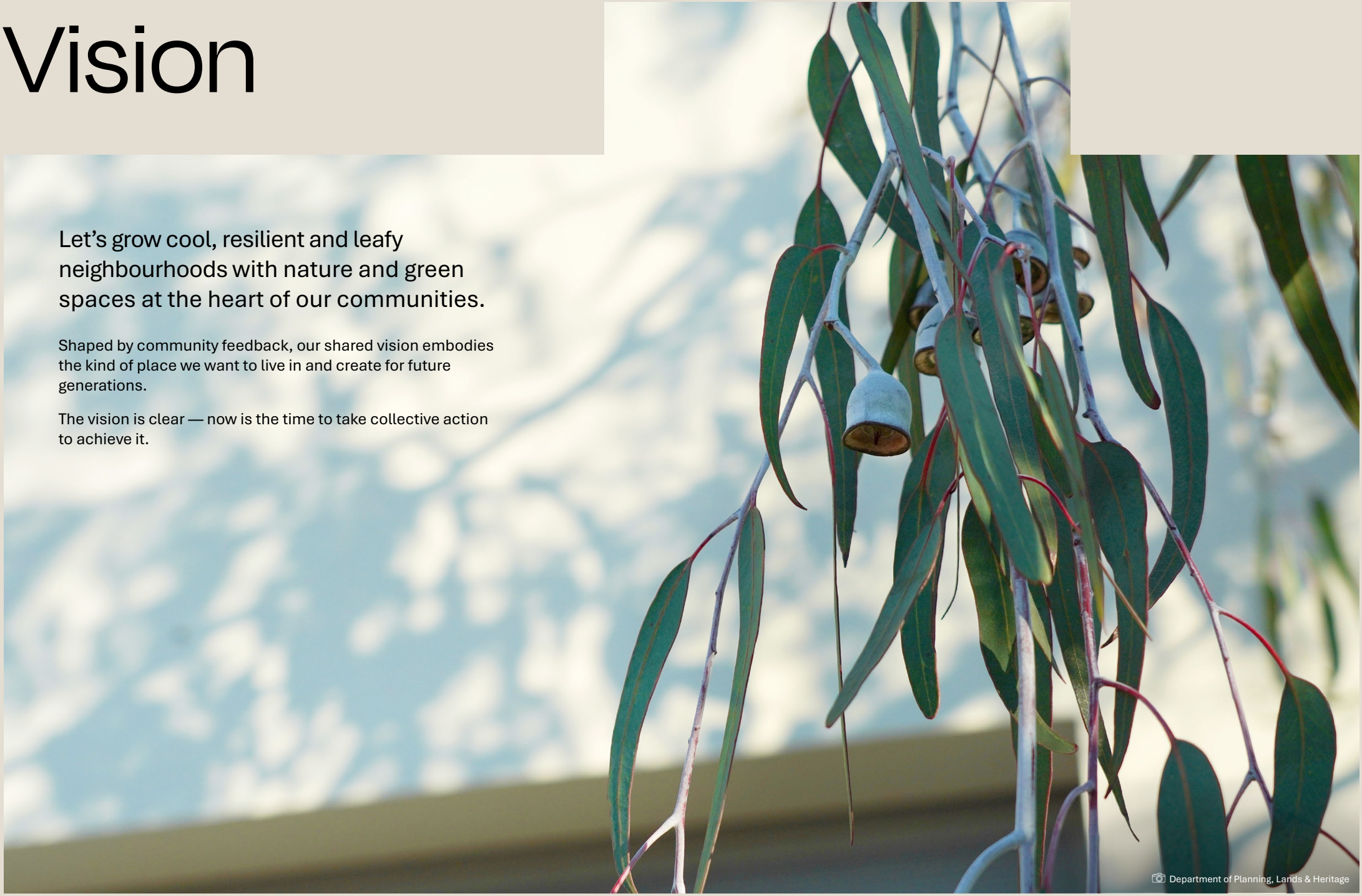
This strategy gives us a shared direction, to help to strengthen the resilience and wellbeing of our communities now and into the future.

We all have an opportunity to work together to green our urban environment, from our own backyards to our schools, parks and community facilities.

I look forward to working together to bring this to life.

– Emma Cole
Chairperson, Western Australian Planning Commission

Vision



Let’s grow cool, resilient and leafy neighbourhoods with nature and green spaces at the heart of our communities.

Shaped by community feedback, our shared vision embodies the kind of place we want to live in and create for future generations.

The vision is clear — now is the time to take collective action to achieve it.

Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage

What we do today matters

More than just aesthetics, trees, plants and green spaces play a significant role in creating places people choose to live in.

The leafy suburbs, magnificent parks, urban bushland and coastal and river foreshores support a rich variety of native wildlife, provide us with clean air and are central to our enviable outdoor, nature-based lifestyle.

Spanning the Whadjuk and Bindjareb regions, our state capital is projected to grow into a city of 3.5 million people by 2050. As the city evolves, so do the opportunities and challenges.

Reflecting beliefs deeply held by Noongar people — where the land, sky, waters, plants, animals, people and spirit are all interconnected — this strategy promotes that urban greening is a shared responsibility.

Achieving our vision and meeting the ambitious targets will require a cultural shift in how we all plan, build and manage our urban areas. No single person, organisation or sector can achieve this alone.

Fortunately, this collective effort isn't starting from scratch; many local governments, organisations and individuals are already leading the way.

This strategy seeks to harness and align these efforts, encouraging broader participation so that fragmented actions are transformed into big outcomes that benefit everyone.

What we plant and protect today will shape the health of our land, waters and communities for generations to come.


Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage

Through this strategy, the State Government sets a clear position on green infrastructure as an essential community asset that will help:

- Promote sustainable development
- Strengthen climate resilience
- Combat urban heat
- Enhance nature and biodiversity
- Optimise community health, wellbeing and prosperity


Department of Education

Growing what's already begun

The State Government has begun integrating urban greening into planning and development through:

- **Better Urban Forest Planning Guide:** helping local governments plan for, monitor and manage urban forests to grow and protect tree canopy.
- **State Planning Policy 7.0 – Design of the Built Environment:** to protect ecosystems and boost biodiversity, this policy lifts design standards for new buildings and makes Landscape Quality a key principle. It requires projects to consider water, soil, site conditions, microclimate, solar access, tree canopy, urban heat and habitat creation, ensuring green infrastructure is considered alongside social, cultural and economic needs.
- **State Planning Policy 7.2 – Precinct Design:** through a lens of urban ecology and landscape design, this policy requires precinct planning to identify environmental assets like trees and vegetation, then builds in opportunities for tree retention and planting to strengthen our green network.
- **Residential Design Codes Volume 1:** introduces minimum tree planting and garden area requirements for all new single homes and major renovations. It also introduces incentives and protections for tree retention for medium density development.
- **Residential Design Codes Volume 2 – Apartment Design Policy:** includes provisions for tree retention and sets minimum requirements for deep soil zones, trees and landscaping.

The State Government will continue to review the Planning Framework and other relevant policies to ensure they align with this strategy and help deliver its vision and targets – see the Let's Grow Action Plan for details.

In addition to policy changes, the State Government has many urban greening initiatives and programs which are well underway, such as the Treebate incentive program, Let's Grow Grants program, Waterwise Greening Scheme and the Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan Waterwise Action Plan 3 (2024–27) – learn more in Appendix 6: Coordinated Government greening.

Strategy on a page

Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage

Key components of the strategy.

The vision serves as a guide for all urban greening activity, while the target provides a key measure of success.

The Greening Principles offer a simple framework to help guide decisions and steer efforts across all sectors, on public and private land.

The three Action Areas shape the strategy's implementation. They determine the Outcomes and Strategic Actions needed for success, which provides the structure for a Let's Grow Action Plan.

For rigour and transparency, a reporting framework will be developed to track progress.

VISION

Let's grow cool, resilient and leafy neighbourhoods with nature and green spaces at the heart of our communities.

TARGET

Increase tree canopy to 30% within Whadjuk and Bindjareb by 2040.

GREENING PRINCIPLES

RIGHT AMOUNT

Keep vegetation and plant more, with a focus on tree canopy.

RIGHT PLACE

Plant where it matters most, with good design that maximises impact.

RIGHT KIND

Choose plants that will suit the site, thrive and boost benefits for people and nature.

RIGHT APPROACH

Green with others for success, and listen, learn and teach along the way.

ACTION AREAS

Growing More

Coordinate planting to drive progress towards the target.

Outcomes

- Funding is accessible and drives action.
- Plant more on public land.
- Greening integrated into urban areas and developments.
- Quality data informs decision-making.
- Government greening is coordinated.

Growing Together

Strengthen the collective effort to grow an inspired and invested community.

Outcomes

- Everyone is engaged and participating in urban greening.
- Noongar culture is valued with partnerships created.
- Local governments supported.
- Greater collaboration, reach and impact.

Growing Stronger

Prioritise biodiverse and resilient planting with good design and practices.

Outcomes

- Urban greening is planned and future-proofed.
- Existing vegetation is valued and enhanced where possible.
- Limited water supplies are used efficiently for urban greening.
- Green links are created and strengthened.

Let's Grow Action Plan and reporting framework

What is urban greening?

It's the practice of planning for, enhancing and planting vegetation and green spaces in urban areas to unlock the extensive community, environmental and economic benefits they provide.

Collectively, all the different types of natural, designed or cultivated vegetation and green spaces create our 'green infrastructure'.

Weaving its way through public and private land across neighbourhoods, yards, schools, streets and parks, this vegetation forms an interconnected ecosystem that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Urban greening depends upon water, soil, air and sunlight, and is influenced by many factors including human activity, climate, wildlife, pests and disease.

Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage


DevelopmentWA

While this strategy sets a specific target for trees, every form of urban greening provides benefits.

Innovative, bespoke solutions suited to our local conditions will be essential to address the challenges ahead.

Some ways to green our urban neighbourhoods include:

- **Natural areas:** native vegetation, such as bushland, foreshores, wetlands, urban forests and coastal dunes that provide habitat for native wildlife.
- **Public parks, open space and gardens:** designed and maintained areas with landscaped trees and vegetation used for community recreation, sport, events and more.
- **Schools and learning institutions:** tree planting creates cooling shade for buildings and recreation areas; bush classrooms foster access to and appreciation for nature.
- **Streetscapes and transport corridors:** vegetated areas alongside roads, footpaths and other infrastructure, and on verges and median strips.
- **Private greening:** residential gardens, backyards, courtyards, balconies, workplaces, commercial car parks, projects and developments.
- **Green roofs and vertical gardens:** plants incorporated into building walls, facades or rooftops.
- **Green corridors and green links:** vegetated linear spaces or ‘stepping stones’ that connect isolated natural or human made green spaces, and can be along trails or waterways.
- **Community gardens:** land managed by local communities to foster social connection, grow food and promote environmental education.
- **Micro-greening:** small-scale greening in dense urban settings, such as potted plants, raised beds, or pocket, vertical and rooftop gardens.

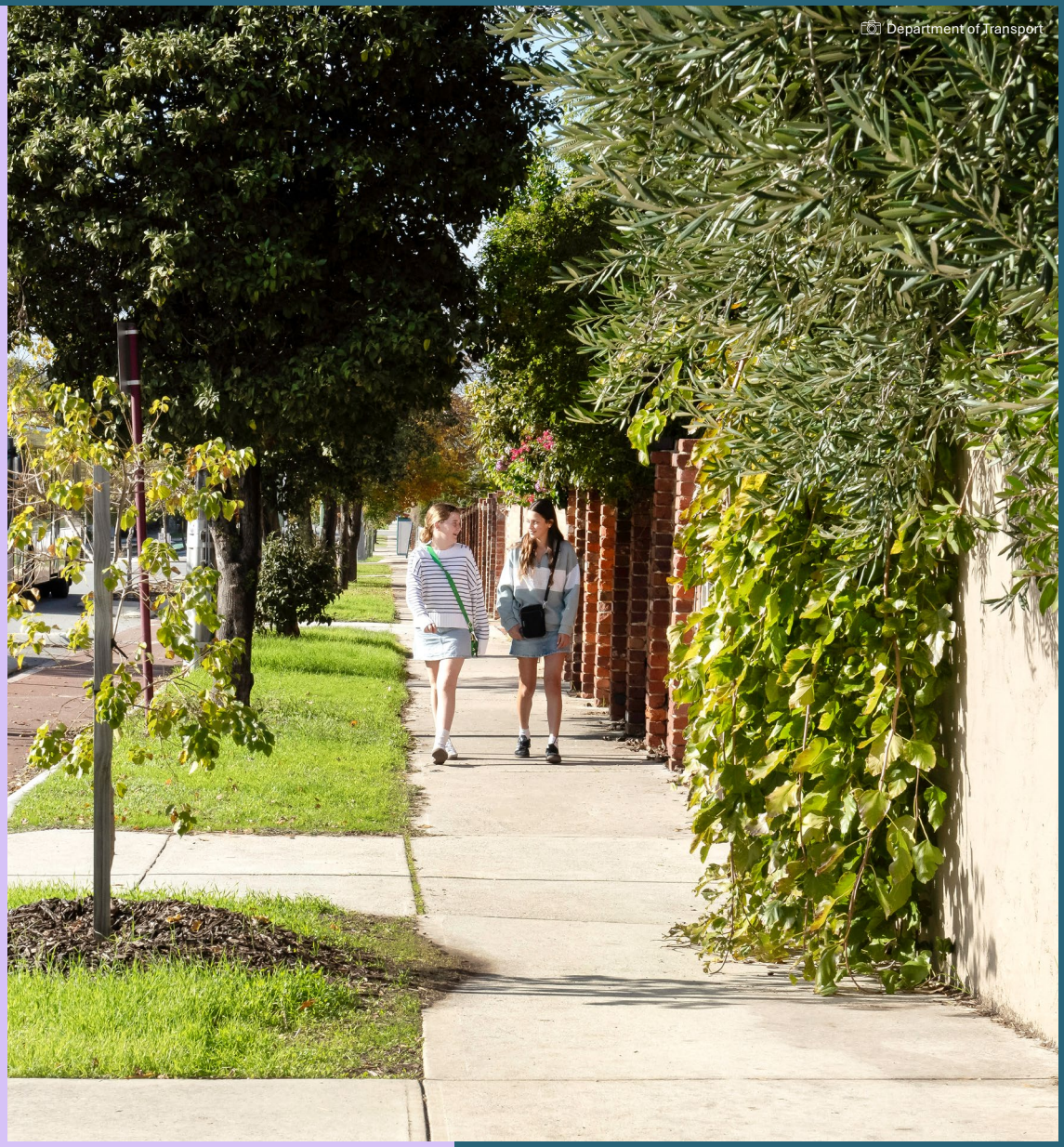
Our local context

Understanding and responding to our local context and conditions is essential for effective urban greening, including setting goals and tactics.

Together, the Whadjuk and Bindjareb regions form a wonderfully unique pocket of Western Australia with its own character, culture and history.

The landscape, climate and conditions here are also distinct.

Mandurah



Department of Transport

Our home — Whadjuk and Bindjareb

The Whadjuk and Bindjareb regions lie within a distinct and diverse landscape that influences the starting point and success of urban greening initiatives.

Home to 80 per cent of Western Australia's population, these regions span over 800,000 hectares of land on the southwest coast.

Through this strategy, we will focus on the places where people live, work and visit — and where urban heat is felt most.

By prioritising these areas, we can deliver greening to where it is needed most, and where it will have the greatest positive impact.

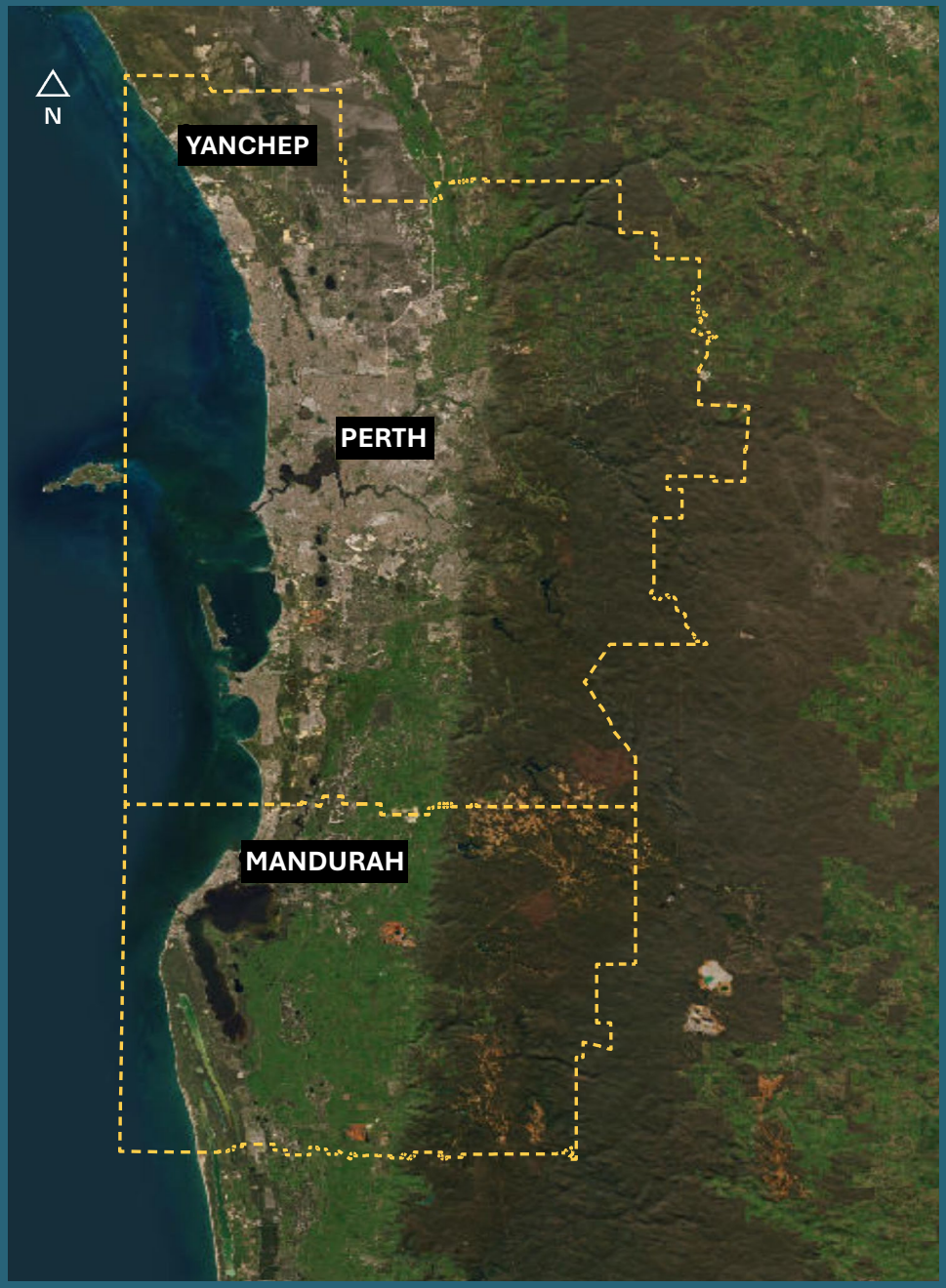
Greening looks different and plays a number of roles in our varied urban environment.

Here, land is used for many purposes from infrastructure and commercial to industrial, recreation and more, all of which offer greening opportunities.

Throughout our neighbourhoods, areas of open bushland with banksia and tuart woodlands have been retained in large and small urban parks.

Older suburbs have larger lots and wider streets, often with established gardens containing native and exotic species.

Newer suburbs typically have vegetation suited to more compact lots, with canopies still growing and yet to reach their potential.



The yellow dotted line shows the boundary of the Whadjuk and Bindjareb regions.

These boundaries are used by the Australian and Western Australian governments. However, it is acknowledged that Whadjuk and Bindjareb Traditional Owners may have different boundaries for their Country.

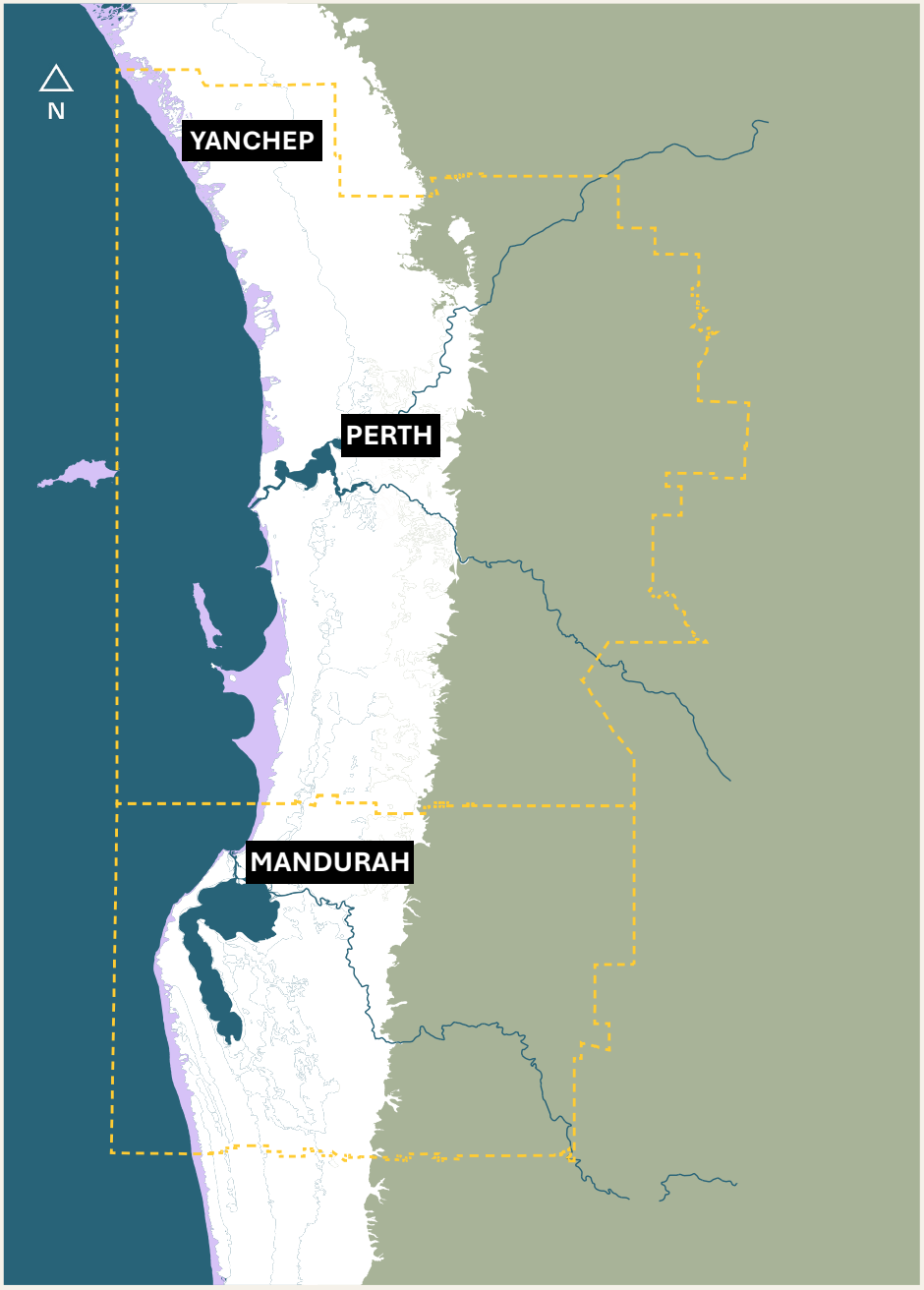
A varied natural landscape

Currently, our climate brings typically hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

Native vegetation has adapted over millennia to these conditions and to our sandy soils, enabling it to survive with minimal, or even no, human intervention such as watering, maintenance or fertiliser.

Unlike many other parts of the state and country, local vegetation often grows low and sparse rather than tall and lush.

While tall trees do occur in some coastal and suburban areas, they are more commonly found in the forests of the eastern hills.



Boundary

The yellow dotted line shows the Perth and Peel regions.

Coastal dunes

The coastal dunes support low shrubs and grasses that are well-adapted to the sandy soil and salty conditions.

Coastal plain

The coastal plain, where most suburbs sit, supports tall tuart trees and remarkably diverse banksia woodlands, well-adapted to the low-nutrient sandy conditions.

The Darling Range

Vegetation varies on the different areas of the Darling Range. On the steep, rocky areas (the scarp) there are shrubs, which give way to tall jarrah and marri forests at the top (the plateau).

Natural water sources

Throughout the coastal plain are various rivers, wetlands, floodplains and estuaries. Together, they offer important cooling and habitat benefits.

These large areas of open water fluctuate seasonally and are often surrounded by native grasses, sedges and some stands of paperbark trees and flooded gums.

Greening Principles

These four principles provide a simple framework to guide thinking and action across all sectors — government, industry, community and individuals — and on public and private land.

They're designed to support stronger decision making, from planning and design through to planting and ongoing care and maintenance.

City of Subiaco

RIGHT AMOUNT

Keep vegetation and plant more, with a focus on tree canopy.

Setting a quantity target focuses action and makes progress measurable.

Greening should prioritise tree planting, as mature canopy provides the greatest benefits.

This includes tangible benefits like shade, cooling and beauty, as well as the unseen 'ecosystem services' that improve our lives, like air and water purification, soil health and pollination.

Alongside the tree canopy target, low-level vegetation can be planted as some sites — such as wetlands, small gardens or transport corridors — are only suited to low-level plants like shrubs and reeds.

These provide cooling, habitat and many of the same ecosystem services as mature trees, but on a smaller scale.

The Right Amount sees everyone actively integrating greenery into the fabric of our neighbourhoods, then finding the right mix of trees and low-level vegetation for each site, conditions and context.

Low-level vegetation

Plants 0.5-3 metres high, like shrubs, sedges, flowering plants and grasses (excluding turf).

Vegetation targets

This strategy sets an ambitious target to increase tree canopy within Whadjuk and Bindjareb to 30 per cent by 2040.

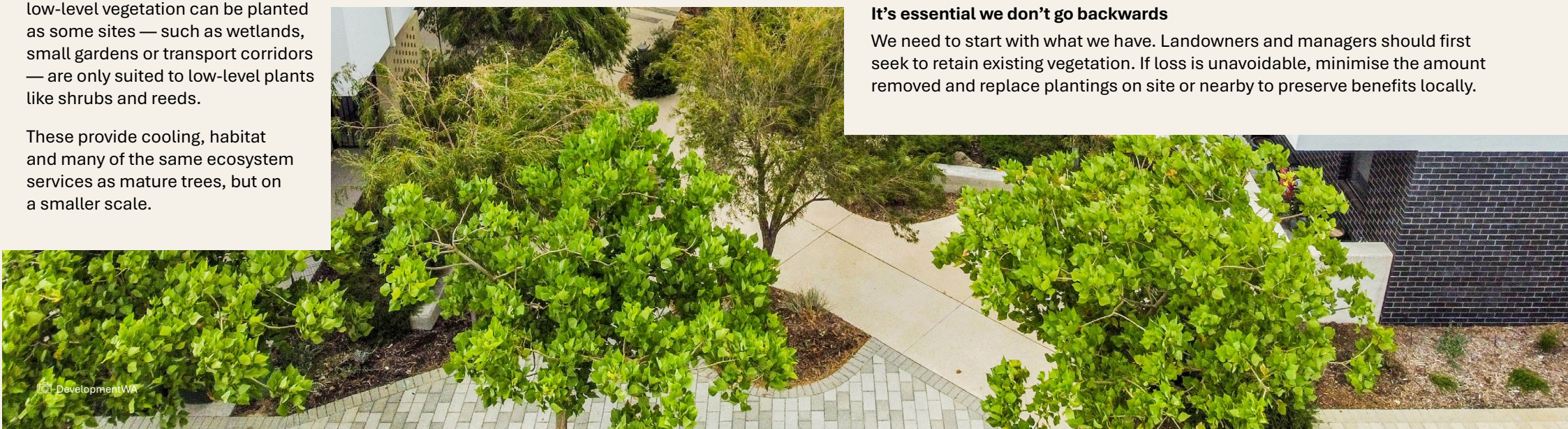
Plants 3 metres or higher

Tree canopy

30% Target for 2040

It's essential we don't go backwards

We need to start with what we have. Landowners and managers should first seek to retain existing vegetation. If loss is unavoidable, minimise the amount removed and replace plantings on site or nearby to preserve benefits locally.



DevelopmentWA

RIGHT PLACE

Plant where it matters most, with good design that maximises impact.

From backyards and carparks to schools and local government areas, the choice of planting location is key.

Target areas with the greatest need to have the greatest positive impact.

Right Place means improving the distribution of vegetation across places where people live, work and experience urban heat.

Once you've got your site, get it ready and position your plantings well so they can thrive and deliver lasting benefits.

RIGHT KIND

Choose plants that will suit the site, thrive and boost benefits for people and nature.

The types of plants selected — both species and characteristics — can make or break an urban greening project.

Well-chosen plants are more likely to survive, will need less water and maintenance and provide greater benefits.

Poor choices can mean wasted effort, reduced return on investment, higher ongoing costs and missed opportunities.

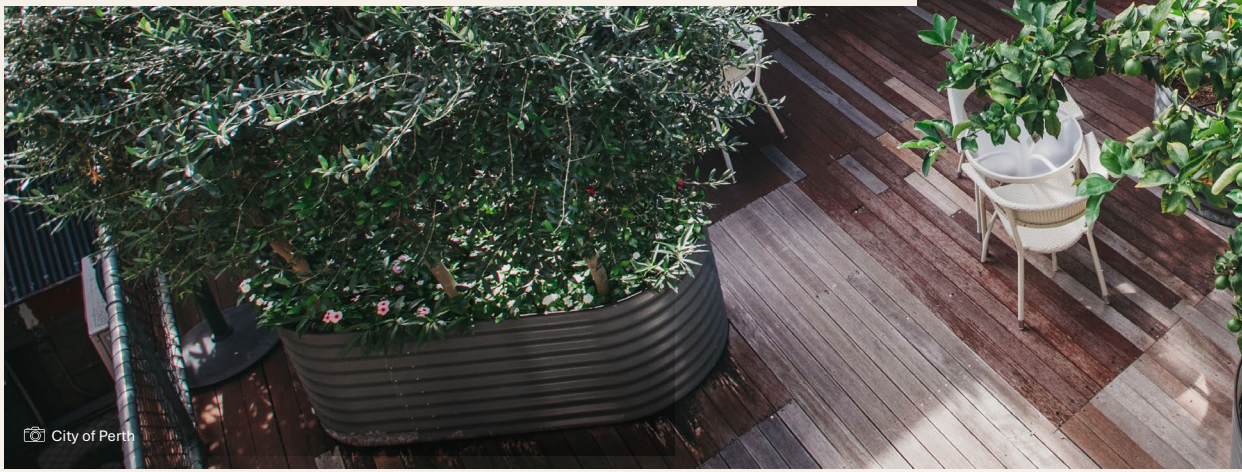
RIGHT APPROACH

Green with others for success and listen, learn and teach along the way.

Urban greening needs a collective effort where everyone digs deep.

Success depends on involving others at each stage of the process, with clear roles and responsibilities.

Listen to key voices and perspectives and include those with the knowledge and passion to make a difference.



City of Perth

Action Areas


City of Mandurah

The three Action Areas — Growing More, Growing Together and Growing Stronger — shape the strategy's implementation and are equally important.

They determine the Outcomes and Strategic Actions needed for success, which provides the structure for the Let's Grow Action Plan.

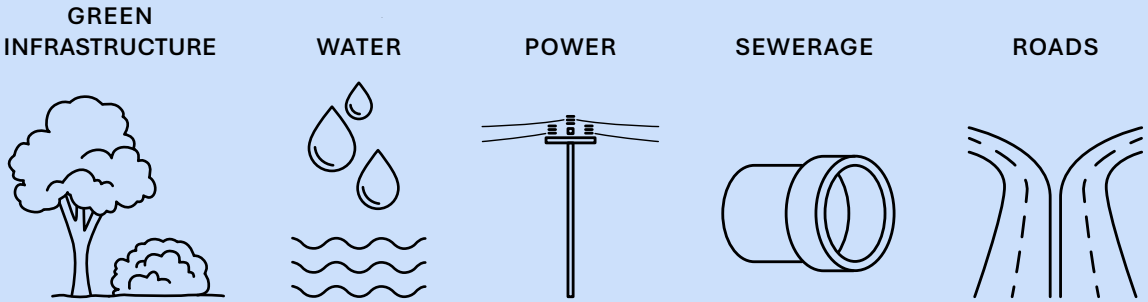
Growing More

Coordinate planting to drive progress towards the targets.

Outcomes	Strategic Actions
Funding is accessible and drives action	Grants program to enable projects that focus on boosting tree canopy.
	Incentivise private landowners to retain and plant trees and vegetation on their property.
Plant more on public land	Seek out opportunities to green State and local government land.
Greening integrated into urban areas and developments	Ensure relevant State Government policies and operational documents are aligned to this strategy.
Quality data informs decision-making	Refine, develop and share high-quality contemporary data, tools and models.
Government greening is coordinated	Strengthen State Government understanding of leading practice and benefits, specific to Whadjuk and Bindjareb.
	Enhance collaboration, knowledge sharing and capacity building across State Government.
	Identify, deliver and showcase innovative solutions in State Government urban greening.

The State Government recognises green infrastructure as a vital community asset to be integrated with essential urban infrastructure.

Essential urban infrastructure



This strategy will enable everyone to work more efficiently, aligning efforts and activity towards achieving the ambitious targets.

The WA Planning Commission has been appointed as the lead entity to coordinate State Government greening under the ongoing Let's Grow program, which brings the strategy to life.

The Commission will be supported by a dedicated Let's Grow team within the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage that will work with other agencies and the community to coordinate delivery of the Let's Grow program.

State Government is committed to an ongoing urban greening grants program for projects that focus on increasing tree canopy.

This will include grants for schools to educate young urban greeners and increase tree canopy across the Urban Area, as every neighbourhood has a school.

Growing More

To maximise benefits, urban greening must be recognised and part of everyday decision making.

State Government will review relevant policies to ensure a stronger alignment with this strategy, so that urban greening is considered in the early stages of public and private projects.

Urban greening will be factored into State projects, practice and operations.

Quality urban greening data — timely, relevant and clear — builds a shared understanding and underpins smart decisions.

State Government canopy data is already available for Whadjuk and Bindjareb through the WA Planning Commission's Let's Grow urban greening dashboard.

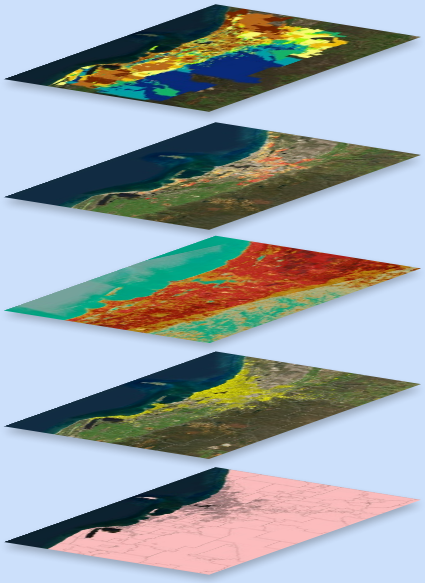
Through listening to and working with the community, further improvements will be made to create a valuable shared resource.

Additional tools and models will be developed to support the community, inform public projects and guide land management.

From data to decisions

We will compile and analyse detailed, contemporary data by overlaying maps of canopy cover, urban heat and land use with population data.

This will help us better understand disparities and guide planting in priority areas.



City of Kwinana

Growing More

Through the management of its land, State Government can have a direct impact on urban greening.

Many State-managed places — from transport corridors, schools and hospitals to public housing, community hubs and car parks — already have significant canopy and vegetation. While this greenery is often a secondary feature, it delivers substantial community benefits.

Without compromising the land's primary purpose, State Government land managers can enhance both the quality and extent of urban trees and vegetation on the land under their care.

While challenges exist, progress begins with a concerted effort to identify opportunities. It's then vital to balance ongoing management, safety and operational requirements so greening is integrated with essential services, housing and infrastructure.

Collaboration across State Government will help deliver practical solutions to challenges and constraints. Strengthening technical expertise and knowledge sharing will drive innovation.

Main Roads WA

Growing Together

Strengthen the collective effort to grow an inspired and invested community.

Outcomes	Strategic Actions
Everyone is engaged and participating in urban greening	Development of a 'Let's Grow' strategic awareness and education program.
Noongar culture is valued with partnerships created	Build relationships with Noongar people and create positive outcomes for Noongar communities.
Local governments supported	Continue working with the local government sector to share resources and align efforts towards common goals.
Greater collaboration, reach and impact	Partner with schools and education providers to cultivate urban greening appreciation, knowledge and skills among students and the local community.
	Collaborate with the development and building industry to identify new urban greening opportunities in infill and greenfield developments.
	Engage with landscape architects, horticulturalists, arborists and nurseries to understand industry needs and inform future collaboration and action.
	Explore partnerships with commercial and member-based organisations that share this strategy's vision and values.

Town Team Movement; Ben Yew Photography

Creating leafy and liveable communities takes large-scale collective effort.

While there's strong community support, achieving the ambitious targets and bringing our shared vision to life will require a cultural shift across public and private realms.

When we all understand the environment as a living, interwoven system we're more likely to see ourselves as urban greening stakeholders with a role to play.

Noongar people have an enduring relationship with boodja (Country), a responsibility handed down from the Nyidiny or creation times.

It's vital that State Government partners with Noongar people to inspire this connection to boodja across the broad community and create positive outcomes for Noongar people.

Growing Together

Town of Victoria Park

As meaningful change takes support, investment and time, long-term community engagement is essential.

The Let's Grow program will raise awareness of the benefits of urban greening, inspire more people and organisations to get involved, and support those already active.

With its strong identity and clear call to action, Let's Grow will unify the State Government's urban greening position and ongoing activity.

Strategic, targeted communications will guide people on their urban greening journey.

Online resources and proactive communication channels will equip people with the knowledge and confidence to take action.

Growing Together

Local Governments already play a pivotal role in urban greening, and greater collaboration can make limited resources go further.

State Government will work with this sector to share knowledge, tackle challenges, deliver innovative projects and engage local communities, scaling efficiencies and impact at the neighbourhood level.

Engaging young people through schools is critical, as schools are both learning environments and important community hubs.

By empowering young urban greeners, we can foster lifelong environmental stewardship while delivering greening benefits to local communities.

A key focus will be working with development and urban greening industries to drive support for this strategy, address challenges and maximise benefits across Whadjuk and Bindjareb.

Where values and goals align, partnerships with commercial or member-based organisations may engage new audiences and unlock new funding for community urban greening.

Growing Stronger

Prioritise biodiverse and resilient planting with good design and practices.

Outcomes	Strategic Actions
Urban greening is planned and future-proofed	Support local governments to develop and implement local urban greening and biodiversity strategies.
	Unlock the potential of native and climate-resilient plants through species trials and testing innovative management practices.
	Encourage a diversity of plantings in Government and community greening, including species for wildlife habitat.
	Help strengthen the supply of suitable species, ensuring ongoing availability to meet increased demand.
	Foster urban greening related skills, expertise and education and training pathways.
Existing vegetation is valued and enhanced where possible	Collaborate with the development industry to maximise retention of tree canopy and vegetation in new developments.
	Maintain and enhance urban bushland and wetlands in State Government conservation estates, including Bush Forever areas.
Limited water supplies are used efficiently for urban greening	Partner with and complement the State Government's Kep Katitjin - Gabi Kaadadjan Waterwise program to support the integration of green and blue infrastructure and resources.
	Implement waterwise leading practice and water-sensitive urban design in State Government urban greening.
Green links are created and strengthened	Investigate opportunities for State Government to implement green links as part of infrastructure and project delivery.
	Provide data and guidance material to local governments and other stakeholders to inform identification and ensure delivery of green links.

City of Perth

Quality urban greening begins with local planning that reflects community needs and draws on leading knowledge, science and practice.

Many local governments already have urban forest and biodiversity strategies developed in consultation with their communities. This important work will be supported through funding and sharing contemporary knowledge and data.

Western Australia's flora has evolved over millennia to thrive in our challenging local conditions.

Our incredibly diverse native plants hold huge untapped potential – they're one of our greatest assets for building climate resilient and nature-friendly neighbourhoods.

Yet, of more than 12,000 species from across the state, only around one per cent are grown at scale for residential and commercial planting.

Unlocking this potential through State Government research, trials, plant breeding and hybridisation will expand the range of species that thrive in local urban conditions and contribute to biodiversity.

Planting a diverse range of species boosts resilience in many ways and creates habitats that support wildlife with food, shelter and breeding.

Growing Stronger

Implementing this strategy will increase demand for suitable plant stock and skilled professionals like horticulturalists, arborists and landscape architects.

Collaboration with education providers will help strengthen urban greening education and training pathways.

Retaining existing vegetation is the most efficient form of urban greening.

Greater retention requires early consideration of vegetation in planning and development, supported by expert advice.

While some clearing will be needed for housing and infrastructure, priority should be given to retaining vegetation that cannot be easily replaced, such as mature trees and native bushland.

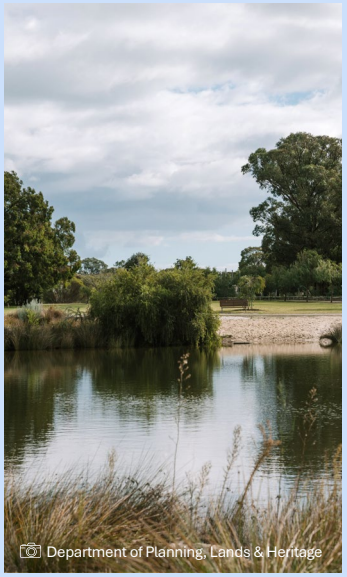
DevelopmentWA

Growing Stronger

This strategy works alongside the State Government's Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan Waterwise Program, which aims to conserve water resources and build climate resilience, including through urban greening.

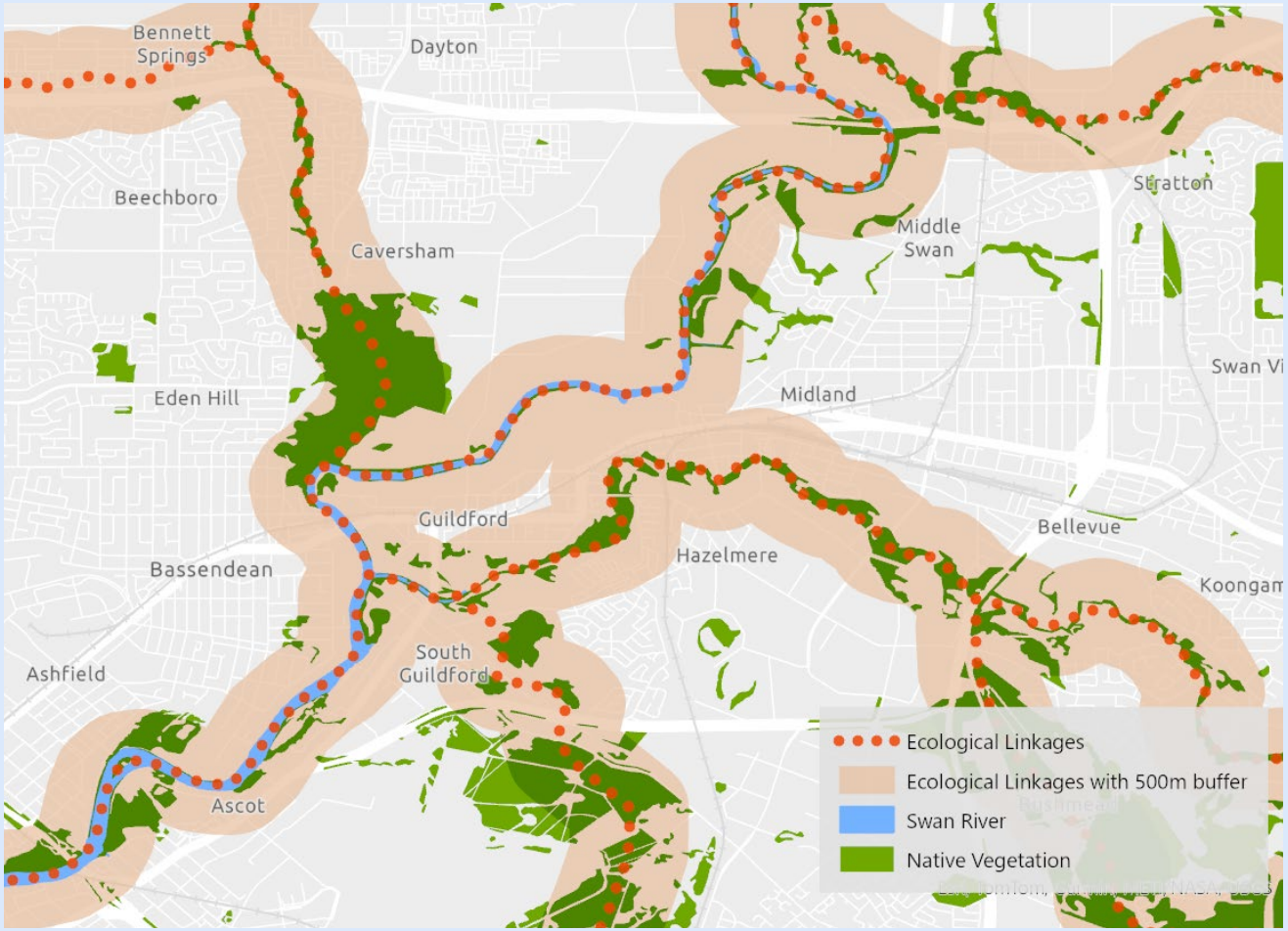
We will continue to adopt and promote waterwise practices, which will also enhance natural waterways and help manage stormwater.

Urban greening depends upon water – there is no green without blue.


Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage

Strengthening ecological linkages

This map shows native vegetation that grows along or near the Swan River. The orange dots represent optimal routes that connect vegetation. The buffer areas represent places where vegetation can be planted to strengthen the natural green linkage.



Connecting and strengthening patches of vegetation into multi-use 'green links' offers wide benefits.

Green links that support biodiversity, known as 'ecological linkages', allow wildlife to move, feed and breed across the urban landscape, such as the endangered black cockatoos.

For people, green links create shady, inviting routes for travel, recreation and exercise, especially when they connect schools, commercial centres or transport hubs.

Where feasible, green links will be built into State Government infrastructure and projects.

Mapping will continue, with support for local governments and community groups to plan and deliver links locally.

This is just the beginning

The time for action is now. Every tree planted, every green space created and every garden tended brings us closer to creating cool, resilient, leafy and liveable communities.

While we have a solid foundation to build upon, there is more work to be done. The Urban Greening Strategy for Whadjuk and Bindjareb is vital to achieving our shared vision.

It will take collective effort, creativity and commitment. The more hands that help sow this vision, the more resilient our communities will be to meet the challenges ahead.


City of Fremantle


City of Gosnells


Mandurah Community Garden

Let's work together.
Let's grow.

Appendices

Town of Victoria Park

Appendix 1: Glossary of Noongar terms

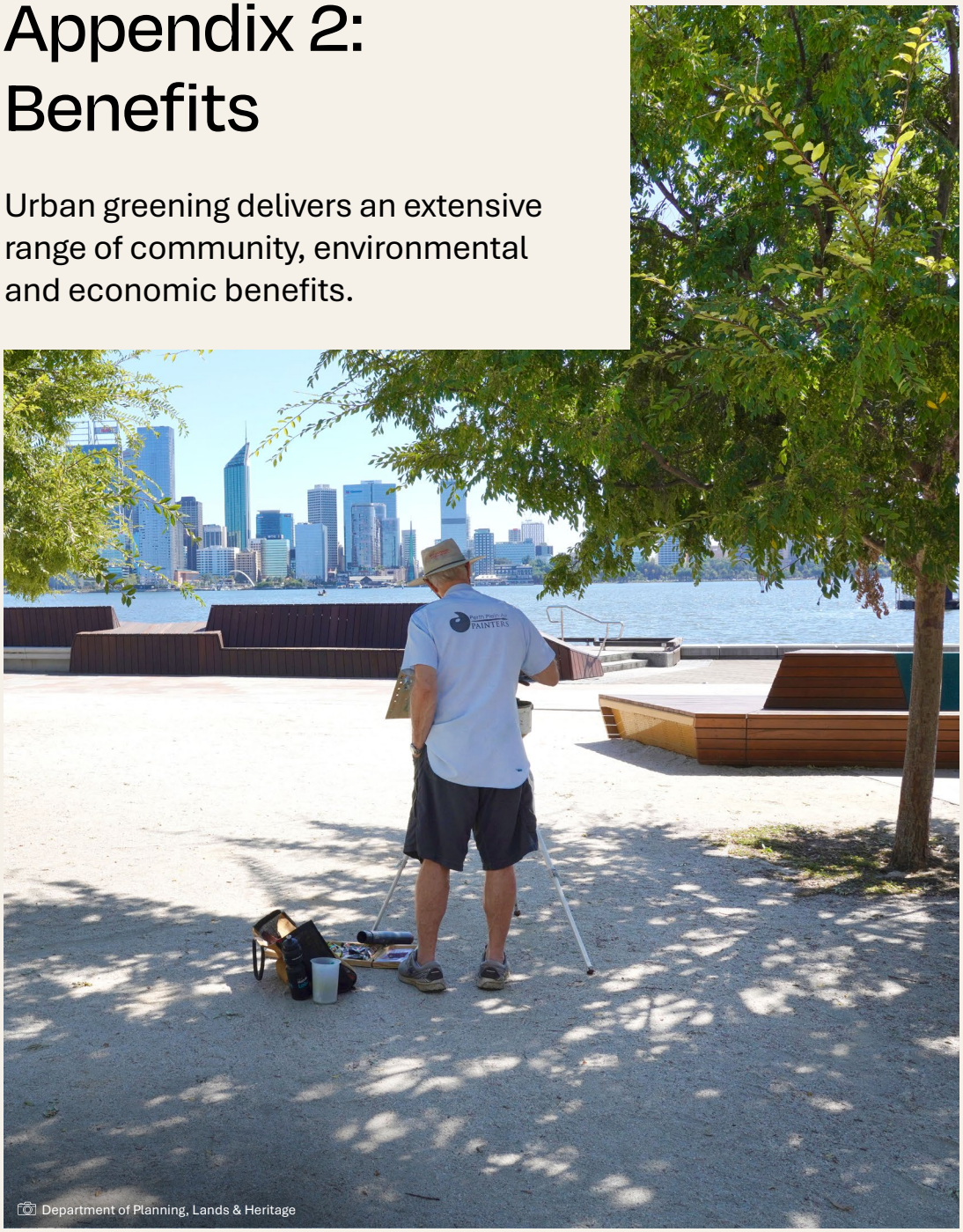
When we describe Aboriginal people in south-west Western Australia, we use the term ‘Noongar’. The Noongar Nation includes many peoples, language dialects and regions, including Whadjuk and Bindjareb.

Boorloo	Refers to the city of Perth area
Boodahwan	Future
Bidi	Path
Bindjareb	The Country, people and dialect of the Peel region
Boodja	Country or land
Danjoo Koorliny	One translation could be 'going together to the future' or 'moving together', or it could be simply translated as ‘walking together’
Katitjin	Knowledge – Whadjuk dialect
Koorah	Past
Nitja	Present
Noongar	Traditional owners of the south west of Western Australia, as per the South West Native Title Settlement – Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Act 2016 [learn more here]
Nyidiny	Creation times
Whadjuk	The Country, people and dialect of the Greater Perth region

Danjoo Koorliny

Appendix 2: Benefits

Urban greening delivers an extensive range of community, environmental and economic benefits.



Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage

Community

Healthier people

- The practice of urban greening embodies the Noongar 'Healthy Country, Healthy People' concept, which recognises that a healthy environment is inseparable from the health of its people.
- Well-greened urban areas and access to nature encourage a healthy lifestyle through physical activity and active transport.
- Shading lowers rates of skin cancer and heat related mortality.
- Exposure to nature can be psychologically restorative, reducing stress and boosting mood, memory and cognition. It can have a positive effect on birth outcomes, increase resilience to major life events and speed up recovery times. All this can significantly reduce community health care costs.

Enhanced social connection

- Green, shady and cool spaces bring people together, reducing loneliness.
- Spending time in nature can lead to more positive and cooperative judgments, a decrease in anti-social behaviours and can even lower neighbourhood crime rates.

Cultural katitjin (knowledge) sharing

- Urban greening provides an opportunity to recognise, conserve and share Noongar culture and katitjin, providing a connection to Country and some of the world's oldest ecological knowledge systems.

Fosters local character

- Greening helps shape a place's unique identity.
- Well-designed green spaces with corridors that link urban spaces help strengthen people's sense of connection to those places.

Improves road safety

- The presence of trees and vegetation encourages people to drive more slowly and calmly, improving driver and pedestrian safety, and can also provide physical protection for pedestrians.

Environmental

Shadier and cooler

- Vegetation provides shade for people and buildings, reducing urban heat.
- Trees release water from their leaves into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration, helping to cool air temperatures.

Creating habitat and enhancing biodiversity

- Vegetation provides a home and food for native animals.
- Greening conserves our unique local plants and wildlife.
- Strategic plantings support resilient ecosystems through a diverse range of species.

Better air quality

- Plants give us clean, fresh air to breathe as they absorb pollutants and particles, acting as natural air filters. For millennia, Noongar people have understood that plants — as the 'first-comers' — created the conditions that enable all other life, including people, to survive.
- Greening leads to better community health outcomes and helps lower emissions into the atmosphere.

Carbon sequestration

- Plants capture and store carbon by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

Improving stormwater quality and flow

- Vegetation helps to stabilise the soil by absorbing and reducing stormwater run-off.
- Plants naturally filter water with their root systems, protecting the health of our waterways and groundwater.

Moderating strong winds

- Trees moderate wind speeds, protecting people and infrastructure.

Economic

Financial benefits

- Green, tree-lined streets and vegetated verges help boost property values.
- Trees help protect infrastructure, buildings, gardens and cars from sun damage, reducing asset maintenance and renewal costs.
- Retaining vegetation is significantly cheaper than removing and replanting.

Reduced energy costs

- Well-selected and placed trees and vegetation can naturally cool buildings and reduce reliance on air conditioning, thereby reducing power bills.

Stronger economic activity

- Leafy urban areas and streets attract people to linger longer in shopping and entertainment precincts, resulting in increased spending.

Boosts tourism

- Green spaces attract more visitors by enhancing experiences and attractions, enriching local character, boosting tourist satisfaction and fostering destination loyalty.

City of Perth

Appendix 3: Challenges

City of Subiaco

Heat-related deaths in Perth are projected to rise by over 60 per cent — from around 100 per year in the 2010s to around 300 per year in the 2050s — with heat-related healthcare costs forecast to rise by more than $30 million[1].

Hotter and drier

The hotter the climate, the more valuable the cooling benefits of urban greening become.

Our climate is already hotter and drier than it was a generation ago, and will continue to get worse. The number of days over 40°C has doubled, and heatwaves have increased by 50 per cent since the 1930s.

By 2050, we may experience double the number of days above 35°C. We are also receiving less rain, and more of the rain we do get is being lost to evaporation.

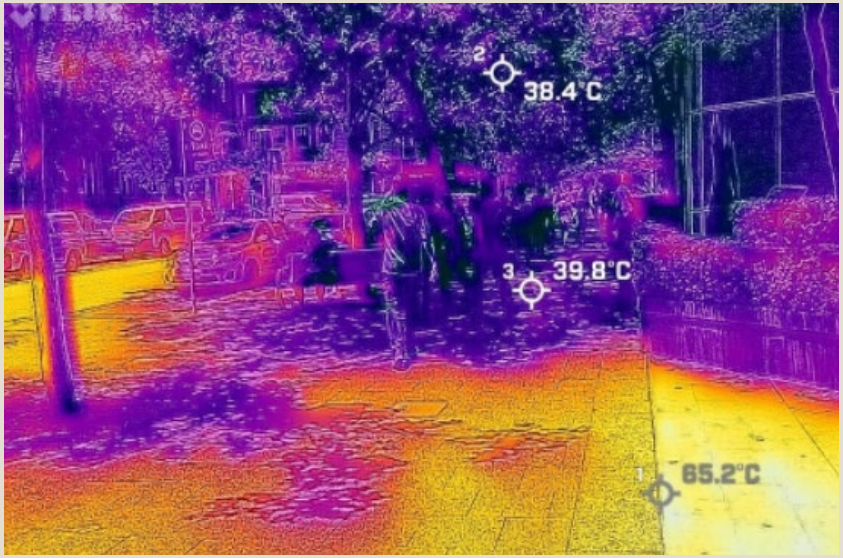
The changing climate is putting pressure and stress on our urban vegetation, including native species. The hot, dry start to 2024 foreshadowed the challenges ahead. It also led to widespread tree loss across suburbs and bushland areas.

Plants under stress from hot and dry weather are also more vulnerable to other threats like weeds, fire and pests. Rising heat takes a toll on people, diminishing productivity and learning, while posing significant health risks.

Hot weather is intensified in urban areas due to the 'Urban Heat Island' (UHI) effect.

This occurs because buildings, dark-coloured materials and hard surfaces like roads and paved car parks absorb and retain more heat compared to vegetated or shaded areas.

The UHI effect not only makes cities hotter but also leads to higher energy consumption, which in turn adds to urban heat. It also increases air pollution and exacerbates a range of health issues.



Thermal image of Hay Street/Central Park in the City of Perth. 16 January 2024 – 12.17pm BOM Maximum Daytime Temperature – 38.3 degrees Celsius. City of Perth.

Uneven distribution

Currently, trees and vegetation are not distributed evenly across the urban area. Urban greening is harder in some places than others.

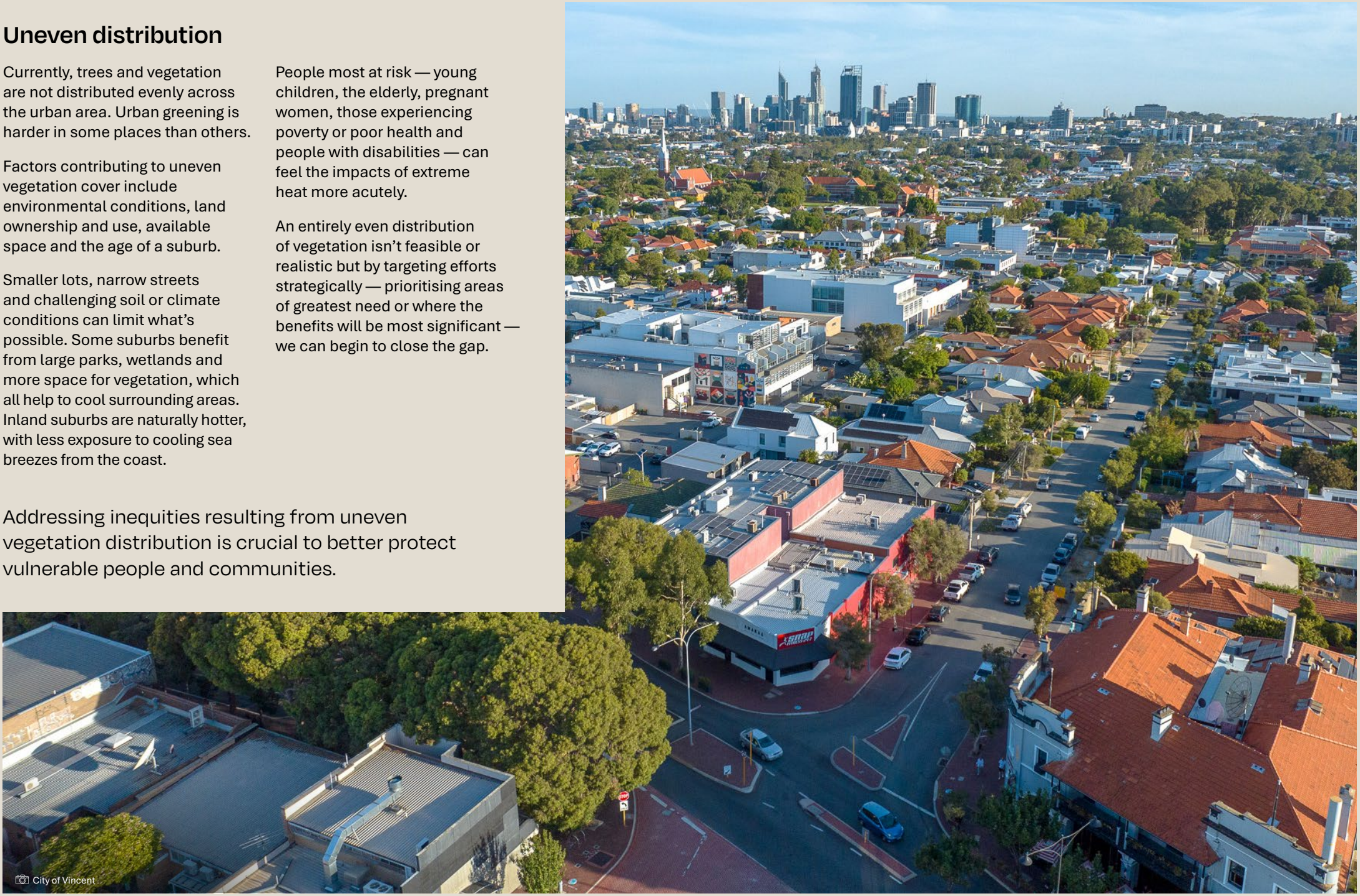
Factors contributing to uneven vegetation cover include environmental conditions, land ownership and use, available space and the age of a suburb.

Smaller lots, narrow streets and challenging soil or climate conditions can limit what's possible. Some suburbs benefit from large parks, wetlands and more space for vegetation, which all help to cool surrounding areas. Inland suburbs are naturally hotter, with less exposure to cooling sea breezes from the coast.

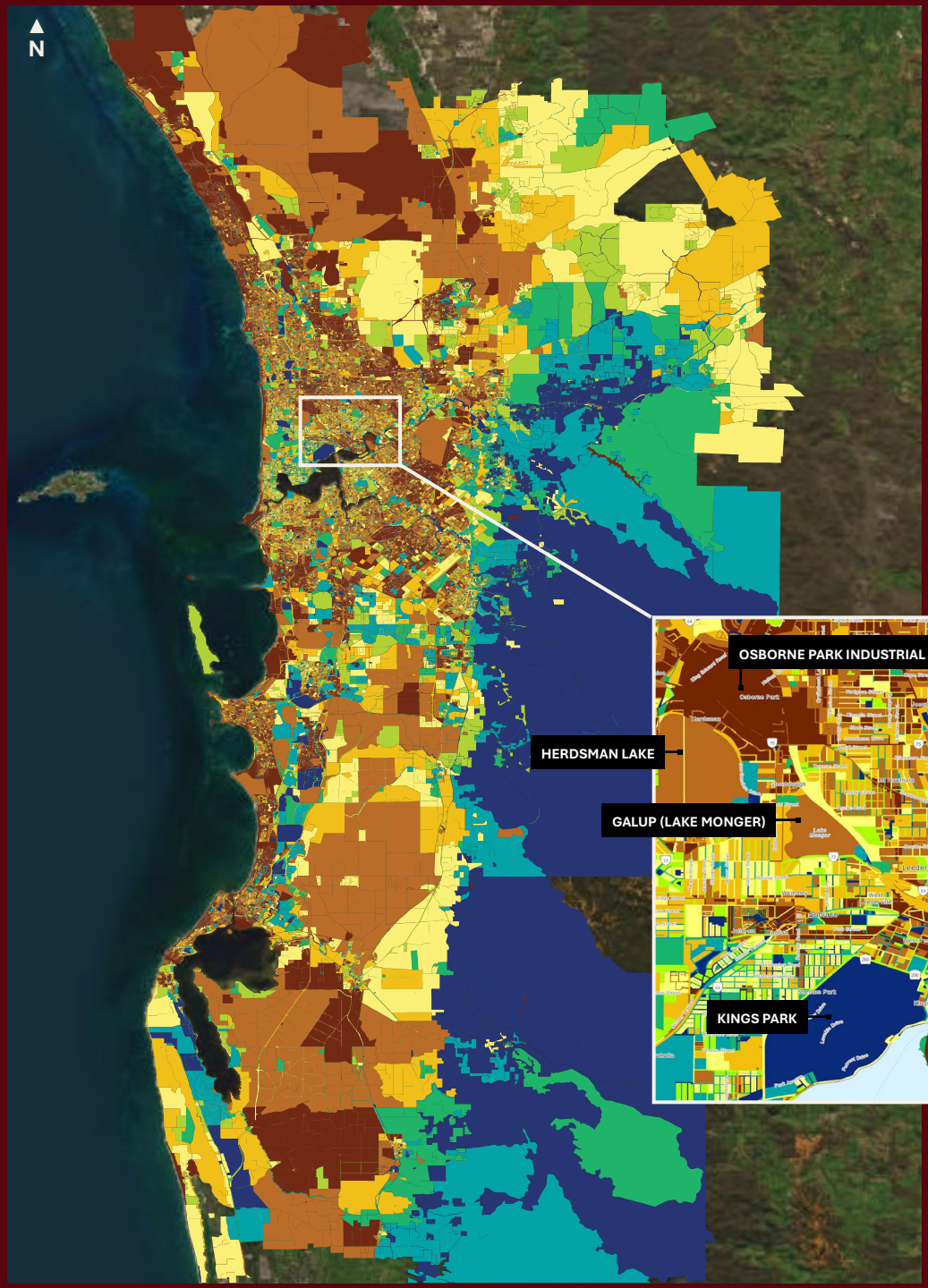
People most at risk — young children, the elderly, pregnant women, those experiencing poverty or poor health and people with disabilities — can feel the impacts of extreme heat more acutely.

An entirely even distribution of vegetation isn't feasible or realistic but by targeting efforts strategically — prioritising areas of greatest need or where the benefits will be most significant — we can begin to close the gap.

Addressing inequities resulting from uneven vegetation distribution is crucial to better protect vulnerable people and communities.



City of Vincent



Urban greening dashboard

The WA Planning Commission's Let's Grow Urban Greening Dashboard is an interactive snapshot of vegetation across the Whadjuk and Bindjareb regions.

The image on the left shows the variation in tree canopy.

The dashboard shows the loss or change of canopy or vegetation in a given area over time. Information is summarised by suburb or local government area, and can be viewed by different land use categories.

The dashboard is publicly available and specific suburbs or local government areas can be explored.

Over time, we'll work with the community to make improvements and create a valuable shared resource that supports good urban greening decisions.

Tree canopy coverage across Whadjuk and Bindjareb

Legend

Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River)

% tree canopy coverage

- 0 to 5%
- 5 to 10%
- 10 to 15%
- 15 to 20%
- 20 to 25%
- 25 to 30%
- 30 to 40%
- >40%

Increasing population and development

Our capital city is evolving rapidly. It's currently home to over 2.3 million people and is expected to grow by over a million people by 2050.

This will require more homes, shops, schools and businesses, plus new or upgraded roads and other services like water, pipes and powerlines.

This growth brings enormous opportunities, but it also adds significant pressure on land and, in turn, urban greening.

Without thoughtful design, this development could sacrifice too much existing vegetation and limit space for new urban greening, depriving communities of its vital benefits.

Water scarcity

Water is essential to plant life and crucial to urban greening. Our climate already experiences long, dry periods. As climate change reduces rainfall and our growing population puts pressure on supplies, dwindling water availability will increasingly challenge the benefits of urban greening.

Limited affordable access to sustainable and secure water demands smarter use of available resources and leading-practice urban greening methods.

Being 'waterwise' is a holistic approach to water in all its meanings and functions. It means thoughtfully deciding to connect to and manage our water resources, including natural waterways, stormwater and run-off, in the best ways we can.

Pests and diseases

In our connected world, the movement of people and goods allows pests, weeds and diseases to spread rapidly. This poses significant risks to the health, quality and extent of vegetation within the urban area. While many threats have long existed, new ones continue to emerge.

Currently, the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) beetle is infecting and killing many species of trees across the Whadjuk region.

Its ongoing spread, along with other diseases such as myrtle rust and dieback, present major threats. Issues like these require continual vigilance, collaboration and innovation.

Biodiversity threats

The Whadjuk and Bindjareb regions have a remarkable and world-renowned diversity of native plant and animal species that live or feed in the trees, plants and green spaces across the Urban Area.

However, this diversity is under threat with many species now rare or threatened, like the iconic black cockatoos and banksia woodlands.

Without intervention, local wildlife and plant populations will continue to decline and become even more vulnerable to threats such as climate change, habitat fragmentation, invasive weeds and disease.

Urban greening that provides natural habitat can help safeguard this biodiversity.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Appendix 4: Community feedback summary

To help shape the strategy, a six-month community engagement program was undertaken between February and July 2024.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, ideas and expertise.

Engagement activities:

- 3,733 public survey submissions – an outstanding response.
- More than 65 agencies and organisations attended seven workshops, including local governments, State development agencies, industry organisations, facilities and infrastructure managers, practitioners and developers.
- More than 50 meetings with various State agencies, industry peaks, advocacy groups and academics.
- More than 55 written submissions received from 18 State agencies, 21 local governments and 18 industry and interest groups.
- Two surveys to industry experts and State agencies.

Key public survey results:

- 88% rated their level of support for additional urban greening as 10 out of 10.
- 76% rated their suburb as currently having low to medium tree canopy cover.
- 99% support more trees in their suburb.

Top 5 Reasons why urban greening is important to people:

Provides shade	Reduces heat	Provides for wildlife	Helps our health	Improves air quality

Top concerns:

Retention of existing vegetation	Impact of new development, especially new residential	Loss of cooling impact of trees	Inadequate provision for nature and biodiversity	Poor current rates of canopy cover and loss of trees on private land
Unequal distribution of greening	Site constraints of urban development	Effects of a drying climate	Leadership and better policy framework	Lack of resources

Top desired actions:

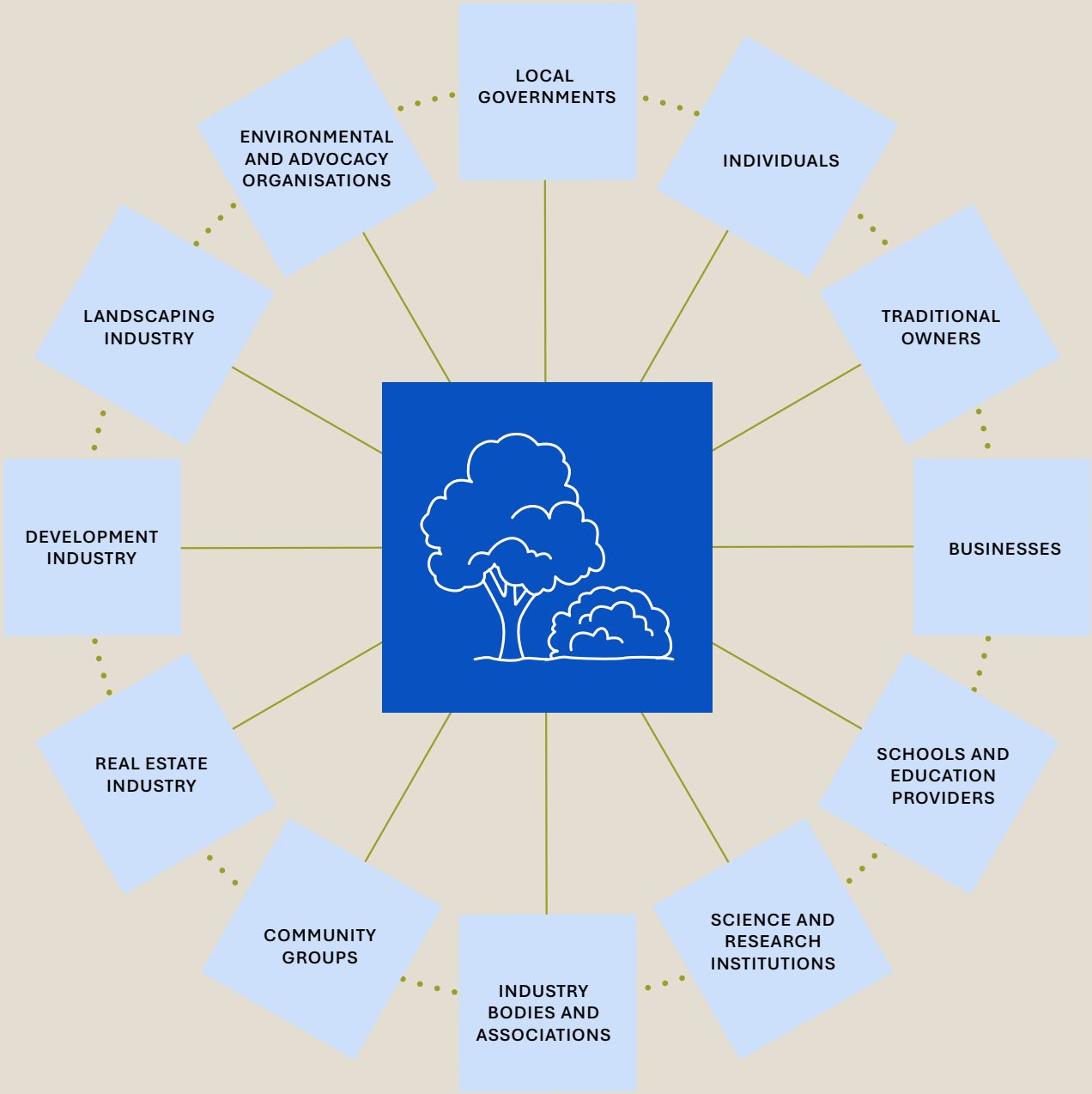
Plant more trees and understorey	Increase overall tree canopy	Improve new residential and infill areas	Consider wildlife habitats
Encourage more trees to be kept	Plan and protect more space for greening	Use our verges better	Fund more planting
Ensure greening is more evenly distributed	Create a target or goal to work towards	Shade public paths and places	Review the rules and regulations

Appendix 5: Urban greening stakeholders

Many individuals and collectives are already active in the urban greening space, though many people are unaware that they are an urban greening stakeholder.

Everyone has a role to play.

When we all see ourselves as part of the solution and dig deep, the impact will be far greater.



Appendix 5: Urban greening stakeholders

Local government

Vital urban greening stakeholders who plan and manage their local area, urban tree canopy and public green spaces for their communities. Prepare and implement urban greening strategies, tree registers, planting programs and community greening initiatives. Educate residents on urban greening, support local participation and recognise and reward efforts.

Individuals – people who live and work here

Plant and care for green spaces at home and in the community. Volunteer with or donate to community and environmental groups. Learn about urban greening best practice and benefits, then share this with friends, family and neighbours. Take part in local greening events and programs. Raise local matters with their elected representatives.

Traditional Owners

Noongar people, as the Traditional Owners of the land and first knowledge holders, with deep cultural and ecological katitjin (knowledge). Share this through engagement with the wider community, helping to foster connection to Country and promote the importance of caring for the land. Develop partnerships and projects which support urban greening outcomes and also benefit Noongar people and businesses.

Businesses

Plant and care for gardens at their premises and adopt environmental and sustainability practices in their operations. Share these values with and educate employees. Advocate for environmental matters and donate to or support community and environmental groups, friends, family and neighbours. Take part in local greening events and programs. Raise local matters with their elected representatives.

Schools and education providers

Create access to nature through tree planting and gardens on school grounds. Run urban greening education programs and promote lifelong environmental stewardship. Provide training pathways and careers in urban greening.

Environmental, not-for-profit and advocacy organisations

Protect, enhance and monitor our natural areas. Educate the community and share knowledge and insights. Advocate for best practice urban greening, conservation and climate adaptation.

Community groups

Bring the community together to contribute to the health and sustainability of our urban green spaces. Mobilise people through coordinating greening projects and activity. Raise awareness of urban greening benefits and best practice.

Landscaping industry – landscape architects, horticulturalists and arborists

Design, construct and maintain green infrastructure. Support healthy plant selection, soil health and sustainable practices. Provide advice and expertise to create resilient, thriving urban green spaces. Supply healthy, appropriate plant stock and help manage and grow urban tree canopy.

Development industry – builders, developers, architects and town planners

Integrate urban greening into the planning, design and delivery of new developments. Protect and enhance vegetation where possible. Create green spaces that support liveability, sustainability and community needs.

Science and research institutions

Lead research on urban greening, biodiversity and climate resilience. Share evidence, tools and data with partners and support innovation through cross-sector collaboration.

Real estate industry – strata and property managers and salespeople

Recognise the market value of vegetation and green spaces in boosting buyer appeal and investment returns. Encourage land owners, managers and tenants to retain and enhance vegetation. Promote the benefits of properties with quality landscaping, healthy tree canopy and access to nature.

Industry bodies and professional associations

Represent, advocate and support industry interests to inform and influence frameworks governing development and greening outcomes. Research, advocate and share best-case greening and development practices to foster innovation.

Appendix 6: Coordinated Government greening

Complementary State Government frameworks

- State Infrastructure Strategy (2022) and the State Government Response (2023)
- Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million sub-regional planning frameworks
- State Planning Framework including the Design WA suite of State Planning Policies
- WA Climate Policy, including the WA Climate Adaptation Strategy (2023) and the WA Climate Science Initiative
- Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan – Waterwise Perth Action Plan 3
- State Public Health Plan for WA 2025 - 2030
- Native Vegetation Policy for WA and Implementation Roadmap (2022)
- State Emergency Management Framework

Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority – Kings Park

Appendix 6: Coordinated Government greening

Many State Government urban greening initiatives and programs are well underway. This strategy will align and amplify these efforts.

The State Government will continue to fund urban greening grants through the **Let's Grow Grants**. The program will include support for the community and schools to deliver projects that boost tree canopy and vegetation coverage in priority areas across Whadjuk and Bindjareb. The grants will help reduce urban heat, enhance biodiversity and engage local communities in urban greening. [WA Planning Commission through Dept. Planning, Lands and Heritage]

The **Treebate program** provides 10,000 'Treebates' each year to Western Australians. Residents aged 18 years and over can receive up to $150 rebate for purchasing and planting an approved native tree. This financial incentive will directly boost tree canopy on private land, driving us closer to the targets. [Dept. Water and Environmental Regulation]

The **Tree Recovery Program** supports residents, local governments and the Perth Zoo to replace trees lost from the effects of Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB). It offers funding towards local government replanting initiatives through the Local Government Grant Program. Rebates up to $150 per tree lost are available to residents who buy and plant a replacement tree. [Dept. Water and Environmental Regulation]

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Appendix 6: Coordinated Government greening

Many actions that contribute to urban greening, cooling and biodiversity are delivered through the **Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan Waterwise Action Plan 3 (2024–27)**. [Dept. Water and Environmental Regulation]

The **Waterwise Greening Scheme** supports councils to deliver community-focused greening projects that improve local amenity, biodiversity and cooling while protecting precious water resources. Endorsed Waterwise Councils can access annual co-funding for initiatives like verge subsidies, street trees, plant giveaways and garden competitions. [Water Corporation in partnership with local governments]

The **Drainage for Liveability** program brings together local governments, community groups and industry to transform stormwater drains and basins into living green spaces. Underutilised drainage sites are planted-up to mimic natural wetland ecosystems, creating wildlife havens, enhancing biodiversity and improving the liveability of surrounding neighbourhoods. [Water Corporation and Dept. Water and Environmental Regulation]


City of Vincent


Water Corporation

Appendix 6: Coordinated Government greening

WA's **Native Vegetation Policy** provides a whole-of-government approach to protecting and restoring native vegetation. It brings agencies together under consistent policy, practices and data systems, helping to reverse vegetation decline while giving communities and stakeholders greater clarity and certainty. [Dept. of Water and Environmental Regulation]

Developed in collaboration with the WA Local Government Association (WALGA), the **Better Urban Forest Planning Guide** assists in the planning and management of urban forests. The **Let's Grow Urban Greening Dashboard** is an interactive snapshot of tree canopy coverage across Whadjuk and Bindjareb. It shows the amount, loss or change of urban canopy in a given area over time. [WA Planning Commission through Dept. Planning, Lands and Heritage]

The highly successful **Bush Forever program** integrates bushland protection and management with land use planning. Actively supported by the community, it protects our unique biodiversity, establishes key nodes for green links and helps to identify and secure regionally significant vegetation in perpetuity. [WA Planning Commission through Dept. Planning, Lands and Heritage, with various agencies]

Coastwest grants help community groups and land managers to protect and enhance WA's coastal landscapes. They support dune rehabilitation, revegetation, hazard management and community education, while supporting sustainable use, biodiversity and stronger community involvement in coastal management. [WA Planning Commission through Dept. Planning, Lands and Heritage]

Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage

Appendix 6: Coordinated Government greening


Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority – Kings Park

Kings Park Science undertakes world-leading research into native plant biology and ecology to support the conservation and management of WA's unique biodiversity and ecosystems. The program also delivers capacity to support horticultural science and ex-situ conservation in the WA Botanic Garden and the lands managed by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority. [Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority with Dept. Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions]

As the State Government's central development agency, **DevelopmentWA** creates places for people to live, work, visit and do business. A series of successful 'Innovation through Demonstration' projects have been created, with more underway. White Gum Valley is a Net Zero development that sets a new benchmark for sustainable urban infill. Salt Lane in North Coogee features tree-lined streets and verges, with a leafy corridor through its heart. [DevelopmentWA]

Many **Miyawaki Forests** have been established in our primary schools. These fast-growing, dense and multi-layered 'pocket forests' follow the Miyawaki planting method developed in Japan. Comprising a range of native species, they offer a variety of urban greening benefits and provide real-world, outdoor classrooms for young students. [Dept. Education, with the Harry Butler Institute at Murdoch University]

Under the **Sustainable Schools WA** program, schools embed sustainability into everyday learning, culture and operations. Students, teachers and the wider school community lead hands-on projects such as bush tucker gardens, vegetable growing, composting and waste-free initiatives. Many schools also have student-led teams that drive environmental action through peer education, campaigns and recognition programs.


Department of Education

Sustainability education in schools supports environmental outcomes while building leadership, wellbeing and a strong connection to nature.

Appendix 6: Coordinated Government greening

The **Green Trail Pilot Project** in Bassendean integrated shared path infrastructure with greening to create a more scenic and shaded walking and riding experience. A landscape architect was engaged, with the local community helping to bed down 6,000 plants.

As a result, greening is now being integrated into ongoing project planning across all of the Department's Active Transport infrastructure programs. [Dept. Transport, with Main Roads WA and the Town of Bassendean]

Department of Transport


Main Roads WA

NorthLink WA features the state's first dedicated, fully vegetated fauna bridge, a pilot project to connect bushland and provide a natural route for animals to cross Tonkin Highway safely. Over time, the initial vegetation will become dense to mimic the natural environment by using trees, bushes, shrubs and ground covers native to the area. This innovative work sits alongside a wide range of revegetation and landscaping work to deliver safe and effective roads. [Main Roads WA]

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WAPC

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