

Development of Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy

1. Definition and Preliminary Assessment of Urban Landscape and Vegetation Character Areas

- Precincts have been defined based on the sub-precincts within the 1997 Monash Urban Character Strategy, and grouped back to logical geographical precincts defined by major roads, changes in land use and urban character, and to some degree, topography and natural features.
- All industrial and residential areas of the city (excluding the commercial precincts, which either are, or will be, the subject of structure plans in the future) have been assessed.
- The existing canopy and tree vegetation cover was assessed, by precinct. This assessment quantifies the changes in tree canopy coverage, grass and garden bed coverage, roof, concrete, asphalt (road), water and unsealed surfaces, between 1992 and 2015.

2. Background report containing an overview of key aspects relevant to the strategy

- Review of the history of the development of the City, including an analysis of environmental and landscape factors which have contributed to the form of development and landscape outcomes in different locations.
- A review of relevant Government and Council policies and strategies.
- A review of the Preliminary Assessment of Urban Landscape and Vegetation Character Areas. This included reviewing benchmarking of the canopy coverage within the different precincts.

3. Draft issues and opportunities paper

A range of potential key issues were identified. These include:

- Canopy vegetation cover on private land;
- Canopy vegetation cover on non-residential private land;
- Canopy vegetation cover on public land (street trees, public open space and other);
- Biodiversity values (waterway corridors, nature conservation reserves);
- Climate change impacts (including severe weather events) and urban heat island effect;
- Forecast population growth and change;
- Garden City Character in Monash;
- Current planning scheme controls; and
- Future planning scheme opportunities.

4. Two Internal workshops with Council staff

These workshops considered the draft Issues and Opportunities Paper and also provided input into the preparation of the draft Strategy.