



5 A green liveable city

Urban green cover is increased by 20% in metropolitan Adelaide by 2045

Urban tree cover refers to trees and shrubs located in street verges, parks and backyards. Such vegetation in urban landscapes is known to provide multiple economic, biophysical and social benefits including:

- maintenance of habitat for native fauna, which can include vulnerable or threatened species in fragmented urban landscapes
- reduction of the urban heat island effect
- air quality improvements
- stormwater management improvements through reductions in the extent of impervious surfaces
- provision of spaces for interaction, amenity and recreation, which improve community health and social well-being
- increased level of neighbourhood safety
- positive visual amenity for urban residents
- productive trees that can contribute to local food security.

Particular focus will be placed on ensuring that urban infill areas maintain appropriate levels of urban greenery.

This target will support the work being done by councils through their tree strategies which address biodiversity and quality of vegetation.

How this target will be measured

The target will be measured using software consistently applied to local council areas across the Adelaide metropolitan area.

It is recognised that councils currently have varying amounts of tree canopy cover. Therefore, the following is proposed:

- For council areas with less than 30% tree canopy cover currently, cover should be increased by 20% by 2045.
- For council areas with more than 30% tree canopy cover currently, this should be maintained to ensure no net loss by 2045.

Current status

An average of 27.28% of tree canopy cover across the local government areas was captured in the research undertaken in the national benchmarking report by the Institute of Sustainable Futures of the University of Technology Sydney in 2014.¹⁷ See Map 19 which illustrates the indicative urban green cover of 19 Greater Adelaide LGAs.

Future investigations

Further work is currently being undertaken to develop a finer grained baseline as well as baseline data for townships and outer metropolitan areas not included in Map 19. Consideration will also be given to expanding the scope of this target to include irrigated grass. This will be available in time for the first report card.

It is acknowledged that some councils are already undertaking further work in this area. Therefore an action has been included in the Plan to ensure consistency in the way that green canopies and other green infrastructure are measured.

Investigating ways to measure additional green infrastructure types (e.g. green walls, rain gardens and green roofs) will also be considered.

Map 19 — Existing urban green cover across metropolitan Adelaide (indicative)¹¹

