

Actions to 2027

Focus areas

We will build upon our existing achievements relating to bushland and biodiversity and work towards achieving our goals, commitments and aspirations. Our areas of focus for the next four years are:

1. manage public trees as essential assets to maintain canopy across public lands - streets and parks
2. increase the capacity of the community to participate and engage in public tree canopy and greening projects
3. monitor losses and gains in the canopy across the LGA and support the community to retain and protect the canopy
4. strengthen the local planning framework (e.g. LEP and DCP) to support retention, protection, replacement, and growth of private trees.

FA 1 Manage public trees as essential assets to maintain canopy across public lands - streets and parks

Table 2

Major Actions of focus area 1

Actions	Timing/Resourcing
1. Undertake an audit of public trees in priority areas e.g. Brookvale, Mona Vale etc. and develop and implement tree masterplans to assist with continuing to meet our tree canopy target of 56%	Year 1 & 2 Within existing operational budget
2. Implement an iconic public tree register that records the scientific, social, historic and aesthetic values of the Northern Beaches most significant trees	Year 2 Within existing operational budget
3. Implement a standard tree valuation methodology to guide decisions about the removal of trees	Year 1 Within existing operational budget
4. Continue sourcing trees, both local Indigenous and other species, for public tree works and preference local Indigenous species in biodiversity corridors	Ongoing Within existing operational budget
5. Continue with annual 5,000 trees public tree planting program which includes considering succession planting, avoiding overhead or underground infrastructure, proactive new tree maintenance programs and monitoring survival rates of new trees	Ongoing Within existing operational budget
6. Review the adopted species lists in the Public Space Vision and Design Guidelines to include high performing public trees, local Indigenous and climate resilient species to supplement the species identified within the Plant Species Vegetation Diversity Guide	Ongoing Within existing operational budget
7. Investigate the creation of carbon credits from our green infrastructure/ tree assets and implement any viable recommendations	Year 2 Within existing operational budget
8. Reduce exposure to UV radiation and the urban heat island effect by increasing the urban tree canopy and green cover, incorporating water sensitive urban design and improving infrastructure and building design	Year 2 Within existing operational budget

FA 2 Increase the capacity of the community to participate and engage in public tree canopy and greening projects

Table 3

Major Actions of focus area 2

Actions	Timing/Resourcing
1. Develop and implement a communication and engagement Plan to educate the community about canopy initiatives , including those outlined in the Actions below	Year 2 Within existing operational budget
2. Continue a nature strip planting program in partnership with residents	Ongoing Within existing operational budget
3. Continue tree giveaway programs to support canopy growth across the LGA via special events such as National Tree Day and market days where advice is provided, and young trees are given to the community to plant in their own gardens	Ongoing Within existing operational budget
4. Raise awareness about public tree planting programs	Year 2 Within existing operational budget
5. Investigate and promote recommended species lists for private trees and include climate tolerant endemic species in this list	Year 2 Within existing operational budget
6. Investigate further development and expansion of a virtual (online) arboretum which would allow people to view different plants and trees online	Year 2 Within existing operational budget
7. Continue to manage and support volunteers at our pseudoarboretums including Stony Range Botanical Garden at Dee Why, Ivanhoe Park Botanical Garden in Manly and the Palm Beach Bible Garden	Ongoing Within existing operational budget
8. Continue to manage our Bushcare program with over 400 volunteers who work at over 80 different sites throughout the Northern Beaches using plants from our community nursery program	Ongoing Within existing operational budget
9. Continue to manage our community nursery program which enlists the help of dedicated volunteers who propagate thousands of Indigenous plants, including rare species, from seed every year	Ongoing Within existing operational budget

FA 3 Monitor losses and gains in the canopy across the LGA and support the community to retain and protect canopy

Table 4

Major Actions of focus area 3

Actions	Timing/Resourcing
1. Measure tree canopy cover every 4 years , building on data from 2011/13 and 2019 as a baseline to quantify losses and gains over time	Year 1 Within existing operational budget
2. Create incentives for landowners to retain trees on private land (adapted from Bushland and Biodiversity Action Plan) to encourage the planting of canopy trees of sufficient scale to contribute to the diversity of the canopy on private land	Year 2 Within existing operational budget
3. Develop and implement a public awareness campaign about trees - public and private	Year 2 Within existing operational budget
4. Offset tree canopy loss by planting a minimum of two trees for any one tree removed from public land	Ongoing Within existing operational budget

FA 4 Strengthen the local planning framework to support retention, protection, replacement, and growth of private trees

Table 5

Major Actions of focus area 4

Actions	Timing/Resourcing
1. Address tree canopy through statutory (LEP) requirements for landscape open space, deep soil and floor space ratios. Statutory controls will be linked to DCP provisions for tree replacement ratios, planting rates, increased setbacks and other provisions such as excavation	Year 1 Within existing operational budget
2. Promote the importance of retention and protection of trees as part of the development application and tree removal application processes	Year 1 Within existing operational budget.
3. Investigate and act upon unauthorised activities that impact upon tree canopy such as illegal vegetation clearing, unauthorised recreational trails, and other environmental damage, and support Council's Compliance team to enforce penalties as required	Ongoing Within existing operational budget
4. Develop a replenishment/compensation tree planting program for private trees that considers the right tree replenishment (replacement) ratios and improves auditing of compliance with replenishment/ compensation tree planting permits	Ongoing Within existing operational budget
5. To continue with the erection of banners in response to illegally removed trees And offer rewards of up to \$10,000 for information that leads to a successful prosecution	Ongoing
6. Invest in planting advanced trees on public land where canopy cover is low in line with prioritisation matrix	Ongoing
7. Continue to work with Ausgrid on the feasibility on undergrounding and/ or the installation of aerial bundle cabling to allow for increased street tree planting opportunities. To implement there will need to be a financial contribution from Council as these works are currently unfunded	Ongoing