ACT Government
City and Environment

2025 Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory

Urban Tree Canopy Coverage

Assembly Resolution of 31 March 2025 - Fifth Update

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ACT Government
City and Environment

Contents

1.0 Executive Summary

On 29 March 2021, Government agreed to the final Urban Forest Strategy and its public release. This report provides an update on the key actions undertaken in 2024-25 to meet the objectives of the Strategy, including:

- The planting of 12,730 trees in the urban environment, including 6,998 trees planted in street verges and in open space as part of Urban Treescapes' planting program and 2,013 trees supplied by City Services in intergovernmental collaborations. An additional 3,719 young trees were planted as part of the development of new suburbs and urban infill upgrades which were handed over to City Services for ongoing management.
- The capture of updated LiDAR measurements to provide 2025 canopy coverage estimates across the urban footprint.
- The delivery of the ACT Urban Forest Condition Report, following the capturing of high resolution multi-spectral and thermal imagery in early 2024.
- The development of the Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) dataset to assess tree health across the city.
- The development of the Mature Tree Asset Renewal Plan to guide project planning for targeted remediation, removal and replacement of public trees as they decline and reach end of life.

City Services (a subunit of the City and Environment Directorate) continues to lead Government's effort to strive towards the Urban Forest Strategy target of a 30 per cent tree canopy cover in the ACT by the year 2045.

1.1 Definitions

The following terms used in this report have a specific, technical meaning:

Term/Acronym	Definition
GIS	Geographic Information Systems that create, store, manage, analyse, and map all types of data related to positions on the earth's surface.
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging. A remote sensing method using light to measure ranges to objects on the surface of the earth and accurately image the landscape in three dimensions.
TCC	Tree Canopy Cover. An estimate of tree canopy coverage as a percentage of total land area.
Urban footprint	This has been determined as the ACT Divisions area and includes all trees above three metres, on both public and leased land. Where data has referred to a District, these are only the Division areas within the District.

2.0 Background

2.1 Contribution of Actions in the Urban Forest Strategy

2.1.1 Community support for actions and objectives

The release of the Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045 (the Strategy) followed community engagement undertaken in 2020 to seek feedback on the vision, objectives and actions of the draft Strategy. Over 240 people, including interested community groups, had their say by completing a survey or providing a written submission.

The community was very supportive of the vision, objectives and actions of the Strategy, with 92% of respondents supporting the vision, 97% either fully or generally supportive of the objectives and seven of the nine actions in the Strategy highlighted by respondents as a key priority.

2.1.2 Contribution of actions

The Strategy has six key objectives to support a healthy, resilient and sustainable urban forest and achieve the 30% tree canopy cover (or equivalent benefit) target by 2045. Each objective is broken down into actions that provide a road map to guide government activities. These actions have been allocated a rating to reflect their potential contribution towards achieving the tree canopy target (Table 1):

- Major – key contributor to on-ground outcomes
- Moderate – provides direct support for on-ground actions
- Minor – cumulative on-ground impact that supports or complements other actions

Table 1 should be read in conjunction with the Strategy actions and status table (Appendix A) which outlines the progress made towards increased canopy cover in greater detail.

Activities that are underway in 2025 and beyond that will provide the largest contribution to achieve the canopy cover target are the continued tree planting, tree renewal and enhanced young tree care activities undertaken by City Services, as well as the increased protection of urban trees through the *Urban Forest Act 2023*.

These major contributors will be supported by increasing community partnerships and education, and planning planting programs to promote equitable canopy cover, increase tree species diversity and promote biodiversity. The actions are designed to interact with, complement, and enhance each other to achieve a comprehensive outcome.

Table 1 Contributions of Urban Forest Strategy actions towards the canopy cover target

Objective		Action	Contribution
Protect the Urban Forest	1.1.1	Maintain and promote the Tree Register (under the Tree Protection Act (TPA))	Minor
	1.2.1	Review and update the TPA to ensure the threshold for protecting trees is appropriate	Major
	1.2.2	Review and update the TPA criteria for removal of protected trees to ensure it aligns with community values and expectations	Major
	1.2.3	Review and update the TPA and Public Unleased Land Act (PULA) to ensure appropriate compliance mechanisms exist to deter illegal tree removals or damage to trees on leased and unleased land, and respond appropriately when they occur	Moderate
	1.3.1	Consider developing a program to ensure the health of mature and remnant trees on unleased land	Minor
	1.3.2	Review and update the PULA to require all developers to erect prescribed fencing to protect existing trees on public land from damage prior to demolition, excavation and/or construction on adjacent blocks	Moderate
	1.3.3	Investigate incentives and programs to better provide for maintenance and care of registered and remnant trees on leased land	Minor
	1.3.4	Program cultural site assessments with a view to developing cultural tree management plans	Minor
	1.4.1	Investigate and implement administrative and technological reforms to systems and processes for administration of the Tree Protection Act to ensure they are streamlined, transparent and efficient	Moderate
Grow a resilient forest	2.1.1	With reference to the 2010 audit, obtain updated data on the current canopy cover of the public urban forest to inform a replacement program	Moderate
	2.1.2	Develop a sustainable program of end-of-life tree removals and replacements for removed trees and existing planting gaps to maintain the urban forest, including best-practice after-care for new plantings	Major

	2.1.3	Develop a sustainable planting program to increase canopy cover equitably across the urban footprint by establishing sufficient additional trees to meet the canopy cover target over the life of the Strategy	Major
	2.2.1	Consider introducing a canopy contribution framework for trees on both public and private land that ensures that when trees must be removed and cannot be replaced on site, they are replaced elsewhere through a contribution based on the value of the tree at the time of assessment	Major
	2.2.2	Review PULA to consider a tree bond scheme for trees on public (unleased) land that discourages tree removal and damage through development	Moderate
	2.3.1	Promote and periodically update the preferred species planting guide to assist the community in understanding what trees to plant on leased land	Minor
	2.3.2	Publish and regularly review a list of climate resilient trees	Minor
Balance & diversify the urban forest	3.1.1	Direct initial prioritisation for new plantings to existing planting gaps and addressing the most vulnerable communities	Major
	3.1.2	Undertake regular LiDAR data capture and analysis every 5 years to enable effective monitoring and evaluation of canopy coverage and permeability across the urban footprint	Major
	3.1.3	Progressively map suburbs at risk of losing canopy due to ageing trees to inform a planned removal and replanting program	Major
	3.2.1	Consider use of spatial mapping and citizen science programs to help identify areas with low species diversity and inform future plantings	Moderate
	3.3.1	Plan planting programs to achieve a best practice age profile of the urban forest by 2045	Major
	3.3.2	Ensure yearly maintenance programs involve adequate removal and replacement of end-of-life trees to develop a balanced age distribution	Major
Take an ecological approach and	4.1.1	Map remnant trees in the urban area	Minor
	4.1.2	Assess senescent and ageing native trees for retention as habitat preferentially to being removed	Minor

support biodiversity	4.1.3	Collaborate with the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) to enhance and conserve biodiversity and eco-cultural values of urban areas (Nature Conservation Strategy – Strategy 4)	Minor
	4.1.4	Identify opportunities to protect young seedlings growing from mature remnant trees on unleased public land where it is appropriate	Major
	4.2.1	Implement strategic planting to support wildlife and enhance movement and foraging opportunities across the city and wider landscape	Major
	4.2.2	Collaborate with EPSDD to undertake fine scale planning for habitat connectivity (Nature Conservation Strategy - Action 1.2)	Moderate
	4.3.1	Develop an urban wood reuse plan for trees removed from public land	Minor
	4.3.2	Ensure by-product from maintenance of the urban forest is used to support tree health and biodiversity conservation including in habitat restoration programs and nature-based park features	Minor
Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest and liveability	5.1.1	Investigate and promote use of permeable infrastructure (e.g. shared and bike paths, paving and car parks) in target areas	Moderate
	5.1.2	Continue to promote positive community behaviour in relation to managing and protecting nature strips and other public areas	Minor
	5.2.1	Collaborate across ACT Government to increase tree numbers in priority areas (Action 11 of the Living Infrastructure Plan (LIP))	Major
	5.2.2	Focus public tree plantings to support summer shading along active travel routes (Action 12 of the LIP)	Major
	5.2.3	Where possible, seek to widen road verges in areas where densification is occurring and along key active travel routes to accommodate additional tree planting	Moderate
	5.2.4	Collaborate with EPSDD to amend planning regulations to ensure suitable protection of existing trees and the establishment of new trees when planning infrastructure in new suburbs and in urban densification areas	Major

	5.2.5	Collaborate with EPSDD on the Planning review and TPA review to ensure consistent and appropriate decision making for protected trees	Major
	5.2.6	Where appropriate, install and maintain rain gardens and swales for urban water run-off in tree and understorey planting areas in urban streetscape upgrades and new estate developments	Moderate
	5.2.7	Review municipal design standards to include specifications on urban rain gardens and/or urban stormwater swales as planting locations on verges and other locations	Minor
Partner with the community	6.1.1	Expand and support community / volunteer programs to encompass a wider range of contributions to grow and maintain the urban forest	Minor
	6.1.2	Develop and make available to volunteers a citizen science data collection program	Minor
	6.2.1	Investigate incentives for retention of trees on private land including through collaboration with planning authorities	Major
	6.3.1	Develop community education material to convey the benefits of trees	Minor
	6.3.2	Build Indigenous engagement in caring for the urban forest	Minor
	6.3.3	Consider ways to educate young people and how they can contribute to the urban forest	Minor

3.0 Contribution to Canberra's canopy cover

3.1 Updated LiDAR information

The monitoring of tree canopy cover (TCC) to achieve the 30% canopy cover by 2045 target across Canberra's urban footprint is being carried out at 5-year intervals through a Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis of LiDAR imagery.

The capture and analysis of TCC was undertaken in 2020 and 2025. The 2020 estimates established a baseline from which to measure tree canopy cover into the

future towards the 2045 target. The five-yearly TCC measurements enable identification of areas where tree canopy cover is low and prioritisation of planting in these areas to promote equitable tree canopy cover across Canberra. The next LiDAR capture is scheduled for 2030.

Between 2020 and 2025, improvements in LiDAR data resolution enabled more accurate identification of tree canopy across the urban footprint. The 2020 canopy coverage figure was recalculated to reflect updated statistical methods and the inclusion of new suburbs, such as Kenny, which slightly reduced the estimate due to its lower tree cover. However, enhanced data processing increased the 2020 TCC figure, resulting in a net adjustment from 22.5% to 22.7% canopy coverage across the urban footprint. These changes are minor and fall within the ±1% accuracy range, ensuring the results remain comparable across both time points.

In 2025, tree canopy coverage is estimated to be 21.8%, with an error margin of +/- 0.7%. This indicates a slight decrease in canopy cover across the urban footprint over the past five years.

Table 2 Canopy Cover Summary 2025

Land Type	% of urban area	Canopy 2025	Canopy 2020	Contribution to canopy cover in 2025
Leased	43%	**19%**	21%	**8%**
Unleased	57%	**24%**	23%	**14%**
		Total Canopy Cover 2025		**21.8%**

Tree canopy is measured for vegetation above 3m height, with all vegetation below 3m excluded from the analysis. As a result, trees planted since 2020 are likely to be too small to be captured in the 2025 TCC measurement. It is anticipated that the impact of the expanded City Services tree planting program on TCC will become apparent in the 2030 LiDAR capture.

Figure 1 maps the tree canopy cover changes across Canberra's suburbs as measured in 2020 and 2025.

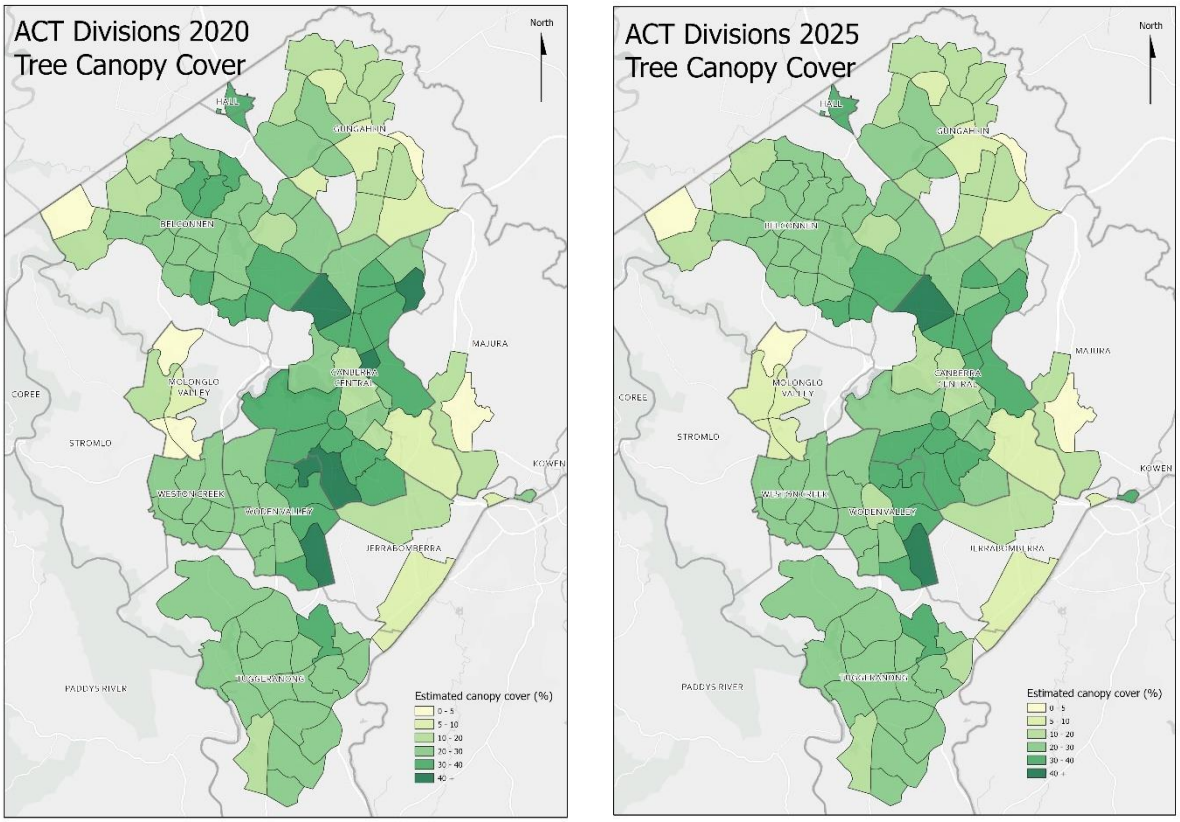


Figure 1 Comparison percentage tree canopy cover for each suburb/division over urban Canberra in 2020 and 2025 (Source: ACT Government, 2025)

3.2 District canopy cover

The reasons for differing levels of canopy cover vary by district or region. Newer suburbs like Denman Prospect, Whitlam, Macnamara, Taylor and Throsby have very low levels of canopy cover as the trees in this area are still young. Suburbs that are a little older, such as Crace, Moncrieff, Coombs and Wright also have very low TCC but show a steady increase since 2020 estimates. Failed juvenile trees are replaced as required, and any additional available planting sites are being populated to ensure the maximum canopy potential is establishing in newer suburbs. Alternative location-specific solutions such as living infrastructure (green roofs for example) will also aid newer suburbs where planting sites are limited, particularly on leased land.

Older suburbs are more likely to have higher canopy cover because the blocks and road verges are larger and the trees more established. Canberra's urban forest was established over many decades, with a significant number of these trees having been identified in the 2025 ACT Urban Forest Condition Report as in decline. These trees will require removal and replacement in the coming decades.

Canopy cover in these areas may also be significantly affected by planning decisions that enable urban infill, resulting in a loss of mature trees on leased land and adverse impacts to street trees on public land.

To develop a best-practice age class distribution essential for future tree population stability it is necessary to:

- replace trees as they are removed - this will prevent rapid canopy loss due to the time taken by new plantings to reach their potential canopy size;
- enact renewal (removal and replacement of dead and dying trees) in a staged process to prevent the loss of an entire street's canopy at one time;
- continue the renewal of trees in heritage parks and places as they decline; and
- explore opportunities to increase canopy in open spaces, such as major & secondary road medians and verges to offset predicted canopy reduction due to removal of ageing street trees and impacts of removals for infill development.

Tree canopy cover was measured in 2025 using the LiDAR remote sensing method. Table 3 shows the percentage of canopy coverage across each district as measured in 2025.

The 2025 tree canopy cover estimates in Figure 2 and Table 3 are a reliable baseline for consideration of existing canopy cover in Canberra. The districts with the highest canopy cover are Hall Village (38.84%), Woden Valley (30.16%), Canberra Central (27.19%), Weston Creek (25.07%), Tuggeranong (23.81%) and Belconnen (23.43%). The districts with the lowest canopy cover are Gungahlin (14.53%), Coree (11.13%), Majura (9.21%), and Molonglo Valley (6.16%).

Several early trends can be observed from comparison of the 2020 and 2025 TCC measurements. The data shows that canopy cover has increased on unleased land from 23% in 2020 to 24% in 2025, while canopy cover on leased land decreased from 21% to 19%. The increase on public land may be attributed to the growth of young trees planted in streets and parks in newly established suburbs. Conversely, the decline of TCC on leased land, and also observed across older divisions, may reflect the impacts of urban densification and the lack of tree planting space available on smaller blocks typical in more newly established suburbs in the Gungahlin, Molonglo Valley and West Belconnen districts.

Table 3 District canopy cover % of total land area in 2025

District	2020 canopy cover % total land area*	2025 canopy cover % total land area^	Change in canopy cover %, 2020-2025
Belconnen	24.47	23.43	-1.04
Canberra Central	28.54	27.19	-1.35
Coree	9.28	11.13	1.85
Gungahlin	13.82	14.53	0.71
Hall	41.57	38.84	-2.74
Jerrabomberra	10.74	10.09	-0.65
Majura	8.84	9.21	0.37
Molonglo Valley	8.72	6.16	-2.56
Paddys River	19.69	19.4	-0.3
Tuggeranong	25.13	23.81	-1.33
Weston Creek	26.16	25.07	-1.09
Woden Valley	31.72	30.16	-1.56
Overall canopy cover	**22.71%**	**21.79**	**-0.92**

*District figures have been updated to reflect the same urban footprint as the 2025 data set.

^2025 lidar data is higher resolution, capturing at 0.5m intervals, in comparison to 2020 data captured at 1m intervals. 2025 data, therefore, has a lower margin of error.

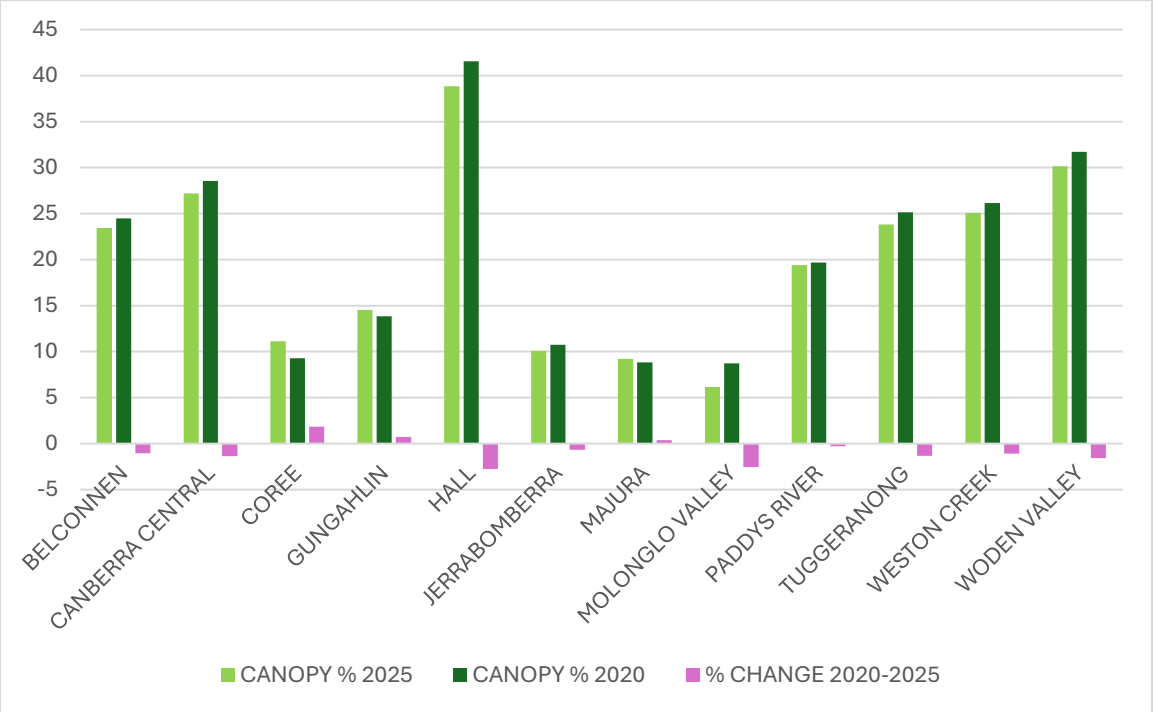


Figure 2 Canopy cover % change 2020 - 2025, of total land area per district

3.3 Changes in existing suburb canopy cover

Of Canberra's 121 suburbs (also called divisions), 92 experienced a reduction in canopy cover from 2020 - 2025, with a median loss of 1.59% across these. Significant reductions were seen in Denman Prospect (8.7%), Weetangera (4.15%), Fisher (3.45%), with further reductions of 2.4-2.89% seen in Torrens, Ainslie, Hackett, Downer, Hawker, Jacka, Flynn, Scullin and Fadden.

Twenty-four of Canberra's 121 suburbs have a tree canopy coverage higher than the 30% target; with an additional 59 suburbs hosting a canopy cover between 20% and 30%.

The suburbs with higher canopy coverage are generally found in Canberra's older suburbs developed prior to the 1990's. Interestingly, TCC is generally declining in almost all of the older suburbs with canopy near or above 30%, likely as a result of trees being removed to facilitate urban densification. In fact, the suburbs with the highest TCC showed some of the highest decreases in TCC. For example, Isaacs, O'Connor, Reid and Red Hill all have a TCC above 39% and respectively showed a reduction of 2.15%, 2.17%, 2.39% and 2.03%. Weetangera showed the largest decrease in TCC of established suburbs, with a TCC decrease of 4.15% to 27.23%. Only three suburbs with a TCC greater than 25% showed an increase in canopy over the past five years; Oaks Estate (2.17% increase), Duffy (0.84% increase), and Capital Hill (0.53% increase).

Twenty-seven suburbs have a canopy cover of less than 15% as shown in Figure 4. Over half of these suburbs were developed within the last 15 years and canopy cover is expected to increase as the trees planted at development reach maturity. This is supported by the change in canopy from 2020 - 2025, with suburbs developed over the last 15 years predominantly showing a trend of increasing canopy cover, e.g., Franklin, Crace, Forde, Bonner, Wright and Coombs Figure 3.

Of Canberra' 121 suburbs:

- 66 suburbs experienced a decrease in canopy cover greater than 1%, including 30 suburbs with a decline of more than 2%.
- 13 suburbs saw an increase in canopy cover greater than 1%. Of these, only two suburbs have an estimated TCC above 15%, Duffy (25.42%) and Casey (15.84%).
- 42 suburbs showed relatively minimal change, with less than 1% TCC variation.

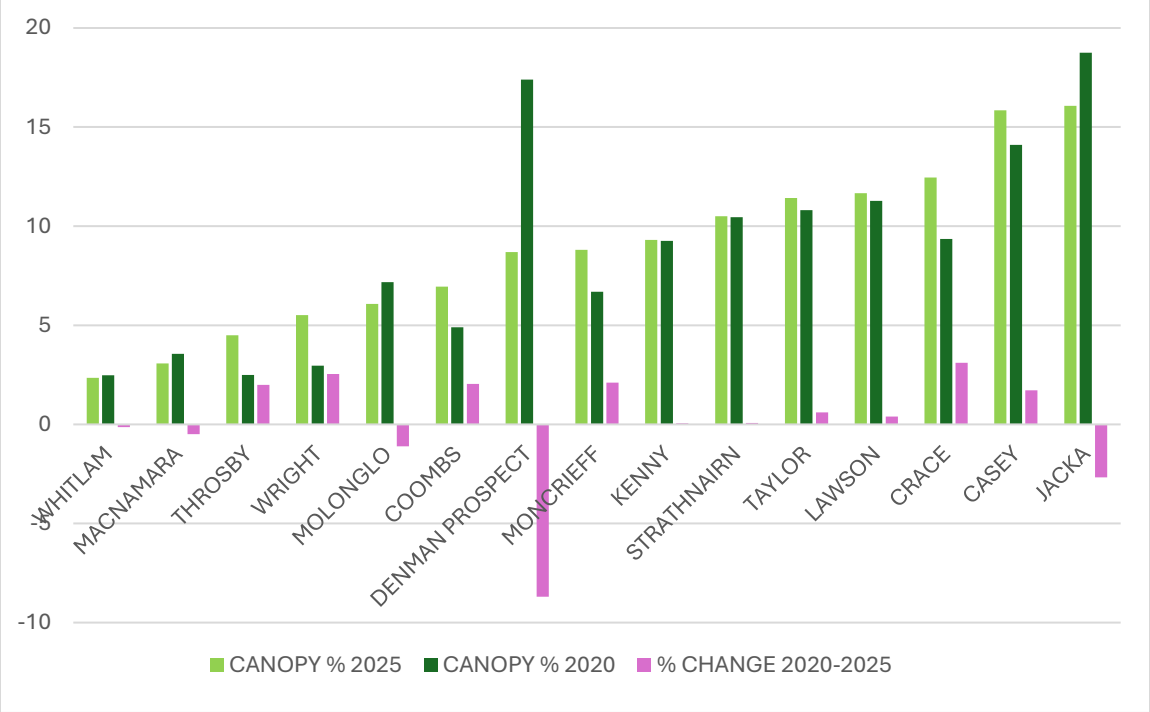


Figure 3 Canopy cover % change 2020 - 2025, in suburbs developed 2010 - 2025

Image 1 Planting in Denman Prospect

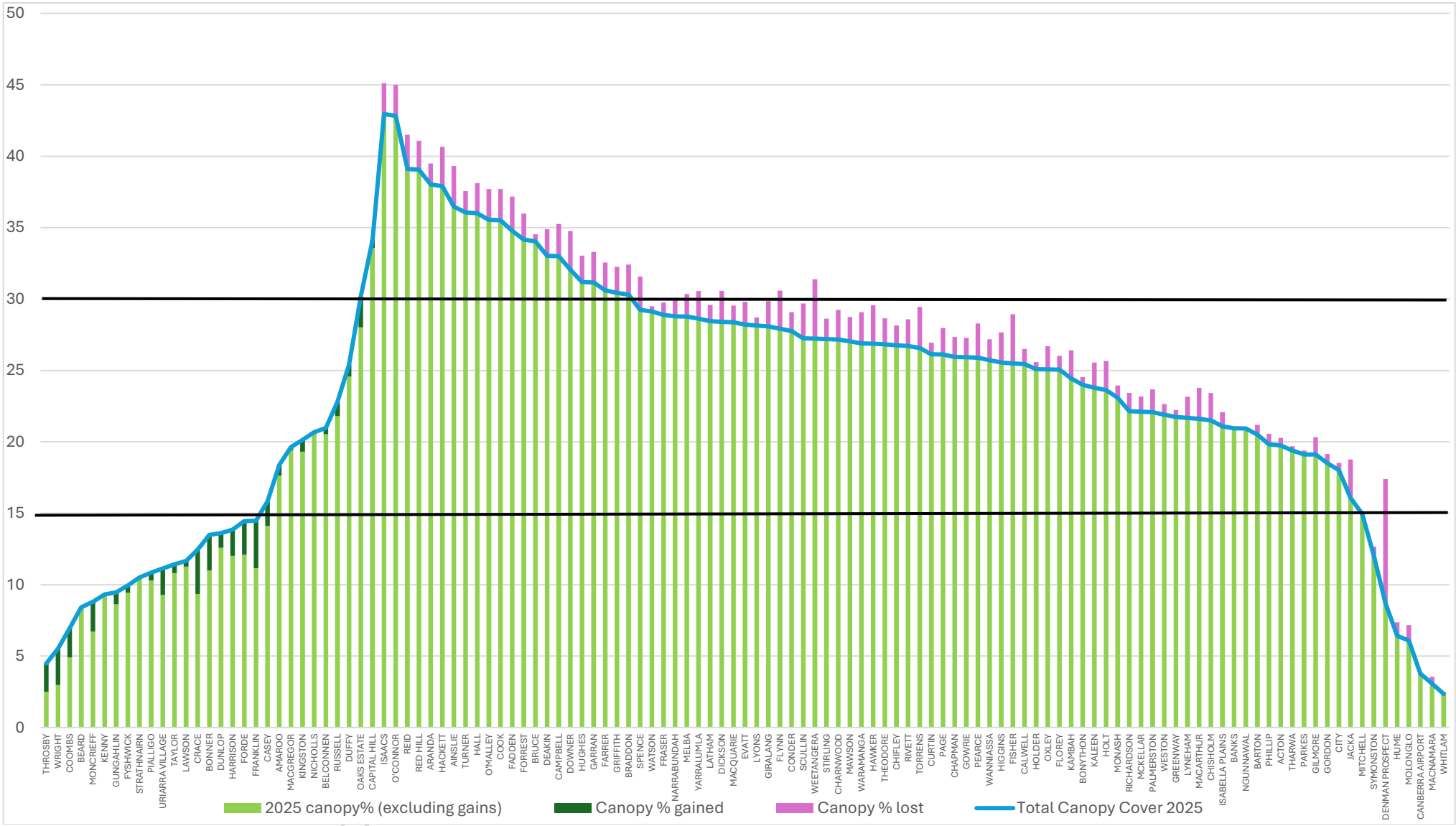


Figure 4 2025 Tree canopy cover (including gain and loss) for each suburb/division in urban Canberra

3.4 Suburbs/divisions identified for priority action

3.4.1 Identified suburbs affected by heat and vulnerability

Suburbs where residents are more vulnerable to heat have been identified using surface temperature and socio-economic and age data given in the 2017 CSIRO *Mapping surface urban heat in Canberra* report. The aggregated vulnerability scores include people older than 65 years, people younger than 5 years, and low-income households. The Urban Forest Strategy contains detailed maps that show the areas where heat impacts are likely to be highest.

There is an inverse correlation between the 2025 tree canopy coverage across suburbs and vulnerability to urban heat shown in Figure 5 and Table 4 below. The suburbs with the highest canopy coverage, such as Isaacs, O'Connor, Reid and Red Hill are cooler and have a lower vulnerability to urban heat, while suburbs such as Throsby, Canberra Airport, Macnamara and Whitlam have very low canopy cover and high vulnerability to urban heat.

The expanded City Services planting program is informed by data on canopy cover from 2020, and urban heat and social vulnerability data provided by the CSIRO report. As a result, planting has focused on filling gaps, particularly in residential streets in areas vulnerable to heat, with low levels of tree canopy cover and where canopy levels are decreasing due to trees reaching the end of their life and urban infill. In these locations, priority has been given to public requests for new street trees and planting along active travel routes, consistent with actions in the Strategy.

While priority is given to planting in locations with greater vulnerability to urban heat during the planning of the seasonal planting programs, the planting statistics for these locations are impacted by the way the vulnerability mapping has been carried out. The heat vulnerability mapping relates primarily to residential zoned land and the mapping extends only to the road centreline. This often results in the capture of one side of the road verge but excludes the opposite verge where there are no residential zones, or where the socio-economic and age demographic of residents is considered less vulnerable. As a result, areas such as adjacent parks, active travel routes and connections to local shops, schools and other community facilities are not captured in the heat vulnerability maps. Despite this, priority is given to planting in all suitable locations in and adjacent to vulnerable areas.

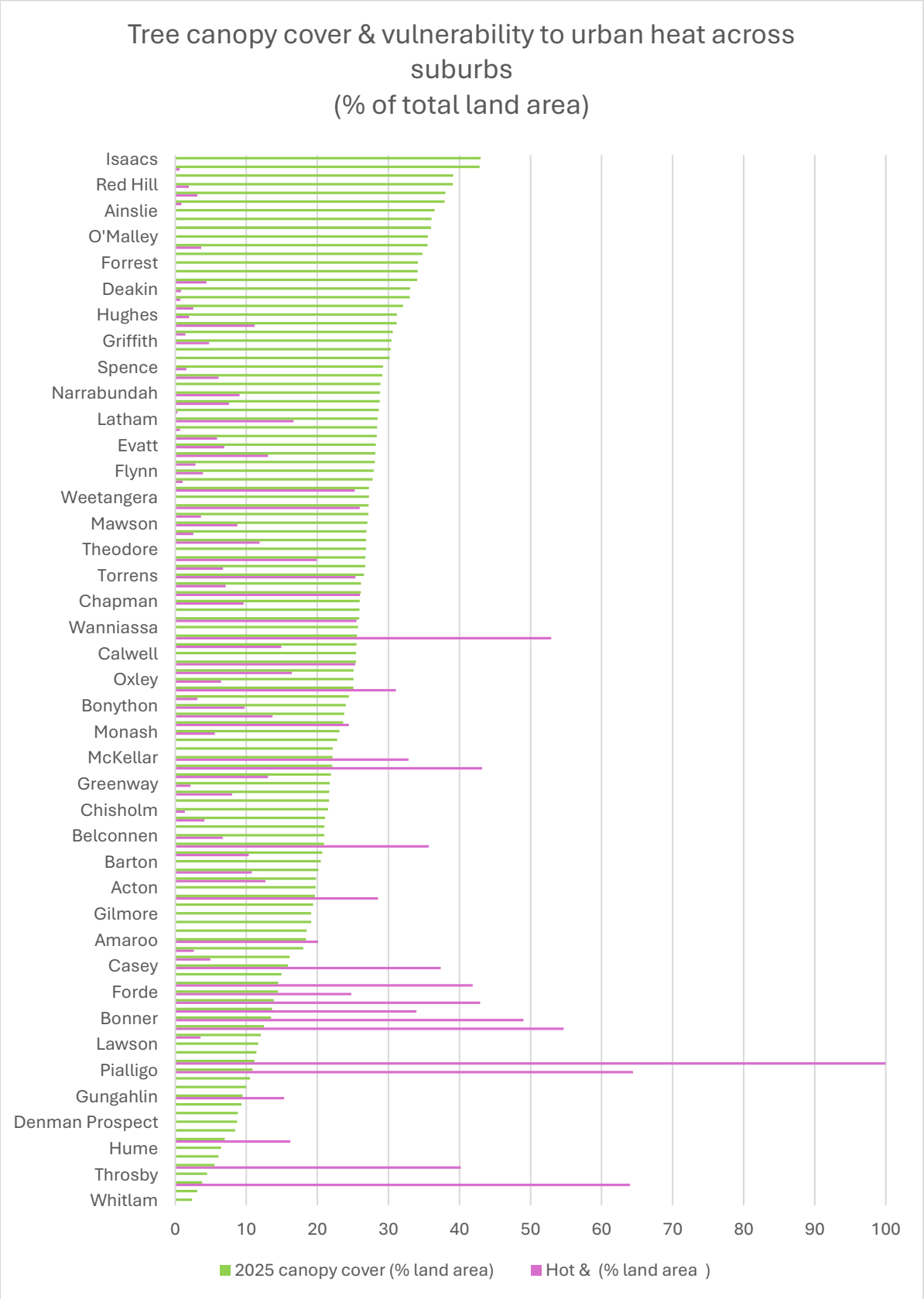


Figure 5 2025 Canopy cover and hot & vulnerability index

Table 4 2025 Canopy cover and vulnerability index

District name	Suburb (Division)	2025 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Woden Valley	Isaacs	42.96	0.00
Canberra Central	O'Connor	42.82	0.62
Canberra Central	Reid	39.11	0.00
Canberra Central	Red Hill	39.05	1.90
Belconnen	Aranda	38.03	3.12
Canberra Central	Hackett	37.90	0.87
Canberra Central	Ainslie	36.47	0.00
Canberra Central	Turner	36.06	0.00
Hall	Hall	36.01	0.00
Woden Valley	O'Malley	35.55	0.00
Belconnen	Cook	35.51	3.64
Tuggeranong	Fadden	34.78	0.00
Canberra Central	Forrest	34.16	0.00
Canberra Central	Capital Hill	34.12	0.00
Belconnen	Bruce	34.04	4.38
Canberra Central	Deakin	33.02	0.82
Canberra Central	Campbell	33.01	0.70
Canberra Central	Downer	32.05	2.52
Woden Valley	Hughes	31.19	1.93
Woden Valley	Garran	31.16	11.17
Woden Valley	Farrer	30.60	1.42
Canberra Central	Griffith	30.43	4.77

District name	Suburb (Division)	2025 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Canberra Central	Braddon	30.30	0.00
Jerrabomberra	Oaks Estate	30.19	0.00
Belconnen	Spence	29.25	1.55
Canberra Central	Watson	29.13	6.09
Belconnen	Fraser	28.89	0.00
Canberra Central	Narrabundah	28.80	9.04
Belconnen	Melba	28.78	7.55
Canberra Central	Yarralumla	28.64	0.29
Belconnen	Latham	28.45	16.64
Canberra Central	Dickson	28.41	0.65
Belconnen	Macquarie	28.37	5.89
Belconnen	Evatt	28.21	6.88
Woden Valley	Lyons	28.15	13.04
Belconnen	Giralang	28.08	2.84
Belconnen	Flynn	27.93	3.88
Tuggeranong	Conder	27.76	1.03
Belconnen	Scullin	27.25	25.25
Belconnen	Weetangera	27.23	0.00
Weston Creek	Stirling	27.20	25.96
Belconnen	Charnwood	27.16	3.61
Woden Valley	Mawson	27.03	8.75
Weston Creek	Waramanga	26.90	2.54
Belconnen	Hawker	26.87	11.87

District name	Suburb (Division)	2025 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Tuggeranong	Theodore	26.83	0.00
Woden Valley	Chifley	26.77	19.91
Weston Creek	Rivett	26.72	6.71
Woden Valley	Torrens	26.56	25.35
Woden Valley	Curtin	26.14	7.08
Belconnen	Page	26.12	26.00
Weston Creek	Chapman	25.94	9.59
Tuggeranong	Gowrie	25.93	0.00
Woden Valley	Pearce	25.89	25.52
Tuggeranong	Wanniassa	25.72	0.00
Belconnen	Higgins	25.56	52.92
Weston Creek	Fisher	25.49	14.89
Tuggeranong	Calwell	25.44	0.00
Weston Creek	Duffy	25.42	25.34
Weston Creek	Holder	25.09	16.39
Tuggeranong	Oxley	25.07	6.44
Belconnen	Florey	25.06	31.03
Tuggeranong	Kambah	24.44	3.12
Tuggeranong	Bonython	23.99	9.75
Belconnen	Kaleen	23.78	13.70
Belconnen	Holt	23.63	24.44
Tuggeranong	Monash	23.09	5.57
Canberra Central	Russell	22.79	0.00

District name	Suburb (Division)	2025 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Tuggeranong	Richardson	22.14	0.00
Belconnen	McKellar	22.12	32.81
Gungahlin	Palmerston	22.08	43.17
Weston Creek	Weston	21.91	13.04
Tuggeranong	Greenway	21.74	2.16
Canberra Central	Lyneham	21.67	8.01
Tuggeranong	Macarthur	21.62	0.00
Tuggeranong	Chisholm	21.51	1.33
Tuggeranong	Isabella Plains	21.09	4.08
Belconnen	Belconnen	20.96	6.66
Tuggeranong	Banks	20.96	0.00
Gungahlin	Ngunnawal	20.94	35.69
Gungahlin	Nicholls	20.68	10.33
Canberra Central	Barton	20.50	0.00
Canberra Central	Kingston	20.14	10.76
Woden Valley	Phillip	19.83	12.67
Canberra Central	Acton	19.75	0.02
Belconnen	Macgregor	19.64	28.53
Paddys River	Tharwa	19.40	0.00
Canberra Central	Parkes	19.12	0.00
Tuggeranong	Gilmore	19.12	0.00
Tuggeranong	Gordon	18.51	0.00
Gungahlin	Amaroo	18.38	20.09

District name	Suburb (Division)	2025 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Canberra Central	City	18.02	2.59
Gungahlin	Jacka	16.08	4.92
Gungahlin	Casey	15.84	37.35
Gungahlin	Mitchell	14.95	0.00
Gungahlin	Franklin	14.49	41.85
Gungahlin	Forde	14.45	24.76
Gungahlin	Harrison	13.85	42.89
Belconnen	Dunlop	13.61	33.94
Gungahlin	Bonner	13.48	49.00
Gungahlin	Crace	12.45	54.64
Jerrabomberra	Symonston	12.05	3.53
Belconnen	Lawson	11.67	0.01
Gungahlin	Taylor	11.42	0.00
Coree	Uriarra Village	11.13	99.98
Majura	Pialligo	10.85	64.41
Belconnen	Strathnairn	10.51	0.00
Canberra Central	Fyshwick	9.94	0.00
Gungahlin	Gungahlin	9.46	15.33
Gungahlin	Kenny	9.31	0.01
Gungahlin	Moncrieff	8.81	0.03
Molonglo Valley	Denman Prospect	8.70	0.00
Jerrabomberra	Beard	8.42	0.00

District name	Suburb (Division)	2025 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Molonglo Valley	Coombs	6.95	16.21
Jerrabomberra	Hume	6.42	0.00
Molonglo Valley	Molonglo	6.08	0.00
Molonglo Valley	Wright	5.52	40.19
Gungahlin	Throsby	4.49	0.00
Majura	Canberra Airport	3.77	64.01
Belconnen	Macnamara	3.07	0.00
Molonglo Valley	Whitlam	2.35	0.00

4.0 Protect the Urban Forest

4.1 Urban Forest Act 2023

The *Urban Forest Act 2023* (the Act) repealed and replaced the *Tree Protection Act 2005* in January 2024, improving tree protection on both public and private land and encouraging shared care of trees by the ACT Government, industry and the community.

The Act focuses on:

- supporting the 30% tree canopy target, ensuring that when trees are approved for removal, they are replaced through new planting. Where new planting is not possible, a financial contribution will be required which will go towards growing, supporting, and maintaining trees elsewhere in the urban forest.
- protecting trees on leased land, including dead native trees to retain significant habitat elements and protecting trees of any size located on public land.
- sustaining and protecting trees through bonds and compliance mechanisms, to prevent damage during construction work as our city continues to grow.
- Recognising biodiversity and wellbeing through the ACT Tree Register, celebrating and protecting our most significant trees.

The Act provided a significant step forward in environmental management and climate change adaptation in the ACT and supports the 30% canopy cover target under the ACT Climate Change Strategy and Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan. The ongoing enforcement of the Act will enhance the liveability of the ACT and protect the health of the community by preventing environmental degradation.

A 2024 election commitment was to bring forward the review of the Act based on feedback from community and industry to the beginning of 2025, with the objective of improving the application process and operation of the Act. This review is underway.

4.2 Loss of Mature Native Trees Key Threatening Process Action Plan

The provision of habitat and resources for wildlife including threatened species and ecosystems, mature native trees and culturally significant trees is addressed in the Strategy. The loss of mature native trees (including hollow-bearing trees) and a lack of recruitment was added to the List of Key Threatening Processes in September 2018, replaced by Notifiable Instrument—*Nature Conservation Key Threatening Processes List 2019* NI2019-822 in December 2019, with the addition of the unnatural fragmentation of habitats as a threatening process, under section 87 of the Nature Conservation Act 2014 (NC Act). The associated Conservation Advice is Notifiable Instrument NI2018–536.

City Services has supported the Office of Nature Conservation in the development of the *Nature Conservation (Loss of Mature Native Trees Key Threatening Process) Action Plan 2023* (Disallowable Instrument DI2023-230). This Action Plan identifies the actions to protect and enhance the ecological context of existing mature native trees as well as protect and increase recruitment and survival of young native trees. While these actions predominantly relate to the significant proportion of ACT land in formal reserves, there remains an imperative to address native trees in the urban environment under management by City Services.

City Services continues to support the Office of Nature Conservation in developing and facilitating the Implementation Plan to achieve the identified Action Plan objectives. Relevant actions for City Services include:

- Regulated tree criteria to capture ecological importance, including for dead standing trees with habitat value. *This was addressed through the Urban Forest Act 2023.*

- Increased monitoring and compliance efforts for breaches of the Act. *City Services continue to monitor, record and address breaches, however, increased compliance activities require funding to implement.*
- Native tree retention policy including incorporating ecological values into tree (and tree risk) assessments. *Currently being investigated and incorporated into directorate activities.*
- Identify and map remnant and mature native trees. *An Urban Forest Condition Report was completed in late 2024-25. An internal analysis on the report will be further developed into the Mature Tree Asset Renewal Plan; whilst not developed explicitly for native trees, this will provide a valuable source of information to further analyse and aid in identifying locations of large native trees and their condition.*
- Retain higher proportions of mature native trees in new developments. *City Services, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna and Office of Nature Conservation are currently incorporating this into business activities, supported by the Urban Forest Act 2023* and *Nature Conservation Act 2013.*
- Plant more trees in urban open spaces, reserves, and greenfield development. *City Services is continuing planting programs to address this*.
- Facilitate artificial hollow creation in/on existing trees. *Urban Treescapes have the tools and training to undertake this work and continue to collaborate with the Office of Nature Conservation on best-practice application.*
- Update the Municipal Infrastructure Standards (MIS) and other planning documents to encourage planting of local native tree species. *An update of MIS 25: Plant species for urban landscapes, is currently underway — focusing on opportunities to increase canopy cover and permeable surface on public urban land in conjunction with a thorough review of the plant species list.*
- Undertake complementary understorey landscaping to protect existing mature and young native trees. *Identified as an action for use of funding through the Canopy Contribution Framework.*
- Improve conditions for mature and young native trees through additional watering in extended dry periods. *Identified as an action for use of funding through the Canopy Contribution Framework.*

5.0 Grow a resilient forest

5.1 Tree planting

City Services continues to strive towards the Urban Forest Strategy target of a 30 per cent tree canopy cover in the ACT by the year 2045. To help grow canopy across the city, City Services committed to planting 54,000 trees between July 2020 and June 2024 (Figure 6). The Urban Treescapes tree planting program planted or directed the planting of 52,130 trees to meet this target during that period. With 13,110 trees also planted on unleased land as part of the development of new suburbs and urban infill upgrades which were handed over to City Services for ongoing management, this brought the total to 65,240 trees planted from July 2020 to June 2024.

An additional 4,000 trees were planted between May and June 2020 as part of the COVID-19 stimulus plan in the lead up to the 54,000 tree target.

In 2024-25, 9,011 trees were planted in the urban environment through the City Services annual program, including 6,998 trees planted in street verges and in open space as part of Urban Treescapes' planting program and 2,013 trees supplied by City Services in intergovernmental collaborations.

2024-25 also saw 3,719 young trees planted as part of the development of new suburbs and urban infill upgrades which were handed over to City Services for ongoing management. This increased the number of trees planted on unleased land to 12,730 within the 2024-25 financial year.

Plantings from the last 8 years are shown in Figure 6, including planting on unleased land undertaken by other ACT Government agencies.

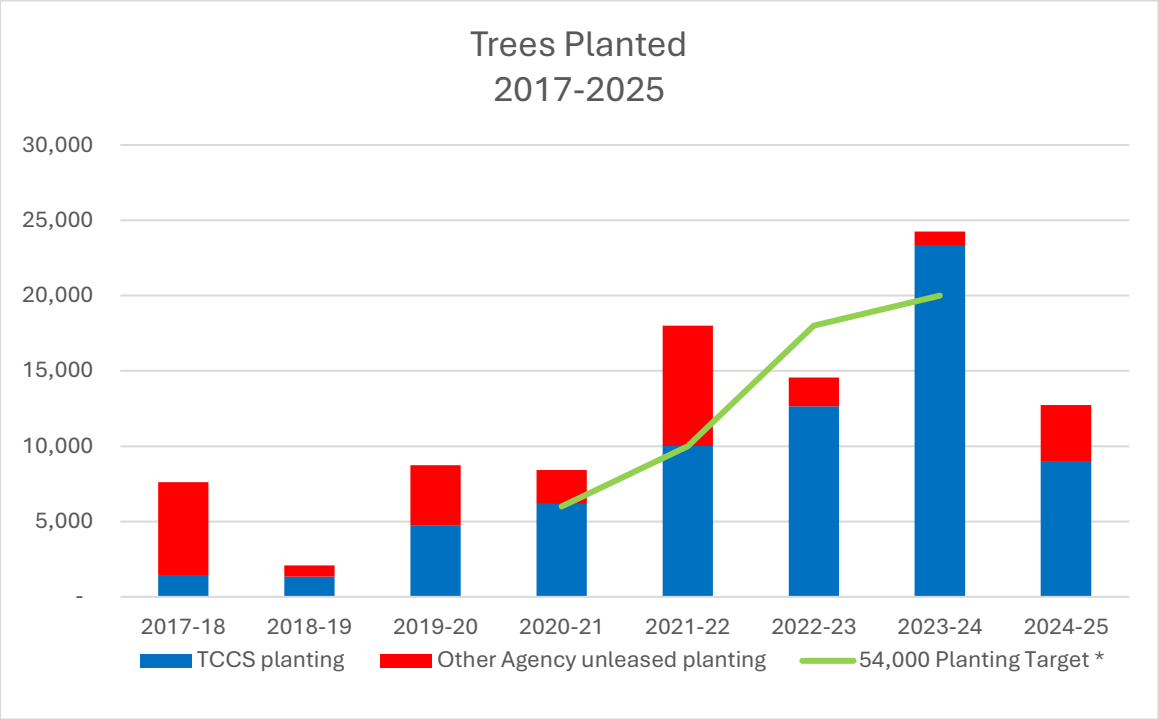


Figure 6 Trees planted from 2017-18 to 2024-25

*The 54,000 planting target was applicable only between 2020-21 and 2023-24

A continued focus has been placed on planting in residential areas with low canopy cover and areas vulnerable to urban heat continued, with 782 trees planted in 2024-25 in residential neighbourhoods identified as having high heat exposure and high vulnerability to heat as a population. This figure excludes a significant number of trees planted adjacent to the mapped vulnerable areas that provide cooling benefits and sheltered passages connecting residences to community services.

182 public suggestions for tree planting locations were received through the YourSay interactive map in 2024-25 and 305 trees were planted on suitable sites in response. Since the YourSay interactive map was launched in late 2019, a total of 5,654 tree planting location requests have been received and 5,619 trees have been planted in response to YourSay requests.

A total of 1,955 trees were agreed to be planted as on-site canopy contributions in 2024-25, which provides applicants 18 months from the date of the canopy contribution agreement to plant the agreed trees on the land where the initial tree was removed from.

Intergovernmental collaboration

Urban Treescapes collaborated with the Education Directorate and internally with CED Place Management to regenerate heritage parks and school playgrounds to increase canopy cover across the urban footprint. These programs were varied in their scope and specific requirements to increase canopy cover across their areas of responsibility.

Urban Treescapes continued its collaboration with the Education Directorate with the Shade our Play initiative to increase canopy cover within school grounds and saw Urban Treescapes provide 1,209 trees which were planted in 28 Primary & Secondary schools across the urban footprint.

In co-operation with Place Management, work continued with the removal and renewal of dead and dying trees within heritage parks and places across the city, with 35 new plantings at the Chinese Gardens in Nara Park and Lennox Gardens in Yarralumla. A further 804 trees were provided to schools and the community as part of Wattle Day 2024 celebrations.

5.1.1 City Services tree planting

A total of 6,998 trees were planted across Canberra by Urban Treescapes' in 2024-25, including 2,826 planted by the inhouse planting team and 3,520 planted by contractors. The inhouse team also supported community groups to plant 650 trees across all districts of Canberra and two trees were provided for a resident planting on their nature strip.

The inhouse planting team was permanently increased in July 2025 to provide greater flexibility and capacity to meet planting targets, provide increased watering services, and respond to the growing young tree maintenance needs. The expanded in-house team ensures that Urban Treescapes can provide a broader program of community volunteer support and tree care to increase the health and vitality of both the existing and projected tree canopy across the city.

Image 2 Planting in Throsby

The inhouse team continued to prioritise planting in locations with the greatest impact for the community and to support biodiversity. This includes targeting planting at playgrounds, along walking and cycling paths, in roadside shelterbelts and road medians where tree cover has declined, and to create 'stepping stones' to connect wildlife corridors and provide essential habitat for native wildlife. Example projects include Calwell Oval, Erindale Drive, Monash, Tharwa Drive, Gordon and Khull Crescent Kambah. Sites selected to strengthen habitat connectivity include areas adjacent to Hughes Primary School, Curlewis Crescent, Garran, Gurrang Avenue open space and Sutherland Crescent Taylor. Special projects included Weston Park heritage tree replacements, John Gorton Drive, Molonglo street tree replacements and Gungahlin town centre plantings.

5.1.2 Watering and young tree care

In 2024-25, over 48,000 trees were watered across Canberra with most of those re-mulched, weeded, formatively pruned, and tree stakes and guards re-installed or removed through the inhouse watering and young tree care programs in 2024-25.

Priority was placed on caring for recently planted trees and targeted maintenance of trees along walking and cycling paths and in public parks, including maintenance of high value trees such as the those in City Hill, Nara Park, and Telopea Park. Particular attention was also given to supporting young trees in the Mitchell, Fyshwick, Hume, Symonston, and Beard industrial estates. Such industrial locations are a major source of urban heat due to low canopy cover and extensive impermeable surfaces and are challenging environments in which to successfully establish new trees.

In addition, the team attended newly developed suburbs of Taylor and Throsby. Young tree care in these suburbs is critical as they move from developer consolidation periods to being under City Services care, with trees more vulnerable in such suburbs due to urban stresses.

Image 3 Watering in Mawson

5.1.3 Rejections of street tree planting

Street tree planting rejections continue to challenge the delivery of City Services' tree planting program. The program received 537 refusals from residents, with 284 in Spring 2024, and 253 in Autumn 2025. The refusals occur particularly in suburbs with low canopy cover and increased areas of vulnerability to urban heat. This can be due to narrow streets and verges, cul de sacs or steep and smaller blocks or dual occupancies where space for resident parking is limited.

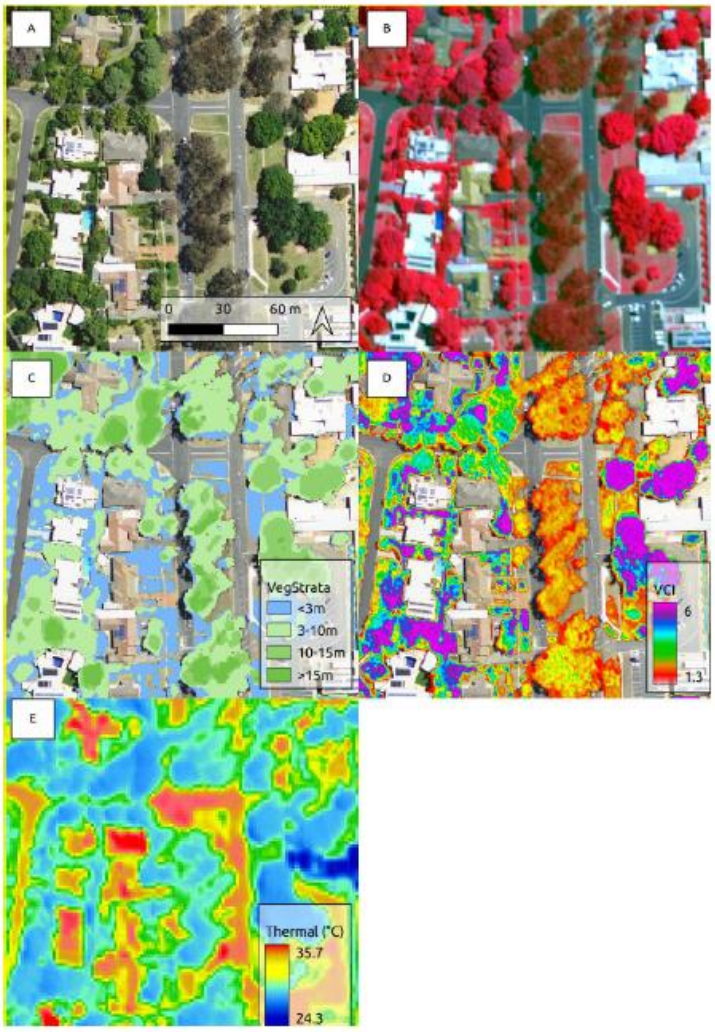
Refusals double the efforts of the City Services team, as an alternative location must be programmed to enable the planting can still occur, including all the pre-planting checks that must be undertaken. Resident feedback occurs after planting notification letters are received and later at the time of planting, with the primary reason for refusing a planting being parking concerns. Recent refusal patterns have not shown any trends associated with exotic or native tree species.

5.2 Tree care and maintenance

5.2.1 ACT Tree condition audit

To support evidence-based planning and management of Canberra's urban forest, a Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) dataset has been developed to assess tree health across the city (Figure 7). The VCI is a scientifically validated measure derived from high-resolution multispectral and thermal imagery that is sensitive to tree crown stress, including leaf health and canopy density. To improve the accuracy of this remotely sensed data, ground-based visual tree assessments will be undertaken by City Services' staff. A Mature Tree Asset Renewal Plan has been developed to guide planning for future

tree maintenance and renewal works. The VCI dataset will also serve as a baseline for monitoring changes in urban forest condition over time.



A) High-resolution 3-band RGB.

B) False Colour Composite showing vegetation in red, derived from the green, red and NIR bands.

C) Height-stratified vegetation cover, with each stratum displayed as a different colour (blue <3m; light green 3-10m; green 10-15m; dark green >15m).

D) Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) scaled from low VCI (red, 1.3) through to high VCI (magenta, 6.0).

E) Surface temperature in degrees Celsius colour-scaled from low temperature (blue, 24.3°C) to high temperature (red, 35.7°C).

Figure 7 Detailed image of each of the ArborCam-derived datasets.

5.2.2 Site remediation pilot project

Soil compaction in the urban environment is a widespread problem which can significantly reduce the health and life expectancy of urban trees. In 2024-25 City Services concluded a trial to measure the efficacy of treatment measures designed to boost the health of mature street trees adversely impacted by soil compaction.

Six Algerian oaks (*Quercus canariensis*) on the nature strip adjacent to the Mount Majura Primary School in Watson were identified as being in poorer health than other trees within the street; showing signs of significant tip dieback and reduced canopy density. It was observed that the soil surrounding the stressed trees was largely devoid of ground cover and highly compacted due to frequent foot traffic and a history of unauthorised verge parking.

An innovative method, the VOGT Geo Injector, was trialled to address soil compaction and improve soil health to prevent water shedding away from tree root zones, and improve tree's access to water, oxygen and nutrients. The injector uses regulated air pressure to create horizontal and vertical fissures outside the structural root zone to loosen and aerate soil and create space for soil improvement additives.

A detailed soil analysis was undertaken to measure soil characteristics and compaction levels prior to treatment and soil conditions were again tested 16 months after treatment measures were carried out.

The treatment, designed to improve soil structure and help increase production of fine tree roots, was combined with a thick layer of aged mulch to add more organic matter and help cool root systems and preserve soil moisture.

The trial resulted in improved soil conditions with increased particle size and much higher organic content. These effects are likely to amplify over time as root growth in the soil increases, and microbial activity is boosted. Visible tree health improvements may take several years, as the trees growth has been stunted by many years of poor condition. Soil health takes time to regenerate and improved conditions must be maintained to see long term results.

With periodic monitoring and maintenance, long term improvements will result in healthier soils and healthier trees.

Image 4 Treated trees on Irvine Street, Watson - 9/10/2023 Pre-treatment

Image 5 Treated trees on Irvine Street, Watson - 23/10/2025 Post treatment

5.2.3 Urban tree data management

City Services has undertaken a review of the spatial data management system which underpins the management of the tree planting, removal, watering, and maintenance programs. As an analytical tool, the mapping system provides valuable insights into City Services' tree management programs, and ongoing refinement of the data management system and data capture protocols ensure that reporting outputs are accurate, complete and replicable.

5.3 Tree City of the World

Canberra successfully continued its status as an 'International Tree City of the World' by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Arbor Day Foundation for the fourth consecutive year.

Canberra was originally granted membership in April 2022 after the ACT Government demonstrated that the city was meeting core standards for caring for trees and the urban forest.

The Canberra community's shared commitment to maintaining our extensive tree canopy has been recognised by our acceptance into the Tree Cities of the World network, which celebrates global leadership in urban forests.

The Tree Cities of the World program is a network of 210 cities in 24 countries, including 11 Australian city councils, shown in Figure 8, which are dedicated to sharing successful approaches to managing urban trees and forests, preserving protected trees, and creating successful policies and initiatives that celebrate the benefits trees provide.

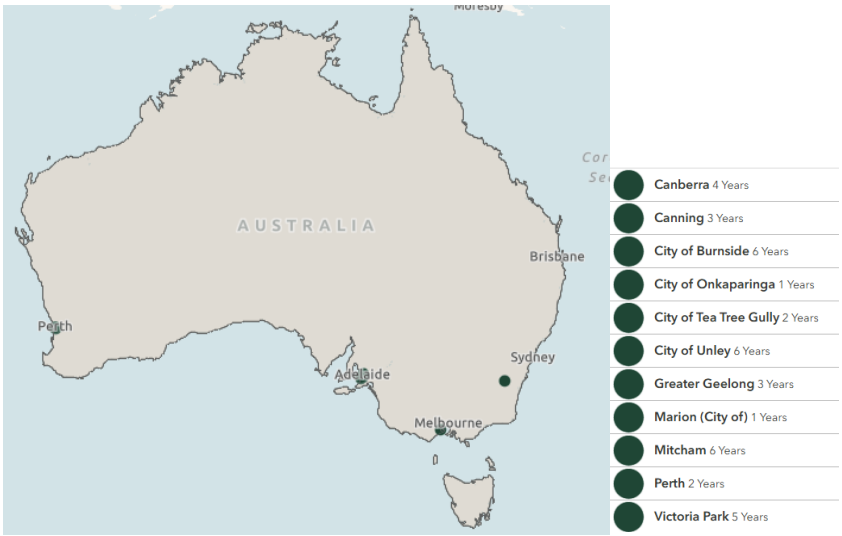


Figure 8 Australian Tree Cities of the World

6.0 Balance and diversify the urban forest

6.1 Plantings across districts

At the end of the 2024-2025 financial year, City Services was responsible for the management and maintenance of over 846,000, street and parkland trees in urban areas of Canberra. Tree planting in the ACT is prioritised in vacant street tree locations, major road median and verges, and in areas where residents have been identified as having an increased vulnerability to urban heat. The availability of tree stock also plays a role in selected street tree planting locations due to the need to maintain established species themes where appropriate.

Since the commencement of the expanded planting program in 2019-20, the focus has moved from responding to public planting requests to the provision of an equitable distribution of new trees across Canberra's districts. Tree planting is allocated within each program on a district basis. In selecting planting sites within each district, consideration is given to maximising efficiency of ongoing care and watering during establishment. Table 5 shows the distribution of tree planting across Canberra during 2024-25.

As stated in section 2.2, it is anticipated that future plantings will increasingly focus on renewal of end-of-life trees as they are removed, rather than filling existing planting gaps, with a particular focus on heritage parks and places, as many of these heritage trees have reached one hundred years of age and are now in major decline. This will result in a shift in the allocation of future planting towards districts with the oldest age cohorts of trees.

Table 5 2024 - 25 City Services Planting Program across districts - exotics and natives

Districts	# Trees	Exotic	Native
Belconnen	1,814	610	1,204
Canberra Central	725	490	235
Gungahlin	1,197	521	676
Hall	4	4	0
Jerrabomberra	28	21	7
Majura	0	0	0
Molonglo Valley	535	495	40
Tuggeranong	1,713	5,61	1,152
Weston Creek	535	197	338
Woden Valley	447	222	225
Grand Total	**6,998**	**3,121**	**3,877**

7.0 Take an ecological approach and support biodiversity

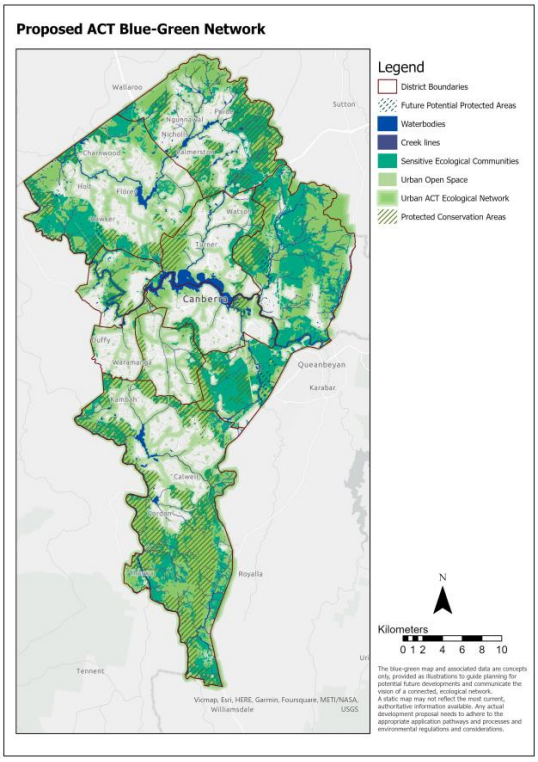
As the major land custodian for urban open space, City Services has an important role to play in the operationalisation of this shared vision. This includes works delivered in alignment with the Urban Forest Strategy. As such, CED's Environment, Heritage and Parks are committed to working closely with City Services to develop best-practice restoration guidelines and identify priority areas for the restoration of wildlife habitat and movement corridors within Canberra's urban space.

Species will be selected for their suitability in an increasingly hotter and drier climate and with an aim of increasing the diversity of Canberra's urban forest.

City Services is collaborating with Environment, Heritage and Parks, Planning and Sustainable Development, other intra-government agencies and organisations to ensure that species diversity is optimised for habitat and connectivity, particularly on main and arterial roads and connecting urban open space.

7.1 Connecting Nature, Connecting People

The Office of Nature Conservation, a subunit of the former Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (now City and Environment), were successful in securing funding in the 2022-23 budget cycle to support the Connecting Nature, Connecting People (CNCP) initiative. The initiative delivered directions related to the 'Blue Green Network' component of the District Strategies, the Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines, a variety of maps and spatial tools to inform urban conservation initiatives, a Re-naturalisation Plan for Sullivans Creek, and multiple on-ground restoration programs. The funding for this initiative ceased on 30 June 2024, however, components of this program will continue to influence work of the new City and Environment Directorate in the ACT urban space in coming years.



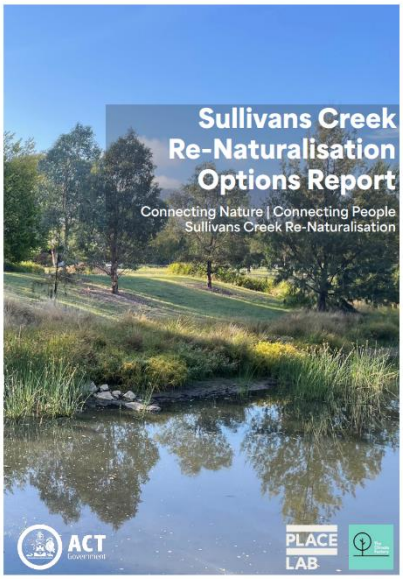
The 'Blue Green Network' directions embedded in the ACT's planning system are beginning to demonstrate improved conservation planning outcomes across the city. These outcomes are operationalised through the ACT Planning Systems District Strategies, Territory Plan, and Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines. Consideration of the impacts of urbanisation on habitat loss and fragmentation is now commonplace in the assessment of development impacts for a broader range of taxa than was previously required under Commonwealth law.

The identification and mapping of priority ecological values continues in the Office of Nature Conservation and is now aligned with the delivery of a Landscape Plan for the ACT and building a 'Network for Nature' as a key objective in the draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy (2026-2036). This work includes reviewing critical habitats and ecological corridors to identify those considered 'viable' given other land use pressures and constraints. The outputs of spatial models supporting this exercise have been validated using independent data collected through the Canberra Urban Biodiversity Surveys program and other sources. These and other mapping layers have also enabled delivery of an interactive 'Planting and Mowing Advice Map' which supports City

Presentation teams to deliver on draft Nature Conservation Strategy targets. The tool encourages consideration of conservation values in land management practice, where relevant to day-to-day planning and management of urban open space.

Sullivans Creek Re-naturalisation Opportunities Plan

The Sullivans Creek Re-naturalisation Opportunities Plan was released by the ACT Government in August 2024 and was recently used to identify a priority area for ecological connectivity enhancement. This led to the Upper Sullivans Creek Connectivity Project, which delivered riparian restoration and environmental enhancements through a range of treatment methods including shrub and tree revegetation in the upper reaches of Sullivans Creek.



As part of CNCP, a Ngunnawal Dry Creek and shade structure incorporating cultural elements were installed along Sullivans Creek to strengthen ecological, visual, and cultural connections to the landscape. The project was finalised in September 2025, with additional vegetation plantings established to support the naturalisation of the area.

The Connecting Nature, Connecting People (CNCP) program successfully delivered 20 demonstration sites through effective collaboration between teams in the City and Environment Directorate and the community. Each site, funded under the bid to restore habitat and connectivity across grasslands and woodlands, continues to receive regular care and maintenance from dedicated community volunteer groups with three of the sites being delivered in partnership with the Ngunnawal community. Some community work on the project is still ongoing.

These demonstration sites help form part of a broader connected network of urban wildlife habitat and connectivity corridors across urban Canberra to support biodiversity and community wellbeing outcomes. Site selection was based on habitat modelling and community consultation, including consideration of Ngunnawal cultural values within the landscape. The final conservation network strived to build on previous government and community investment and provide a framework for collaborative work in this space into the future.

Mammals in the City

Mammals in the City is an ACT Natural Resource Management (NRM) led program that aims to conserve and strengthen the resilience of fauna in ACT's urban landscape through ecological connectivity enhancements and involves regular collaboration between City and Environment Directorate teams to achieve these outcomes.

Three key focus areas were identified during early planning, and the Northern Gungahlin Woodlands project has already been successfully completed:

- **Supporting Small Mammals in Northern Gungahlin Woodlands** – Surveys confirmed that the Common Dunnart (*Sminthopsis murina*) is persisting in this area. With the development of the suburbs Taylor and Jacka threatening their survival through habitat loss, increased predation by cats and foxes, and edge effects, targeted action was taken. ACT NRM supplemented refuge sites and improved habitat structure through the placement of coarse woody debris (CWD) and a diverse range of vegetation plantings, including trees and shrubs. Connectivity was increased to strengthen habitat for the Common Dunnart and other small mammals in the area.
- **Restoring Rakali Habitat** – ACT NRM are working to improve habitat value and connectivity in Giralang Pond and small sections of Ginninderra Creek to enhance conditions for Rakali, our primary focus species in this area. This will be achieved through the addition of "perching logs" and riparian vegetation planting of ground cover species, shrubs and trees.
- **Enhancing Connectivity in Underpasses** – Several larger underpasses along the Caswell Drive section of the GDE already provide important habitat links for two areas of bushland, Black Mountain to Aranda Bushland. ACT NRM will be working to improve their structure through the addition of fauna furniture to further reduce fragmentation and facilitate safe movement for small mammals. However, the approach will be multi-species focused, aiming to benefit as many species as practically possible.

Hackett Horse Agistment Paddocks Restoration

ACT NRM is currently co-designing a restoration plan with the Parks and Conservation Service and their contractor to enhance woodland and forest ecotone in the northeastern section of the Hackett Horse Agistment Paddocks. The project will revegetate approximately four hectares of critically endangered Box-Gum Grassy Woodland, creating important habitat and strengthening ecological connectivity for flora and fauna along Canberra's urban periphery.

7.2 Distribution of urban wood by-product

Urban wood waste, produced as a result of tree maintenance activities, contractor tree removals and storm damaged trees, was extensively recycled to produce mulch during 2024-25.

Urban wood waste was recycled to produce mulch through general in-house tree maintenance activities, contracted tree removals and clean-ups after storm events. This mulch was used by:

- City Services for public garden beds, tree watering wells and weed management
- volunteer groups and community organisations for planting and restoration projects

- Parks and Conservation Service at Mt Majura, Mt Ainslie and Mt Pleasant nature reserves for weed management, soil erosion control and to improve growing conditions for plantings
- National Arboretum Canberra (1,000 cubic metres were delivered from the Curtin woodyard).

Large logs were salvaged for use as coarse woody debris in nature reserves (which improves habitat value in these areas) and in urban green space, and both mulch and logs were used to support the creation of nature play in schools and on unleased land such as Gudgenby valley in the Namadgi National Park.

Logs were also utilised as features and artistic installations in government parks in Watson and Budjan Galindji Reserve in Franklin (Image 6) and *Fraxinus oxycarpa* and *Quercus robur* timber was used to create the Zodiac sculpture in Woolley Street Dickson (Image 7).

Image 6 Badjan Galindji Reserve Franklin *(E. melliodora)* Wellspring Environmental Designs

Image 7 Zodiac Sculpture - photos Hiroshi Yamaguchi (artist)

City Services has woodyards in Curtin and Mitchell where urban felled timber is stored, processed and distributed for further use. The reuse of urban wood can significantly reduce costs associated with dumping and purchasing new materials for the maintenance and development of Canberra's built and landscaped environment, however, this has proven a challenge without a dedicated resource to manage these sites.

In May 2025, Urban Treescapes allocated a dedicated woodyard coordinator who has been able to focus on the management of these sites. This role has been pivotal in woodyard management and, through the establishment of a woodyard contact mailbox, has increased efficiency in responding to requests for mulch deliveries. This role will be crucial to the successful implementation of the Urban Forest Wood Reuse Plan when finalised, including supporting the sale of wood products to the public.

The newly drafted Urban Forest Wood Reuse Plan identifies actions that will ensure that as much as possible of this urban forest by-product will be converted into the highest value material such as milled timber for furniture.

Image 8 Curtin Woodyard before and after the appointment of a dedicated coordinator

City Services have been contributing monthly to the Reuse of Materials Community of Practice, promoting and identifying opportunities for the use of wood products across Government directorates and sections including the Suburban Land Agency, City Renewal Authority, ACT No Waste and Infrastructure Canberra.

Future opportunities include the potential for a timber milling collaboration with CIT's Carpentry School, utilising timber coming out of Canberra's urban forest to teach carpentry students about the process of preparing timber and its subsequent use in their practical construction activities.

Image 9 Demonstration of timber milling, provided to the operations crews

Image 10 Sawn timber produced from the portable mill

8.0 Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest and liveability

8.1 Tree surround repairs

City Presentation is replacing degraded tree surround surfaces with a highly flexible porous pavement product (Root Pave™). Such products utilise coarse materials, including recycled rubber and binding agents, to maintain porosity while providing a level surface that is suitable for pedestrian traffic. The function of the tree surround is to allow water, nutrients, and oxygen to penetrate into the root system in order to maintain tree health. Effective tree surround materials are porous, resistant to water and wind erosion, do not degrade, crack, or break up, and are resistant to compaction.

A total of 409 square metres of flexible porous pavement was repaired and/or installed around trees in locations across urban public space in Canberra, including London Circuit, City Walk (Image 11) and Petrie Pl (Image 12) in the City, Woden and the Woden Police Station, Weston Creek, Kaleen, and the Belconnen, O'Connor, and Watson shopping centre.

In many cases, the size of the original tree pits was enlarged by removing impervious paved surfaces and replacing with porous pavement. Urban Treescapes adopt a holistic approach, collaborating with Roads ACT maintenance teams to lift and relay uplifted segmented pavement beyond the tree pit. This work addresses trip hazards while improving growing conditions for trees and also reducing surface run-off into stormwater drains. Additionally, the use of flexible pavement greatly reduces the frequency with which Roads ACT Road Maintenance must return to a site to undertake pavement repairs.

Image 11 City Walk permeable paving repair

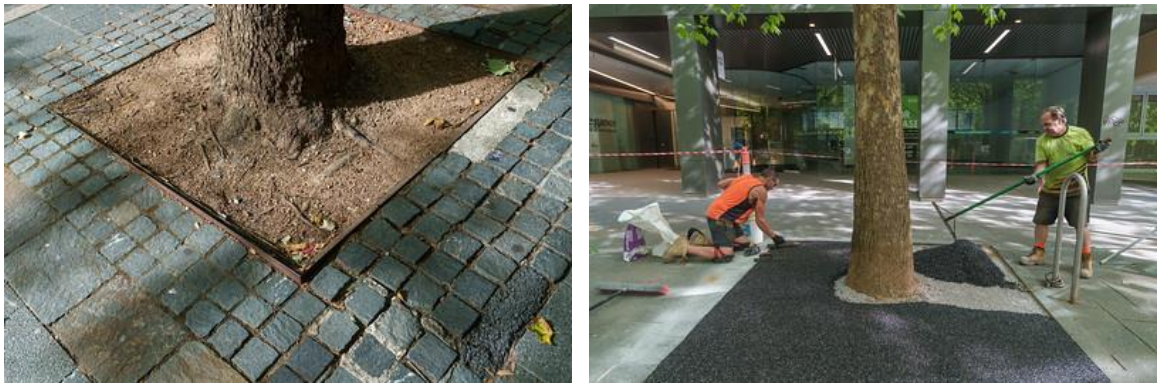


Image 12 Petrie Plaza, City before and after permeable paving installation

8.2 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Projects

City Services provided advice to guide new tree planting and landscape design and protect existing trees across a number of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) projects to help promote the health of urban trees, support urban ecology and biodiversity, and enhance liveability within our city.

City Services reviewed landscape design documentation for numerous projects across the ACT which aim to manage peak water flows in major storm events, improve storm water quality by reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediments, increase stormwater

infiltration, improve public amenity, and gain knowledge to inform future water management design, e.g.:

- Throsby Crescent retardation basin, Griffith, designed to solve flooding issues and to control overland flow issues across the site; including the relocation of a playspace out of the flood prone areas.
- Newlyne Precinct (previously Yowani), Lyneham, to increase permeability and tree planting along Sullivan's Creek.
- Strathnairn water quality pond, bio-retention sediment ponds and bio-retention rain gardens. An integrated system of bioretention swales, wetlands, and basins that capture, filter, and absorb stormwater runoff before it reaches the Murrumbidgee River.
- Denman Prospect bio-retention pond, sediment pond, and stormwater discharge point to manage overland flow across urban catchments.
- Narrabundah retardation basins designed to solve flooding issues and to control overland flow issues across the site.
- Hall stormwater upgrade, designed to incorporate a combination of engineered design solutions and shallow, grassy channels that direct and treat stormwater runoff, slowing it down to allow for sedimentation and filtration.
- Dickson Green Development, incorporating improved growing conditions for trees through structural cells and permeable pavement, reducing surface runoff and helping to recharge groundwater.

9.0 Partner with the community to grow and maintain the urban forest

The Urban Forest Strategy identifies the need to partner with the community to grow and maintain the urban forest, and recognises the important role that community and volunteer groups have in growing and maintaining our urban forest.

City Services has provided support to community groups who are working to achieve environmental outcomes by providing specialised tree knowledge. Outcomes have included providing improved habitat and breeding sites for iconic local and vulnerable bird species including superb parrots and gang-gang cockatoos, and restoring and revegetating urban waterways.

City Services has collaborated with colleagues in Conservation, Natural Resource Management and Environment teams since 2019-20 to deliver the ACT Environment and Nature in the City Grants.

9.1 Urban Parks and Places volunteering

The Urban Parks and Places volunteering program is a community partnership between the local community and the ACT Government through City Services. The program allows the community to get involved in a hands-on way to contribute to the conservation, presentation and maintenance of Canberra's many public urban open space areas. City Services works with the three ACT Catchment Groups (Ginninderra, Southern and Molonglo) and independent volunteer groups to support 114 active urban volunteer groups that undertake works on City Services-managed land.

Urban Parks and Places volunteers make improvements to local urban open space areas and are involved in the following activities:

- weed control and removal programs
- horticultural maintenance
- litter collection
- monitoring and reporting issues
- park restoration projects
- minor tree maintenance activities
- habitat restoration
- planting and maintaining plants
- community education and social events
- citizen science
- training and workshops
- conservation projects

City Services has continued to support community groups from across all five primary regions in Canberra to enhance the urban forest, with several significant planting events occurring across parks and wetlands throughout the ACT.

Figure 9 shows the locations of registered community groups and Figure 10 displays the locations of community tree planting events from spring 2024 to autumn 2025.

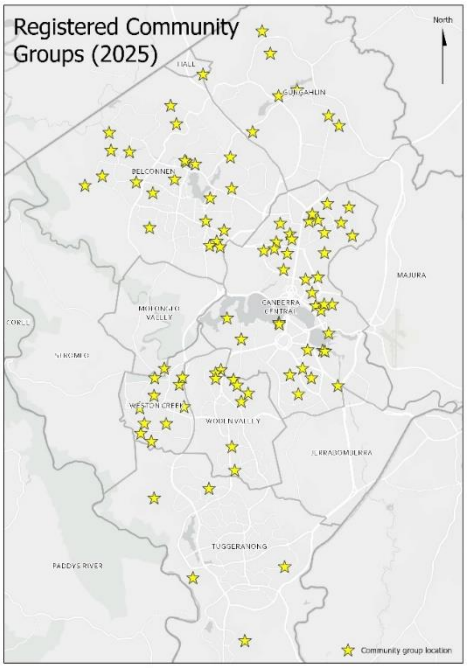


Figure 9 Registered community groups

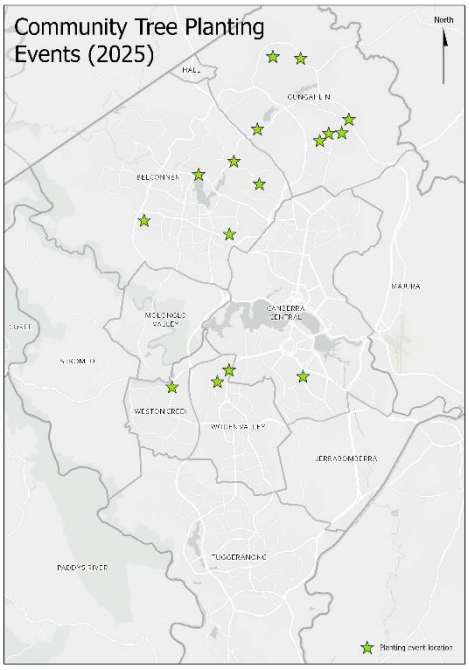


Figure 10 Community tree planting events 2024-25

The support of community groups helps improve amenity in local parks and strengthens neighbourhood bonds, while growing and maintaining our urban tree canopy. Community groups undertook species selection and planting design, data collection for mapping, planting young tree maintenance, formative pruning, and habitat restoration weed management, adding value to the regular maintenance activities of registered urban land care volunteer groups currently supported by City Services.

The community program has also contributed to growing a resilient urban forest by engaging with schools and helping to promote canopy cover, while educating students about the importance of the urban forest, wildlife corridors, and the Urban Forest Strategy's target of 30% canopy cover by 2045.

9.2 Community engagement and support

City Services' support for volunteer community groups continued in 2024-25, with 18 groups involved in tree planting activities in parklands and urban park planting events across all districts of Canberra. These groups ranged from Landcare groups, Friends of wetland groups and local community groups. With the assistance and advice from the Urban Treescapes community program and the in house planting team, these groups undertook activities including design, tree pruning, weeding, planting and landscape stabilization to improve amenity in local parks and open spaces and strengthen neighbourhood bonds, collectively planting 650 trees across the city.

Landcare groups including Crace Landcare (Image 13), Croke Place Lions Landcare, and Moncrieff Landcare were involved planting 94 trees in community areas. Students from St. Francis School enjoyed planting 100 trees and shrubs along Ginninderra Creek, Evatt (Image 14). Three corporate companies looking to offset their carbon emissions volunteered their time, planting 226 plants in riparian sections of Franklin, Harrison and Giralang Ponds.

Image 13 Crace Landcare planting

City Services also teamed up with ACT Health to plant the internal garden of Calvary Haydon Aged Care Facility in Bruce and assisted ACT Rescue and Foster (Image 15), a not-for-profit dog rescue service to plant 69 native species sourced through an ACT Environment grant around the facility to provide amenity and improve the area for future use. This brought the total community plantings in urban open space to 719 trees.

Image 14 St. Francis School community planting along Ginninderra Creek, Evatt

Image 15 ACT Rescue and Foster, Weston

9.2.1 School collaboration

City Services' support for school communities continued in 2024-25, with 1,978 trees provided to primary and high schools across Canberra as part of a variety of initiatives including 769 mixed Acacia species across 37 schools for Wattle Day 2024, with each school receiving approximately 20-30 tube stock to plant on their school grounds.

The 'Shade our Play' program provided 1,209 trees to 28 schools, to increase canopy cover across play areas for public-school children.

Image 16 Wanniassa Junior Campus 'Wattle Day' planting

Image 17 Hawker School 'Shade our Play' planting

9.2.2 Tree Week 2025

City Services organised and facilitated Canberra Tree Week 2025 from 3-11 May 2025. The successful event included 21 diverse and engaging activities such as guided walks, talks, the painting of a blue tree and poetry readings. Events were hosted by 14 organisations and individuals across Canberra.

Canberra Tree Week 2025 was launched by Urban Treescapes in O'Connor on Friday 23 May 2025. The launch included a poetry reading by local poet PS Cottier (Image 18).

Tree Week also included the return of the children's drawing competition and exhibition. The exhibition allowed children to use their imagination and creativity to express their connection to trees under the theme 'Branch Out'. Over 200 entries were received, with the top 20 entries displayed at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (Image 19).

Organisations that hosted events included:

- National Arboretum, Canberra
- Government House
- Friends of ACT Trees
- Sarah St Vincent Welsh (Kindred Trees)
- Australian National Botanic Gardens
- Urban Treescapes, Transport Canberra and City Services

Image 18 Tree Week poetry reading in O'Connor

Image 19 Children's Tree Week "Branch Out" artwork displayed at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

9.2.3 Your Say planting map

The community were also able to suggest planting locations via YourSay on the interactive map (Figure 11) and there have been over 5,654 planting locations recommended by the community since the map launched in late 2019.

These suggestions have been utilised to guide the planting locations of 5,619 trees in recent programs. 182 public suggestions for tree planting locations were received through the YourSay interactive map in 2024-25 and 305 trees planted in suitable sites.

The Your Say tree planting map is available at https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/trees-act/tree-planting-across-cbr

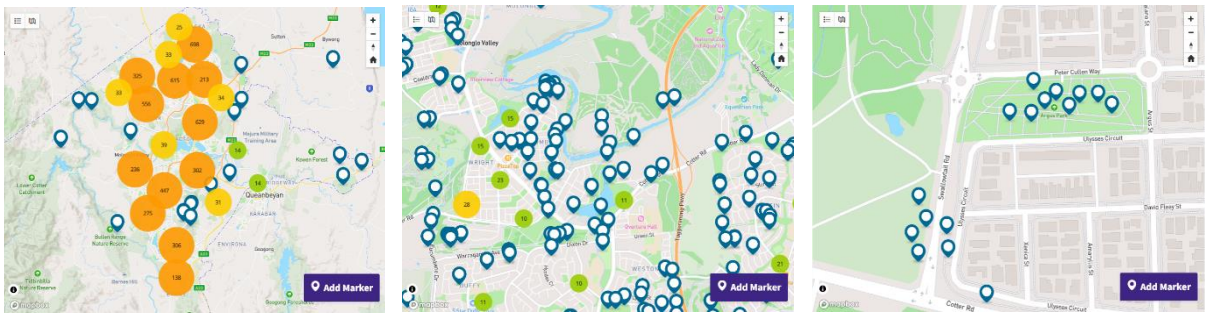


Figure 11 Your Say tree planting map

9.3 Adopt-a-Park program

The Adopt-a-Park program is a grants program for community groups to support their work in caring for local parks and open spaces. It supports existing volunteer groups or groups that have an application pending with the Urban Parks and Places volunteering program.

The Adopt-a-Park grant program delivery, following an initial period of funding for three years in 2021-22, continued into 2024-25. The purpose of the funding this year was for projects that would remove or control weeds identified under the legislation. Successful applicants were supported by an ACT Government Urban Grants coordinator to complete weed control programs that enhance our open spaces, foster community engagement and ownership whilst bringing people together into the outdoors.

The 2024-25 Adopt-a-Park successful applicants (Table 6) undertook several weed control projects across the urban area.

Table 6 2024-25 Adopt-a-Park Grants

Applicant	Project title	Location	Brief description of grant request
O'Connor Community Incorporated	Pest Weed Control in the O'Connor Tocumwal Housing Precinct Park	O'Connor	Woody weed control
Ginninderra Catchment Group	Sustainable Urban Scapes: Enhancing Urban Parks for a Greener Tomorrow	Various	Woody weed control
ACT Landcare Molonglo Group	Bragg Street Park Hackett weeding and revegetation	Hackett	Woody weed control

Molonglo Conservation Group	Ainslie Volcanics Woody Weed Control	Ainslie	Woody weed control
Molonglo Conservation Group	Narrabundah Wetlands Woody Weed Control	Narrabundah	Woody weed control
Southern ACT Catchment Group	Weed Control in Southern ACT Urban Parks	Various	Woody weed control

9.4 ACT Environment Grants

Since 2019-20, City Services has collaborated with the National Resource Management team to deliver the ACT Environment and Nature in the City Grants. The program has been funded annually by the ACT Government since 1997.

With two funding streams available, the 2025-26 ACT Environmental Grants Program will fund community projects to a value of $360,744:

- $333,454 of funding made available for the Environment Grants, to support community projects that assist with the delivery of the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23 and the Caring for Dhawura Ngunnawal—a natural resource plan for the ACT 2022–2042
- $27,290 of funding of funding made available for the 2025-26 Environmental Volunteer Group Assistance Grants, to support environmental volunteer groups in improving their capabilities and capacity to engage in environmental stewardship.

Applications for the 2025-26 ACT Environmental Grants Program Round closed with 50 applications received across two streams to a total value of $861,793.

9.4.1 2025-26 ACT Environment Grants

In the 2025-26 round, 14 projects to the value of $333,454 were successful (Table 7) and will contribute to the improvement of the ACT's ecosystem health and conservation outcomes.

Project activities included weed control, habitat restoration and site revegetation, educational workshops at schools about the important role of native pollinators and guided nature walks for the community to learn about Canberra's ecosystems. The successful project proponents and projects were:

Table 7 2025-26 ACT Environment Grant recipients

Project	Recipient	Funding amount
Red Hill Nature Reserve Weed Control and Revegetation	ACT Red Hill Bush Regenerators Inc	$19,806
Supporting The Fair Weed Management Plan 2024-2029	Friends of Mount Majura ParkCare Group and Molonglo Conservation Group	$27,350
Big Creek Line Restoration	Friends of Dryandra Woodlands and Molonglo Conservation Group	$23,674
Connecting children to nature through bee hotels	ACT for Bees and Other Pollinators	$4,735
Conservation Management Plan for Bass Gardens Park understorey / natural temperate grassland	Griffith and Narrabundah Community Association	$9,801
Campbell Community Association: The Park Regeneration Project	The Campbell Community Association Inc (CCA); Campbell ParkCare (CPC) and Molonglo Conservation Group	$19,688
Riparian Rescue Stage 2 with Outward Bound	Southern ACT Catchment Group	$30,903
Regeneration of Old Ainslie Tip - Mt Ainslie	Mt Ainslie Weeders and Molonglo Conservation Group	$19,250
Tuggeranong Hill Woodland Restoration	Friends of Tuggeranong Hill and Southern ACT Catchment Group	$23,995
St Mark's Grassland Volunteer Restoration and Conservation Project	Friends of St Marks Grassland and Molonglo Conservation Group	$35,000
Connecting with Country, Community and Culture	Restoring Landscapes Australia	$33,200
Blue Gum Point Yarralumla restoration (year 6)	Friends of Grasslands	$16,102
Branching out: Bringing Bush Buds Walks to new communities	Conservation Council of the ACT Region	$34,950
Yeddung Mura's Urban Parkland Project	Yeddung Mura (Goodpathways) Aboriginal Corporation	$35,000

Total Grants	$333,454

9.4.2 2025-26 Environmental Volunteer Assistance Grants

In the 2025-26 round, six projects to the value of $27,290 were successful (Table 8) in receiving Environmental Volunteer Assistance Grants and will contribute to the improvement of the ACT's urban open spaces liveability, ecosystem health and conservation outcomes.

Table 8 2025-26 Environmental Volunteer Assistance Grants

Project	Recipient	Funding amount
Resources for Volunteer Recruitment & Training	Wombat Support & Rescue ACT/NSW	$5,000
Team Up on Lovegrass: A Hands-On Control Workshop	Ginninderra Catchment Group	$3,610
Snakes in the Suburbs: Working beside our slithery friends	Ginninderra Catchment Group	$5,000
Promotional materials for Friends of Tuggeranong Hill and ParkCarers of Southern Murrumbidgee	Friend of Tuggeranong Hill, ParkCarers of Southern Murrumbidgee and the Southern ACT Catchment Group	$5,000
Croke Place Open Day	Croke Place Landcare and Ginninderra Catchment Group	$3,680
Strengthening Governance for Volunteer Growth	Landcare ACT	$5,000
	Total Grants	$27,290

9.5 Blue Tree Project

In May 2025, the ACT Government continued the Blue Tree Project in the ACT by painting our third blue tree along Clunies Ross St, Acton (Image 20). The Urban Treescapes team partnered with the ACT Office of Mental Health to contribute to the Blue Tree Project to reduce the stigma around mental health and spark important conversations about mental health and suicide prevention.

By spreading the paint and spreading the message 'it's OK to not be OK', the stigma that's still largely attached to mental health can be broken down. The Blue Tree's ethos aligns with the ACT Government's vision for a kind, connected and informed community working together to promote and protect the mental health and wellbeing of all.

Painting a tree blue is a positive, non-confrontational conversation starter around the issues of mental health and suicide prevention.

Any trees that have been painted are not living and do not contain significant habitat elements. The paint is non-toxic and an ecological survey of the tree was first undertaken to ensure wildlife and any nesting birds were not disturbed.

Image 20 Painting the new blue tree in Acton

Appendix A

Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045 Actions and Status

Immediate actions (within 2 years)

Objective	No.	Actions	Timeframe	Status Year 5 2025
Protect the urban forest	1.2.1	Review and update the *Tree Protection Act 2005* (TPA) to ensure the threshold for protecting trees is appropriate	Immediate	• *Urban Forest Act 2023 (UFA)* came into effect on 1 Jan 2024. • UFA Review underway in 2025.
	1.2.2	Review and update the TPA criteria for removal of protected trees to ensure it aligns with community values and expectations	Immediate	• Criteria updated in *Urban Forest Act 2023 (UFA)*. • Further amendments to public and regulated tree criteria undertaken in 24-25. • UFA Review underway in 2025.
	1.2.3	Review and update the TPA and *Public Unleased Land Act 2013* (PULA) to ensure appropriate compliance mechanisms exist to deter illegal tree removals or damage to trees on leased and unleased land, and respond appropriately when they occur	Immediate	• *Urban Forest Act 2023 (UFA)* provides better protection for trees on both unleased and leased land. • UFA Review underway in 2025. • PULA legislative review commenced 2024-25.

1.3.1	Consider developing a program to ensure the health of mature and remnant trees on unleased land	Immediate	• Community engagement to increase active care of trees adjacent to residences and businesses incl. factsheet, social media posts and City Services website. • Collaborating with ACT Natural Resource Management (ACT NRM) and Urban Biodiversity team on Connecting Nature Connecting People project. • Loss of Mature Native Trees Threatening Process Action Plan implementation agreement across CED business units. • Developing Tree Heath and Biodiversity Restoration project guidelines to identify, prioritise and direct actions to support tree health and canopy growth. • Urban Forest Condition Report to inform urban tree renewal using high-resolution, multi-spectral, and thermal imagery captured across ACT urban areas completed in 2024-25.
1.3.2	Review and update the PULA to require all developers to erect prescribed fencing to protect existing trees on public land from damage prior to demolition, excavation and/or construction on adjacent block/s	Immediate	• *Urban Forest Act 2023* (UFA) provides better protection during development for trees on both unleased and leased land. • Revised Tree Management Plan Guidelines notified under the UFA to assist in the protection of existing trees during development. • PULA legislative review commenced 2024-25.

	1.4.1	Investigate and implement administrative and technological reforms to systems and processes for administration of the Tree Protection Act to ensure they are streamlined, transparent and efficient	Immediate	• *Urban Forest Act 2023* came into effect on 1 Jan 2024, with the inclusion of a new ICT system and refined administration processes.
Grow a resilient forest	2.1.1	With reference to the 2010 audit, obtain updated data on the current canopy cover of the public urban forest to inform a replacement program.	Immediate	• LiDAR capture undertaken in early 2025, with analysis conducted Sep-Oct, considered against 2020 data. • Canopy cover percentages across suburbs used to identify priority suburbs for planting. • The Urban Forest Condition Report, completed in 2025, will be used to inform removal and replacement of dead and declining trees. • Established a Technical Working group composed of specialists across CED to assess boundary options for the analysis of urban tree canopy cover.
	2.1.2	Develop a sustainable program of end-of-life tree removals and replacements for removed trees and existing planting gaps to maintain the urban forest, including best-practice after-care for new plantings	Immediate	• Urban Forest Condition Report completed in 2025 to inform priority removals for replacement. • Over 9,000 trees planted in vacant street, park and open space locations in 2024-2025. • Urban forest planting target of 54,000 trees by 2024 has been met with over 65,000 trees planted in the urban environment since 2020.

2.2.1	Consider introducing a canopy contribution framework for trees on both public and private land that ensures that when trees must be removed and cannot be replaced on site, they are replaced elsewhere through a contribution based on the value of the tree at the time of assessment	Immediate	• *Urban Forest Act 2023* includes canopy contribution scheme.
2.2.2	Review PULA to consider a tree bond scheme for trees on public (unleased) land that discourages tree removal and damage through development	Immediate	• *Urban Forest Act 2023* includes bond scheme to protect trees during development on both leased and unleased land. • PULA legislative review commenced 2024-25.
2.3.1	Promote and periodically update the preferred species planting guide to assist the community in understanding what trees to plant on leased land	Immediate	• Municipal Infrastructure Standards (MIS) 25 updated in 2021, minor update in 2025 and is under review. • 'Tree Selector' online tool to help inform the community of appropriate tree species selection is under development. • ACT pollination calendar released in partnership with ACT for Bees. • Collaboration with Suburban Land Authority (SLA) on Plant a Tree in Your Canberra Garden.
2.3.2	Publish and regularly review a list of climate resilient trees	Immediate	• A Living Labs trial to assess the performance of new 'climate-ready' tree species in Canberra is underway. Information from the trial will inform the update of the preferred tree species list. • CED expanding climate-resilient species trial to include additional species from warmer climates.

				• CED collaboration on the Microclimate guide, Climate wise landscape guide, Climate wise planning report and Tree canopy cover equivalence tool. • Collaboration with SLA on Plant a Tree in Your Canberra Garden.
Balance and diversify the urban forest	3.1.1	Direct initial prioritisation for new plantings to existing planting gaps and addressing the most vulnerable communities	Immediate/ Ongoing	• Tree planting is prioritised in vacant planting gaps and in areas that have been identified as being more vulnerable to urban heat. • Report on measuring the cooling benefits of living infrastructure.
Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest & liveability	5.2.4	Collaborate with EPSDD to amend planning regulations to ensure suitable protection of existing trees and the establishment of new trees when planning infrastructure in new suburbs and in urban densification areas	Immediate	• CED collaboration on Variation 369 (minimum tree planting requirements on leased land at development) now incorporated into the new ACT Planning System. • Collaboration across CED on the ACT Planning System Review and Reform. • Release of Urban Open Space Land Management Plan.
	5.2.5	Collaborate with EPSDD on the Planning review and TPA review to ensure consistent and appropriate decision making for protected trees	Immediate	• *Urban Forest Act 2023* came into effect on 1 Jan 2024. • Collaboration across CED on the ACT Planning System Review and Reform took place, collaborative efforts remain ongoing for procedural improvements and best practice decision-making.

Partner with the community	6.1.2	Develop and make available to volunteers a citizen science data collection program	Immediate	• A Citizen Science program to capture data on the condition of urban trees is under development. • Community Urban Biodiversity Surveys (CUBS) program.

Short term actions (within 5 years)

Objective	No.	Actions	Timeframe	Status Year 5 2025
Protect the urban forest	1.3.3	Investigate incentives and programs to better provide for the protection, maintenance and care of registered and remnant trees on leased land	Short	• *Urban Forest Act 2023* came into effect on 1 Jan 2024. • Discussions undertaken with Master Builders Association (MBA) regarding an annual Tree Protection industry award.
	1.3.4	Program cultural site assessments with a view to developing cultural tree management plans	Short	• CED cultural site assessments undertaken, with results informing the design and selection of tree planting in urban open space. • Planning underway to develop a process to seek advice from Indigenous cultural representatives prior to planting in urban open space.
Grow a resilient forest	2.1.3	Develop a sustainable planting program to increase canopy cover equitably across the urban footprint by establishing sufficient additional trees to meet the canopy cover target over the life of the Strategy	Short/ Ongoing	• As per 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 3.1.1
Balance and diversify the urban forest	3.1.3	Progressively map suburbs at risk of losing canopy due to ageing trees to inform a planned removal and replanting program	Short/ Ongoing	• Remote imagery to inform an Urban Forest Condition report undertaken in 2024 to guide urban tree renewal. • LiDAR capture in 2025 to aid in informing suburbs with reducing and/or low canopy coverage.
Take an ecological approach and support biodiversity	4.1.1	Map remnant trees in the urban area	Short	• LiDAR capture and mature tree mapping analysis, and Urban Forest Condition report will assist as a starting point for field assessments to accurately map remnant trees.

	4.3.1	Develop an urban wood reuse plan for trees removed from public land	Short	• Urban Wood Reuse Plan developed in 2025 in conjunction with the employment of a dedicated woodyard coordinator.
Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest & liability	5.1.1	Investigate and promote use of permeable infrastructure (e.g. shared and bike paths, paving and car parks) in target areas	Short/ Ongoing	• Jamison Shopping Centre Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) tree pit trial constructed in August 2020. Monitoring finalised in July 2024. • Ongoing repair and installation of flexible permeable tree surrounds is underway. • Provided input on MIS 24 with car park tree ratio and WSUD for passive watering which is known to relieve pressure on the Storm water system (Kenny Park and Ride). • Promoted passive watering of trees in hostile conditions like car parks with technologies like kerb inlets (Kaleen Shops) and regrading towards tree pits in estate development. • Worked with Heathy Waterways, Emergency Services Authority (ESA) and Parks to promote non-deciduous trees over swales in high fire zones (Well Station Dr). • Next Practice in Living Infrastructure project delivered by the Suburban Land Agency. • Ongoing permeable tree surrounds repair and installation program to promote tree health, increase stormwater infiltration and address paving and tree root conflicts.
	5.2.2	Focus public tree plantings to support summer shading along active travel routes (Action 12 of the LIP)	Short	• Tree planting alongside active travel routes prioritised during planning of open space and roadside planting programs.

				• Report on measuring the cooling benefits of living infrastructure.
	5.2.7	Review municipal design standards to include specifications on urban rain gardens and/or urban stormwater swales as planting locations on verges and other locations	Short	• The MIS suite will continue to be reviewed and updated periodically. • Cooler, greener infrastructure review of MIS and MITS delivered and implementation of review recommendations underway. • Next Practice in Living Infrastructure project delivered by the Suburban Land Agency.
Partner with the community	6.3.1	Develop community education material to convey the benefits of trees	Short	• Canberra continues to be recognised as an 'International Tree City of the World' by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Arbor Day Foundation. • Social, Economic and Environmental Values of Street Trees report commissioned and made publicly available. • Brochure created on the benefits of street trees and how residents can help care for them. • Release of 'Plant a Tree in Your Canberra Garden', the 'Climate Wise Garden Designs booklet' and '*Gawari Ngilanmanyin—Remembering the Bush: A Climate-wise Landscape Guide for the ACT*'.

6.3.3	Consider ways to educate young people and how they can contribute to the urban forest	Short	• Tree planting events held with primary schools, high schools and sporting groups. • Trees provided to schools for landscape projects through 'Shade our Play' and Wattle Day. • Encourage schools and youth groups to hold Tree Week activities. Children's colouring competition held in 2023, 2024 and 2025. • Coordinate celebrations for National Tree Day, World Forestry Day, World Environment Day, Wattle Day and Arbor Day. • Investigate collaboration with Greening Australia for educational program.

Medium term actions (within 10 years)

Objective	No.	Actions	Timeframe	Status Year 5 2025
Balance and diversity the urban forest	3.2.1	Consider use of spatial mapping and citizen science programs to help identify areas with low species diversity and inform future plantings	Medium	• As per 6.1.2
Take an ecological approach and support biodiversity	4.1.3	Collaborate with EPSDD to enhance and conserve biodiversity and eco-cultural values of urban areas (Nature Conservation Strategy – Strategy 4)	Medium	• Collaborating with ACT NRM on Sustainable Urban Green Spaces project. • 'Connecting Nature Connecting People' initiative. • Loss of Mature Native Trees Threatening Process Action Plan agreement between CED business units. • Biodiversity and connectivity mapping by inform planting programs - ACT Urban Habitat and Connectivity Tool and Act Ecological Network Dashboard. • Urban Forest Ecological Advice project informing planting to connect urban habitat. • Development of Tree Health and Biodiversity Restoration project guidelines to identify, prioritise and direct actions to support tree health and canopy growth, and restore local native understorey to support urban biodiversity. • Mammals in the City program to conserve and strengthen the resilience of fauna in ACT's urban landscape through ecological connectivity enhancements.

	4.2.1	Implement strategic planting to support wildlife and enhance movement and foraging opportunities across the city and wider landscape	Medium	• As per 4.1.3 • Replacement planting program of main and arterial road verges and connecting open space.
	4.2.2	Collaborate with EPSDD to undertake fine scale planning for habitat connectivity (Nature Conservation Strategy - Action 1.2)	Medium	• As per 4.1.3
Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest & liability	5.2.6	Where appropriate, install and maintain rain gardens and swales for urban water run-off in tree and understorey planting areas in urban streetscape upgrades and new estate developments	Medium/ Ongoing	• Collaborated on ACT Healthy Waterways projects. • Jamison Shopping Centre WSUD tree pit trial constructed in August 2020. Intensive monitoring completed in 2024, with annual monitoring of tree growth ongoing. • Infrastructure installed in upgrade and greenfields developments such as Anketell St, Tuggeranong and Whitlam. • Collaborated on the Whitlam Living Infrastructure demonstration pilot. • Next Practice in Living Infrastructure project delivered by the Suburban Land Agency.
Partner with the community	6.2.1	Investigate incentives for retention of trees on private land including through collaboration with planning authorities	Medium	• Collaboration on Variation 369 (minimum tree planting requirements on leased land at development) incorporated into the Planning System review. • Ongoing investigation of options. • Collaboration on the ACT Planning System Review and Reform. • Collaboration on Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD) Guidelines. • *Urban Forest Act 2023*.

	6.3.2	Build Indigenous engagement in caring for the urban forest	Medium	• As per 1.3.4 • Investigating engagement opportunities. • Ensuring all procurement opportunities shared with indigenous organisations.

Long term (20 years) and ongoing actions

Objective	No.	Actions	Timeframe	Status Year 5 2025
Protect the urban forest	1.1.1	Maintain and promote the Tree Register (under the TPA)	Ongoing	• City Services website and online ACTMapi spatial data applications. • Promotion with implementation of *Urban Forest Act 2023*.
Balance and diversity the urban forest	3.1.2	Consider undertaking regular LiDAR data capture and analysis to enable effective monitoring and evaluation of canopy coverage and permeability across the urban footprint	Ongoing	• LiDAR capture in 2020 and 2025 to be repeated every 5 years. • Urban Forest Condition Report to inform urban tree renewal using high-resolution, multi-spectral, and thermal imagery captured across ACT urban areas in 2024, with report finalised in 2025.
	3.3.1	Plan planting programs to achieve a best practice age profile of the urban forest by 2045	Ongoing	• Infill planting in ageing suburbs to offset future removal of ageing trees. • Urban Forest Condition report to inform urban tree renewal. • Development of the Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) dataset to assess tree health across the city.
	3.3.2	Ensure yearly maintenance programs involve adequate removal and replacement of end-of-life trees to develop a balanced age distribution	Ongoing	• Continued expansion of maintenance team and inhouse planting team between 2020-2025.
Take an ecological approach and support biodiversity	4.1.2	Assess senescent and ageing native trees for retention as habitat in preference to being removed	Ongoing	• Trees marked for removal reviewed by second arborist prior to program. • Open space trees retained as habitat if structurally sound.

	4.1.4	Identify opportunities to protect young seedlings growing from mature remnant trees on unleased public land where it is appropriate	Ongoing	• Collaborative effort to identify sites. • 'Connecting Nature and People' initiative. • ACT NRM Sustainable Urban Green Spaces project.
	4.3.2	Ensure by-product from maintenance of the urban forest is used to support tree health and biodiversity conservation including in habitat restoration programs and nature-based park features	Ongoing	• Wood by-product continues to be directed to habitat restoration projects, nature-based park features and mulch for reuse across the ACT. • Urban Wood Reuse Plan developed in 2025. • Dedicated woodyard coordinator engaged in 2024-25.
Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest and liveability	5.1.2	Continue to promote positive community behaviour in relation to managing and protecting nature strips and other public areas	Ongoing	• Canberra continues to be recognised as an 'International Tree City of the World' by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Arbor Day Foundation. • Brochure developed on the value of street trees and ways in which residents can help care for their street tree. • Social media campaigns utilised periodically.
	5.2.1	Collaborate across ACT Government to increase tree numbers in priority areas (Action 11 of the LIP)	Ongoing	• Increased planting in priority areas is underway. • Collaboration across CED to plan for habitat connectivity & active travel and negotiate tree retention in development projects. • Collaboration with ACT Education and ACT Property Group to build spatial tree asset layer. • Collaboration with ACT Education, Parks and Conservation Service and CMTEDD Sport and Recreation for planting opportunities. • Collaboration with ACT NRM on Sustainable Urban Green Spaces project.

				• Collaboration across CED on the Microclimate guide, Climate wise landscape guide, Climate wise planning report and tree canopy cover equivalence tool. • Collaboration with SLA on Plant a Tree in Your Canberra Garden. • Report on measuring the cooling benefits of living infrastructure.
	5.2.3	Where possible, seek to widen road verges in areas where densification is occurring and along key active travel routes to accommodate additional tree planting	Long	
Partner with the community	6.1.1	Expand and support community / volunteer programs to encompass a wider range of contributions to maintenance of the urban forest	Ongoing	• Rapid expansion of community volunteer programs is underway. • Implementation of in-house planting team to support community planting. • Adopt-a-Park funding continued in 2024-25. • Collaboration across CED to deliver ACT Nature in the City and Environment grants programs. • Community groups assisted to develop programs to promote cultural awareness, restore and revegetate waterways, and deliver environmental outcomes for improved habitat.

*From 1 July 2025 the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) and Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) formed the City and Environment Directorate (CED)