

# GREEN STREETS

## Program



**URBAN  
FOREST**  
Strategy

**HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL**





***GREEN STREETS*** is a  
**Hobsons Bay City  
Council initiative that  
seeks to create healthy  
neighbourhoods through  
the provision of quality  
tree canopy cover.**

A green street as defined for this program is a street that incorporates well designed placement of trees which are cared for and maintained to maximise their benefits. Green streets can also include passive infiltration of stormwater through water sensitive urban design when the program is run concurrently with a road rehabilitation.

A key difference of the Green Streets program from the standard tree planting program includes the increased level of community engagement and participation in the selection of trees and design for the street. The whole process is completed in collaboration with residents.

Each year, three Hobsons Bay streets are selected for the Green Streets program. The streets will typically have low canopy cover due to a lack of trees, smaller varieties of trees that will never provide adequate shade or trees that are reaching the end of their useful life expectancy and could be replaced with a healthy tree that will grow to provide long lived benefits.

# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

## STAGE 1



A consultation session is held in the selected street where residents can meet the Green Streets team, learn more about the program, view example images of what the street may look like with different species of mature trees. Residents are invited to take part in an online survey to determine the tree planting style and tree species attributes they prefer.

## STAGE 2



A second consultation session is held with residents in the street. New example images and layout options are provided, incorporating the feedback received from the stage 1 survey results. Residents are invited to complete an online survey to vote for their preferred design.

## STAGE 3



The streetscape layout and new tree species selection are finalised corresponding to the results of the stage 2 survey and are communicated to residents.

## STAGE 4



Works commence in the following order, civil works (if included), tree removals, stump removals (undertaken a few weeks after tree removals), tree planting (according to the streetscape plan).

## ONGOING



Council's Arboriculture team will maintain the new trees, including watering, weeding and pruning. Residents can assist by providing additional water during dry periods.

# **WHAT CAN BE** **influenced during** **the consultation**

As part of the online surveys, which will be available to all residents regardless of their ability to attend the two consultation sessions, residents will be able to influence:

## **The streetscape planting style**

*(e.g. an avenue style planting, a mixed style, etc)*

## **The tree species attributes**

*(e.g. deciduous, evergreen, flowering, native)*

Designs and species selection will be refined based on the majority opinions of participating residents.





## ***WHAT CANNOT BE*** **influenced during the consultation**

Council uses current evidence-based data to select suitable species that will be both appropriately sized shade trees and resilient to Victoria's future climatic conditions which are predicted to be warmer and dryer with longer heatwaves. This enables our streets to be planted with enduring trees that provide a multitude of benefits. Therefore, the below cannot be influenced:

### **The exact species to be planted.**

Council will have the final say in species; however, species will be selected based on the preferred species attributes garnered from the survey results.

### **Requests to leave a nature strip vacant.**

Council's Urban Forest Strategy includes the target of 30% canopy cover in Hobsons Bay by 2040. This means that planting a tree on every suitable nature strip is vital to achieving this target to future proof our city.



# TREE REMOVALS

Council will retain existing healthy trees that are categorised as a canopy tree. This means larger sized species, whether they have been planted recently or 20 years ago. Trees may be removed if they meet with the below criteria:

## **DETERIORATING TREE**

Trees deteriorating in health, nearing the end of their useful life expectancy (ULE). Trees with a low ULE would normally require replacement within 5 to 10 years. A replacement tree would then require another 10 to 20 years to reach its mature size to provide its many benefits to the community. By removing and replacing low ULE trees, Council can fast track the planting of quality, shade providing trees to help us reach our target of 30% canopy cover by 2040.

## **SMALL TREES**

Small varieties of trees, which, due to their small size are categorised as low value trees because they will never grow large enough to provide adequate shading and cooling effects.

## **UNSUITABLE TREES**

Unsuitable trees that have been planted inappropriately.

Council will consider requests to retain low value trees where residents may have sentimental attachment to a tree. Please ensure you speak to the team if you have concerns.

## **RESTRICTIONS TO PLANTING TREES**



A plan for replacements and new plantings will aim at including as many trees as possible, whilst factoring in any surrounding infrastructure. Tree planting is carried out according to Australian Standards and must also consider the locations of water mains, gas pipes, light poles, street signs, crossovers and powerlines. Some changes to a plan may occur during the planting works to allow for underground and above ground infrastructure.

## **HABITAT GARDENS**

Along side the Green Streets program, the Conservation team will invite Green Streets residents to join the Habitat Gardens program which aims at increasing biodiversity, improving habitat corridors for wildlife and providing education around indigenous flora and fauna.



**HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL**



## Contact us

customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

1300 179 944

NRS phone 133 677 and quote 1300 179 944

115 Civic Parade, Altona

 [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

 [facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil](https://facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil)

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**HOBSONS BAY  
LANGUAGE LINE**  
**9932 1212**

