## 10.4 Amenity and Assets Directorate

### 10.4.1 Tree Donations Policy

To the Chief Executive Officer

**Directorate:** Amenity and Assets
**Group:** Services

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**Approver:** Ben Stewart, Director Amenity and Assets

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## Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of updates to the Tree Donations Policy. It is proposed to update the Tree Donations Policy to reflect the current practice of supporting schools by providing opportunities for them to participate in Council's tree planting activities.

If Council adopts the recommendation, the draft Tree Donations Policy will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. If any submissions are received that results in changes to the policy position a report will be submitted to Council for consideration detailing the public exhibition outcomes. If there are no substantial changes to the Policy required, it is recommended that Council adopt the draft Tree Donations Policy.

## Background

Council's current Tree Donations Policy states Council will donate a maximum of 25 plants to schools and not for profit preschools, if requested. This policy was first adopted in 1987 and it has been reviewed with minor changes on a number of occasions since.

Council has not been requested to supply trees to schools for their grounds for a number of years. Instead, Council has been facilitating opportunities for students to participate in planting days in public open spaces, where Council is undertaking bush regeneration works or tree planting programs. This provides appropriate plants in locations that are consistent with bush regeneration activities and planting programs.

It is proposed to update the policy to reflect current practice that supports

students and provides overall benefits to community land. The species of tree are generally endemic and primarily souced through the nursery.

## Council Implications

Financial / Resources

The donation of trees, as outlined in the existing policy, is unfunded. Planting days can be incorporated into Council's works program, which will have no significant financial or resource impacts.

Legislation and Policy (including Advocacy, Strategic and Other Plans)

If adopted, this will become a policy position of Council and will be included in Council's Policy Register available on Council's Website.

Social Impact

Nil

Sustainability Considerations

Increasing the City's tree canopy cover is identified in Council's Climate & Sustainability Policy to enhance livability. The updated policy is consistent with this objective, giving greater control on the locations and plant types that will benefit the whole community.

Legal Considerations

Nil

Risk Considerations

Council staff will provide the appropriate controls, instruction and supervision of students to safely undertake the plantings. Staff will undertake the site preparation works and supply any required personal protection equipment to reduce the safety risks to volunteers.

## Link to Community Strategic Plan

This report supports the following objectives, strategies and actions of the Community Strategic Plan:

### 2.1 We are sustainable

2.1.1 Our bushland, coast and waterways are protected to ensure safe and sustainable use for present and future generations

2.1.1.02 Protect and manage natural areas across the City in line with Vegetation Management Plans

## Previous Council Resolutions (including type and date of meeting)

The Tree Donations Policy was first adopted on 30 November 1987 (Council resolution Minute number 1033) and reviewed in 2009, 2016 and 2020 without substantial changes.

## Consultation

**Internal**
Open Spaces Team

## External

The recommendation is to undertake Public Consultation.

## Political Donations Disclosure

Not applicable.

## Options

Option 1:
That Council endorse the draft Tree Donations Policy for public exhibition for a period of 28 days calling for submissions. This will assist Council to consider updating the policy on providing plants to support school students.

Option 2:
That Council resolves to re-affirm the existing policy to donate 25 trees to schools without change. There is no identified funding source for the donation of trees.

## Conclusion

Council's Tree Donations Policy is due for review. It proposed to update this policy to reflect current practice which is for Council to support schools to plant

trees in public spaces. School planting days can be incorporated into Council's bushland regeneration or other planting programs which already have resources allocated to them.

This update will provide a financially sustainable approach to supporting school students for the benefit of the whole community.

## Recommendation

**That:**

1. **Council endorse the draft Tree Donations Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days calling for submissions.**

2. **If any valid opposing submissions are received as a result of public exhibition, or if there are substantial post public exhibition changes proposed for any other reasons, a report be submitted to Council for consideration detailing the public exhibition outcomes and with further recommendations regarding adoption.**

3. **If there are no valid opposing submissions received as a result of the public exhibition, or there are no substantial post public exhibition changes proposed for any other reasons, Council adopt the draft Tree Donations Policy as attached to this report.**

**This resolution is a policy position of Council.**

## Attachments

1. Tree Donations - Council Policy (2023 Update)