

Protecting Trees on Private Land

Draft Policy Feedback Survey

Summary report for elected members

Survey closed 16 June 2026

Total survey responses	Answered Q1	Answered Q5	Open-text comments
125	121	124	94

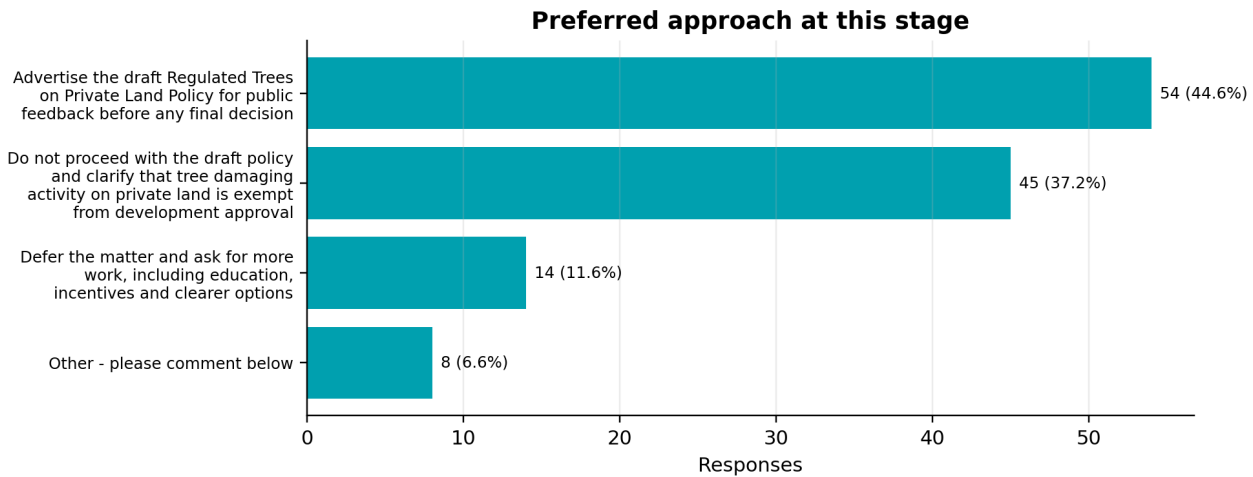
Note: results are from a community survey circulated by Cr Karen Wheatland. The survey is not a statistically weighted City-wide sample. It is useful as a snapshot of views from engaged residents and ratepayers who chose to respond.

Executive Summary

- The survey collected 125 responses, with 121 respondents answering the question on which pathway they support at this stage.
- On the immediate policy pathway, 54 respondents (44.6%) supported advertising the draft policy for public feedback before a final decision. 45 respondents (37.2%) supported not proceeding with the draft policy and clarifying that tree damaging activity on private land is exempt from development approval.
- The strongest issue priorities were protecting mature trees and urban canopy (79 selections), supporting biodiversity and habitat (69), protecting private property rights (47) and clear rules for subdivision and redevelopment (47).
- On the broader approach to tree retention, the largest group supported a mix of regulation, education and incentives (60 responses, 48.4%).
- Open-text comments show strong support for mature tree protection and biodiversity, but also strong concern about private property rights, maintenance costs, safety, enforcement, complexity and the need for incentives or support.
- The results indicate this is not a simple pro-tree versus anti-tree issue. Respondents are asking Council to consider canopy protection, fairness, practical implementation, resident support, development impacts and clear consultation before making a final decision.

Headline Results

Question 1 - Which approach do you support at this stage?

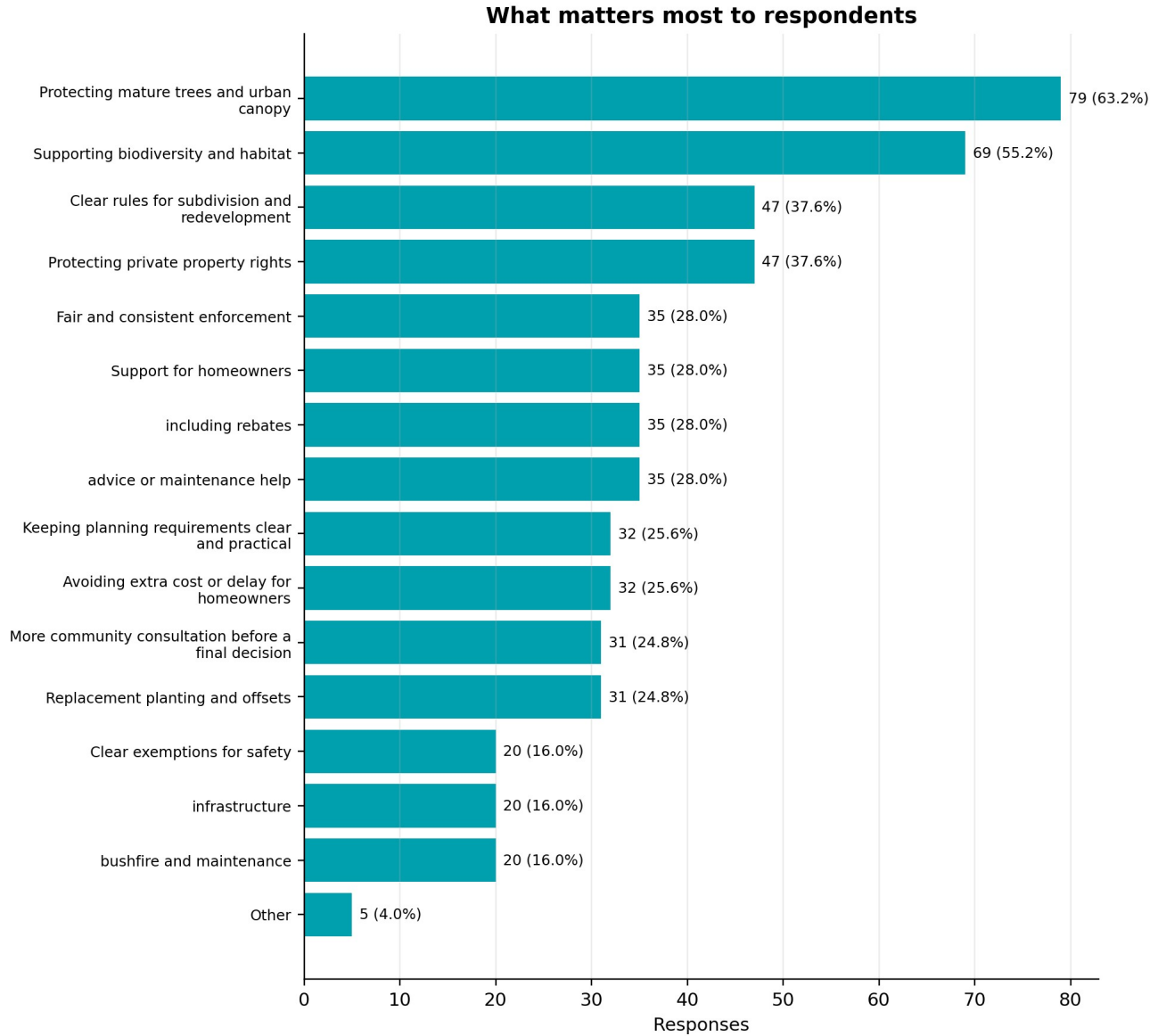


Question 1 result table

Response	Count	Share
Advertise the draft Regulated Trees on Private Land Policy for public feedback before any final decision	54	44.6%
Do not proceed with the draft policy and clarify that tree damaging activity on private land is exempt from development approval	45	37.2%
Defer the matter and ask for more work, including education, incentives and clearer options	14	11.6%
Other - please comment below	8	6.6%

Analysis: The largest share supported advertising the draft policy for public comment before any final decision. However, a substantial minority supported the exemption pathway. A smaller group preferred deferral for more work, education, incentives and clearer options. This supports the view that Council is dealing with competing policy preferences and that further community consultation should be clear about what each pathway means in practice.

Question 3 - What matters most to you?



Question 3 result table

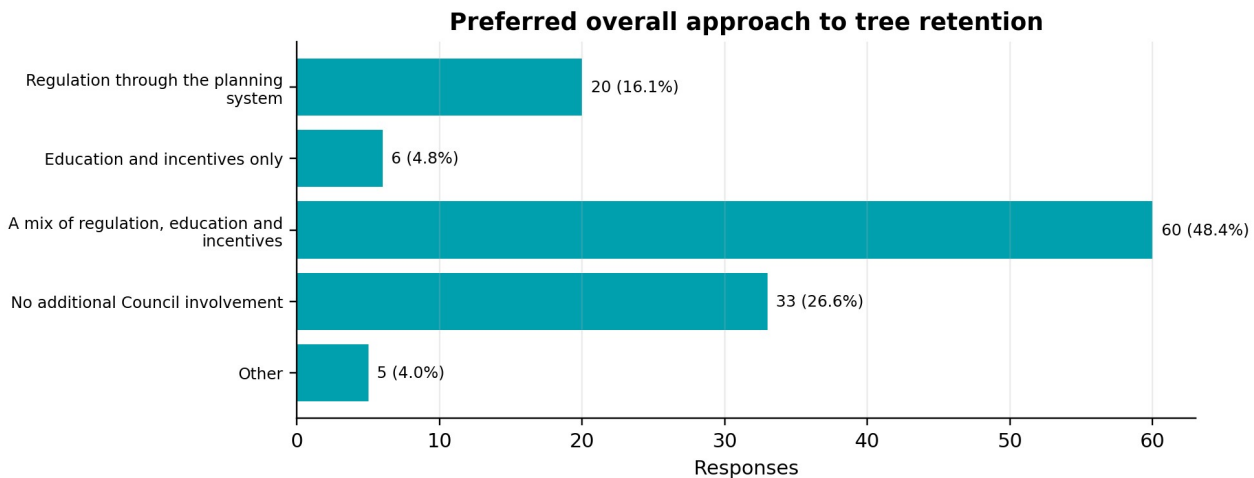
Response	Count	Share
Protecting mature trees and urban canopy	79	63.2%
Supporting biodiversity and habitat	69	55.2%
Clear rules for subdivision and redevelopment	47	37.6%
Protecting private property rights	47	37.6%
Fair and consistent enforcement	35	28.0%
Support for homeowners	35	28.0%
including rebates	35	28.0%
advice or maintenance help	35	28.0%
Keeping planning requirements clear and practical	32	25.6%

Avoiding extra cost or delay for homeowners	32	25.6%
More community consultation before a final decision	31	24.8%
Replacement planting and offsets	31	24.8%
Clear exemptions for safety infrastructure	20	16.0%
bushfire and maintenance	20	16.0%
Other	5	4.0%

Percentages are calculated against total survey responses. Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages do not sum to 100%.

Analysis: The strongest priorities were mature trees, canopy, biodiversity and habitat. At the same time, private property rights and clear subdivision/redevelopment rules were also prominent. This shows respondents are not only concerned with environmental outcomes; they also want clarity, fairness and a practical planning framework.

Question 5 - What approach should Council take?

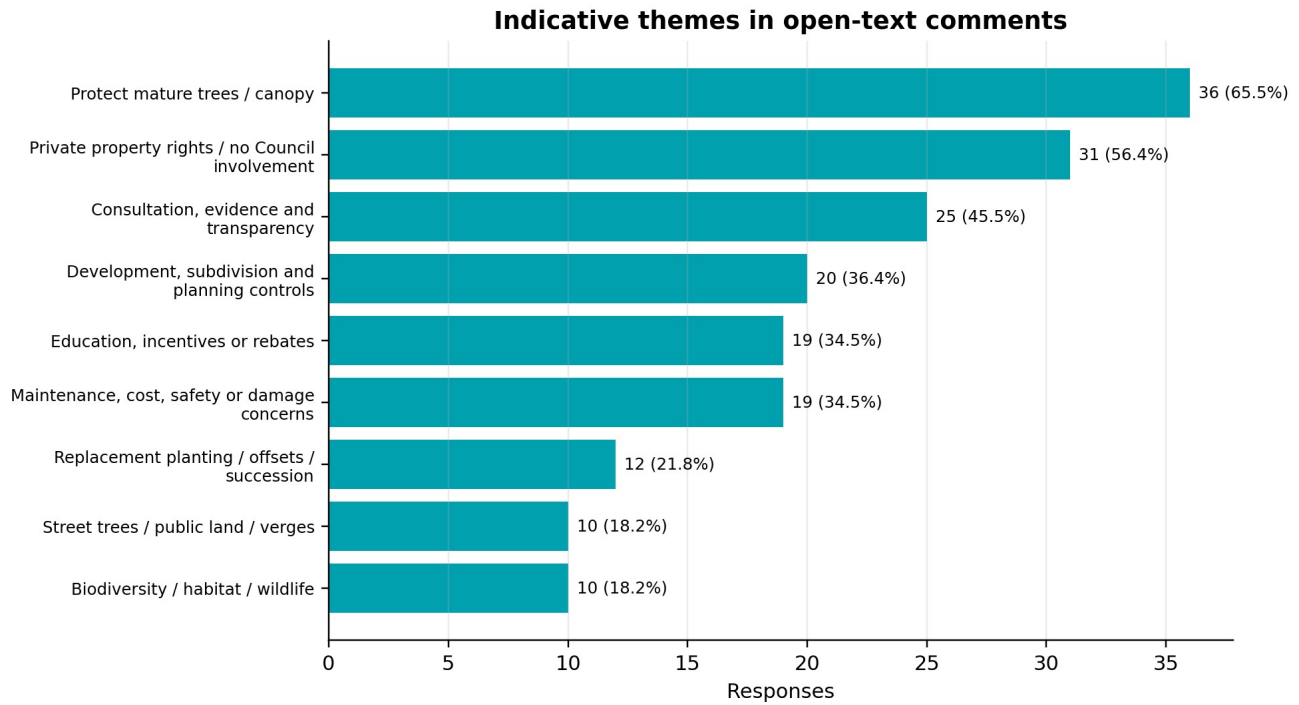


Question 5 result table

Response	Count	Share
Regulation through the planning system	20	16.1%
Education and incentives only	6	4.8%
A mix of regulation, education and incentives	60	48.4%
No additional Council involvement	33	26.6%
Other	5	4.0%

Analysis: The strongest result was support for a mixed approach involving regulation, education and incentives. The second largest response was no additional Council involvement. This is important because it points to a clear split in community sentiment: many respondents want canopy protection but also want Council to avoid unnecessary complexity or overreach.

Open-text Comments - Thematic Analysis



The open-text comments were reviewed and grouped into indicative themes. Comments often touched on more than one theme, so counts should be read as a guide to the issues raised rather than a definitive statistical classification.

Indicative open-text theme table

Response	Count	Share
Protect mature trees / canopy	36	65.5%
Private property rights / no Council involvement	31	56.4%
Consultation, evidence and transparency	25	45.5%
Development, subdivision and planning controls	20	36.4%
Education, incentives or rebates	19	34.5%
Maintenance, cost, safety or damage concerns	19	34.5%
Replacement planting / offsets / succession	12	21.8%
Street trees / public land / verges	10	18.2%
Biodiversity / habitat / wildlife	10	18.2%

Theme coding is indicative only. One comment may be counted against multiple themes.

Key Themes and Representative Comments

Protecting mature trees, canopy and biodiversity

Many respondents raised concern about ongoing loss of mature trees, urban heat, biodiversity and habitat. Several comments argued that mature trees cannot be quickly replaced by seedlings and that canopy loss affects the broader community, not only individual landowners.

Private property rights and Council overreach

A significant number of respondents opposed regulation on private land. Concerns included property rights, the ability to manage unsafe or inappropriate trees, fear of costs and frustration with Council telling owners what they can do on their own land.

Support, incentives and practical help

A recurring middle-ground theme was that Council should provide advice, rebates, maintenance support, negotiated arborist services, incentives or rates relief to encourage tree retention rather than relying only on regulation.

Development, subdivision and planning impacts

Several respondents distinguished between ordinary homeowners and redevelopment or subdivision activity. There was concern that clear-felling development sites is a key driver of canopy loss and should be addressed differently from residents managing individual trees.

Safety, maintenance and cost

Many comments highlighted real practical issues: limb drop, root damage, gutters, fences, maintenance costs and arborist fees. These concerns are important because any policy must include clear exemptions and a workable pathway for genuine risk and hardship.

Consultation, evidence and transparency

Respondents asked for more public consultation, clearer evidence, published information and better explanation of the policy options. This theme supports the need for a consultation process that explains the regulatory pathway, exemption pathway, costs, risks and practical consequences.

Selected Comments by Theme

Protecting mature trees, canopy and biodiversity

“The city has allowed developers to destroy canopy and does not give strong green setting there needs to be a way bigger idea around green scale and streetscape planting and planning”

“Mature trees need to be preserved as much as possible.”

“This sets a precedent, where the council over steps the rights of what homeowners can do on their private property. Private trees are not just those in front yards, it includes backyards too. If they are concerned about tree canopy, focus on council land/verges and public open spaces, not in people's backyards”

Private property rights and Council overreach

“Definitely do not agree with Cr McGoldrick!!!! It's very evident from many other Perth councils that any tree removals need to be approved whether they be in private land or not!”

“We have planning permission on buildings, garden sheds, garages, roosters and more for the welfare and safety of our community and environment. This is not any different and claims that private property is just that are rabidly ignoring the community in which they sit, their immediate neighbours, and the planning regulations to which they are already subject.”

“Keep ya grubby mitts off private property you deluded [offensive language redacted] mong”

Support, incentives and practical help

“Education as well but we can't wait for people to catch up”

“Not knowing the detail of the proposed policy it seems better to ask for more education and information.”

“Education aimed at young families, so that they can recognise the value of trees, shade, habitat as many newer homes are purchased by young families.”

Development, subdivision and planning impacts

“The city has allowed developers to destroy canopy and does not give strong green setting there needs to be a way bigger idea around green scale and streetscape planting and planning”

“We have planning permission on buildings, garden sheds, garages, roosters and more for the welfare and safety of our community and environment. This is not any different and claims that private property is just that are rabidly ignoring the community in which they sit, their immediate neighbours, and the planning regulations to which they are already subject.”

“I think a big consideration is enforcing the rules for developers who may look for loopholes to maximise return on investment over tree retention.”

Safety, maintenance and cost

“We have planning permission on buildings, garden sheds, garages, roosters and more for the welfare and safety of our community and environment. This is not any different and claims that private property is just that are rabidly ignoring the community in which they sit, their immediate neighbours, and the planning regulations to which they are already subject.”

“Rates reduction for mature Tree canopy maintenance would be a constant reminder of people of the value of the City puts on trees on Private land.

Arborist fees are prohibitively High for homeowners.”

“A balanced approach. Education and incentives are important, but Perth’s canopy continues to decline. We already regulate many activities on private land where there is a broader community

impact. Mature trees provide shade, cooling, habitat and neighbourhood amenity that benefit the wider community beyond individual fence lines.”

Consultation, evidence and transparency

“At least give the community a go to see what they think”

“When I say more community consultation- I mean with the new policy”

“Establish the evidence of how many trees where they are what species and survey those who gave the potential to have a regulated tree first”

Implications for Council Consideration

- There is clear community interest in having a say before Council makes a final decision.
- The results do not show unanimous support for one pathway. They show a divided community with a strong middle-ground preference for a combined approach.
- A regulatory pathway will need to be clear, proportionate and supported by exemptions for safety, infrastructure, bushfire and maintenance issues.
- An exemption pathway should be assessed against risks including canopy loss, legal ambiguity, biodiversity impacts, strategic alignment and community confidence.
- Education and incentives are strongly supported but many respondents do not see them as sufficient on their own.
- The distinction between homeowners managing individual trees and developers clearing sites is a recurring issue that may need clearer policy treatment.
- Any future consultation should explain both the regulatory and non-regulatory pathways in plain English and invite feedback on practical implementation, cost, exemptions and enforcement.

Suggested Next Steps

1. Circulate this report to elected members as a snapshot of community feedback received through the survey.

2. Ensure any public advertising material clearly explains the policy choices available to Council and the practical consequences of each pathway.
3. Include a plain-English comparison of regulatory, exemption and mixed approaches.
4. Specifically seek feedback on exemptions, homeowner support, development site clearing, replacement planting, offsets, compliance and implementation costs.
5. Consider whether community feedback supports advertising both pathways concurrently before Council makes a final determination.

Appendix A - All Open-text Comments

Comments below are reproduced from the survey export. Personal contact details have been redacted for circulation. Offensive language has been redacted while retaining the existence and general substance of the response.

Respondent 3 - Question 2: At least give the community a go to see what they think

Respondent 3 - Question 4: When I say more community consultation- I mean with the new policy

Respondent 3 - Question 6: Education as well but we can't wait for people to catch up

Respondent 4 - Question 2: Establish the evidence of how many trees where they are what species and survey those who gave the potential to have a regulated tree first

Respondent 4 - Question 4: The city has allowed developers to destroy canopy and does not give strong green setting there needs to be a way bigger idea around green scale and streetscape planting and planning

Respondent 4 - Question 6: Do the work first and listen to those most affected

Respondent 4 - Question 7: How the City improves its own track record on green space

Respondent 5 - Question 2: Definitely do not agree with Cr McGoldrick!!!! It's very evident from many other Perth councils that any tree removals need to be approved whether they be in private land or not!

Respondent 6 - Question 2: Not knowing the detail of the proposed policy it seems better to ask for more education and information.

Respondent 6 - Question 6: I'd like Council to allow property owners to request for or to apply protections to older trees say those over 25 years old, so that they are protected from development and neighbours.

If a block is being subdivided, Council planning permission must stipulate native specie

verge trees are planted on that verge and maintained for x period by the developer/builder to ensure their survival.

Native trees like a Grasstree should require specific permission.

Respondent 6 - Question 7: We have planning permission on buildings, garden sheds, garages, roosters and more for the welfare and safety of our community and environment. This is not any different and claims that private property is just that are rabidly ignoring the community in which they sit, their immediate neighbours, and the planning regulations to which they are already subject.

Respondent 7 - Question 4: Keep ya grubby mitts off private property you deluded [offensive language redacted] mong

Respondent 7 - Question 6: Private property. [offensive language redacted] off.

Respondent 7 - Question 7: Consider resigning you [offensive language redacted] degenerate

Respondent 9 - Question 7: Offsets are as about as useful as trying to fill a bath without the plug in.

Respondent 10 - Question 2: Mature trees need to be preserved as much as possible.

Respondent 13 - Question 2: Trees on private property should be a private matter, not council matter. It is the owners responsibility to care and maintain the tree, why should the council have a say otherwise?

Respondent 13 - Question 7: This sets a precedent, where the council over steps the rights of what homeowners can do on their private property. Private trees are not just those in front yards, it includes backyards too. If they are concerned about tree canopy, focus on council land/verges and public open spaces, not in people's backyards

Respondent 15 - Question 2: What I do on my property in regards to trees should have nothing to do with council

Respondent 19 - Question 7: Proper consultation on issues that impact private property landowners

Respondent 22 - Question 4: Trees on private land is a key aspect of any urban forest strategy. Council can offset planting on all the publicly held land but it will not offset potential losses of mature trees on private land.

Respondent 23 - Question 4: Rates reduction for mature Tree canopy maintenance would be a constant reminder of people of the value of the City puts on trees on Private land. Arborist fees are prohibitively High for homeowners.

Respondent 23 - Question 6: Sorry, previous replies probably relevant here

Respondent 23 - Question 7: Thanks, Karen

Respondent 24 - Question 6: I think a big consideration is enforcing the rules for developers who may look for loopholes to maximise return on investment over tree retention.

Respondent 26 - Question 7: Council should not be able to dictate what people do on private land. Home owners should be allowed to landscape as they see fit. I removed a tree that was constantly dropping debris and with health problems it was becoming to difficult and painful to constantly clean up after. But guess what, I've planted 6 other trees since then in more suitable locations that require less maintenance. People who remove trees, don't hate trees and more often than not, plant more than they have removed to match the garden design.

Council has plenty of public land to meet canopy quotas. Every verge and every bit of parkland should be filled with trees before ever considering dictating what people can and cannot do on private property.

It would be good to see council making it easier and incentivising nature strip verges over grass verges.

Please be aware you'll find far more people vocal about wanting these changes because they have vested interests in protecting trees. The average punter won't make a comment even though they strongly believe as do i that council has no business dictating in this matter.

Respondent 28 - Question 4: I had two very unattractive council trees on my verge, which look half dead, most of the year. I asked the council to test them, to see if they had a disease, which they did not. I wanted to replace them with my own choice of native trees, to compliment both my street and my garden, which I maintain beautifully.

I was told by the council arborist, that if I removed them myself and planted the trees of my choice, I could face a fine of up to \$5000!

I did it anyway and my beautiful native trees look fantastic.

My neighbour across the road has the same species of the ugly tree and is "too scared" of the Council to put a native of her choice on her property.

We as ratepayers, should not feel "scared" of our Council, for paying out of our own

pockets, to make our streets and properties beautiful and attractive to native birds and providing shade and habitat.

Respondent 29 - Question 4: Too many mature trees are being cut down on private land, before considering alternatives which can balance increasing density without reducing tree canopy

Respondent 29 - Question 7: Education aimed at young families, so that they can recognise the value of trees, shade, habitat as many newer homes are purchased by young families.

Respondent 32 - Question 2: That a mature tree cannot be removed simply for any fiscal gain by a landowner.

Respondent 32 - Question 6: That the council should ensure the preservation of the mature tree canopy.

Respondent 34 - Question 4: Protecting mature trees and ensuring the community has an opportunity to provide feedback before any final decision is made.

Respondent 34 - Question 6: A balanced approach. Education and incentives are important, but Perth's canopy continues to decline. We already regulate many activities on private land where there is a broader community impact. Mature trees provide shade, cooling, habitat and neighbourhood amenity that benefit the wider community beyond individual fence lines.

Respondent 34 - Question 7: Perth has the lowest urban tree canopy of any Australian capital city and some of the hottest suburbs. We cannot afford to keep losing mature trees while hoping education alone will reverse the trend.

Residents may ultimately support this draft policy, oppose it or want changes to it. The purpose of consultation is to find that out. At a minimum, the community should have the opportunity to review the draft policy and provide feedback before Council decides whether to proceed.

Respondent 36 - Question 6: The COM has no business dictating what people do on their land.

The COM should focus on trees on Crown Land that urgently require attention as well as planting more trees on public land.

Too many current verge trees are obstructing footpaths at the moment. Pedestrians should not be forced onto the road because verge trees have not been pruned clear of

footpaths. No tree branches should extend into/over the footpath to a height of at least 2 metres. Yes we need to preserve tree canopy but we also need greater housing density and that means some mature trees need to be cleared when large blocks are subdivided.

Respondent 36 - Question 7: Some existing verge trees (mostly large gum trees) are unsafe and regularly drop large limbs that can cause damage and injury. Is there a plan to plant replacement trees so that these unsafe trees can be removed?

Respondent 37 - Question 2: Cr McGoldrick's motion to include the consideration of tree damaging activity while admirable raises the need to define tree damaging activity clearly.

Respondent 37 - Question 4: What is needed is an urban canopy policy that is not just about keeping mature trees and includes successive planting of trees so that when a mature tree does need to be removed it doesn't mean a significant decrease in canopy like what is occurring now.

Respondent 39 - Question 2: Prioritise canopy retention and increase above development. This doesn't mean no development, but limits on house size relative to residential block. If people don't want trees they should live in apartments.

Respondent 40 - Question 6: the arborists need to remove the widow maker gum trees and take accountability for the damage to property from council verge gum trees and plant appropriate lush shady trees on the verges. They should not have any say in trees on private property

Respondent 42 - Question 7: City effort would be better reserved for enhanced pedestrian safety with road reserves.

City currently fails to enforce many existing regulations.eg Crossovers.

Respondent 45 - Question 4: We are in a crisis with loss of canopy. Every day I hear from friends in the CoM in tears because new neighbours have cut down beautiful big trees. This cannot go on or there will be nothing left.

Respondent 45 - Question 6: I do think we need education and support for those most in need but the priority should be to protect large trees on private land.

Respondent 45 - Question 7: The council claims it wants to reach 15%, the state government is seeking 30%. We're going backwards. Planting new trees is great but new trees do not compensate for mature trees. We needed to act years ago. As that ship has sailed, we need to act urgently.

Respondent 47 - Question 7: The policy needs to be realistic, but also consistent, and people shouldn't be able to easily justify damage or tree destruction - there needs to be consequences for those who disregard. I hope that Council has the courage to take a bigger picture view, and know that in impacting the interests of individual owners, there is often a much broader interest across the community that requires a voice, but does not have one if Council is driven only to respond to individuals and the loudest voices. As pressure on our spaces increases, trees become even more significant, even if they are "inconvenient", and the rules that govern what we do need to factor their value in, so that decisions are not driven by finances alone and can have a longer term perspective. Council is also in the position to lead the discussion and raise awareness and promote change for the benefit of all the things that may not always fit with the focus on the individual. Our trees are such a critical part of the lifestyle of our suburbs. If it is easy to destroy established trees, particularly as the pace of redevelopment increases, we will never get established trees back - long after the current residents have moved on. Council has a responsibility to act for today's AND tomorrow's residents. Council already intervenes with precise detail around some things on private property (eg in the building context - design rules, swimming pools etc - where these rules may increase cost), so it is difficult to see how they cannot help reserve tree canopy, when the opposition is generally driven by ease of development. In many cases, tree retention will enhance our architecture and design, and ultimately have a positive effect for everyone, and I really hope Council will take their role in this seriously and be a leader, as there is no disputing the science and the benefits to us all. Our suburbs are already poorer for the decisions that have been made in recent years under the guise of "development"

Respondent 49 - Question 2: We would prefer the WALGA policy which places a greater emphasis on tree canopy protection than building development. The proposed policy is slanted toward development and tree destruction not measuring against the size, stability or nature of the tree canopy in the area. It also fails to place cooling or elevate mitigating urban heat impacts, improving environmental outcomes and supporting biodiversity through the retention and establishment of tree canopy as a primary objective.

Respondent 49 - Question 7: A survey on the trees on private property in the CoM to assess the quality, range, and appropriateness for retaining our birds.

Respondent 52 - Question 7: A rebate, rate discount for those who add native plants/trees to gardens and further encouragement to developers to design around existing trees in new development areas and in redevelopment projects

Respondent 53 - Question 4: DONT TOUCH THE [offensive language redacted] PRIVATE PROPERTY U [offensive language redacted] I DONT GIVE A [offensive language redacted] ABOUT THIS OVAL BULL SHIT BUT DONT U [offensive language redacted] TELL ME WHAT TO DO ON MY LAND IT IS PRIVATE PROPERTY U [offensive language redacted]

Respondent 53 - Question 6: [offensive language redacted] OFF

Respondent 55 - Question 2: Perhaps at the same time publish the staggering statistics about urban heat? Take temperature readings along Kishorn Rd; is that the road that has these magnificent trees along the sides and in summer it is such a delight to drive through as it 'feels' so cool.

Talk to Amy Warner (EcoHub)? re some stats. Find out how many trees the City plants each year? The City is trying hard to meet a target (I think that is true?) so it seems crazy to chop one down.

Also don't forget that every tree, especially mature trees, can be the home for numerous insects, birds etc. Especially if it has a hollow or two.

Talk to the EcoHub guys re the value of trees.

And isn't each City/Shire aiming to meet a particular percentage of cover? If this one goes ahead then others will be bound to follow.

(Just some ramblings; bit rushed at the moment.)

And finally I assume the home owner wants to cut it down for a good reason; perhaps there is another solution? Maybe the City staff could come up with another solution. And also don't forget MCCAN; Melville City Climate Action Network; we now have a housing guy who may be able to come up with a solution that solves a problem for the home owner but the tree could remain.

Cheers, Wendy

Respondent 55 - Question 4: Hmm tricky. I have often thought about being a Councillor; but I don't think I could do it!!!! Good luck.

Respondent 55 - Question 6: I didn't read why the homeowner wants to cut the tree down.

Respondent 57 - Question 7: Mature trees, although fantastic, are a genuine nightmare to try and manage as a new homeowner. They drop debris everywhere and the root systems can be damaging to not only the property that the tree is on but other surrounding properties. It also costs an arm and a leg to get an arborist in, and the number of tools required to manage and maintain these trees are significant. Without financial support it is easier to cut the trees down than maintain them once they reach a certain height.

Respondent 59 - Question 2: Trees in private gardens, in close proximity to buildings and neighbors, require regular maintenance. At times trees require removal and replacing. Land owners should be free to carry out these activities.

Where a property is to be redeveloped, tree retention and future landscaping should be a priority and included in the planning application for all buildings.

I have ticked "Advertising the Draft" as I think it is important to set out the detail of the proposed policy and seek community feedback.

Respondent 60 - Question 4: i would like all the public consultation and all the supporting evidence published and available

Respondent 60 - Question 6: it is needed in particular old school developers take the easy approach we need to regulation to ensure trees are valued and spark innovative design !! safely incorporating established canopy in designs

Respondent 60 - Question 7: Ensure the city shares all relevant information with councillors and share this with the public.

Respondent 61 - Question 2: Putting in a pause before trees are cut down on private land is a good thing. We need to protect our canopy.

I also think from a positive sense that council should support private trees e.g. we have a very large tree on our property which we recently paid \$2000 to have pruned- we would have lived to have had advice from the council about what needed to be done - independent advice and perhaps council negotiate a large contract to achieve cheap tree surgeon rates.

Respondent 61 - Question 7: We all must be prepared for some inconvenience to protect the greater good.

Respondent 68 - Question 2: Too confusing are the current proposals in

Respondent 69 - Question 4: R40 zoning is the most destructive to trees on private land. There is no land left over once a block becomes 300 sq metres. City needs to rethink R40 throughout and consider high rise around the transport hubs, leaving the residential areas alone, and plant street trees.

The consequence of high regulation on private land will be large scale poisoning of trees. Private land means private.

Respondent 69 - Question 6: Remove all R40 from LPS6 and build highrise around the stations.

Arbon Carbon report highlights dangers of R40 throughout for example Ardross. drops tree cover from. 15% to 4.6%. Unacceptable.

Respondent 69 - Question 7: Compulsory street trees every 20 metres on verges. No fake grass.

Respondent 70 - Question 6: The common good should take precedence over private property rights. At the same time recognition of collective limitation this imposes and reward through rates relief for proportion of property with tree canopy cover is an important compensation.

Respondent 71 - Question 2: We should be protecting our tree canopy and bushland as much as possible. I understand we need to allow appropriate development for housing (although note part of our housing availability problem has come from Asian investment which takes the investment properties off the rental/residential market causing a big hole in the system. Also soaring costs prevent access to many. One can look to areas overseas, e.g., Scandinavia, Parts UK, etc for information towards more sustainable development incorporating trees and bushland. It's possible for co-existence. Thanks for the opportunity for input Karen, you do a great job

Respondent 71 - Question 4: We urgently need to support our trees and bushland in co-existence with our community

Respondent 71 - Question 6: Replanting has limited value with a lot lost from loss of the original systems

Respondent 71 - Question 7: Need to support community but not to extreme measures. The proposal to fund and clear bushland for a cricket pitch is ridiculous when one sees the true details. There are already facilities; more than enough around need better sharing and maintenance of infrastructure and facilities already in place.

Respondent 72 - Question 4: Property owners need to make their own decisions according to circumstance, eg we removed several mature trees a few years ago when we realised we were no longer physically capable to maintain them or financially able to pay contractors for the maintenance. . Neighbours are having huge problems with trees planted on their neighbouring property, filling their gutters , roots coming under the fence and damaging their property, tree trunks pushing their fence.

Problems like these, arising from inappropriate planting should be able to be dealt with by property owners without interference.

Respondent 73 - Question 4: Get with the programme. Ten other councils and most eastern states have rules about trees on private property. The sky doesn't fall in and development continues.

Respondent 73 - Question 7: Trees make suburbs more valuable, and cheaper to live in as they regulate heat (less energy spent on cooling). You can't argue against increasing property values, can you?

Respondent 75 - Question 2: Implement the strategy

Respondent 75 - Question 7: I make my living in the arboriculture industry, I fully support tree retention on private land

Respondent 76 - Question 2: Proceed

Respondent 76 - Question 4: You should have to apply to damage the canopy. It affects us all

Respondent 77 - Question 7: It is not the role of council and a vocal minority group to dictate what a land owner should be able to do on their own land. Otherwise than building matters. I think that council really needs to take a common sense approach to this and not try to over regulate the people that pay their wages. You will always get some people that will lobby for something that suits them but not necessarily the majority. If we didn't allow such

Small lot sizes this may not of happened. Thank you for asking for people's opinion.

Respondent 80 - Question 7: Everyone consistently clears their whole site when developing, council needs to offer support and incentives to keep regulated trees that don't impact with new developments ie trees on the boundary and in front and rear yards. Clients have to pay to get a arborist report in the Town of VIC park in order to remove a tree in the middle of their block, that is too costly and not sensible. Maybe the council can cover the arborist report to see what trees are worth saving

Respondent 85 - Question 6: No involvement. Stop with this nonsense.

Respondent 97 - Question 4: HANDS OFF.

Respondent 100 - Question 7: Melville needs to save the trees but cut more down!!

Respondent 101 - Question 7: Hi Karen, thanks for the opportunity to comment. I don't know how this would work in practice but I think there needs to be a distinction in law between private residents and developers who clear entire ecosystems. I feel the good intention of these changes is to stop the latter but in doing so, the former is punished. As an example, we purchased a subdivisible lot in Melville and decided to retain the front house even though we could have bulldozed the whole lot - it would have been cheaper and more profitable. In doing so, we have retained a large section of native garden and trees that have been there since the 1960s. Unfortunately the previous elderly owners planted 2 large unsuitable trees amongst other good ones. 1 at the back, 1 at the front. We had to remove the 1 at the front as it dropped a large limb on our roof and pulled down the power line, shutting off the street and causing a life risk event (as it was described). I was always wary of this tree, I didn't sleep well in storms for fear of it coming down and we should have removed it sooner. If residents are forced to keep trees like this, it takes away our rights. We have preserved so much on our lot because we love nature, and it feels like there is a hate campaign against private residents who remove trees when actually people like myself and other with large lots are doing more for nature in Melville than anyone living on a 450sqm lot. Despite removing the large gum tree, our garden now attracts carnabys, red tails, kookaburras, Willy wag tails, owls. heaps of honey eaters - I could go on! In summary, residents living with large beautiful trees on their lots do not want to chop them down. It's usually always a last resort for them and people looking from the outside don't understand this. Our right to common sense decision making need to be protected. Thanks for listening.

Respondent 102 - Question 6: Ongoing maintenance of mature trees is a costly exercise. I understand why some take the easy approach and remove them at a one time cost. Council assistance with maintenance by professionals would help. Mature native trees should not under any circumstances be removed for building purposes. Offsetting one mature with numerous seedlings that take 20 years to grow won't help us now.

Respondent 106 - Question 6: Set very strict policies around types of trees people can plant so trees do not destroy property or provide unnecessary expense to maintain property affected by people's trees.

Respondent 107 - Question 7: Saving our precious urban canopy for future generations as we face the challenges of climate change should be a priority for council!! Developers should not be allowed to clearfell blocks of mature trees. Please do everything in your power to protect our mature trees that take generations to grow, provide crucial shade, a

habitat for our native wildlife and make our suburbs a more pleasant, cooler, greener place to live.

Respondent 109 - Question 2: Urgent action to protect mature trees on private property. Removing these trees affects all of us.

Respondent 109 - Question 7: Mature trees next door to me frequently have black cockatoos in them. This has been the case for many years. If trees on private property are known to provide habitat for vulnerable native species, I feel these trees should be protected and that this should be taken into account if owners wish to remove trees.

Respondent 110 - Question 2: Trees are important but so are smaller plants (bush, shrub, ground covering plants). Perhaps a good way to tackle resistant residents is to provide an attractive rebate on heating and water for first 3 or 5 years while the trees establish. Then provide subsidies for houses that require pruning. It might mean that the council starts to establish a team of tree surgeons in this initial periods so that trees can be cared for every 2 years or so?

There are residents who opposed the idea who simply do not appreciate the health benefits of having regular contact with green spaces.

I feel that the council has gone about this issue in a rather ineffective way. More information about the health and psychological benefits is required to help residents understand the importance of trees in urban and suburban areas. The residents are by and large in the non-contemplative stage with regard to planting trees on their properties. In order to guide them along the tree planting behaviour, the council needs to provide educational material to promote tree planting.

My name is Kirsten Koh and I live in Bicton. It is considered to be an area of high tree count BUT we are still losing birdlife drastically. I would love to see the day where the amount of tree canopy doubled in our area.

I would be very happy to be involved in local council work - developing educational material and delivering them to schools, local businesses and clubs. Feel free to contact me: [email redacted]

Respondent 110 - Question 6: I would think that education and incentives will be enough. Make the incentives attractive and the council will have the opposite problem of turning residents away for want to plant more trees than minimum requirement.

Respondent 110 - Question 7: Consider the prices of property 10 years down the road!!! Neighbourhoods with established trees will be worth so much more than neighbourhoods with sparsely populated trees!! This is another 'pro' for planting trees on private properties!

Respondent 111 - Question 7: I think it's a disgusting invasion of a person's private property and council should be more focused on putting trees around Tompkins park and other council localities, provided it does not interfere with regular user groups or restrict their activities.

Respondent 119 - Question 2: Many councils have adopted such policies with very positive results.

The benefits of a substantial tree canopy are undeniable. The one downside of living in Kardinya for me is the lack of trees.

Respondent 119 - Question 7: I appreciate your support of environmental matters. Thank you

Respondent 123 - Question 2: My main concern is the council developing and subdividing at a rate of knots, without due consideration for maintaining the green space and mature trees. The tree canopy is so important, please help not only maintain it But also grow it