

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
24 AUGUST 2009**

<b>1.</b>	<b>TREE POLICY - TERMS OF REFERENCE COMMUNITY REFERENCE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>LOCATION/ADDRESS:</b>	<b>CITY WIDE</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>SAM HEWETT, ACTIING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY ASSETS AND SERVICES</b>
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>FIONA BLAIR, MANAGER PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SERVICES</b>
<b>FILE NO.:</b>	<b>TRIM FILE NO. 62/02/86</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE – TREE POLICY COMMUNITY REFERENCE COMMITTEE</b>

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the terms of reference for the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee for council to adopt.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 2.1 Adopts the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee Terms of Reference.
- 2.2 Seeks expressions of interest from the community to nominate for the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee.
- 2.3 Notes that advertising for the Reference Committee will be undertaken via local newspapers, council web site and on site flyers at venues across the municipality.
- 2.4 Appoints members to the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee in September 2009.
- 2.5 Convenes the first meeting of the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee in late September 2009.

**3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Council's current Street Tree Policy 2001-2006 needs to be reviewed and a new comprehensive framework for tree management needs to be developed.

- 3.2 Street and park trees play a vital role in determining the unique character and amenity of the city and they contribute to the maintenance of a healthy urban environment and provide wildlife habitat.
- 3.3 The development of a new tree management framework, including a new tree policy will facilitate Council's commitment to nurturing, preserving and developing trees as an important community asset and will ensure a consistent approach to the management of trees.
- 3.4 The development of a community reference committee provides an opportunity for the community to be involved in the development of tree policy providing council with topic relevance, broad representation, additional connections into the community and additional skills and expertise.
- 3.5 The Council Plan 2009/2010 identifies the development of a comprehensive tree policy with intent to add more trees as an action.

#### **4. DISCUSSION**

##### **4.1 OPTION**

- 4.1.1 Establish a community reference committee for the development of the tree policy.
- 4.1.2 This option will provide an opportunity for community members with a passion and/or expertise in trees to provide input into the development of the tree policy.

##### **4.2 ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN**

The establishment of a community reference committee for the development of the Tree Policy aligns with the Council Plan.

###### **4.2.1 Engaging and Governing the City**

Strategy 1.1.1 - Enhance council's engagement with the community by maximising community feedback to ensure open and inclusive decision making.

###### **4.2.2 Enhancing Liveability**

Strategy 4.1.1 - Maintain and enhance streetscapes for improved amenity, character and sustainability.

5.1 POLICY IMPLICATIONS PLAN

5.1.1 There are no adverse policy implications for the establishment of a Tree Policy Community Reference Committee.

5.1.2 The establishment of the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee will assist Council in the delivery of its strategic direction – Enhancing Liveability.

5.2 FINANCE / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.2.1 The establishment of the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee will be funded through the 2009/10 operational budget.

5.3 LEGAL & RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.3.1 The predominant risk for Council is not delivering on its Council Plan. The establishment of the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee will reduce this risk by providing topic relevance, broad representation, additional connections into the community and additional skills and expertise.

**6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

6.1 TIMELINE

6.1.1 August 24<sup>th</sup> – Council adopts the Terms of Reference for the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee.

6.1.2 August 25<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup> – Seek expressions of interest from the community to nominate for the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee. This will be achieved through advertisements in local papers, together with the inclusion of details on Council's web site and flyers at venues across the city.

6.1.3 September 14<sup>th</sup> – Council to appoint members to the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee.

6.1.4 Late September 2009 – First meeting of the Tree Policy Community Reference Committee.

**7. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

7.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.