

# URBAN GREENING POLICY

## COMMUNITY POLICY



### 1 Scope

This policy applies to green infrastructure located in the public realm under Rockhampton Regional Council's management or control, activities relating to or incorporating the Region's urban forest for which Council's discretion or approval is required and to Council employees responsible for management and delivery of urban greening.

### 2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set Council's position and build on its commitment to urban greening to ensure the Region's urban forest is suitably recognised, managed, protected, enhanced and monitored. It is the first step to further strengthening Council's capacity in cultivating an abundant green infrastructure network from the ground up, and working towards creating a cooler, greener and more prosperous Region.

### 3 Related Documents

#### 3.1 Primary

Nil

#### 3.2 Secondary

*Environmental Protection Act 1994*

*Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)*

*Land Act 1994*

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011*

*Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011*

*Nature Conservation Act 1992*

*Planning Act 2016*

*Subordinate Local Law No. 1.1 (Alteration or Improvement to Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads) 2011*

*Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011*

*Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*

*Vegetation Management Act 1999*

Asset Custodianship Policy

Capricorn Municipal Development Guidelines (CMDG)

Model Code for Neighbourhood Design (Reconfiguration of Lot) Standards - Queensland Government  
Protection of Trees on Development Sites (AS 4970-2009) - Australian Standard

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Pruning of Amenity Trees (AS 4373-2007) – Australian Standard  
 Rockhampton Region CBD Redevelopment Framework  
 Rockhampton Regional Council Corporate Plan  
 Rockhampton Regional Council Operational Plan  
 Rockhampton Region Council Planting Palette  
 Rockhampton Regional Council Sustainability Strategy (Towards 2030)  
 Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme  
 State Planning Policy - Queensland Government  
 Tree Management Policy  
 Tree Stock for Landscape Use (AS 2303:2018) – Australian Standard

#### 4 Definitions

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply:

CEO	Chief Executive Officer A person who holds an appointment under section 194 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> . This includes a person acting in this position.
Council	Rockhampton Regional Council.
Employees	Local government employee: (a) The CEO; or (b) A person holding an appointment under section 196 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .
External Industries	Private industries external to Council.
Canopy Cover	The above-ground portion of a vegetation type, formed by plant crowns.
Government	Various departments of Federal and State Governments.
Green Infrastructure	A network of naturally occurring or built living assets that, through natural processes, deliver important benefits to people and places in both urban and rural environments.
Private Realm	Any area or space not under the ownership or control of Council.
Public Realm	Collective term including park, reserve, road and public areas or spaces, under the management or control of Council.
Region	Rockhampton Regional Area defined by the Local Government Areas of Queensland.
Site Custodian	Manager assigned as the site custodian for a site/precinct in the Asset Custodianship Policy.
Urban Forest	Defined by the sum of all trees and vegetation in and around urban settlements.
Urban Greening	The incorporation of greenscaped pedestrian and bicycle trail systems, urban street canopy, green alleys, drought tolerant and native species landscaping and landscape restoration, green roofing, community gardens, natural infrastructure and stormwater features into public realm.

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## 5 Policy Statement

Urban greening plays an extremely vital role in shaping a Region's community, environmental and economic profile. Urban greening and increased canopy cover are a proven and cost-effective method of mitigating urban heat island effects, reducing carbon emissions, controlling stormwater run-off and extending the life of assets beneath. Increased vegetation encourages greater participation in recreation and active transport, greater protection from UV radiation and supports and protects habitat and biodiversity.

An urban forest also plays an essential part in shaping the quality-of-life and liveability of our Region, providing the community with benefits like shade and beautification, which in turn creates a prospering Region to 'live, visit and invest'.

Although the benefits of green infrastructure are extensive and significantly positive, their value is not always acknowledged.

The Region's increasing population and urban density, history of drought and recovery from natural disasters, combined with future climate forecasts, all demonstrate how vital it is that Council invests in urban greening now to ensure the Region's liveability in years to come.

### 5.1 Policy Principles

The principles of this policy include:

(a) Recognise:

Recognise and promote the community, environmental and economic benefits of green infrastructure as an integral element and asset of the urban environment.

(b) Manage:

Manage and maintain our green infrastructure assets to contribute to the liveability of our Region and continuously improve our asset management practices.

(c) Protect:

Protect the Region's existing urban forest through legislative, regulatory methods and corporate documentation.

(d) Enhance:

Enhance the Region's urban forest through comprehensive planning, integration of greening within projects in the public realm, while also promoting a shared responsibility in delivering green infrastructure in the private realm.

(e) Monitor:

Monitor and assess the Region's urban forest, applying findings to adaptive management strategies.

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## 5.2 Urban Greening Responsibilities

Various methods are established across Council relating to the maintenance, protection and enhancement of green infrastructure within the Region, as detailed in the following table.

Section or Unit of Council	Recognise	Manage	Protect	Enhance	Monitor	Details
Parks	•	•	•	•	•	Responsible for and committed to the custodianship of all green assets. Key role in maintenance, protection, design, enhancement and monitoring of green infrastructure in the public realm.
Infrastructure Planning and Civil Operations			•	•		Protection of existing landscaping where practicable; ensuring landscaping is designed and enhanced within civil road and footpath projects.
Fitzroy River Water		•	•	•		As site custodian, coordinate the management of existing trees and vegetation within sites/precincts. Protection of existing landscaping where practicable; ensuring landscaping is designed and enhanced within water and sewer infrastructure projects.
Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling		•				As site custodian, coordinate the management of vegetation within sites/precincts.
Project Delivery			•	•		Protection of existing landscaping where practicable; ensuring landscaping is designed and enhanced within major infrastructure projects.
Community Assets and Facilities		•	•	•		Protection of existing landscaping where practicable; ensuring landscaping is designed and enhanced within projects.
Communities and Culture		•				As site custodian, coordinate the management of existing trees and vegetation within sites/precinct.
Environmental Sustainability	•		•		•	Championing the importance of green infrastructure and urban greening and support Council in the delivery of relevant community engagement activities
Development Assessment			•	•		Responsible for regulating the protection of the existing urban forest and enhancement of greening/landscaping in alignment with legislative requirements.

Council also acknowledges the role external industries and government play in delivering urban greening outcomes (for example Department of Transport and Main Roads, Department of Resources, Ergon Energy).

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### 5.3 Policy Implementation

Council prioritises and embeds the enhancement of green infrastructure wherever it is practical to do so. The objectives of this policy are delivered through implementing various actions and shifting the organisation’s culture towards urban greening to ensure continual improvement in core business functions, legislative frameworks, policies and procedures.

Actions are centred around delivering meaningful results sustainably, by focusing on Council’s strengths and building our operational capacity to pursue more ambitious greening opportunities and long-term targets.

### 6 Review Timelines

This policy is to be reviewed:

- (a) If the related information is amended or replaced; or
- (b) Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the Council.

### 7 Document Management

Sponsor	Chief Executive Officer
Business Owner	General Manager Community Services
Policy Owner	Manager Parks
Policy Quality Control	Legal and Governance



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