

# STREET TREE FACT SHEET



## Brushbox (*Lophostemon confertus*)



### INCREASING URBAN CANOPY COVER

Trees help to shade and cool our streets and improve the liveability of our neighbourhoods. Urban canopy cover helps to mitigate the effects of urban heat islands, increase shade and beautify our local areas, encourage greater participation in recreation activities and active transport, and protect and enhance our biodiversity.



Council is responsible for planting street trees on urban footpaths. To ensure footpaths are suitable for a street tree, Council assesses underground and overhead infrastructure, pedestrian/vehicle visibility and appropriate species selection. If the footpath is deemed suitable for a street tree, Council has identified a preferred species list for street tree plantings in the Rockhampton Region. Council's Arboriculture and Streetscapes unit is responsible for initial planting of street trees as well as routine trimming and health checks. Please note that the property owner/resident is responsible for the ongoing watering and general care of the street tree.

Through Council's Urban Greening Policy and Tree Management Policy, Council is committed to recognise, manage, protect, enhance and monitor our growing urban forest.

### SPECIES INFORMATION - BRUSHBOX

<b>Common name:</b>	Brushbox or Queensland box
<b>Botanical name:</b>	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i> (Myrtaceae family)
<b>Description:</b>	Excellent, hardy, fast growing shade tree.
<b>Habit:</b>	A large, dense shade tree growing to 10 metres tall in urban areas.
<b>Flowers / Fruit:</b>	White and feathery flowers that form at the ends of the branchlets from September to May. Fruit is small (1cm) woody capsules.
<b>Leaves / Stems:</b>	Light brown bark, simple shiny leaves that cluster together at the ends of the branchlets.
<b>General care:</b>	This tree is moderately drought resistant and suitable for a range of soil types.
<b>Ecology:</b>	This species is found in eucalypt communities throughout Queensland and New South Wales.

## STREET TREE WATERING AND GENERAL CARE

### Watering

We want to make sure that our street trees are healthy and continue to thrive throughout their life. Please note that the ongoing watering and general care of the street tree is the responsibility of the property owner/resident.

The following watering schedule is recommended to establish the tree:

- Month 1 - twice a week
- Month 2 & 3 - once a week
- Beyond 3 months - once a month

### Staking and mulching

To help establish new street trees, Council will stake the tree until the roots have formed and spread into the soil. Council will return to remove the stakes approximately 12 months after planting. To help our street trees thrive, Council will use mulch around the base of the tree, leaving a clear gap between the trunk of the tree and the mulch layer.

**Important note: Do not place grass clippings around the base of trees. It can produce high nitrogen content, smothering the stem base and causing it to rot.**

### Trimming and health checks

Once the street tree is established, Council has a responsive team to manage trees on Council-owned or controlled land, including street trees. Street trees are trimmed upon request to ensure clearances for pedestrians, vehicles, and lines of sight concerns.

If you notice a tree in a Council controlled space that might need a health check or trim, please contact Council by calling (07) 4932 9000.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Can I request a street tree?

If you are a property owner within an urban area of the Rockhampton Region, you can request a street tree for your footpath. The best way to do that is during Council's advertised Street Tree Planting Program. Simply complete and submit a Street Tree Request Form. Find out more about the Street Tree Planting Program on Council's website. Please note, that all street tree requests are assessed by Council's Arboriculture and Streetscapes unit and street tree plantings will only be carried out during the cooler months of the year.

### Who can plant a street tree?

Council is responsible for tree planting within Council controlled public spaces including parks, open spaces, reserves and on urban footpaths. Each tree is managed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with Council's Tree Management Policy and Urban Greening Policy. Please note, Council does not permit the planting of trees or vegetation on Council land without Council approval.

### Who do I contact if I notice a street tree is touching powerlines or power poles?

Contact Ergon Energy on 13 74 66 to report trees or vegetation touching powerlines or power poles.

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT URBAN GREENING

Find out more about how Council is growing our urban forest on Council's website.



[www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au](http://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au)

Get in contact with Council via email or call our Customer Service Centre.



[urbangreening@rrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:urbangreening@rrc.qld.gov.au)



(07) 4932 9000 or 1300 22 55 77

