

# street tree design guidelines fact sheet



For Landcom Projects



**LANDCOM**

# Street Tree Design Guidelines

## Fact Sheet

Trees in streets are essential for a high quality streetscape. Healthy, established urban trees provide a long term legacy for the community. Many of the most memorable streets and localities can attribute their noteworthy status to the presence of large healthy trees. At the regional scale street trees contribute to the overall percentage canopy cover which in turn delivers a variety of environmental benefits.

## About the guidelines

Recent experience has shown that simply the planting of street trees with all good intention is not sufficient to achieve a high quality streetscape. To achieve successful streetscapes critical factors such as selection of the most appropriate tree species, quality of the plant stock and the planning and providing of adequate soil and water.

The Street Tree Design Guidelines propose a methodology for making successful street trees species selection. It is intended to form a coherent link between design considerations and implementation. The guidelines step through the

processes of planning, installing and establishing street trees. The document includes:

- key principles
- selection considerations
- technical matters
- sourcing and plant procurement issues
- options for layout and construction
- establishment maintenance requirements
- recommended street tree list included on CD-ROM.



Street trees contribute to the unity of the streetscape enhancing the character of the neighbourhood.



Tree guards can provide a variety of uses such as protection and landmarking, they also need to accommodate tree growth and be easily removed.



Jacarandas provide seasonal colour in the street

## Key principles that guide the landscape design of streetscapes

1. Street trees are a legacy for the community. Maximise planting of trees in all streets and retain existing trees wherever possible.
2. Street trees should contribute to the overall unity of the streetscape, through their layout, scale and character. Careful selection of the tree species will provide scale and visual cohesion to the street. Beyond this generic design intent for the street trees, trees can also form landmarks, contribute to both contextual character and the general amenity of a place.
3. Select the most appropriate tree species to satisfy the design intent and the physical conditions of the site both natural and man made. Respond to other functional requirements such as solar access, vehicle clearances etc.
4. Optimise soil conditions for trees. Locate trees to maximise available soil volume. Ensure that there is a sufficient quantity and quality of soil within the anticipated root zone to support the intended mature tree and that adequate moisture is provided to that zone.
5. Street trees need adequate water to flourish. Street tree location and design should optimise passive watering of all street trees.
6. Minimise infrastructure and functional conflicts. Locate trees and utility services to minimise potential conflicts between street elements and functions, such as streetlights being blocked by the tree canopy, or car doors being opened into tree trunks.
7. Where appropriate integrate water sensitive urban design initiatives with the provision of street trees.



## Contacts

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