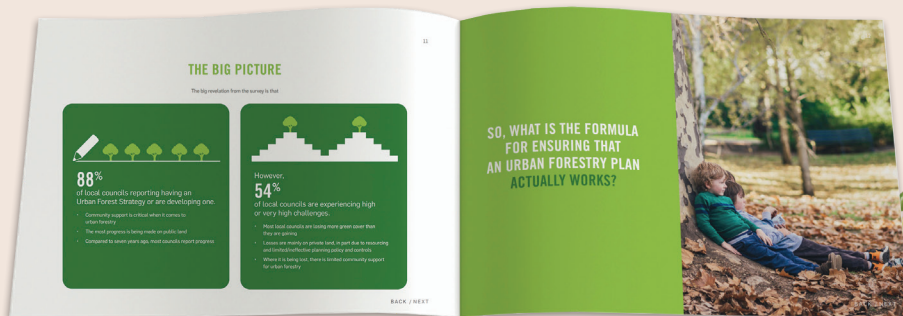




WHAT'S GROWING ON?

HI, WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S GREENER SPACES BETTER PLACES PROGRAM UPDATE.
READ ON TO FIND OUT THE LATEST NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AND HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT.

GREENER SPACES BETTER PLACES PROGRAM UPDATE WHERE WILL ALL THE TREES BE? PHASE 2 REPORT OUT NOW



Greener Spaces Better Places announces the launch of the Where will All the Trees Be? Local Government Survey Results. As our population grows, green cover in our suburbs and cities must grow too. This second report from the Where Will All The Trees Be? series explores how Australian urban local governments are responding to these pressures. **We set out to find out what is, and what isn't working on the urban forestry front.**

Along with RMIT, GSBP surveyed 169 urban greening professionals¹ across 116 urban councils² to explore the influence local government has on greening outcomes through policies, resourcing, community engagement and 'effort'.

¹Respondents included council planners, arborists, landscape architects, engineers, parks teams and sustainability officers from each of the urban LGAs in Australia.

²The National Green Space Survey

SO, WHAT DID WE FIND?

88%

OF LOCAL COUNCILS
HAVE AN URBAN FORESTRY STRATEGY
up from 7% in 2013



A national initiative that brings together government, universities, business and industry to make our urban areas greener.

Greener spaces make better places. They cool cities and provide places to work, play and relax. They make neighbourhoods healthier and more appealing.

That's why Greener Spaces Better Places is on a mission to make sure green spaces grow as urban places grow and, in doing so, make Australia's urban areas the greenest in the world.

The good news is that urban forestry management is now the norm across most urban councils, with 88% of local councils report having an Urban Forest Strategy or are developing one. However, these urban forest strategies tend to focus on public land greening, and simply having one doesn't mean it's effective. Combined with this, and the finding that 54% of local councils are experiencing high or very high challenges to maintain or grow green cover, there is still some work to be done.

The research points to private land for green cover decline. Associate Professor Joe Hurley RMIT lead researcher, said, "Given the amount of trees on private land, it's near impossible to make up for the significant losses happening by planting on public land. We need to urgently now turn our attention to privately held land and the significant role it plays for green cover in our towns and cities."

Associate Professor Hurley stressed that until green living infrastructure is recognised as essential infrastructure, alongside communications, transport, water and the electricity network, the future of Australia's urban forests were at risk.

The research was launched at the Urban Agriculture Forum on 22 April 2021 in a Local Government panel in front of policy-makers, practitioners, innovators and institutions connected to urban agriculture and planning.

What's next?

We appreciate that no one council can solve this, so Greener Spaces Better Places is joining forces with councils and industry to crowdsource and scale up solutions to the challenges presented by the research findings.

Contact Belinda at hello@greenerspacesbetterplaces.com to arrange a briefing or to discuss the results.

Some facts from the report:

- 91%** say they have a dedicated tree planting program.
- 72%** say there is council/organisational support for greening on public land.
- 54%** of respondents say their community recognises the importance of urban forests.
- 29%** do not agree that budgets allow councils to meet their tree risk management requirements.
- Just 28%** of councils say they have dedicated enforcement officers who ensure planning requirements for tree protection or provisions are met.
- 29%** do not agree that budgets allow councils to meet their tree risk management requirements.
- 13%** agreed that there is adequate State Government/Territory policy direction and land use planning controls that support urban forestry.

Across the board, whilst respondents felt well-equipped with tools to target planting and maintenance of trees on public land, effective community engagement programs to build support for the urban forest were limited. The capacity to ensure that green cover can grow as our cities do depends on it's only as good as the community's attitude toward trees, and the council's ability to plant more and protect what they have.

Stay in touch with Greener Spaces Better Places
via the Living Network Newsletter by signing up at greenerspacesbetterplaces.com.au.

To explore the Where Will All The Trees Be? Local Government Survey Research report or download the one-page summary, head to greenerspacesbetterplaces.com.au



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO CREATE A GREENER AUSTRALIA
A COLLABORATION BETWEEN GREENER SPACES BETTER PLACES AND LIVING MELBOURNE

Greener Spaces Better Places has teamed up with Living Melbourne to create the Urban Greeners' Resource Hub, a curated collection of best practice tools, guides, resources and case studies to help urban greening professionals protect and enhance Australia's urban forests and green cover in our towns and cities.

The Urban Greeners' Resource Hub was developed in close consultation with technical experts across research, industry and local government, and we gratefully acknowledge their support and input.

The Hub is designed to make it easier for urban greening professionals to access quality resources in one place. While no means exhaustive, the collection will evolve in the year ahead, and we welcome all feedback on the functionality of the Hub and the content within it.

The Urban Greeners' Resource Hub can be accessed here:
greenerspacesbetterplaces.com.au/resources-hub

