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Attention: Craig Covich, Director Environment and Planning  
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## **DRAFT STREET TREE MASTER PLAN 2017**

The Mosman Parks & Bushland Association is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on Mosman Council's Draft Street Tree Master Plan 2017.

The Association does not have the expertise to comment on the choice of species for particular streets, but we write in wholehearted support of Council's objective to increase the Urban Forest and to use the Street Tree Master Plan to further that objective.

Noted and supported in the Master Plan are:

- the ongoing aim to replace and replant so that street trees are provided for the future
- the benefits of street tree planting
- the intention to compensate for the loss of trees on private property due to development and to state legislation, including the 10/50 debacle.
- Among the benefits is the particularly relevant one of the role trees play in mitigating the effects of pollution and heat. As the effects of climate change become more pronounced in urban areas heat islands can be mollified by shade trees. A recent study has extended this benefit to human health - more people go walking in shaded avenues.
- Another study (report SMH 28.4.2017) confirms the benefit of canopy coverage to property values!

### **Strategies**

Among the strategies this association particularly appreciates are:

- to provide a variety of environmentally and historically appropriate species
- to increase the number of trees
- to create wildlife corridors between areas of bushland
- to encourage the return of small birds (small birds will need a complementary under storey as well as trees)

### **Design Strategy and Location of trees**

We appreciate that Council has much experience in planting and maintaining trees in streets and with the practicalities involved in doing so.

**Overhead power lines**

With regard to the selection of species where there are overhead power lines, it is obviously important to avoid the repetitive costs of pruning and damage to trees. Trees selected are to be small to medium sized with a requirement for minimum pruning. We would like to suggest that if suitable small to medium sized trees with the added feature of a spreading canopy could be found, they would provide extra visual amenity in disguising the power lines and poles as well as the cooling benefit of shade.

**Underground services**

Tree roots and underground pipes do not live happily together. Water loving trees can cause damage that results in sewage overflow to the surrounding environment and pollution of receiving waters. There is a community health impact as well as an environmental impact. When water loving trees such as Melaleucas are selected, Council must be aware of that very regular maintenance is required.

**"Preservation of historical architectural elements/facades of buildings to commercial zones. Do not plant trees in these zones"**

Anyone experiencing the heat of the summer of 2016/2017 in the shopping village of Mosman would have understood the implications of the "heat island" effect. Mosman Parks & Bushland respectfully suggests that the policy of not planting trees in commercial areas may need modification in future. We are aware that this is likely to be controversial, but there may be opportunities to plant trees where facades are not present or will not suffer, and for larger trees to replace the current small ornamental shrubs.

**Additional comment - deciduous trees**

We have heard that there has been some objection to the autumnal leaf fall. Most of these trees are in streets with heritage characteristics and in our opinion they enhance those characteristics.

Mosman Parks & Bushland congratulates Council on its appreciation of the valuable environmental role of trees and of the contribution that trees in public places make to the urban forest. The Draft Master Plan with its amendments is a thoughtful and professional document.



Kate Eccles  
President

9<sup>th</sup> June 2017