

The signatories to this submission represent citizens who are extremely concerned about the increasing loss of mature trees across our city and the lack of a substantial policy to address this issue. As the Council prepares its policies with the Wyong/Gosford merger we ask that consideration be given to preparing a substantial tree replenishment policy that will contribute to increased urban tree canopy.

It is imperative that a positive way forward be implemented, rather than the destructive tree policy that has been followed in the Wyong council area.

We would like to suggest Council investigate a policy along the lines of that adopted by Newcastle City Council.

<http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Living/Environment/Trees/Public-Trees/Tree-Planting>

To support this request we submit the following

MANY PROVEN BENEFITS FOR BOTH THE CITY AND ITS RESIDENTS :

Trees beautify our streetscape, add value to property, provide shade, UV protection, absorb CO₂ from car exhaust & replace it with oxygen, provide food and shelter for insects, mammals & birds and contribute to local biodiversity. There are many social, economic and ecological benefits.

Tree Foliage softens hard fence lines & roofs, absorbs dust, reduces glare & provides privacy for residents.

Trees help absorb excess run off, protect waterways and help prevent soil erosion. When mulched, trees act like a sponge that filters this water naturally and uses it to recharge groundwater.

Economic Value a tree lined street is known to increase the value of houses by up to 30%. A street tree or tree in the front yard can add 5.4% to total value of a home.

Trees Cool - shaded treed areas have been shown to reduce the surrounding temperature by 8 to 10 degrees.

Trees help in combating climate change - excess carbon dioxide (CO₂) is building up in our atmosphere and contributing to climate change. Trees absorb CO₂, removing and storing the carbon while releasing the oxygen back into the air. Shade from trees can reduce the air conditioning costs of detached houses by 20% to 30%.

Trees reduce violence neighbourhoods and homes that are barren have been shown to have a greater incidence of violence in and out of the home than their greener counterparts.

A well treed city with a substantial canopy creates an aesthetic value to both the present and future generations.

PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

1. Adopt a "no net loss" policy in regard to trees so that any tree removed must be replaced with a substantial tree. This policy must be enforceable.
2. Establish a replenishment policy to address past losses.
3. See trees as a big picture issue providing a sense of place and instilling a sense of pride in our community. eg. Annual Jacaranda festival in Grafton.
4. Appoint an Asset Manager for trees. Consider public trees as major infrastructure and an asset to be maintained and protected. Reflect this in strategic planning as a point for compliance in key planning documents.
5. Connectivity important. Retain wildlife corridors – retain and expand COSS – retain and replenish green public spaces and parks with an emphasis on native species.
6. Establish a street tree planting policy which has an annual goal and encourages community involvement with continuation of Gosford's current free tree policy for nature strips. Integrate street tree planting as part of each new kerb & gutter road project.
7. Establish a development policy that ensures all developments include site landscaping that is meaningful, compatible and adequately redresses any loss as a result of the development with mature replacements. Tree loss as a result of development that cannot be replaced on site should be offset with replacements on other suitable land or public green sites.
8. Limit the use of hard surfaces, paving and cement on properties which increases run off and leaves no space for vegetation.
9. Encourage the protection and maintenance of vegetation on private land e.g. Habitat for Wildlife programme.
10. Establish an ongoing education programme for residents to promote the value of trees.
11. Investigate other local government areas such as Newcastle which has an active street tree planting policy and a register of all trees
<http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Living/Environment/Trees/Public-Trees/Tree-Planting>

References

<https://www.treepeople.org/resources/tree-benefits>

This submission is asking for development of a substantial tree replenishment and replacement policy that will contribute to increased urban tree canopy. Do you anticipate that this policy can be achieved by the newly merged Central Coast Council?

Could a Master Plan be created to implement the policy?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Carey Buls - Convenor

This submission has been developed by the following citizens who have formed the group to progress this issue and work toward creating an urban tree canopy for our city.

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