

Ordinary Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 24 February, 2026

Location: The Studio, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

The following information was provided to Councillors in response to questions submitted to the CEO prior to the Council Meeting. The information is published in accordance with Section 3.32 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

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CL26.18 – Notice of Motion: Greening our City Grant for 102 Trees – Process & Implementation

Questions: Councillor Boyd

1. In its application for the Greening our City Grant, were the exact locations and species of trees specified, along with the projected cost of the program?
2. What is the criteria used to determine what species is selected for a specific planting site?

At the public forum, the depute referred to the Greener Neighbours Guide.

3. To what extent will Council staff be relying on this guide to implement the Greening our City Grant?
4. Is the Grant connected to the Guide in some way?

Answers: Director – Shoalhaven Water, Andrew McVey

Within the Greening our City grant application, Council provided extensive details of:

- Site selection methodology through urban canopy heat mapping
- Exact planting locations, species and proposed supporting infrastructure
- Detailed cost breakdown for each location proposed

Council tree officers provided advice on proposed species based on each specific location and siting requirements. Recommendation for proposed species, made by highly qualified personnel, took into account mature shade and heat mitigation, existing successful plantings in nearby areas, along with establishment and maintenance requirements outlined in the grant guidelines.

Once the project is initiated, detailed designs will be completed for each site, where exact locations, supporting infrastructure, species and number of plantings may change based on site specific requirements.

The cost of the project includes a \$488,000 grant and additionally an in-kind contribution of \$40,000 from Council for internal project management. All costs will be within the allocated budget.

Please see following supporting information as part of the grant proposal including tree species and locations.

The Greener Neighbourhoods Guide is a metro-focused strategic guide created to facilitate delivery of the Greener Neighbourhoods Program, a NSW Government initiative designed to help local councils create cooler, shadier, healthier and more liveable urban areas by improving tree canopy and expanding green infrastructure. It forms part of a suite of plans, frameworks and policies by NSW Government and directly informs Council's plans and strategies, including the in-progress Urban Tree Strategy. The guide itself is primarily used for strategy development. The NSW Street Tree Planting Design Manual (2021) is a more delivery focused tool for urban tree planting and would be more directly linked to the grant delivery. See attached slide for broader context.

The Greening our City grant is directly connected to the guide and other documentation as outlined below from the grant objectives:

- deliver tree canopy and biodiverse understorey plantings that reduce urban heat, increase liveability and support biodiversity in urban areas
- prioritise urban greening projects in low canopy and high urban heat areas
- support projects that align with the Biodiversity in Place Framework
- support projects that service areas identified under the Low and Mid-rise Housing Policy
- support projects that align with local urban greening strategies and canopy targets, including those developed under the Greener Neighbourhoods program

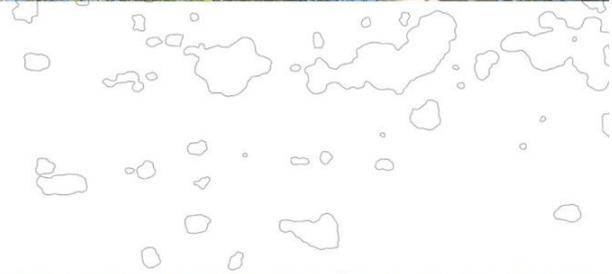
- support projects that enhance use of public places, through cooling and greening of streets, parks, public plazas and active transport routes
- support projects that demonstrate principles of Connecting to Country.

It is important to note that while the guides are useful, Council are not inexperienced in delivering projects of this nature and have a range of suitable expertise from delivering recent projects utilising similar root system enhanced mature plantings in CBD areas. Council has the added benefit of multiple AQF Level 5 Arborists, Horticulturists, Ecologists, Environmental Scientists, Civil Engineers and Landscape Architects in its employ to provide sound, science-backed and best-practice advice on all projects involving urban trees.

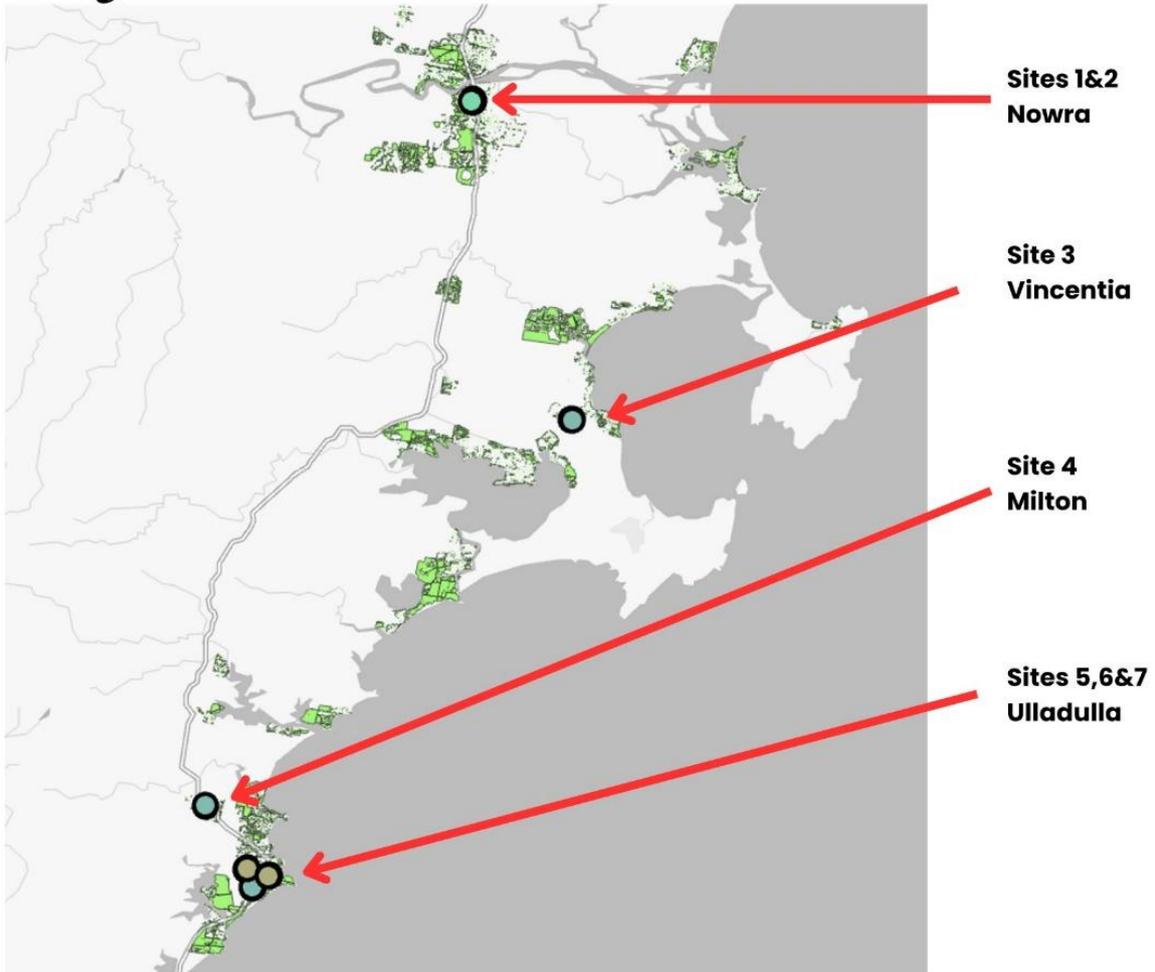


Greening our City Grant Proposal 2025

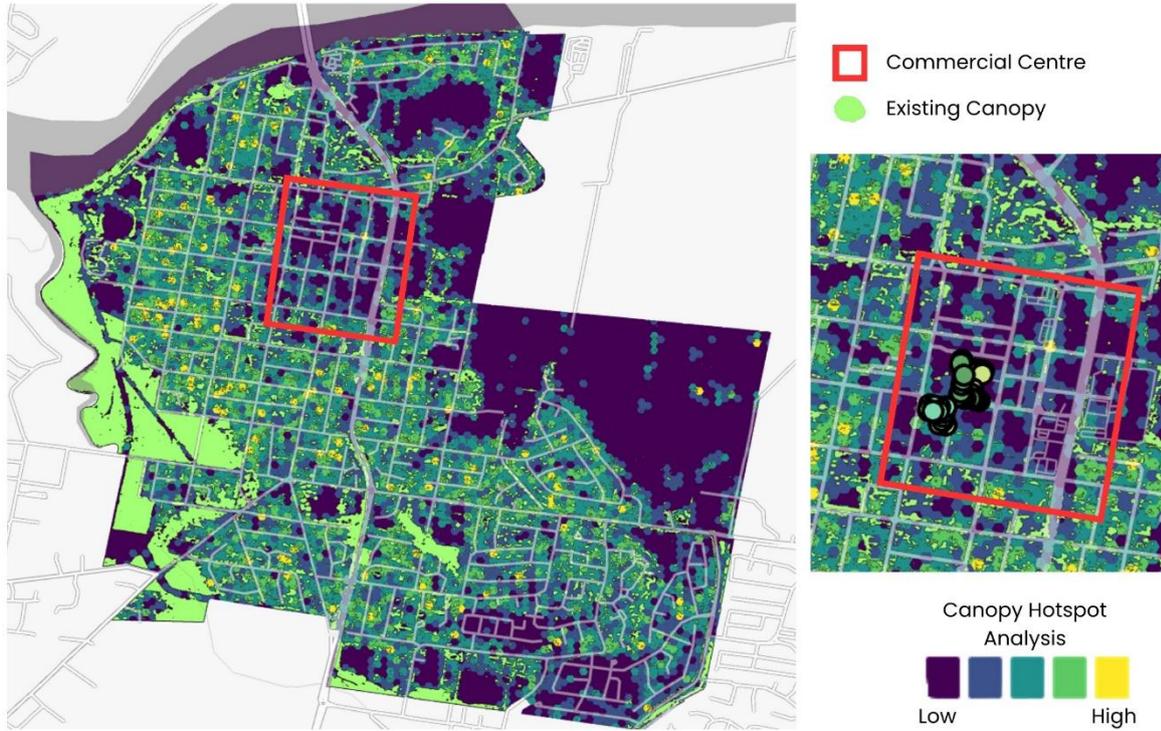
Supporting Information



Projects Overview



Nowra, Hotspot Analysis



Nowra - Project Sites 1 & 2



Nowra - Project Sites 1 & 2



- Existing Canopy
- Pyrus SP
- Syzigium Leuhmanii
- Waterhousea Floribunda
- Council Managed Land

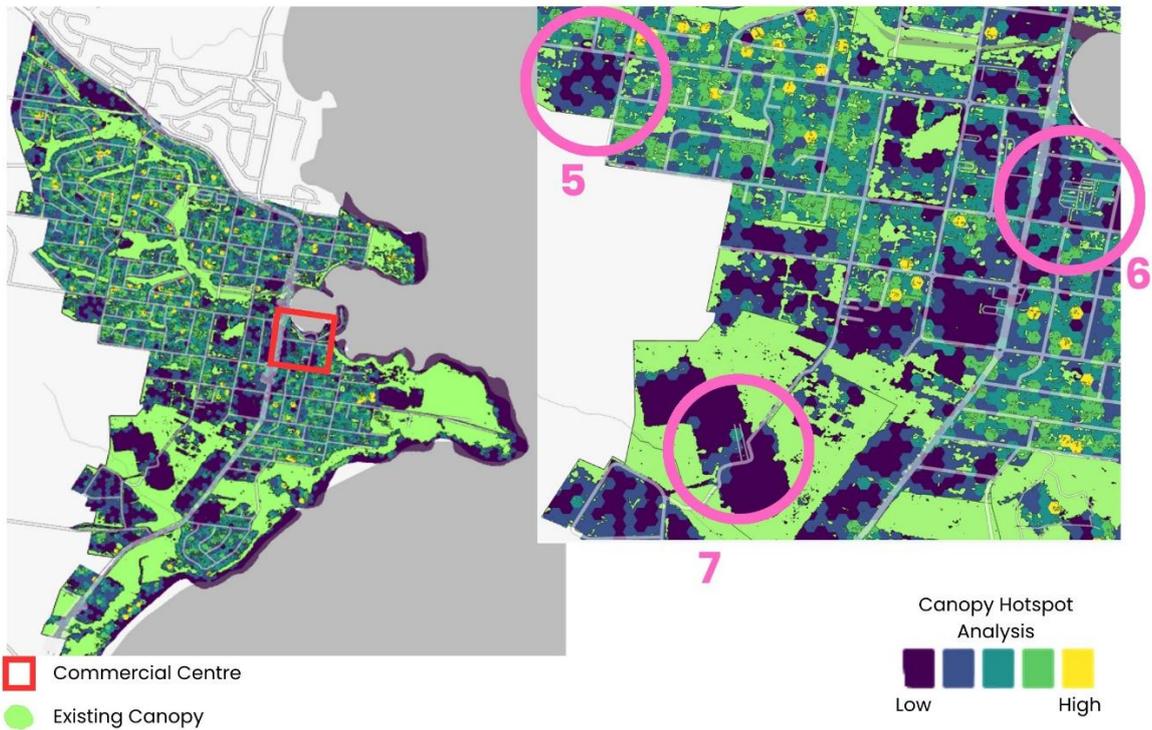
West Vincentia - Project Site 3



- Existing Canopy
- Lophostemon Confertus

Site 3, Bay and Basin
Leisure Centre

Ulladulla, Hotspot Analysis



Milton - Project Site 4



Milton - Project Site 4



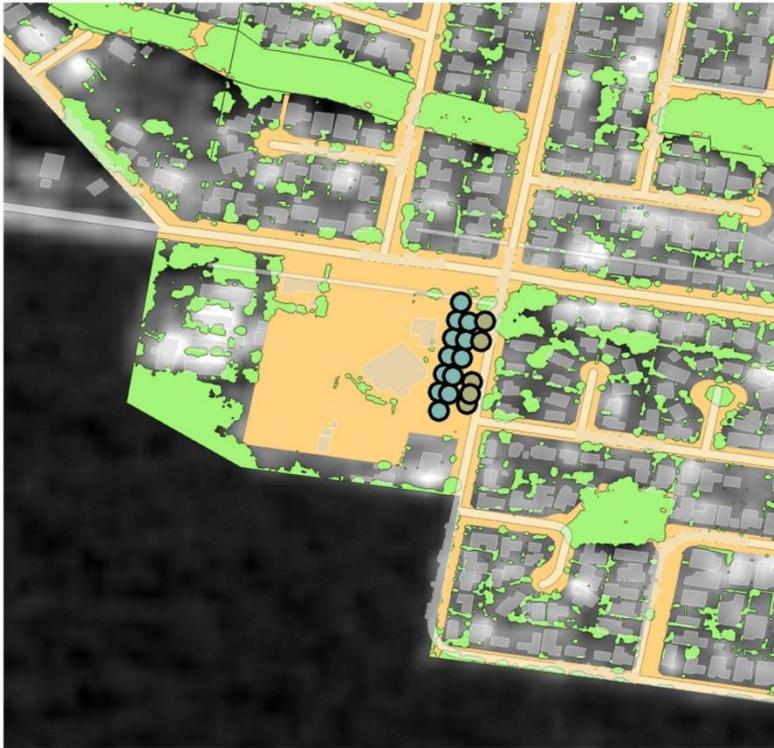
- Existing Canopy
- Lophostemon Confertus
- Council Managed Land

Ulladulla - Project Site 5



- Existing Canopy
- Lophostemon Confertus
- Tristaniopsis Luscious
- Site 5, Ulladulla Aquatic Centre**

Ulladulla - Project Site 5



- Existing Canopy
- Lophostemon Confertus
- Tristaniopsis Luscius
- Council Managed Land

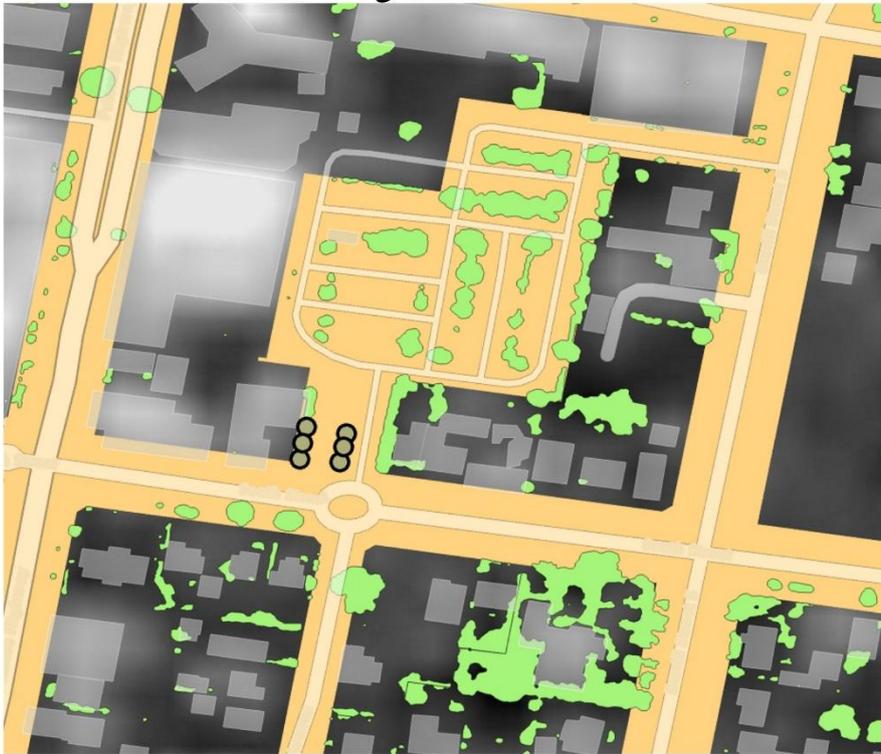
Ulladulla - Project Site 6



- Existing Canopy
- Tristaniopsis Luscius

Site 6, South St EV
Charger

Ulladulla - Project Site 6



- Existing Canopy
- Tristaniopsis Luscius
- Council Managed Land

Ulladulla - Project Site 7



- Existing Canopy
 - Lophostemon Confertus
- Site 7, Ulladulla Sports Complex**

Ulladulla - Project Site 7



- Existing Canopy
- Lophostemon Confertus
- Council Managed Land

Suburb Canopy: Nowra, Ulladulla

	ALL LAND				COUNCIL ONLY			
	Suburb		CBD		Suburb		CBD	
	All	Tree	All	Tree	All	Tree	All	Tree
NOWRA	0.000887	0.000169	228445.7274	7007.139871	3871136.198	884932.6062	5125.842307	889.225478
			91538.6139	10985.17389			92892.31021	7896.318242
			319984.3413	17992.31377			98018.15252	8785.54372
	19.05%		5.62%		22.86%		8.96%	
ULLADULLA	Suburb		CBD		Suburb		CBD	
	All	Tree	All	Tree	All	Tree	All	Tree
	0.000748	0.000245	93368.39198	9820.902493	2874705.435	1263872.391	66325.37067	10324.55294
			45696.11286	4491.799106				
			139064.5048	14312.7016			66325.37067	10324.55294
32.75%		10.29%		43.97%		15.57%		

Project List

Suburb	Proposed Works (Scope)	Species	Number of trees	Pot Size	Canopy Area	Area Total	Reason/Comments/Supporting information
NOWRA CARPARKS							
Stewart Place Carpark	Install in new tree pits	Pyrus SP	6	100L	20	120	Reduce heat sink of busy public parking area
Stewart Place Carpark	Refurbish existing pits	Pyrus SP	4	100L	20	80	To replace failed trees in existing pits - reducing heat sink
Stewart Place Capark - Southern Side	Install in existing grass	Syzigium Leuhmanii	7	100L	20	140	Reduce heat sink of busy public parking area
Stewart Place Carpark - Access Road (west)	Install in grass verge	Syzigium Leuhmanii	3	100L	20	60	Reduce heat sink of public facility and associated parking
Stewart Place Carpark - Access Road (east)	Install in Linear Pit or in carspace	Syzigium Leuhmanii	5	100L	20	100	Potential cut back concrete to create pit
Worrige Street Carpark	Install tree pits/linear carpark	Waterhouseia/Brush Box	10	100L	80	800	Reduce heat sink of busy public parking area
Worrige Street Carpark	Install in grass verge	Pyrus SP	3	100L	20	60	Reduce heat sink of busy public parking area
NOWRA - Total			38				
ULLADULLA/MILTON CARPARKS							
Ulladulla Sports Complex	Install in grass verges perimeter of CP	Lophostemon confertus	20	100L	170	3400	Improve shade in very open asphalted area
Ulladulla Sports Complex	Refurbish existing pits	Lophostemon confertus	7	100L	170	1190	Improve shade in very open asphalted area
Ulladulla Aquatics Centre	Install in grass (Warden St)	Tristaniopsis Luscious	5	100L	50	250	Remove poor health trees.
Ulladulla Aquatics Centre - Capark	Install new pits	Lophostemon confertus	12	100L	170	2040	Improve shade in very open asphalted area
Ulladulla - South Street	In Grass	Tristaniopsis Luscious	6	100L	50	300	Provide shade adjacent to charging stations
Behind Bendigo bank -Milton	Install new pits in Carpark	Lophostemon confertus	4	100L	170	680	Improve canopy cover/shade in public asphaltic parking area
Ulladulla - Total			54				
VINCENTIA							
Bay and Basin Leisure Centre	Install in new tree pits	Lophostemon confertus	4	100L	170	680	Reduce heat sink of public facility and associated parking
Bay and Basin Leisure Centre	Install in grass verge	Lophostemon confertus	6	100L	170	1020	Reduce heat sink of public facility and associated parking
Vincentia - Total			10				

Tree Species List

Species	Common Name	Width	Area	Canopy	Habitat	Drought Tolerant	Soil Type	Growth Rate
Cupaniopsis Anacardioides	Tuckeroo	7	38.48	Evergreen, Spreading	Bees, Other insects	Yes	Any	Medium - Fast
Lophostemon Confertus	Queensland Brush Box	15	176.71	Evergreen, Spreading	Bees, Nectar eating birds, Butterflies, Other insects	Yes	Any	Medium - Fast
Pyrus SP	Ornamental Pear	5	19.63	Deciduous, spreading	Bees, fruit eating birds, Other insects	Yes	Sandy, Loam, Rocky	Fast
Syzigium Leuhmanii	Riberry Lilly Pilly	5	19.63	Evergreen, Spreading	Bees, Nectar eating birds, Seed eating birds, Butterflies, Mammals	Yes	Any	Fast
Waterhousea Floribunda	Weeping Lilly Pilly	10	78.54	Evergreen, Weeping	Bees, Nectar eating birds, Seed eating birds	Yes	Clay, Loamy, Sandy loam	Fast
Tristaniopsis Luscious	Luscious Watergum	8	50.27	Evergreen, Spreading	Bees, Butterflies, Other insects	Yes	Any	Medium

Timeline



Context

CSP 2032 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

2. Sustainable Liveable Environments

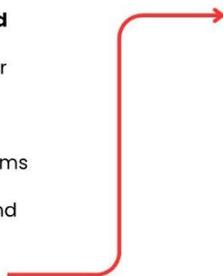
2.3 Protect the natural environment and enhance sustainability

- Greenhouse gas reduction targets for Council and community are met
- Natural environment is improved
- Community involvement in environmental enhancement programs is increased
- Resource consumption is reduced and waste minimised
- **Biodiversity and urban green cover are enhanced**



CSP Metrics

- Urban canopy on public land - **INCREASE**
- Community satisfaction with management of natural environment



Please see the following: Urban Frameworks and Drivers for further context.

Frameworks and Drivers



<p>GLOBAL</p> <p><i>These global frameworks are starting to flow down into national policy, funding and reporting expectations for councils</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) > 30x30 target > nature-positive by 2030 ➤ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) > SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) > SDG 13 (Climate Action) > SDG 15 (Life on Land) ➤ Science-based Targets for Nature (SBTN) > emerging method to set measurable nature targets. ➤ Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) > Next 3-5yrs all public and large organisations will need to disclose nature/biodiversity risk > push towards biodiversity and canopy reporting
<p>NATIONAL</p> <p><i>Sets the direction for biodiversity, climate resilience and urban greening nationally</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strategy for Nature 2024-2030 > national biodiversity strategy; halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. ➤ National Urban Policy > recognises urban greening and suggests 3-30-300 or similar canopy/access benchmarks ➤ EPBC Act reforms (Nature Positive Plan) > proposed new National Environmental Standards and stronger protections; more emphasis on cumulative impacts and nature-positive outcomes.
<p>STATE</p> <p><i>State policies, standards, greening programs shaping how Shoalhaven protects, manages, and grows its trees</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NSW Plan for Nature > overarching government response to biodiversity reform, aiming for nature-positive by 2030. ➤ Biodiversity in Place framework > integrating nature outcomes into planning, infrastructure and local decision-making > pushing Councils to treat nature – including urban trees – as core infrastructure in planning and investment decisions, not just an environmental add-on. ➤ Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 > objective to increase urban tree canopy cover across the region. ➤ NSW Street Tree / urban greening guidance and programs > technical guidance and funding programs encouraging higher canopy and shade ➤ State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) > relevant to vegetation, biodiversity, bushfire and design. ➤ NSW planning reforms / Design & Place > guidance on how trees are treated on development sites and in streets.
<p>LOCAL</p> <p><i>Shoalhaven's own plans, policies and decisions that turn higher-level drivers into on-the-ground tree outcomes.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shoalhaven 2040 – LSPS > includes directions around green infrastructure, street trees and liveability. ➤ Community Strategic Plan & Delivery Program > community outcomes around environment, resilience, liveability (shade, green streets, biodiversity). ➤ Shoalhaven LEP & DCP 2014 (Chapter G4: Tree & Vegetation Management) > statutory controls for tree removal/pruning and development impacts. ➤ Tree Management Policy – Public Land > procedures and decision pathways for trees on Council-managed land.



CL26.29 – Proposed Grant of Easement to Endeavour Energy for Community Battery – Part Lot 36 DP 258600, Jacobs Drive, Sussex Inlet

Questions: Councillor Steele

1. Financial deal, “Can” Vs “Will” savings How does the “up to \$400” savings guaranteed for residents compare between resident differing situations? Some residents with their own home panels and battery compared to those with just solar panels but no battery and also by comparison to those residents without their own home panels or battery given Endeavour Energies released media statement April 1st of 2025 quoting this figure? What is the exact mechanism, eg bill credits, rebates and subscription fees, that ensure that power fed into the battery by residents is valued fairly compared to the retail price they pay to take it back? Who determines the timing and volume of power drawn from residents solar panels to charge the community battery unit?
2. Participation and Fees What are the terms of engagement for households, and is there a pay to play, and/or ongoing subscription fee barrier? Can the residents opt out at any time without exit fees or penalties? How many households will this facility be capable of servicing and what percentage of the Sussex Inlet residential homes does this equate too?
3. Noise and local amenity Given the residents location on Jacob Drive what are the specific acoustic impacts? What is the maximum decibel (Db) output of the cooling fans during peak summer hours of operation? What noise level would that be comparable to so the average resident might understand (ie, a pedestal fan, a lawn mower etc)?
4. Catastrophic Risk and Environmental Safety What specific assurances can Endeavour Energy provide regarding thermal runaway and its environmental consequences? In the event of fire how will toxic gas release and contaminated water runoff be contained to prevent damage to the Inlets soil and waterways? In the case of catastrophic failure of containment procedures what is the likely

environment damage the residents of Sussex Inlet and the wider community can expect? What precautions will be taken to prevent vandalism and criminal damage? Has there been any positive or negative feedback from the Cambewarra community to either Shoalhaven City Council and/or Endeavour Energy regarding the community battery they have received? If feedback has been provided to either could these be provided to councillors prior to discussing the item on Tuesday 24.02.2026?

5. Community “Two submissions were received during the public notification period. The issues raised primarily related to the proposed battery installation rather than the granting of the easement.” These submissions were passed onto Endeavour Energy yet not included in the business paper. Can councillors get to see the community response ahead of this discussion? If their concerns are “related to the proposed battery installation”, that is exactly what will be the result of councils decision on this matter.

Answers: Director – City Services, Kevin Norwood

The community battery is being delivered and managed by Endeavour Energy, with Council's role primarily facilitating the use of Council-owned land through the granting of an easement in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. Shoalhaven City Council holds no interest in proposed battery including maintenance billing, rebates, consumption, subscription fees and or penalties.

All operational, technical and ongoing management responsibilities for the battery rest entirely with Endeavour Energy.

Council has ensured transparency throughout this process and has considered community interests by publicly notifying the proposed easement and forwarding all submissions received to Endeavour Energy for their assessment, along with the report to Council. Endeavour Energy holds the statutory responsibility for planning and delivering the project. They are undertaking the project in accordance with Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, which sets out the environmental assessment requirements for activities carried out by public authorities. Endeavour has outlined their framework for consideration of sites which includes safety, environmental impacts (including noise) public amenity and network needs, as well as consultation with both Council and the local community as part of their detailed environmental assessment process.

Following is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) factsheet provided by Endeavour Energy, which includes further information on noise, environmental considerations, fire safety and emergency response.



Endeavour Energy is looking to install a community battery in your neighbourhood.

A community battery is a battery connected to the local electricity network that individual customers can use for solar energy storage.

Community batteries help households save on energy costs, and provide more people with access to solar and a low-cost storage option.

Community batteries also help to improve the reliability and quality of local electricity supply, particularly in areas with lots of rooftop solar.

Endeavour Energy is responsible for providing and maintaining the community battery. We are working with local councils and communities to find the best location for community batteries, and as part of this are consulting with local residents on the proposed locations.

Once the battery is ready, we will partner with an electricity retailer to enable customers to connect to the battery.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.endeavourenergy.com.au/

communitybatteries

Phone 131 003



Community batteries provide a shared battery solution allowing residents to store excess power generated during the day by their rooftop solar cells for later use in the evening when demand on the electricity network is higher, or when the sun isn't shining.

They also provide people without roof top solar with access to solar energy generated within the neighbourhood, helping everyone to save on energy costs.

Local residents living near the battery will be invited to participate, with the battery operated in partnership with a retailer.

How do community batteries work?



Homes with solar: Your excess solar is stored in the community battery and available when you need it.

Homes without solar: Excess solar generated by your neighbours is stored in the community battery – and available for you to use.

Benefits of a community battery

By participating in a community battery trial, you can:

- Save on household energy costs
- Access battery storage without upfront costs
- Reduce your household carbon footprint



Will the battery increase my electricity prices?

Community batteries put downward pressure on electricity prices for all customers as they reduce the ongoing investment in traditional infrastructure. Customers who subscribe to a community battery will save on household electricity costs by having access to stored solar energy.

How are the community battery locations selected?

Significant consideration is given when selecting locations for batteries with factors including safety, environmental, public amenity and the network constraints in the area thoroughly reviewed. A detailed environment assessment is undertaken to assess any community impact, and consultation is undertaken with the local council and community.

Are community batteries safe?

Safety underpins everything we do at Endeavour Energy, and we maintain the same commitment to safety for community batteries as we do for all our network assets. Community batteries operate within Endeavour Energy's network standards and guidelines and recommendations under the Australian Standards.

Will the battery make noise?

Our community batteries comply with the NSW Environmental Protection Authority's Noise Guidelines. Noise from the batteries is produced during charging cycles and from air conditioning units attached to the battery.

Potential noise impacts to the community have been assessed as part of our location review process. We have implemented measures to ensure batteries installed do not emit intrusive noise within the community. All Endeavour Energy batteries are installed to meet the NSW Environmental Protection Authority's Noise Guidelines.

Will the battery interfere with my phone, internet or television?

No, the battery technology is like the battery in your mobile phone and won't have any impact on the technology in your home, in the same way that your mobile phone battery doesn't impact on your phone, TV or internet. The batteries operate within the Australian Standards for Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF).

Can I draw on the battery during a blackout?

No, community batteries will not operate during a power outage.

Have you considered the visual impacts?

Battery locations are selected following detailed technical, safety and environmental assessments that consider the visual amenity of the proposed location and the potential impact to views around the neighbourhood.

Do the batteries pose a fire risk?

The batteries are designed to meet the Australian Standards, they are also fitted with air conditioning units and fans to regulate temperature. Like all electrical assets within our network, the batteries will be remotely monitored 24/7, and fitted with alarms and self-shut off systems which will disconnect and power-off the system if abnormal conditions are detected and alert our control centre to the incident.

Endeavour Energy has dedicated Emergency Response Officers to manage all Fault and Emergency incidents on the network. We also work very closely with FNSW and the RFS to plan for and respond to incidents. Any damaged or end of life batteries will be removed from site for recycling by a licensed supplier.

Why do you select a pole top or ground-mount battery?

Community batteries are an innovative solution for local energy storage, and they come in two main types based on the electricity network configuration.

Pole Top Batteries: These are suitable for areas with an **above ground network**. They are installed on top of power poles and directly connected to the overhead lines.

Ground-mount batteries: These are used in neighbourhoods with an **underground network**. They are placed on the ground and connected to the subterranean power lines.

The selection between a pole top battery and a ground-based battery is crucial for ensuring compatibility with the existing electrical infrastructure and maximising the efficiency of the community battery system.

CL26.32 – Exhibition Outcomes & Finalisation – 2024 Berry Heritage Review – Shoalhaven Local Environment Plan 2014 (PP075) & Shoalhaven Development Control Plan 2014 Amendments**Question: Councillor Tribe**

We had a deputation on this matter from an effected landowner who questioned why 'opting out' of the heritage listing is no longer an option. They and several others who have raised concerns with me, are worried about their ability to 'age in place' in the future and make the necessary accessibility adaptations to their property if this goes ahead. One described their house as being 'brought in' from elsewhere and is still being caught up in the heritage listing. What options do these people now have?

Question: Councillor Boyd

Following on from the deputation on Tuesday and the various submissions from homeowners in the affected area, why was the opt out option removed from this new DCP chapter (Staff Note: the 'opt out' question appears to relate to the Planning Proposal/LEP Change and not the proposed DCP).

Answers: Director – City Development, Emma Struys**Ability to upgrade heritage items to 'age in place':**

- Generally, heritage listing generally does not prevent an owners from undertaking home modifications (ramps, non-slip flooring, grab rails etc) or alterations and additions to enable the occupants to 'age in place'. If the description of the proposed heritage item does include the building interiors then closer consideration may be required. Listing does remove the ability to do internal alterations via complying development i.e. development consent from Council would be required.
- Clause 5.10 of SLEP 2014 provides a pathway for minor non-structural works to building interiors without requiring development consent if Council is satisfied that the works are minor in nature and the works do not adversely impact the significance of the item.
- Accessibility upgrades involving works to the external significant fabric or structural elements of the building are also not necessarily prevented but would require a development consent. Any assessment would apply the principles of the Burra Charter – the development should demonstrate that the significance of the building is carefully managed and considered and that the new work is clearly discernible from existing fabric and preferably that the work would be capable of being reversed should these measures no longer be required. The draft DCP chapter for Berry provides guidance on how to undertake works to heritage items.

Why was the 'opt out' provision not considered in this instance:

- Local heritage is a matter for Councils to consider/manage, and the decision to protect the heritage of the Shoalhaven typically considers not only current landowners but the broader public interest. Council has been provided consistent advice over several years that the properties in question warrant heritage listing. In the case of 17 Albany Street, Heritage NSW specifically supported the listing of this item for its positive heritage impact.
 - It is ultimately at Council's discretion to consider the submissions received and decide whether to allow property owners to effectively 'opt out' from the final Planning Proposal (PP). The previous practice of 'opting out' of heritage listing that was entertained by previous Councils was discussed with Councillors at the 9 May 2024 Strategic Planning Working Party meeting. The Councillors present generally supported revisiting these items without enabling an 'opt-out' program. The owners of the nine properties in question were notified throughout the PP process to date.
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CL26.34 – Acquisition - Easement for Drainage of Sewage - Part Lot 76 DP 755907 - 66 Wrights Beach Rd, Bream Beach**Question: Councillor Boyd**

On page 64, Last sentence states that compensation MAY be payable to Crown Land and Native title Interest Holders.

Under what circumstances would payment be required for an easement?

Answer: Director – Shoalhaven Water, Andrew McVey

Compensation to the land owner (Crown Land) is subject to a valuation under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.

Compensation may be payable subject to a determination under Native Title if the native title claim were determined in favour of the applicant. Compensation may still be payable even without the creation of the easement, as the pipeline was constructed in 1994 when sewer services were provided to the area.