Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan

2026–31

PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD

Table of **Contents**

Kaurna Acknowledgment 2

Our Plan at a Glance 3

Introducing the Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan 4

Urban Greening and Biodiversity in Port Adelaide Enfield 7

Action Plan 9

Focus Area 1. Improving Our Urban Forest Health 10

Focus Area 2. Increasing Tree Canopy Cover 12

Focus Area 3. Protecting and Expanding Biodiversity 14

Focus Area 4. Supporting Community Environment Action 17

Appendix 1: Key Biodiversity and Culturally Significant Sites in PAE..... 20

Appendix 2: Target Setting 22

Appendix 3: Glossary of Technical Terms and Acronyms..... 23

Adopted 11 August 2026.

Cover image: Family cycling along shady Linear Park, Windsor Gardens

Image Credits: Images contributed to the Living Landscapes photography collection. Pg 4 – River Torrens by Fiona. Pg 23 – Largs Bay water front by David.

Kaurna Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we stand, the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains. It is upon their ancestral lands that the Port Adelaide Enfield Council meets. It is also The Place of the Kardi, the Emu, whose story travels from the coast inland. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We respect their spiritual beliefs and connections to land which are of continuing importance to the living Kaurna people of today. We further acknowledge the contributions and important role that Aboriginal people continue to play within our shared community.

Artist credit: NHARLA, Colleen Raven, 2024.
Ngapartji Ngapartji roughly translates to 'I give, you give'.

Our Plan at a **Glance**

Goal

Clean and Green City – a city that values its natural environment

Why it Matters

As our climate becomes hotter and drier and more people live in our city, plants and animals are finding it harder to survive. At the same time, our parks, streets, gardens and waterways are becoming more important than ever, providing safe places for native wildlife and helping nature thrive in urban areas. These green spaces also help people stay connected to nature, improving our wellbeing while supporting a healthier, more resilient environment for the future.

Focus Areas	Improving Our Urban Forest Health	Increasing Our Tree Canopy Cover	Protecting and Expanding Biodiversity	Supporting Community Environment Action
Key drivers	As our climate changes and space for planting becomes harder to find, the benefits provided by our urban forest are becoming increasingly valuable.	Increasing housing density and smaller lot sizes has removed trees, driving the need to expand canopy cover to reduce urban heat and maintain neighbourhood amenity.	A changing climate and urban development have accelerated degradation and loss of biodiversity, leading to a need for better protection and improvements for nature.	Supporting community environmental action helps PAE improve local environmental outcomes, build community capacity and address local environment challenges together.
Initiatives	• Improve urban forest data • Improve urban forest resilience • Select climate-ready and site-appropriate trees • Improve tree protection • Valuing and Reinvesting in Trees	• Improve canopy targets • Targeted canopy expansion • Integrate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) to assist greening • Improve equitable access to quality green space	• Undertake biodiversity action planning • Protect coastal and estuarine systems • Enhance wetlands and rivers • Strengthen habitat connectivity • Collaborate regionally	• Deliver a community environment action program • Celebrate and expand private greening • Strengthen communications
Targets	• Complete tree audit (100% of council-managed trees mapped by 2027–28; ~35% complete in 2025–26) • Increase the diversity of PAEs urban forest by planting a broad range of tree species to build resilience and urban forest health	• Review and refine tree canopy targets based on land tenure to enable us to set new tree planting targets by 2028. This will build on the 2022 data of 8.08% canopy cover and the original long term goal of increasing canopy by 35% by 2050	• Increase native planting to 60,000 native plants by 2031 • Aim for a minimum of 80% local native species to be used in council-led projects that include landscaping • Achieve no net loss of remnant native vegetation on council-managed key biodiversity sites	• Increase average attendance at council environment activities by 10% on 2026 baseline by 2031 • Maintain or grow Citizen Science opportunities and participation levels annually • Increase the percentage of residents who feel that the council values the natural environment by 2031
Outcomes	Improved urban forest health (tree quantity, age, condition, species diversity) and resilience to climate change.	A healthier, more resilient urban forest demonstrated by increased canopy cover (% increase), more trees planted (net new trees), greater species diversity and expanded WSUD treatments across council projects.	Local habitat is increased and protected by expanding native planting, improving habitat connectivity and ensuring no net loss of remnant vegetation across council managed biodiversity sites.	Increased community participation in environment and Citizen Science activities, with broader demographic reach and improved community confidence that the council values the natural environment.

Introducing the **Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan**

The **Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan (UGBP) 2026–31 outlines** how we will protect, improve and grow our urban forest and biodiversity. It provides a clear roadmap towards a cleaner, greener and more resilient city, one that values and celebrates its natural environment. The plan supports the City Vision 2024–34 and guides everyday decisions about our streets, parks, wetlands and natural areas.

It sets out practical actions to create a cooler, greener and healthier city by expanding the tree canopy, restoring habitats and embedding biodiversity sensitive design across public and private spaces. It also brings together the council's existing plans such as Stormwater Management Plans (SMPs), Asset Management Plans (AMPs) and Wetland Management Plans, so projects are co-ordinated and deliver better value for the community.

The UGBP sits under PAE's **Clean and Green City Strategy** and **Living Environment Plan 2026–31**. This plan replaces the previous **Biodiversity Management Plan (2016–2020)**.

The plan also responds to the council's corporate strategic risk concerning environmental sustainability, while supporting related risks such as governance, asset stewardship, community participation and workforce safety.

Climate mitigation and adaptation actions and water management are supported through:

- The **Climate Response Plan 2026–31**
- The **Integrated Water Management Plan 2026–31**

These plans will be delivered alongside the UGBP and contain their own detailed actions.

Purpose of the Plan

The plan aims to protect and enhance our urban environment in ways that benefit both people and nature – thereby supporting wellbeing, liveability and resilience in a changing climate.

It seeks to:

- Improve our understanding of the city's urban forest health and biodiversity conservation needs
- Integrate green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity sensitive design into urban planning and development
- Support and empower the community to take part in greening and conservation initiatives
- Align with and build on existing council and regional policies and initiatives relating to biodiversity conservation, climate action and sustainable urban development

Key Concepts

Urban Forest – All the trees and living natural systems in our city, including soil and water, across both public and private land. This includes streets, parks, backyards, schools, pathways and open spaces.

Urban Greening – Urban greening is the process of increasing and improving trees, vegetation and natural spaces within urban areas to create cooler, healthier, more liveable and biodiverse communities.

Biodiversity – The variety of all living things, plants, animals, fungi and tiny organisms, and the habitats they depend on.

Green and Blue Infrastructure – The network of natural spaces, water systems and green features that make our city healthier, cooler and more liveable. It includes parks, trees, wetlands, coastlines, creeks, rain gardens, street landscaping and other natural areas that work together to support biodiversity, manage stormwater, reduce urban heat and create places where people and nature can thrive.

Green Equity – Green equity means making sure all people and neighbourhoods have fair access to the benefits of trees, shade, parks, nature and cooler green spaces.

Introducing the **Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan**

How the Plan Works

The plan is designed to be practical, flexible and easy to implement. It will be delivered through clear priorities, co-ordinated work across council teams and strong partnerships with the community and other organisations.

Key elements include:

- A simple internal implementation plan outlining responsibilities and timelines
- Use of the best available data to focus efforts where they will have the greatest impact
- Clear sequencing and resourcing
- Defined accountability across departments
- Annual monitoring and reporting, with updates as new information becomes available

Actions are delivered through annual business planning, with progress reported to support transparency and continuous improvement.

Because waterways and catchments cross council boundaries, the UGBP aligns local actions with regional initiatives such as AdaptWest and emerging Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plans. Working with neighbouring councils and state agencies ensures that water outcomes are delivered at the right scale and that they support regional resilience.

By partnering with residents, community groups, Traditional Owners, neighbouring councils, utilities, industry and government, we can deliver greening and biodiversity outcomes that benefit the whole community.

Figure 1 shows how related PAE plans, policies and guidelines along with regional plans support delivery of the UGBP. A glossary of technical terms and acronyms is provided in Appendix 1.

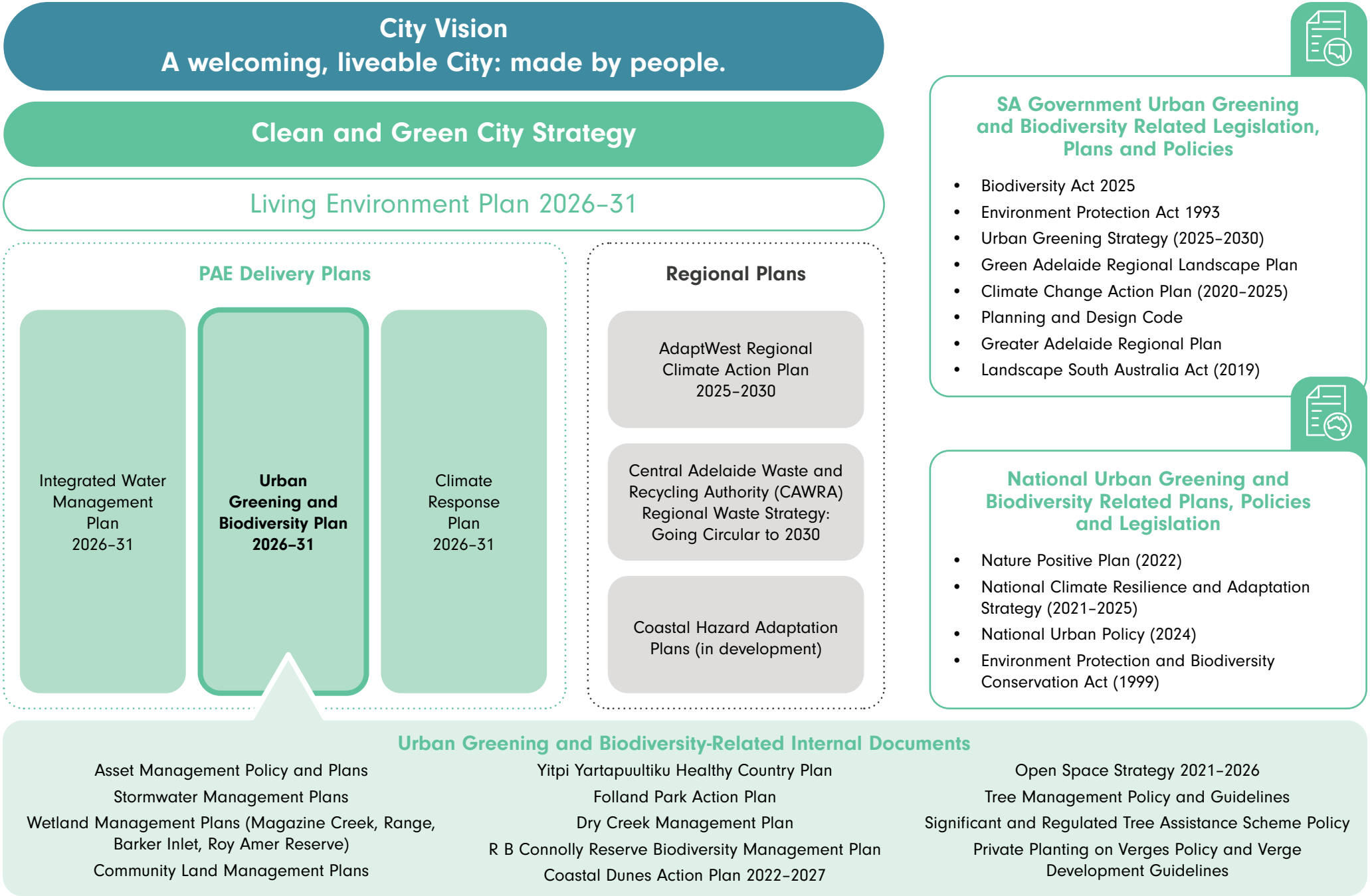
Progress will be tracked through a concise set of measures that monitor both implementation and outcomes. Targets focus on areas where the council has the strongest influence, balancing ambition with practicality and current data limitations.

Alignment with State and Regional Directions

The UGBP reflects current South Australian policy priorities, including:

- Increasing tree canopy cover to create cooler neighbourhoods
- Creating urban spaces where plants, people and animals can thrive
- Providing nature-based education to connect people with the environment
- Managing pest plants and animals
- Strengthening the natural environment's resilience to climate impacts
- Adopting governance models that support better urban greening and biodiversity outcomes

Figure 1: The UGBP is supported by other local, state and federal government plans, policies and guidelines



Urban Greening and Biodiversity in PAE

PAE Snapshot

In the City of PAE, our urban forest and natural areas help keep streets and neighbourhoods cooler, healthier and more liveable. They also provide habitat and support biodiversity, helping our city adapt to a changing climate.

Approximately

400,000 trees

across the city (public and private land), including around 100,000 street trees

Tree canopy cover:

8.1%

(trees ≥ 3 m, 2022), up from 6.56% (2018–19)

Green space

(the percentage of area that is covered by all actively growing vegetation, i.e. trees, shrubs, grass):

16.5%

(2022)

Canopy target:

35% increase

by 2050 (from the 2021 baseline of 10%)

Planting:

We plant around

3,000 trees per year

in streets, parks and reserves, and support a further ~500 trees per year on private land through incentives

Urban Greening: Public and Private Land

PAE's *Greening Our City* work targets more shade and greenery where it is needed most, recognising the constraints of planting in built-up areas. We use local data (including canopy cover, heat and vulnerability) to help prioritise planting and streetscape upgrades.

We also support community planting, education and local restoration through events, grants and partnerships (including the Port Environment Centre), helping build local knowledge and long-term stewardship.

Greening on Council Land

Street trees provide shade, amenity and habitat, but planting in road reserves can be limited by space, driveways, underground services and powerlines. Parks and reserves usually have more room for large, long-lived canopy trees. We apply a 'right tree, right place' approach to maximise long-term benefits.

Greening on Private Land

Private canopy is declining in many cities due to infill development, smaller blocks, climate stress. In PAE, private yards are still critical for shade and biodiversity. PAE's *Get Shady Project* helps residents, strata groups and businesses plant canopy trees where they will have the greatest impact. Since 2022, the program has provided more than **1,200** canopy-forming trees to be planted on private land.

Biodiversity in PAE

Before European settlement, the area included eucalypt woodlands, grasslands and coastal ecosystems such as samphire flats, mangroves and marshlands. Today, high-biodiversity areas are small and fragmented, so protection, restoration and connectivity matter even more.

Key remnant habitat areas include Folland Park (protecting some of the last remaining *Eucalyptus porosa* woodland on the Adelaide Plains), mature River Red Gums and South Australian Blue Gums along the River Torrens Linear Park and Dry Creek, and some of the coastal habitats on the LeFevre Peninsula (refer to Figure 2).

The city supports **13 flora species** of conservation significance, and **28 threatened fauna species** have been recorded, including the Australian Sea Lion, migratory shorebirds and the Grey-headed Flying Fox.

Our street tree planting and species selection can contribute to overall diversity. With changing climate, some species will become less viable making selection of species that are climate-resilient more important (refer to Appendix 2 for more detail).

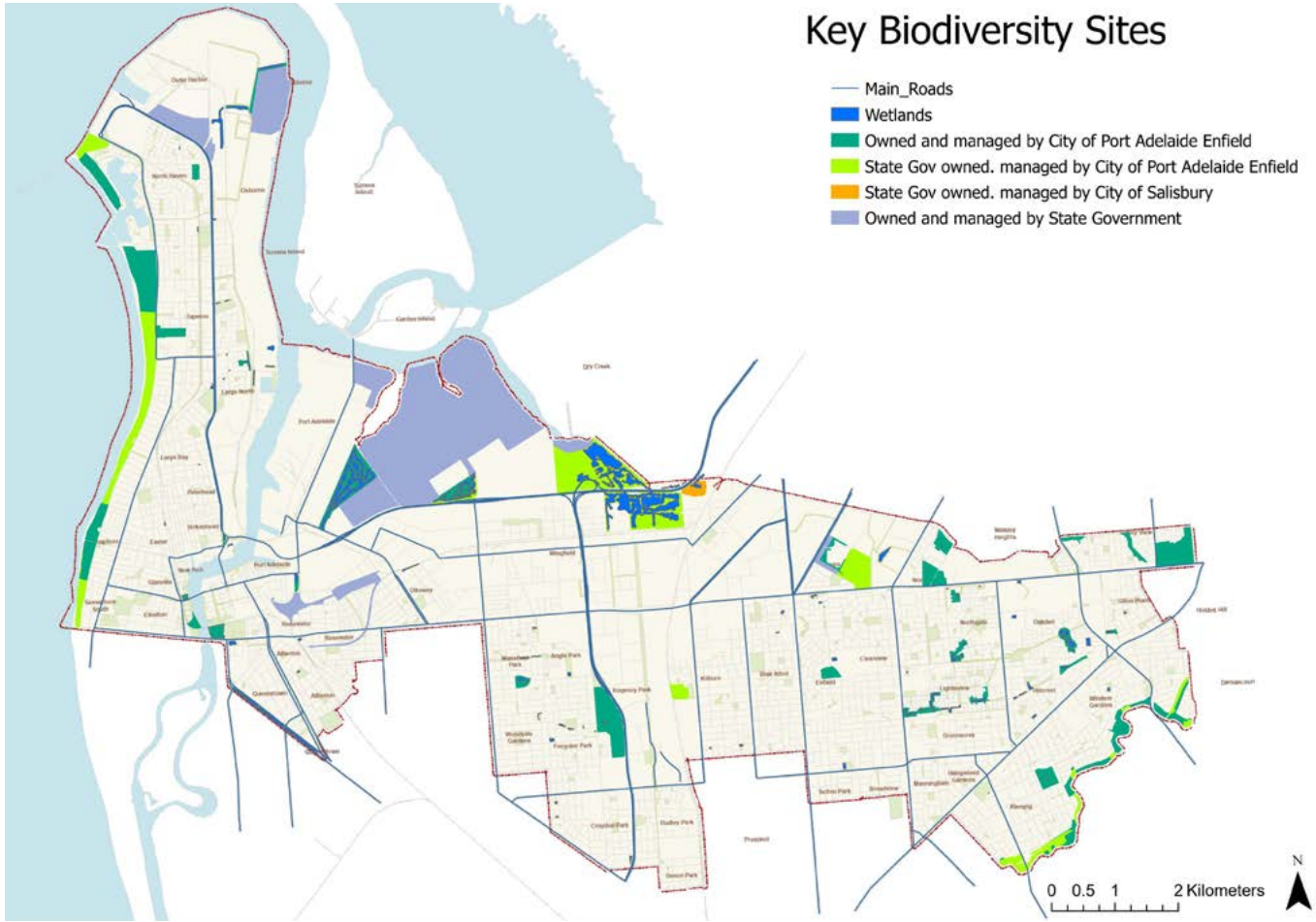
Urban Greening and Biodiversity in PAE

Key Biodiversity Sites
Across PAE, some areas are recognised as Key Biodiversity Sites (refer to Figure 2 and Appendix 3) because they support local conservation, connectivity and landscape resilience. Some are on council land and need ongoing protection and targeted enhancement. Others are managed by external agencies; our role here is to advocate, collaborate and support best-practice outcomes through planning and partnerships.

What this means for our priorities:

- We need to protect and care for existing mature trees while planning for succession and climate resilience
- We need to grow canopy faster and more fairly, focusing on hotter and lower-canopy neighbourhoods
- We need to protect and restore key habitats and strengthen connections between sites across the city and region
- We need to work more closely with Kaurna to identify culturally significant plant species for use across the city
- We need to work with the community, businesses and other partners because much of the canopy and many biodiversity opportunities are on private land or public land not managed by council

Figure 2: Map showing locations of key biodiversity sites in PAE (2026).



Action **Plan**

The Action Plan outlines the practical steps that we will take between 2026 and 2031 to deliver a cooler, greener and more biodiverse city where nature and people thrive together. Actions are grouped into four outcome areas:

1. **Improving Our Urban Forest Health**
2. **Increasing Tree Canopy Cover**
3. **Protecting and Expanding Biodiversity**
4. **Supporting Community Environment Action**

Detailed internal implementation schedules, budgets and responsibilities sit outside this public-facing plan.

Stockade Park, Northfield

FOCUS AREA 1.

Improving Our Urban Forest Health

Our urban forest is a valuable, living asset that grows in value over time. Healthy trees provide shade, improve air quality, store carbon and offer vital habitat for wildlife. A diverse, resilient urban forest is essential for adapting to a changing climate, enhancing public spaces and improving the city's character. As mature trees take decades to establish, proactive planning today is essential to ensure long-term canopy coverage and health.

Understanding, maintaining and protecting our urban forest and mature trees supports our long-term vision of a city that values its natural environment. Diversity also boosts resilience to pests, diseases and climate stress. Ongoing research is currently underway across the state, in partnership with local councils, and is guiding smarter choices for planting climate resilient species with better survival prospects in a changing environment.

To improve our urban forest health, we will continue to:

- Implement a comprehensive online tree management system to facilitate improved tree management practices
- Manage over 150,000 trees in our streets and reserves (public land)
- Offer financial assistance to protect mature trees on private land through the Significant and Regulated Tree maintenance reimbursement scheme
- Integrate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles and treatments in our streetscapes to divert stormwater and improve tree health
- Advocate for the state government to improve planning policies regarding trees in urban areas to increase tree protection and strengthen penalties for illegal tree removal
- Build internal capability through targeted training and by engaging certified, qualified arborists for specialised work

CASE STUDY

2025 Tree Management Policy Update

With an understanding that urban trees face a growing threat from intensifying urban development, climate variability and associated environmental stressors, and that our community values street trees for improved liveability and wellness, we have made significant updates to strengthen the protection and growth of our public urban forest.

We have:

- Incorporated clear guidelines to prevent unnecessary tree removals
- Implemented a tree valuation formula for council trees removed due to development, requiring developers to pay the assessed value, which is reinvested into urban greening initiatives
- Included an explicit statement to aim to include at least one verge tree in front of every property where possible

FOCUS AREA 1

Improving Our Urban Forest Health

Our **next steps**:

1.1 Improve urban forest data

We will undertake and maintain a comprehensive audit of all council-managed trees to capture key data (species, age, condition and location), using this information to guide future planting and control risks such as pests, disease and climate impacts.

1.2 Improve urban forest resilience

We will use audit insights to help establish tree species diversity and age class targets to inform future tree planting

1.3 Select climate-ready and site-appropriate trees

We will trial and select trees suited for future climate conditions and ensure that species are appropriate for site constraints and performance expectations.

1.4 Improve tree protection and regulation

We will protect the city's most valuable trees and minimise avoidable loss across public and private land. We will also continue to advocate for stronger State Government policies and legislative protections to support urban tree retention.

1.5 Valuing and reinvesting in trees

We will work towards recognising the full environmental, social and economic value of our trees and support sustainable reinvestment in the urban forest.

FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Audit of Council-Managed Trees

We will undertake a comprehensive audit of all council-managed trees across PAE's streets and reserves, capturing key attributes such as species, age, condition and location, to establish a robust evidence base that informs our assessment of current urban forest health and guides future planning and improvement.

Almost 50,000 trees representing approximately 35% of council managed street and reserve trees have been audited (as at June 2026).

This will enable us to:

- Assess the condition and retention value of the trees to determine their value and management requirements
- Review and improve our tree canopy cover target
- Implement strategies to encourage positive community attitudes towards trees and promote tree growth on private property

FOCUS AREA 2.

Increasing Tree Canopy Cover

Increasing tree canopy cover is one of the most effective ways to reduce urban heat, improve liveability and enhance biodiversity. Shaded streets can be 5 – 6°C cooler on hot days, reducing energy use and protecting health. Greener environments also raise property values, encourage active lifestyles and build climate resilience.

South Australia aims for 30% tree canopy cover across metropolitan Adelaide by 2055,[1] the level at which urban forests deliver significant environmental and social benefits. Aligning with this target strengthens PAE's commitment to a cooler, greener city.

While tree canopy across metropolitan Adelaide has increased overall in recent years due to concerted efforts by local government, the distribution of canopy remains uneven. Currently, canopy cover in PAE is low (8.1%) and patchy, with some suburbs among the lowest in metropolitan Adelaide. This highlights the need for targeted investment in heat-vulnerable, low-canopy areas.

However, high canopy levels are not suitable everywhere. Coastal and other constrained environments face challenges such as salt exposure, wind and poor soil, thus limiting large tree growth. In these areas, alternative greening approaches such as planting coastal shrubs and low-growing native vegetation are more appropriate and remain important for achieving ecological outcomes.

To increase tree canopy cover, we will continue to:

- Plant and maintain a minimum 3,000 trees per year on council land in our streets and reserves
- Encourage the planting of a minimum 500 trees on privately owned or rented properties per year through incentive schemes and giveaways
- Collaborate with the State Government's four-year canopy mapping program using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology
- Apply for State Government grants for climate resilient streetscapes

1 Urban Greening Strategy, 2025. Prepared by Green Adelaide and Department for Environment and Water.

CASE STUDY

Streetscape Upgrade – Victoria Street, Queenstown

The Victoria Street Streetscape upgrade in Queenstown aimed to create a safer, greener and more climate resilient street while improving local amenity and supporting PAE's *Greening our City* initiative. The upgrade, now complete, has incorporated 43 street trees, 2,626 native tubestock and water sensitive urban design elements (e.g. raingardens and kerb inlets) to improve stormwater management, reduce heat and enhance biodiversity. The design was refined following community consultation to balance greening outcomes with practical concerns like on-street parking and stormwater drainage.

The project was jointly funded by Green Adelaide, the Australian Government and the City of PAE, and has improved long-term environmental, safety and liveability benefits for residents.

FOCUS AREA 2.0

Increasing Tree Canopy Cover

Our **next steps**:

2.1 Improve canopy targets

We will review current canopy targets, and we will refine and set new targets to guide investment and track progress.

2.2 Focus on targeted canopy expansion

We will accelerate tree planting in priority areas (e.g. low canopy or heat-vulnerable communities) informed by improved tree canopy targets.

2.3 Integrate water sensitive urban design (WSUD)

We will integrate water sensitive design to improve growing conditions for trees and support urban greening in a hotter and drier climate.

2.4 Improve equitable access to quality green space

We will investigate opportunities to improve the quality and equitable access to public green space across the city through design of and planning for green spaces at all scales, including in streetscapes.

FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Review and Improve Our Tree Canopy Target

In 2021 we set a target to increase tree canopy cover by 35% by 2050 and committed to planting 3,000 trees annually in our streets and reserves, which we have achieved.

Since then, improved canopy mapping and the introduction of new tree management software have provided more accurate data to inform future planning. With this updated information, we are now well-positioned to review and refine our tree canopy targets.

Refining these targets will also help prioritise planting in areas with low canopy cover, high urban heat and limited access to green space, ensuring a more equitable distribution of benefits across the community.

FOCUS AREA 3.

Protecting and Expanding Biodiversity

Protecting and enhancing native biodiversity is essential to maintaining healthy, resilient natural ecosystems and local species. Urban areas can provide important refuges for native plants and animals (flora and fauna), such as butterfly verge gardens, while green open spaces provide recreational opportunities and enhance overall psychological wellbeing. The more biodiverse these spaces are, the better equipped they are to adapt to climate change.

Our terrestrial, wetland, estuarine and coastal environments support birds, reptiles, invertebrates and mammals, including the nationally vulnerable grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), while providing important habitat, shade and cooling within urban areas. Urban spaces such as tree-lined streets, private gardens and verge plantings, even with some non-native species, also play a pivotal role in supporting local biodiversity.

Councils are increasingly applying Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD) principles by integrating habitat, water management and native landscape design into everyday development and infrastructure projects. This approach aims to support healthy ecosystems along side urban growth and will align with guidance on how to integrate BSUD into planning of urban development and open space being development by Green Adelaide.

To protect and expand biodiversity, we will continue to:

- Plant thousands of native seedlings and shrubs in parks and reserves through our horticulture and biodiversity program
- Partner with regional stakeholders to improve catchment-wide restoration projects (e.g. Dry Creek, River Torrens)
- Partner with State Government and other stakeholders to monitor and improve our wetland ecosystems
- Develop Biodiversity Action Plans for key biodiversity sites (e.g. Coastal Dunes Action Plan 2022, R B Connolly Biodiversity Action Plan 2025)
- Apply BSUD principles to relevant council projects
- Regularly monitor key biodiversity sites to identify threats, set conservation priorities and develop targeted management strategies to protect keystone species and threatened ecosystems
- Control pest (weed) plants and animals in our coastal dunes, parks and reserves
- Support the community and environment to respond to events that affect the natural environment (e.g. Harmful Algal Bloom, Avian Flu)

FOCUS AREA 3.

Protecting and Expanding Biodiversity

Our **next steps**:

3.1 Undertake biodiversity action planning

We will plan and prioritise biodiversity conservation actions across the city by implementing action plans for key sites, improving managed lands, monitoring outcomes, setting targets for native plantings and species diversity, trialling innovative approaches and advocating for biodiversity sensitive urban design.

3.2 Protect coastal and estuarine systems

We will protect and restore our coastal dune, mangrove and estuarine environments to support healthy shorelines, marine habitats and climate resilient coastal systems by enhancing native vegetation, working to reduce erosion and pollution impacts, and improving ecological connectivity and long-term ecosystem health.

3.3 Enhance wetlands and rivers

We will enhance freshwater and wetland systems to improve habitat, water quality and biodiversity by undertaking catchment-wide restoration works including riparian and aquatic native planting, using WSUD to provide alternative aquatic and riparian habitats, and exploring new technologies to reduce stormwater pollutants.

3.4 Strengthen habitat connectivity

We will improve biodiversity value and strengthen connectivity within and between green open spaces and key biodiversity sites across the city and region by creating habitat corridors (for example through the AdaptWest Biodiversity Corridors Project), increasing native verge planting and supporting community action.

3.5 Collaborate regionally

We will work beyond council boundaries with neighbouring councils, State Government agencies, Traditional Owners and the community to strengthen regional biodiversity, share knowledge and improve/ advocate for habitat connectivity across landscapes and land tenures.

FOCUS AREA 3.

Protecting and Expanding Biodiversity

FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Expanding our Bushland Condition Assessments

Understanding how our bushland is changing over time is essential for protecting local biodiversity. By carrying out 'before and after' assessments, we can see whether our on-ground management actions are making a real difference. Using a consistent and repeatable method across all sites helps us to track changes in vegetation structure, species diversity, weed invasion and overall habitat quality. This gives us strong evidence to guide what's working well and where we need to adjust our approach.

We are expanding our regular bushland condition monitoring from 12 sites to 18. These will include the city's key biodiversity areas, community planting day sites and, in the future, golf courses. The assessment results will help us spot emerging threats early and support more adaptive and targeted management at each site.

Vegetated buffer, corner of Briens Road and Grand Junction Road, Northfield

FOCUS AREA 4.

Supporting Community Environment Action

Urban greening and biodiversity outcomes cannot be achieved by the council alone. Success depends on strong partnerships with private landholders, State and Federal Governments, developers, residents, businesses, schools and community groups. These collaborations foster shared ownership, behaviour change and environmental stewardship.

Citizen science supports these efforts by engaging the community in collecting data, building environmental awareness and skills, and strengthening the evidence base for decision making.

The City of PAE is supported by a strong network of dedicated volunteers ad 'Friends of' groups who contribute time, knowledge and local action across coastal, river and urban landscapes. These volunteers play a vital role in improving the city's natural environment and responding to risks posed by climate change. Appendix 1, Figure 3 illustrates the locations where many 'Friends of' groups are working as of June 2026.

To enable community environment action, we will continue to:

- Deliver annual community planting day events
- Support local community groups in their restoration and native revegetation work through grants, planning and on-ground field support in collaboration with Green Adelaide
- Partner with the Port Environment Centre on specific projects related to urban greening and biodiversity education/awareness
- Deliver citizen science programs including bird monitoring, water quality monitoring, CoastSnap, wildlife box monitoring and BioBlitz events
- Provide regular environmental updates via the Living Environment eNewsletter to share achievements, promote initiatives and encourage local level actions
- Provide an annual Environment Report Card that highlights our environmental achievements and progress against targets
- Build internal capability through in-house training on best-practice tree maintenance, WSUD and BSUD principles

FOCUS AREA 4

Supporting Community Environment Action

CASE STUDY

PAE Citizen Science Program

The PAE Citizen Science Program is a long-running initiative that invites community members to help collect important environmental data across local reserves, including wetlands, bushland and coastal areas.

Launched in 2017 with a focus on bird monitoring, the program has steadily grown to include wildlife box monitoring and water quality testing through the Waterwatch initiative.

Volunteers play a vital role in collecting environmental data, which is then analysed and shared in easy-to-understand insights.

These findings provide valuable information that enables Council and its partners to make informed decisions and take targeted action. For example, recent Waterwatch results have been used to guide wetland pump operations.

The program's flexible structure and use of simple smartphone apps make it accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. Students, workers and retirees are among the many volunteers who contribute to protecting and understanding the local environment.

Our **next steps**:

4.1 Deliver a community environment action program

We will support community connection with nature and grow community-led greening and biodiversity action by working with residents, Traditional Owners, volunteers and community groups to deliver local projects, events and learning and engagement opportunities across the city.

4.2 Celebrate and expand private greening

We will support residents and businesses to play an active role in greening and cooling the city by providing incentives, practical guidance and recognition that encourages tree planting, native gardens and nature-positive actions on private land.

4.3 Strengthen communication

We will build awareness, pride and participation by sharing our urban greening and biodiversity work, celebrating community achievements and creating accessible opportunities for people to get involved in caring for their local environment.

FOCUS AREA 4.

Supporting Community Environment Action

FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Sharing our Work

Sharing what we do and why we do it is key to building understanding, trust and a shared sense of responsibility for creating greener, more biodiverse neighbourhoods. When we communicate clearly about our projects, their benefits and the ways that people can get involved, we help strengthen community support, inspire positive behaviour and contribute to long-term environmental outcomes.

To improve how we communicate, we will:

- Strengthen internal communication by making it easier for staff to stay informed through regular updates, training and accessible resources
- Improve how we engage with the community by using clear, friendly language across our digital platforms, signage and on-ground storytelling
- Create more opportunities for two-way communication, including community events, citizen science activities and feedback channels (such as Participate PAE project pages), thereby helping people learn about our work and take part in shaping it

Appendix 1: Key Biodiversity and Culturally Significant Sites in PAE

Latalare Reserve, New Port

Key Biodiversity Sites

Within the City of PAE are sites identified as being critical to the conservation of local biodiversity, ecological connectivity and landscape resilience, known as key biodiversity sites (KBSs). Figure 2 illustrates the distribution and location of these KBSs within PAE.

Some KBSs are situated on Council-managed land and require ongoing protection, routine maintenance and targeted enhancement to preserve and improve their ecological values. Other KBSs, such as Biodiversity Park and Bird Island, are managed by different Government Departments.

For sites that the council does not directly manage, we support good outcomes by working closely with land managers and partners. This includes supporting their protection through planning and policy mechanisms and working in partnership with relevant land managers and stakeholders to promote best-practice management, maintenance and ecological enhancement outcomes.

Culturally Significant Sites

PAE includes many places that hold deep cultural importance for the Kaurna people – both long-standing heritage sites and places with strong cultural meaning today. Figure 3 illustrates locations of culturally significant sites in PAE.

Yitpi Yartapuultiku (Aboriginal Cultural Centre) located on the Port River, is designed with Kaurna Elders and the City of PAE. It celebrates Kaurna culture, art, language and stories. The outdoor spaces feature local native plants that reflect grasslands, woodlands and coastal saltmarsh, helping people connect with Country.

Latalare Reserve in New Port honours the birthplace of Kaurna woman Lartelare, and holds strong family, cultural and historical importance. It has been planted with culturally significant native plants and is part of local efforts to reclaim and share Kaurna history passed down through generations.

Folland Park in Enfield is also culturally significant. As an area of remnant vegetation on Kaurna Country, it protects native vegetation that reflects the pre-colonisation landscape and supports ongoing cultural connection.

The wider **Port River area (Yertabulti Country)** remains an important cultural landscape for the Kaurna people, who have cared for this area for thousands of years.

Bushland Assessment Sites

Figure 3 shows the sites currently included in the Bushland Assessment program. Over time, more sites will be added so we can better understand and care for the health of our local bushland.

Figure 3: Map showing location of 'Friends groups' sites, culturally significant sites and bushland assessment sites in PAE (2026).

Appendix 2: **Target Setting**

Focus Area 1 – Improving Our Urban Forest Health

A diverse urban forest is more resilient to climate change, pests and diseases, and helps maintain benefits such as shade, cooling, biodiversity and improved liveability.

Council is undertaking comprehensive mapping of trees on Council-managed land to establish a baseline for species composition and diversity. This information will inform future planting programs and support the development of evidence-based diversity targets. Figure 4 shows the top 10 varieties of trees planted in PAE streets and reserves based on the current ~35% data capture.

A commonly recognised urban forest diversity guideline is the 5/10/15 principle, which recommends that no more than 5% of trees belong to one species, 10% to one genus, and 15% to one family. This approach helps reduce the risk of significant canopy loss resulting from pests, diseases or environmental changes that may affect particular tree groups. While this principle provides a useful benchmark for urban forest resilience, it is most effective when supported by detailed tree inventory data.

In the interim, Council will continue to increase tree diversity by planting a broad range of climate-resilient species that support biodiversity, strengthen neighbourhood character and contribute to cooler, greener and more liveable communities.

Focus Area 2 – Increasing Our Tree Canopy Cover

In 2021, Council established a tree canopy target to guide future planting and support greener, cooler and more liveable neighbourhoods. This work assessed how different planting approaches could increase canopy cover, the investment required, and where new street trees could deliver the greatest benefits by reducing urban heat and increasing shade.

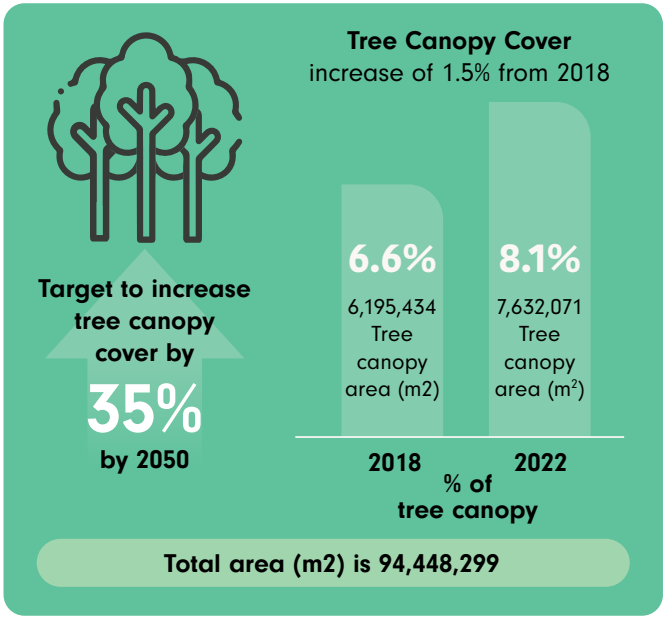
At that time, canopy cover was measured at 10% using 2021 RGB aerial imagery, which was the preferred method available. Council set an achievable target, supported by two annual indicators:

- **Target:** By 2050 achieve a 35% increase in the city's canopy coverage.
- **Indicator:** Council plants and maintain at least 3,000 new street and reserve trees each year.
- **Indicator:** Council encourages other landowners to plant at least 500 new trees each year across the city.

Since the original target was set, Council has adopted a more accurate method for measuring tree canopy using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data combined with high-resolution multispectral satellite imagery[2]. This provides a more detailed and reliable assessment of tree canopy extent across the City.

Using this method, canopy cover was estimated at 6.56% in 2018 and 8.08% in 2022. These figures provide a stronger baseline for monitoring canopy change over time and informing future canopy targets and greening initiatives.

Figure 4: Total area and percent of total area covered by tree canopy (≥3 m in height) in 2018 and 2022



Action 2.1 of this Plan (page 13) outlines Council's commitment to review the existing tree canopy target and set updated targets informed by the most current data, including updated 2026 tree canopy cover mapping and considering land tenure and environmental challenges such as soil quality and salt exposure.

2 Tree mapping spatial data capture is commissioned by Green Adelaide in collaboration with Adelaide's metropolitan councils and other state government agencies (https://data.environment.sa.gov.au/Climate/Data-Systems/Urban-Heat-Mapping/Pages/default.aspx)

Appendix 3: Glossary of Technical Terms and Acronyms

This glossary provides simple explanations of key terms and acronyms used in the Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan.

Term	Definition
Adaptation	How people, places and natural systems adjust to climate change so harm is reduced and benefits can still be protected where possible
Bushland Assessment	A check of how healthy bushland is, usually looking at native plants, weeds, habitat condition and changes over time
Biodiversity	The variety of all living things, plants, animals, fungi and tiny organisms, and the habitats they depend on.
Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD)	A way of designing towns, streets and buildings so they also create and protect habitat for native plants and animals
Blue Infrastructure	Natural and built water features, such as wetlands, creeks, drains and stormwater systems, that help manage water and support people and nature
Climate Change	Long-term changes in climate, such as hotter temperatures, changing rainfall and more extreme weather
Climate Resilience	The ability of communities, environments and organisations to cope with climate related change or shocks and keep functioning
CoastSnap	A citizen science project where people take repeat photos from the same place to track how the coastline changes over time
Ecosystem	A community of living things and the air, water, soil and other natural features they interact with in one place
Green Equity	Ensuring all people and neighbourhoods have fair access to the benefits of trees, shade, parks, nature and cooler green spaces, regardless of where they live, their income, age or background.
Green Infrastructure	The network of parks, trees, gardens, wetlands and other green places that helps keep a city healthy, cool and liveable
Green Space	Places with growing vegetation, such as trees, shrubs, grass and gardens
Landscapes	The mix of natural and built places around us, and the different ways people use, value and experience them
Key Biodiversity Site (KBS)	An important place for native plants, animals and habitat that needs protection, care or improvement

Term	Definition
Stormwater Management Plan (SMP)	A plan for managing stormwater so it can reduce flooding, protect waterways and support greener, healthier places
Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)	A remote sensing mapping method that uses laser measurements to create detailed 3D pictures of the ground, buildings and trees. It can be used to model tree canopy cover.
Liveability	How good a place is to live in, based on things like environment, transport, services, safety and recreation
Mitigate/Mitigation	Actions that reduce the causes of climate change, such as lowering greenhouse gas emissions
Private Greening	Greening work on privately owned land, such as planting and caring for trees and gardens at homes, strata properties and businesses
Resilience	The ability to recover from stress, change or disturbance and keep going
Tree Amenity Value	Tree Amenity Valuation is a recognised method for estimating the financial value of trees based on their size, condition, species and contribution to the local environment. As per Council's Tree Management Policy and Guidelines 2025, the amenity value component is calculated as: Value = Base Value × Species × Aesthetics × Locality × Condition. This method does not include a biodiversity measure.
Tree Canopy	The upper layer of leaves, branches and crowns of trees that forms a 'roof' over the ground
Tree Canopy Cover	The amount of land shaded or covered by tree leaves and branches when viewed from above
Urban Forest	All the trees and living natural systems in a city, including soil and water, across public and private land
Urban Greening	The process of increasing and improving trees, vegetation and natural spaces in urban areas
Urban Heat Island	An area that becomes hotter than nearby places because of hard surfaces, buildings and limited shade
Vulnerability	How likely a person, place or system is to be harmed by climate change and how hard it is to cope
Waterwatch	A community-based water monitoring program where volunteers help collect information about local water quality
Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)	A way of planning and designing places so water is used, stored, cleaned and managed in ways that support people and the environment

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