

GREEN SPACE ALLIANCE POSITION STATEMENT

The Green Space Alliance has developed this Position Statement to impress upon government the urgent need for policy reform to ensure the provision of sufficient, quality green space for Perth. Formed in 2014, the Green Space Alliance is an advocate for policy change comprised of a broad range of Western Australian amenity horticulture industry bodies and aligned organisations. This Position Statement is supported by a Discussion Paper, which provides a more comprehensive overview of issues and challenges facing Perth's green space, along with recommendations for industry and government responses.

GREEN SPACE ALLIANCE VISION

To live in a community that values green spaces at its core, which deliver benefits to everyone through improved health, wellbeing and liveability by using innovative water and urban planning solutions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GREEN SPACE IN PERTH

There is overwhelming evidence demonstrating the benefits of green space, including improved community health, provision of ecosystems services and increased property values to name a few. ¹²³ Perth has historically been well served with diverse, high quality green space and the outdoor lifestyle that this affords has been an identifying feature of Perth's culture.

As the metropolitan area continues to densify to accommodate population growth and to limit urban sprawl, competition for developable land is an ever present issue. In addition, Perth faces significant water security challenges with the likelihood of further water restrictions being placed on outdoor usage.

The Green Space Alliance believes Perth has reached a critical point in time at which action must be taken to protect existing and future green space in all its forms, including parks and recreational reserves, civic spaces, residential gardens and the urban forest more broadly. Without this, the quality of life and wellbeing of Perth residents will be significantly compromised.



GREEN SPACE ALLIANCE PRINCIPLES & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Green Space Alliance has identified a set of principles and recommendations which will help guide the development of sufficient quality green space in Perth.

Green Space Alliance Principles

1. Improve liveability by placing greater prominence on green space in the planning process and prioritise the creation of sufficient, quality designed public open space.

2. Prioritise water resources, improve water management practices and support ongoing research and demonstration of innovative urban water management solutions to sustain quality green space.

3. Recognise Perth's unique green space and enhance biodiversity protection and management practices.

4. Recognise the value of the health and economic benefits green space generates for WA and ensure appropriate resourcing and funding.

5. Promote ground-up engagement and communication across the community, industry and government to increase end-user involvement in urban green space, and support social equity outcomes.

Green Space Alliance Recommendations

The Western Australian Planning Commission's current *Planning Review for Better Design* process should respond to green space concerns by improving planning policy to provide greater protection for existing vegetation, and establish minimum green space needs within new development at lot and precinct scales.

The Western Australian Government's proposed *Water Resources Management Bill* should protect potable water resources by developing non-potable water use targets for irrigation to facilitate the uptake of fit-for-purpose water sources to meet green space irrigation requirements.

The Western Australian Government and Local Governments should develop Green Space Strategies which plan for the management of green space and identify green space targets. Management policies, such as bushfire mitigation and roadside vegetation legislation should reflect growing awareness of the value of vegetation and better address linkages to water sensitive urban design.

In partnership with industry, the Western Australian Government should undertake research that quantifies the value of green space in Perth. Consideration should also be given to allocating sufficient funds towards State and Local Government green space enhancement activities.

The Western Australian Government should undertake transparent consultation with industry and the community to ensure the value of urban green space is embedded in legislation and relevant policy instruments, including prioritising the passage of the *Public Health Bill 2014* through Parliament, supported by a Public Health Outcomes Framework, which considers how green space contributes to health and wellbeing.

¹ Ely, M. & Pitman, S. (2012). *Green Infrastructure Life support for human habitats: The compelling evidence for incorporating nature into urban environments*. Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

² Kardan O, Gozdyra P, Misisic B, Moola F, Palmer LJ, Paus T, Berman MG. (2015). Neighborhood greenspace and health in a large urban center. *Scientific Reports*, 2015; 5:11610-1-11610-14.

³ Burden, D. (2006). *Urban street trees: 22 benefits, specific applications*. Glatting Jackson and Walkable Communities, Inc.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To learn more about the Green Space Alliance and download the Discussion Paper please visit this link:

<http://www.parklandwa.org.au/1034/green-space-alliance>

If you wish to provide feedback, ask questions or contribute to the Green Space Alliance please contact us:

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