

**URBAN GREENING STRATEGY — PERTH AND PEEL REGION**

*Statement by Minister for Planning*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Planning)** [9.02 am]: I rise to inform the house that the Cook government has committed to developing a new urban greening strategy to promote and enhance tree canopy and greening across the Perth and Peel region. The urban greening strategy will take a whole-of-government approach to ensure new initiatives are coordinated and complement any existing greening programs, such as the Cook government's recently announced \$3.75 million urban greening grants program.

Development of the strategy, to be led by the Western Australian Planning Commission, will explore elements aimed at enhancing tree canopy and creating more green spaces across the Perth and Peel regions, including tree canopy measurement and reporting; education and awareness; urban heat identification and mitigation; green linkages; and an urban greening grant program. The strategy will seek to build on a number of initiatives introduced by this government that seek to promote and protect trees. All states and territories except the Northern Territory have mechanisms in place to retain trees on private land.

For Western Australia these will include the DesignWA suite of policies introduced by our government that includes provisions that require and incentivise the retention of existing trees, new tree planting, deep soil zones, soft landscaping and communal and private open space in low to higher density developments. The recently announced revised residential design codes, incorporating the medium-density code, includes incentives to retain existing trees as well as minimum planting and soft landscaping standards for new developments in medium-density areas. It will include also a minimum primary garden area ranging from 20 to 40 square metres in size; a minimum of soft landscaping requirement of 15 per cent of the site area; and incentive to retain an existing tree by reducing the amount of soft landscaping area required where a tree is retained. Further, the apartment codes released in 2019 include minimum requirements for deep soil zones, tree planting and soft landscaping in higher density developments—a minimum deep soil area of 10 per cent and incentive to retain an existing tree by reducing the deep soil area requirement to seven per cent where an existing tree is retained. In addition, a minimum number of new trees are to be planted; the bigger the lot size the more trees that are needed to be planted.

In 2021, the government amended the low-density residential design codes to introduce minimum new tree planting requirements—at least one new tree to be planted for a new single house or major extension. The strategy will be developed with community input and all stakeholders are invited to provide their input.