# Draft Greening our Townships Strategy 2026-2036

## Our shared vision

We will protect and grow the trees and green spaces that make our townships a 'Liveable. Green. Connected.' place to live in. Where our townships are vibrant, walkable communities, characterised by tree lined streets and shady, green parks and reserves that enhance liveability, promote wellbeing, and foster biodiversity.

We will work together to achieve shared goals, providing fair access to green spaces, creating greener, cooler places to live, through shared care and community pride, growing greener townships by design and prioritise thriving nature in our townships.

Through this Greening our Townships Strategy 2026-2036, and as a community, we aim to achieve the following:

### Our Community will...

- Value and champion the many benefits that trees and green spaces provide for our environment, health, and wellbeing
- Actively contribute to our shared vision by greening homes and gardens
- Contribute to the greening of township parks and reserves
- Work together to help grow and care for greener, cooler townships for current and future generations.

### Our Council will...

- Lead street tree plantings
- Grow richer, more diverse plantings across Council reserves by working alongside our community, volunteers, and partners
- Walk alongside our community on our shared greening journey, providing support, resources, and opportunities to get involved
- Build healthier, more resilient trees on Council land for the benefit of current and future generations
- Increase tree planting to achieve a 25% canopy cover on Council managed land by 2055 with interim milestones to track progress
- Seek grant funding to complement Council investment to reach our targets.

### Together we will...

- Create cooler, greener, and more liveable neighbourhoods to benefit our community, nature, and future generations
- Build a strong culture of community stewardship by increasing participation in tree planting, watering, monitoring, and education programs
- Increase the number and diversity of species planted annually across the townships, with a shared goal of at least 80% survival after 5 years through joint care, watering, and stewardship
- Protect and retain existing mature, habitat, and culturally significant trees on public and private land, recognising that retention delivers faster canopy, cooling, and biodiversity benefits than new planting
- Aim to increase overall township tree canopy cover to 18.6% by 2055 across private and public land, with interim milestones to track progress.

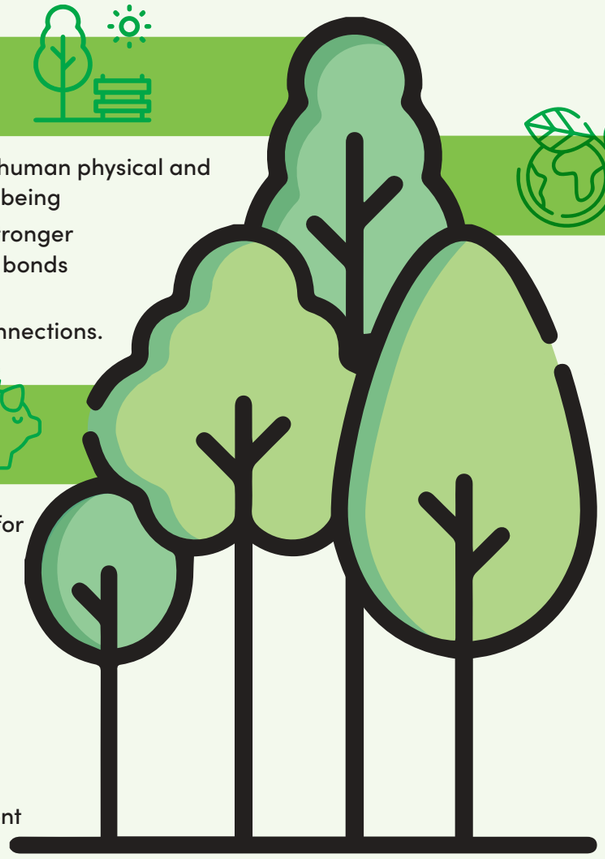
## Benefits of urban trees and greening

### Social benefits

- Enhancing human physical and mental wellbeing
- Fostering stronger community bonds and pride
- Cultural connections.

### Economic benefits

- Decreasing expenses for energy, stormwater management, and erosion control
- Elevating property values by as much as 7-20%
- Increased consumer spending
- Generating employment opportunities.



### Environmental benefits

- Supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts
- Enhanced biodiversity, habitats and landscape connectivity
- Reduced urban heat
- Improved protection from wind, storms, and fire events (dependent on species mix and planting design).

## Responding to our key challenges

The Strategy identifies Council led and community led/ partnership actions for the following key challenges:

- Strengthening community involvement
- Greening townships where space is limited
- Urban heat, extreme weather and climate change
- Maintenance and resourcing.

The time for action starts now. Every tree planted, every green space created and every garden tended brings us closer to creating our cool, resilient, green, and liveable communities.

This Strategy highlights what is needed to increase canopy cover and importantly the need for a shared ownership to implement the strategic actions.

Visit **mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/GreeningOurTownships** to read the full draft Strategy and actions to meet our targets.