



City of Unley – Highgate Park Tree Review

Oxigen Pty Ltd were engaged by the City of Unley to provide a review of the audited regulated and significant trees on the Highgate Park site at 103 Fisher Street, Fullarton. Oxigen were also requested to determine any additional trees on the site that could be potential Significant Tree list candidates per the PDI Act S68 criteria and to highlight any other trees of notable value or amenity in the context of benefit for retention and integration with potential development. The review was carried out on site in June 2023 when several deciduous tree species were out of leaf but their full potential habit was still noted.

The Preliminary Tree Assessment (2021) by Arborman Tree Solutions identified trees Nos. 1–35 for their audit and designated the significant (≥ 3 metres at 1 metre AGL) and regulated (≥ 2 metres at 1 metre AGL) trees per the trunk girth measures in 3F of the PDI Regulations and noted trees of high value. Tree #2,3 & 34 were unregulated and Tree #7,16 & 26 were exempt with regard to legislative status. The Project Green Visual Tree Assessment – Tree Audit Report (2017) provided further information for all the trees present on site in 2017.

Tree species on the site vary, from exotic deciduous and evergreen trees in park settings to local and interstate (exotic) Australian species throughout the car parking areas – these species are predominantly eucalyptus species and *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River Oak).

There were some anomalies between each of the assessment reports regarding species designation and this review amalgamates the information provided. Tree heights and canopy widths in the review also utilise the information provided in the respective reports – Arborman Tree Solutions for trees 1 – 35 and Project Green for Trees A - S.

The review employs similar assumptions and observations to those made in the City of Unley Significant Tree List Review Summary Report from March 2022. Principally this includes:

- *Corymbia citriodora* (Lemon Scented Gum) and *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum) are common in Adelaide and the size of mature specimens often meets the criteria for listing. Together with large examples of *Eucalyptus viminalis* sp. (Manna Gum) and *Eucalyptus botryoides* (Southern Mahogany) these species are considered to meet the criteria as they are important for local habitat, despite being non-indigenous species.
- Indigenous tree species are considered 'important for local habitat' if they have matured to flowering stage, regardless of size.
- Mature, tall examples of *Washingtonia robusta* (Mexican Fan Palm) met the criteria for listing.
- Several trees on the list were only considered to provide a 'moderate' rather than a 'significant' contribution to the local area and therefore did not meet the criteria.

Whilst some of the trees met one or more of the PDI Act S68 criteria, they did not necessarily meet the objective or intent to warrant a Significant Tree listing. Typically, this was due to trees not being of a conditional form or structure, not having a viable health rating or having a history of branch failure. Exceptions to this include *Ulmus procera* trees Nos. 22-24 and *Eucalyptus botryoides* trees Nos. 27 & 28 that were each deemed worthy of listing.

Further detailed, individual tree health and structure assessment would assist in determining merit for listing of these trees.

Where applicable, tree health and/or structural issues for trees Nos. 1-35 have been referenced from the Arborist Tree Solutions Report together with useful life expectancy and legislative status.

Additional trees that could be considered as Significant Tree candidates or have notable value or amenity in the context of potential development include:

- Exotic trees such as *Quercus robur* (English Oak), *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca' (Blue Cedar), *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda), *Ficus microcarpa* var. *Hillii* (Hill's Fig), *Ulmus glabra* 'Lutescens' (Golden Elm), *Arbutus unedo* (Irish Strawberry Tree).
- Small and establishing local and exotic eucalyptus species.
- Copses of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River Oak) trees.
- *Ceratonia siliqua* (Carob Trees) that provide an informal screen planting on the western side of Highgate Street.

The review provides a summary of the designated regulated and significant trees at Highgate Park by virtue of trunk girth in accordance with the PDI Regulations 3F and potential candidates per the PDI Act S68 criteria for designation in the list of Significant Trees as noted in assumptions above.

Additional trees were also reviewed for the City of Unley as they relate to potential benefit to amenity and an open space area within the new development.