

Melbourne's Urban Forest Strategy — A 20-Year Plan to Double Canopy Cover from 20% to 40%

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Australia

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Melbourne's 2012 Urban Forest Strategy set a 20-year target to double tree canopy from 20% to 40% by planting over 40,000 trees and diversifying species, but eastern suburbs have lost nearly 2,000 hectares of tree cover since 2014, exposing gaps in delivery.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[City of Melbourne](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[City of Melbourne — Urban Forest Strategy](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[RMIT News — Urban forests: how the west is winning the greening challenge](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

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