LANDSCAPING POLICY FOR CENTRAL FREMANTLE AND MAIN APPROACHES TO THE CITY

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to ensure that any new landscaping programme for the City is in harmony with the environmental and townscape heritage of the area and contributes to the visual improvement of public spaces, develop public understanding and appreciation of the role landscaping plays in reinforcing these heritage values and to provide the public, private developers and the Council with the design principles and guidelines for developing landscaping projects for the City.

POLICY

1. In developing landscaping proposals for Central Fremantle the following principles should be applied:

1.1 Species

In general, species should be chosen from two sets:

(a) Plants indigenous to Fremantle such as Limestock Marlock (Eucalyptus decipiens), Peppermints (Agonis flexuosa), Rottnest Pines (Callitris pressii) and Rottnest Island Ti-trees (Melaleuca lanceolata) etc.

(b) Exotic species traditionally used, including Norfolk Island Pines (Araucaria heterophylla), Moreton Bay Figs (Ficus macrophylla), London Planes (Platanus spp.) and Date Palms (Phoenix canariensis).

1.2 Scale

The built environment of the inner areas calls for large-scale and even monumental trees. Generally the principle is fewer and bigger.

1.3 Distribution

Typically, trees should articulate spaces and delineate vistas. It is not intended to fill spaces, create informal arrangements or form bands or hedges. At times it may be appropriate to plant trees to ‘soften’ the urban environment. However, in the majority of circumstances the ‘softening’ effect should not be the sole reason for introducing trees. Small scale planting around the edges of buildings must be avoided.

1.4 Function

Landscaping is one element involved in urban design considerations. Trees must have a specific function in the
street such as to form a decorative feature or framing vistas. A specific application is the provision of shade in car parks.

1.5 Significant Trees

Identified existing significant trees as shown on the attached plan should be maintained and protected. The Council will continue its investigation and will encourage public and private identification of significant trees with the aim that they will be included on the State Heritage Register.

2. Planting in the inner areas of Fremantle requires great restraint. With a few exceptions (for instance, Princess May Park) an approach based on 'self-expression' is inappropriate. Diagram 1 shows a general graphic representation of the policy. Planting details and spatial arrangements of trees should be developed during the preparation of detailed plans in accordance with these policy recommendations. The landscaping should also respond to particular locations, as follows:

2.1 Parry Street. This important and formal ring road should be planted as one of major avenues. Planting of Norfolk Pines (Araucaria heterophylla) on private land will be encouraged to complement, where possible, the continuation of the existing and planned row of pines along the street and to add strength to the perception of a 'boundary' around the historic centre of the city.

2.2 Adelaide Street. There is potential for this to be developed as a boulevard with the majority of trees located on the eastern side of the street to reinstate its former alignment, to frame vistas and to enhance pedestrian use of the existing wide footpath.

2.3 Elder Place and Beach Street¹. This important approach to the West End should have some restrained large-scale planting, particularly on the harbour side of the street. It is recommended that the theme of Norfolk Pines adopted for Marine Terrace will continue along the railway reserve on the northern side of the West End to create a major avenue of trees reinforcing the existing delineation of the city and the foreshore. Trees should be planted in a carefully selected location with sufficient gaps between them to retain the views of the existing riverside landmarks (such as the woolstores) from the harbour.

¹ Refer to D.G.F7 Beach Street Policy
2.4 King’s Square\textsuperscript{2}. The landscaping of King’s Square is subject to a separate strategy plan.

2.5 The West End. In general, street trees may not be appropriate; where they are used they should be substantial and formal in shape. Smallish gum trees are not appropriate. Specific locations within the area will require separate design plans. These areas include:

- John Curtin Place
- Western end of Phillimore Street
- Courtyards of Maritime Museum
- Paddy Troy Mall
- Short Street Reserve (Pioneer Park)
- The Esplanade
- South end of Elder Place
- Fairbairn Street
- Collie Street
- Queen Street
- Area in front of Railway Station
- West End of Cantonment Street

Relevant recommendations of the Conservation Policy for the Fremantle West End Conservation Area\textsuperscript{3} should also be taken into consideration when designing new landscaping for the area.

2.6 Bather’s Beach. The restoration and landscaping of the original plant communities is part of the strategy plan adopted by the Council for the Arthur Head Reserve\textsuperscript{4}.

2.7 Marine Terrace\textsuperscript{5}. The obvious approach is the reinforcement of the highly characteristic Norfolk Island Pines forming a green link between South Beach and the Esplanade. The Council will invite the Italian Club prior to renewing its lease in 1993 to participate in designing of landscaping for the area adjacent to the southern extremity of the Esplanade so that the ‘green link’ concept can be incorporated within the existing carparking and the Club’s open space areas.

2.8 Fishing Boat Harbour\textsuperscript{6}. Again, fewer, larger and longer term trees are required; ‘softening’ of distributed, informal, low-level bands and hedges are not appropriate.

2.9 Marine Terrace (south end)\textsuperscript{7}. The street has a large scale; it also has views to the sea. Accordingly, major trees, Norfolk Pines should be planted. The temptation to plant

\textsuperscript{2} Refer to D.G.F23 King’s Square Policy
\textsuperscript{3} Refer to D.G.F14 Clause 4.2.2(a)
\textsuperscript{4} Refer to D.G.F5 Arthur Head Reserve Strategy Plan
\textsuperscript{5} Refer to D.G.F16 Marine Terrace Policy (including South Fremantle)
\textsuperscript{6} Refer to D.G.F10 Fremantle Boat Harbours - Design Guidelines
\textsuperscript{7} Refer to D.G.F16 Marine Terrace Policy (including South Fremantle)
linear strings of shrubs along the railway line must be resisted.

2.10  **Fairbairn Street.** This street provides the major pedestrian link between the Prison and the City Centre.

A separate urban design study will be carried out to address these principles.

2.11  **Cantonment Hill.** This highly significant landmark, on the southern bank of the river, should be managed so that the original vegetation is fully restored. This would entail a planting programme, a weeding programme and protection from fire in accordance with the separate Cantonment Hill Management Plan.

2.12  The hill at **John Curtin High School** (Ord and Ellen Streets). The magnificent stand of trees should be protected and reinforced.

2.13  **Other parks and reserves.** These include Fremantle Park, Princess May Park\(^8\), Queen’s Square, the land beside the Prison in Hampton Road, Stevens Street Reserve, the part at South Terrace Primary School etc. Traditional planting (pines, figs) and planting of local trees (peppermint, limestone marlock, etc) should take place progressively.

2.14  **Major approaches to the city** include Queen Victoria Street, Hampton Road, High Street East, South Terrace, South Street, Douro Road and Marine Terrace. These streets should be planted as major avenues in accordance with separate future design concepts which would select an appropriate planting reflective of the existing environmental characteristic of each street (Refer to Diagram 2).

3.  **Maintenance**

   The Council will allocate adequate resources and if practicable, will develop joint programmes with the adjacent property owners to ensure that landscaped areas of the City are well maintained.

   *Adopted: 21/12/92*

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\(^8\) Refer to D.G.F20 Princess May Park - 1 Parry and 92 Adelaide Streets.
Diagram 2  Main Approaches To Fremantle