

Fact Sheet

Water Smart Street Trees

Clean water, green suburbs

What is 'smart' about these trees?

Water Smart Street Trees are an innovative way of using stormwater to nourish street trees.

It works by diverting stormwater to the root zone of street trees planted next to the kerb.

The trees help improve the health of our waterways as they capture nutrients and sediments that would otherwise wash into our rivers and creeks.

This means they are sustainable self-watering street trees.

How is it funded?

The Water Smart Street Trees project is funded through the Stormwater Quality Offsets Scheme.

These projects must reduce pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorous, suspended solids and gross pollutants.

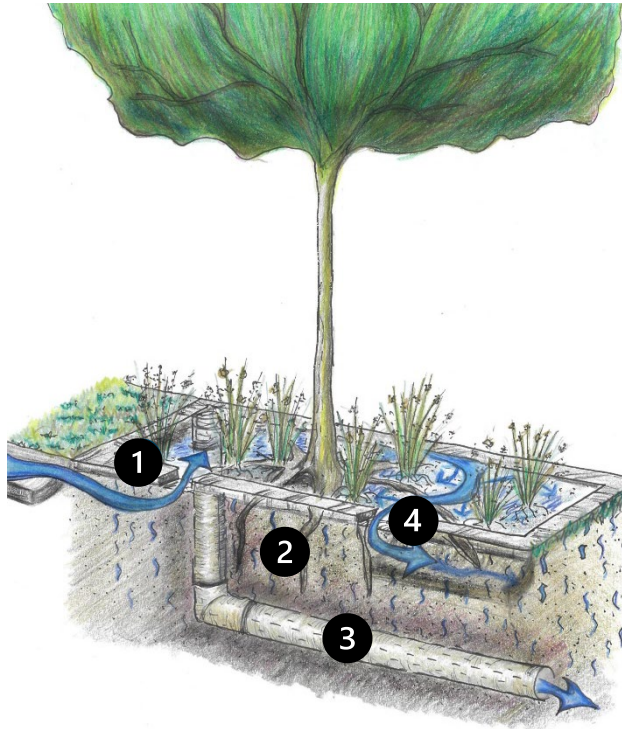
These pollutants have significant negative impact on our waterways.



Image: Healthy tree growth at Pine Mountain

What does it look like?

There are different design configurations that could be used, depending on the site features and landscape.



1. Some water is diverted from the kerb to the tree
2. Stormwater filters into soil, removing pollutants and nourishing tree
3. Underdrainage is connected to the stormwater network
4. Any excess water flows back to kerb

How you can help

The best thing you can do for your Water Smart Street Tree is to do nothing at all.

It's vital you don't:

- Trim or remove the tree
- Replace the tree with a different species
- Add fertiliser, soil, mulch or grass clippings
- Modify the soil level or type.

These Water Smart Street Trees will be maintained by council.

Benefits

Water Smart Street Trees bring a lot of great benefits to our neighbourhoods and waterways.

Council has designed Water Smart Street Trees to fit neatly into the streetscape and landscape.

Benefits of healthy trees in neighbourhoods include:

- Urban cooling, which makes neighbourhoods more liveable
- Beautification of suburban areas and increased property values
- Air quality improvements.

By using stormwater, the Water Smart Street Tree system:

- Provides a healthy growing environment for the targeted tree species
- Protects our waterways by removing stormwater runoff pollutants, in a process known as 'bio filtration'
- Reduces need for active irrigation and the associated costs (such as pipes, pumps, sprinklers, energy, maintenance)
- Reduces demands on our stormwater networks and on drinking water supplies.

Frequently asked questions

Will the tree shade out my solar panels?

A variety of tree species are suitable for Water Smart Street Trees. Some species grow to a lower height that will not affect solar panels. It is best to talk to the project manager if you have concerns.

Will the tree drop leaf litter and clog my gutters?

As the trees are planted beside the road, away from houses, the chance of leaves getting into your gutters is minimal. If you are concerned, tree species that do not drop many leaves or grow to a lower height are available. Talk to your project manager about tree species options.

Will the tree block water flow and increase flooding?

No, there will be no increase in flooding. The kerb is still fully functional, the Water Smart Street Tree system just diverts a small amount to the tree. Any excess water is handled as normal by the existing stormwater system.