



LATE ITEMS ORDINARY MEETING

AGENDA

14 MAY 2024

Your attendance is required at an Ordinary meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton on 14 May 2024 commencing at 9:00am for transaction of the enclosed business.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. P.", written in a cursive style.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
10 May 2024

Next Meeting Date: 28.05.24

Please note:

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

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11 OFFICERS' REPORTS

11.7 JOHNSON ROAD TREE PLANTING

File No:	2488
Attachments:	1. Johnson Road Planting Project ↓
Authorising Officer:	Aaron Pont - Manager Parks Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author:	Cassandra Sloss - Coordinator Arboriculture and Streetscapes

SUMMARY

This report outlines details of a proposed DTMR funded tree planting project on Johnson Road, Gracemere to be delivered by Rockhampton Regional Council before 30 June 2024.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorses the proposed tree planting in the Johnson Road centre median.

COMMENTARY

After reviewing several opportunities to offset the loss of trees and amenity from the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) upgrades to Lawrie Street Gracemere, RRC are proposing to undertake a tree planting project in the center medians along Johnson Road.

This project is being funded by DTMR and as condition of the funding agreement between both parties needs to be completed prior to 30 June 2024. DTMR are providing Council with \$125,000 (excluding GST) to complete the project, with Council providing in-kind labour only.

Project objectives

The objectives of the project are to:

- Offset the trees removed during the Lawrie Street upgrade.
- Provide an aesthetically pleasing result to help beautify one of the main roads within Gracemere. Johnson Road services a primary school and links key community assets with residential and rural areas.
- Increases urban canopy cover and align with the objectives of RRC Urban Greening Policy.

Communications

RRC Officers will inform residents in the immediate area of the upcoming works with minimal disruptions expected in the adjacent area.

Species Selection

3 tree species were chosen to fit the criteria surrounding frangible and non-frangible requirements, with the size of trees dictated by the width of the clearance zone, line of sight and expected vehicle volume. This has been reviewed by Council's Civil Design team with RPEQ approval required to ensure a safe outcome for road users and long term suitability of species.

Additionally, with the timeframes required in the funding agreement, species selection was based on stock quality, size and availability.

Tree Type A: *Lophostemon confertus*. Non-frangible species with no limitations on overall mature size. Canopy at maturity:

Tree Type B: *Barklya syringifolia*. Non-frangible species with limitations on mature stem diameter. Canopy at maturity:

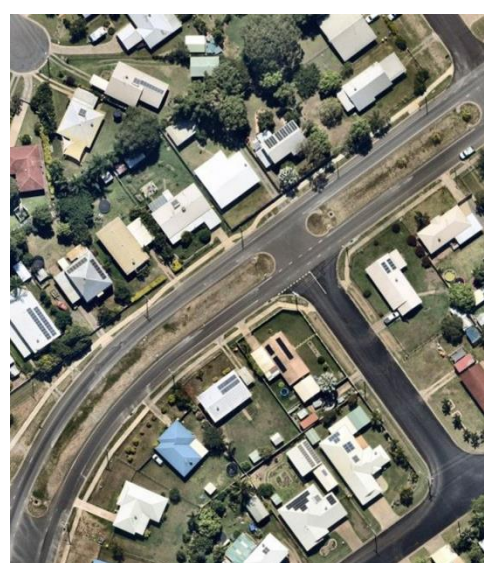
Tree Type C: *Xanthostemon chrysanthus 'Fairhill Gold'*. Frangible species with strict limitations on mature stem diameter and overall height. Canopy at maturity:

A planting of *Lophostemon confertus* was delivered in 2021 further along Johnson Road outside of Wara Place. These trees have thrived in intermittent poor environmental conditions and have proven themselves as an outstanding performer, with no large fruit or seed that may cause a projectile concern when mowing underneath. They have a large, rounded canopy and can grow up to 15m in height with an expected 8-12m canopy width.



Expected canopy coverage

There is currently 234m² of existing canopy in total within the project area and on maturity of the planting project (10-15 years) it is expected that canopy coverage will increase to 1161m² upon maturity.



Adjacent planting projects

Two additional planting projects in the nearby area have been planned by Parks and will be delivered as part of the 2023/2024 Parks Open Space Planting program. 29 trees will be planted along the pathway opposite the Johnson Road site and a further 13 trees planted along the pathway on the Middle Rd side of the school, which will create a cooler and more aesthetically pleasing experience for the community.



Expected result - Before and After



BACKGROUND

In recent years, a large number of mature trees were removed by TMR from the eastern side of Lawrie Street as part of the infrastructure upgrade. The proposed project planting is an offset planting to replace the canopy and amenity lost from this development.

On review of options for planting within the Gracemere area, the Johnson Road medians were identified as the preferred location due to its high profile and level of utilization and will provide a good value for many project.

Officers have aimed to retain as many existing trees as possible whilst incorporating the new species into the area to maximise potential canopy coverage and overall aesthetics. Currently there are 16 x *Lagerstroemia speciosa* and 1 x *Tabebuia argentea* trees within these medians however 8 x *Lagerstroemia* will be removed due to excessive dieback, structural decay, and poor historical growth. Taking the loss of these trees into account there will be 23 additional plantings on the Johnson Road medians.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

No previous decisions relating to this project.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

No significant budget implications will arise from this project. DTMR are providing Council with \$125,000 (excluding GST) to complete the project, with Council providing in-kind labour and project management only.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

No legislative context.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No legal implications.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

RRC staff will be responsible for the delivery of the project with 2 staff on site for 1 working week.

RISK ASSESSMENT

If Council do not endorse the project or consider another option, there is significant risk that the funding agreement cannot be met and therefore no offset project can be delivered.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

No reference to Corporate or Operational Plan

CONCLUSION

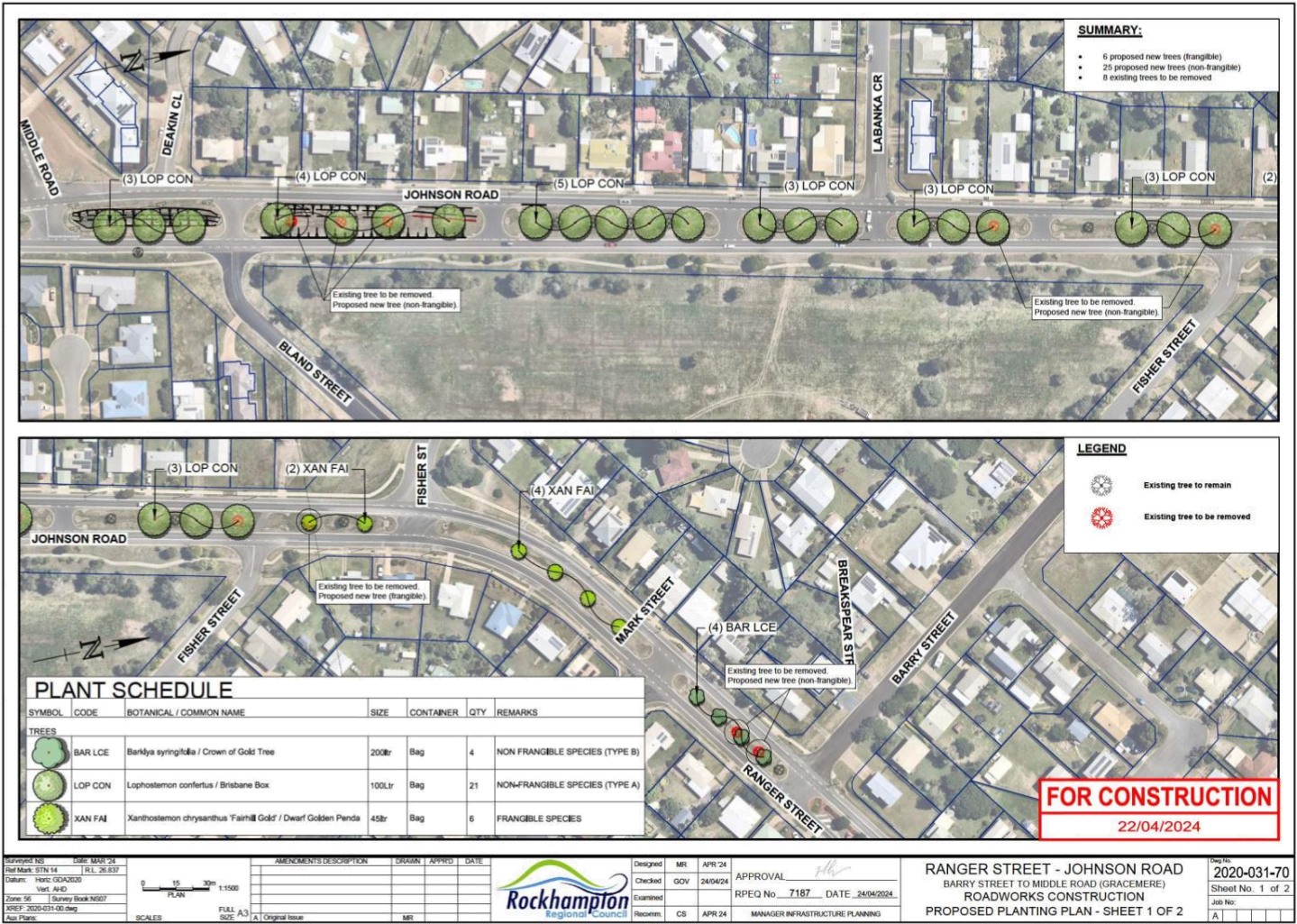
Council has an opportunity to continue its commitment to urban greening in Gracemere by leveraging a funding agreement with DTMR into a tree planting project to benefit the community.

JOHNSON ROAD TREE PLANTING

Johnson Road Planting Project

Meeting Date: 14 May 2024

Attachment No: 1



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