

CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

EXPOSURE DRAFT OF THE URBAN FOREST BILL 2022

Background

The draft Urban Forest Bill 2022 (the Bill) is proposed to repeal and replace the *Tree Protection Act 2005*. The Bill progresses a commitment under the Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045. It will provide the legislative framework to support a sustainable urban forest as an integral part of achieving the Government's 30% canopy cover target as outlined in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly. The proposed consultation period will promote understanding of the proposed Bill and enable the Government to identify potential improvements ahead of the finalisation of the Bill.

Key Points and Next Steps

The key components of the Bill include extending protections to trees on public land, changing the definition of a regulated tree to protect more trees, introducing a canopy contribution (offset) framework and tree bond framework, and providing a more comprehensive compliance framework.

If the proposed legislation is passed by the Legislative Assembly, the Bill will be implemented on 1 July 2023.

Copies of the proposed legislation will be available at www.legislation.act.gov.au.

For more information contact:

Bronwyn Meek 02 6207 0277

Stephen O'Shea 02 6205 4880

Email: TCCS.PolicyLegislation@act.gov.au

Submit written comments by close of business, **Monday, 2 June 2022** by emailing community@engagement.act.gov.au with 'Urban Forest' in the subject line.