Sunshine Coast Council – street tree species trials update

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TREENET SEQ Forum 15th Feb 2024 - Street Tree Species Trials
Sunshine Coast Council street tree trials update

An overview of diversification strategies within the Sunshine Coast Street Tree Master Plan
Sarah Nunn, Senior Arborist, Business and Technical Unit, Parks and Gardens.

Description of street tree species trials and learnings to date
Jason McDowall, Service Delivery Leader (Tree planting), Arboricultural Services Unit, Parks and Gardens.
Two key factors have made the Sunshine Coast Council’s street tree trials possible:

1. **Our endorsed Street Tree Master Plan**
   highlighting the need for diversification of our street tree palette and providing direction for species to trial.

2. **Council's internal operational nursery**
   with facility for propagating and growing on tree stock.
The perfect street tree for South-East Queensland may be an untapped or untested species.

*Elaeocarpus obovatus* (Hard quandong)

Elaeocarpus obovatus (hard quandong) is a locally native (sub-tropical/dry rainforest tree with a natural distribution from Northern New South Wales to North Queensland. A large tree in its natural environment, the hard quandong is a medium-sized tree in urban landscapes, typically 8-12m in maturity with a 4m spread.

The shapely yet relatively compact crown has a dense canopy of glossy foliage. The cylindrical trunk exhibits attractive mottled bark and the base of the trunk may have buttress roots. The hard quandong can be distinguished easily by its toothed leaf margins and bell-like spike flowers, which are small but showy and attractive to native bees and butterflies. Fruit is a small blue drupe generally hidden within the canopy and highly attractive to birds.

Preferring moist but well-drained soils the tree can tolerate a range of environmental conditions and is recommended for council for street tree plantings due to its impressive appearance, consistent performance and low maintenance requirements.

Specimens can be found locally in the Golden Beach shopping precinct as well as Pelican Waters Boulevard and Burrock Street Coolum.
Successful urban tree species are often over-represented in our streetscapes.

- **Cupaniopsis anacardioides** (tuckeroo)
- **Syzygium** (syn. Acmena) **hemilamprum** (blush satinash)
- **E. obovatus** (hard quandong)
SC Street Tree Master Plan (Part A – Street Tree Master Plan Report)

Strategies for diversification of planting palettes

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Sunshine Coast Council
Celebrating and enhancing the richness and diversity of our region
Preserving, reinforcing or creating local landscape character in our Community of Communities

*Morus alba* (mulberry) in Palmwoods
Using species cultivars and varieties to foster diversity within established street tree palettes
Using **local provenance material** to support local flora and fauna. **Introducing alternative ecotypes** to promote genetic diversity and increase population resilience.

*Eucalyptus bancroftii* (Bancroft’s red gum)
Planting more non-indigenous (non-local) native trees
Using more *exotic tree species* for accents and highlights
Tabebuia argentea (Silver trumpet tree)

Planted in 2017
Exploring and widening the use of our suite of **local rainforest species**
Exploring the street tree potential of *dry rainforest and natural edge species*

*Alectryon subdentatus* (Hard Alectryon)
Next steps

- 5-year refresh of the Sunshine Coast Street Tree Master Plan (2024/2025)
  - Review local street tree strategies and planting lists
  - Analyse fresh Lidar data capture
  - Re-set street tree planting priorities
  - Add parks to the project scope
- SCC-USC research partnership - heat modelling
- Develop shade targets for heat exposed areas
- Planting in hot spots that coincide with low canopy cover and heat vulnerable communities
- Urban Cooling Strategy
Species trials
I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land of which we live, learn, and work, particularly the Kabi Kabi and the Jinibara People of the coastal plains and hinterlands of the Sunshine Coast.

I pay respects to their Elders – past, present, and emerging, and acknowledge the continuing and unceded connection to land, water, flora and fauna of this region.
Species include dry rainforest from Northern and Southern Queensland, and species from the Northern Territory.

759 individual trees

34 species
Challenges

- stock availability
- seed availability
- seed viability
- growth rate in production
- climatic differences
Alectryon tomentosus
hairy bird’s eye
Allosyncarpia ternata
anbinik

30/03/2020
Angophora subvelutina
broad-leaved apple

12/11/2021
Calophyllum inophyllum
beauty leaf

Planting date unknown

Planting date unknown

04/06/2019
Diploglottis campbellii
small-leaved tamarind
Euroschinus falcatus
ribbonwood
Grevillea hilliana
White’s silky oak
Guoia semiglauca
wild quince
**Leptospermum maddium**
weeping tea-tree
Maranthes corymbosa
panari
Thaleropia queenslandica
Queensland golden myrtle

14/06/2022
Cultivars

28/11/2022

12/10/2023

12/10/2023

13/11/2019
Learnings

- Data capture
- Data accuracy
- Timeframes
What’s next?

Continue
Continue to trial new species

Increase
Increase the number of plantings for species showing potential

Improve
Improve data capture and accuracy through training, education, and systems processes

Collaborate
Collaborate with others to understand variabilities and performance across different areas
Questions?