



The Right Honourable,  
the Lord Mayor of Brisbane,  
Councillor Adrian Schrinner  
Brisbane City Council

Jamie Merrick, Director General  
Department of Environment and Science  
Via Email

Dear Lord Mayor and Mr Merrick,

RE: Millennium Arts Project Tree Removal

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) calls on Arts Queensland and the Brisbane City Council to provide greater protection for and strategic planting of large-scale urban trees to increase the biodiversity, provide heat relief and create resilience of the urban tree population for future generations.

It has been brought to our attention that five trees planted adjacent to the State Library of Queensland in Stanley Place have been designated for removal as part of the Brisbane Metro project.

The removal of these Fig trees is another example of the progressive loss of significant trees across the city for various reasons including development pressure and lack of protection of and planning for large scale trees. AILA is also concerned about the lack of consultation with the community surrounding the removal of these trees.

Moreover, the proposed removal directly contradicts the Brisbane City Councils own 'Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031' policy which purports to promote themes including Biodiversity, Low Carbon and Urban Forest.

AILA advocates the need to value, protect and enhance our tree canopy cover:

- Tree canopy cover has been proven to be one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing urban heat gain.
- Temperatures below a tree canopy can be up to 7 degrees cooler.
- 30% of Australia's threatened species live in urban areas, with trees providing essential habitat for many of these species.
- Large canopy trees have been proven to provide 70% more benefit than smaller shade trees.
- Trees significantly contribute to the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Trees such as Figs, Eucalyptus, Jacarandas and Poincianas provide Brisbane with its distinctive character and seasonal markers.

Initially planted as part of the Millennium Arts Project, AILA insists that these trees are retained and protected. The existing trees provide significant shade, soften the impact of built form of the surrounding buildings, provide a green backdrop to the adjoining intersection and enhance the amenity of Stanley Place for pedestrians, visitors, and users.

Strategically planning for the positioning and management of large-scale trees across the city is important and should be a priority for local government as well as the community. Minor improvements to intersections to improve traffic queuing times we suggest does not warrant the removal of significant trees.



Large canopy trees can and should be accommodated in our streets and urban areas and retention of these trees prioritised. Where removal of trees cannot be avoided for critical infrastructure, relocating of trees that are tolerant of transplanting should be considered. The five trees identified in this situation are hardy species that could easily be transplanted.

The following are opportunities that AILA would like to see addressed including:

- Reconsideration of the Civil Engineering design to accommodate the retention of the existing trees where they currently stand.
- Alternatively, consideration of opportunities to transplant the trees to other locations.
- Additional community consultation to determine a community agreed outcome for the trees.

AILA is concerned that in this case, there has been little thought about the value of these trees and what they currently provide, and retention or transplanting has not been considered.

AILA believes we need greater planning and protection for our urban trees in Brisbane/SEQ for the health and liveability of our city and all the other benefits that these impart.

**We urgently request a virtual meeting to discuss this issue further, including the consideration of alternative action.**

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Uhlmann'.

**David Uhlmann**

AILA Queensland President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Stockwin'.

**Ben Stockwin**

AILA CEO

## About AILA

**The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)** is the peak national body for the Landscape Architecture. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. We provide our members with training, recognition and a community of practice to share knowledge, ideas and action.

With our members, we anticipate and develop a leading position on issues of concern in landscape architecture. Alongside government and allied professions, we work to improve the design, planning and management of the natural and built environment.

In operation since 1966, AILA represents over 3,500 landscape architects and promotes excellence in planning and designing for life outdoors. Committed to designing and creating better spaces in Australia, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation's livability through a unique approach to planning issues via innovative integrated solutions. In doing so, landscape architects contribute towards better environmental, social and economic outcomes for all Australians.