



FoCC

Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated



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524 Wilson St

Canadian

Attention:

Mary Spencer

maryspencer@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Dear Mary,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the "Urban Forest Action Plan".

The FoCC strongly supports the general thrust and intent of the plan and congratulates the plan's creators for their work, understanding and judgment.

We lament the absence of mention of the Koala Plan in the urban forest plan even though the Koala plan was designed to protect urban forest where was covered under ES05 overlay. Many of the street trees in Ballarat East and Canadian are supposedly protected under the Koala Plan. The Urban Forest Plan does not even reference the Koala Plan in its references (Ref P29):

We are disappointed at:

- the lack of detailed tree planting targets.
- the lack of funding amounts or sources
- the absence of any annual or other reporting processes so as to enable public scrutiny of the success or otherwise of the plan.
- the absence of empowerment of tree protection officers to stop developers and statutory planners from removing street trees without reason or community consultation

- the lack of regulatory planning powers to keep existing trees in place and to stop developers from moonscaping lots as part of the development process. Existing trees should be included in all development plans and made part of the landscape requirements.

There is a simple test to see how the current regulation of the Urban Forest environment has been proceeding. Look at all the car parks built in Ballarat in the past ten years and try and spot the tree that has lasted more than five years. Trees just disappear, never to be replaced.

All urban trees should have life cycle ownership either by the Council when on council land or by private owners where trees are mandated to be placed or protected.

If the issues identified above are addressed meaningfully, the Urban Forest Plan could work and FoCC hopes it does. If the measures are ignored the plan will fail because as under current practices are, one arm of council plants trees and the other arm enables developers to destroy trees legally and illegally with no consequences.

Last year in the Canadian Corridor (East Ballarat) developers destroyed more trees than the Council planted.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Rootes

FoCC