Glossary of terms

Biodiversity: The variety of all life forms on earth: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems in which they are a part

Canopy cover: the measure of the area of tree canopy when viewed from above, and is recorded as a percentage of total land area

Capital Works Program: A program of works conducted by Council which renews, upgrades or creates new infrastructure to support the delivery of services to the Yarra community.

Carbon sequestration: The process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Deciduous: trees that shed or lose all of their leaves for part of the year, usually over winter

Ecosystem: A community of organisms interacting with each other in their environment

Evapotranspiration: the movement of water from the landscape to the atmosphere through vegetative matter by the process of evaporation and transpiration

Greening the West: A partnership between City West Water and western Councils advocating for and working towards more green space in the West of Melbourne.

I-Tree Eco: A model built by the United States Forestry Service that analyses certain tree parameters in conjunction with air quality measures to determine an environmental value of a tree. The value includes air pollution, carbon sequestration and storage, energy saving benefits, stormwater flow reductions and a structural value, allocating an overall figure of worth on a population of urban trees.

Integrated water management: a holistic approach to water that promotes the sustainable use of all available water resources in ways that best deliver multiple community objectives

Liveability: As assessment of what a place is like to live in, taking into account environmental quality, crime and safety, education and health provision, access to shops and services, recreational facilities and cultural activities.

Particulates: microscopic solid or liquid matter that are suspended in the air. PM10 and PM 2.5 are found in urban air and are known to be harmful to human health.

Resilience (urban): the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

Resilient Melbourne: The Resilient Melbourne project is auspiced by the City of Melbourne in collaboration with the councils that make up Greater Melbourne, and many associated partners. It offers a new way to address the chronic stresses and acute shocks we are likely to experience, and to achieve our vision of a city that is viable, sustainable, liveable and prosperous, today and long into the future.

SEIFA Disadvantage: Socio-Economic Index for Areas which categorises census parcels based on socio-economic advantage or disadvantage.

Social vulnerability: members of the population who are more vulnerable to urban heat and heatwaves due to social factors such as economic status, age, health or background.

Stormwater interception: the halt or reduced flow of stormwater into the drainage system for re-use

Sustainable transport: transport that prioritises those modes that have limited or no environmental impact

Urban densification: the increasing density of people living in urban areas

Urban Forest: the sum of all urban trees including those on public and private land

Urban Heat Island Effect: when urban areas are warmer than surrounding rural areas due to heat retention in hard surfaces. This build-up of heat is re-radiated at night time, increasing air temperatures which can have serious human health consequences particularly during heatwaves. The UHI effect can be mitigated by a range of factors. The most cost effective and efficient mitigation tool is an increase in tree canopy cover.

Useful Life Expectancy: the amount of time a tree is estimated to remain in the landscape before it needs to be removed and replaced.

Vacant sites: sites within streets that could house a street tree but are currently vacant due to tree removal, vandalism or because a tree had never been planted.

Water sensitive urban design: is the integration of the water cycle into urban planning and design by recognising all water streams in the urban environment as a potential resource e.g. rainwater, stormwater, grey water and blackwater. WSUD is often used to describe the infrastructure built to capture and reuse stormwater