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**CAIRNS** | **PART C**  
THE RAINFOREST CITY | TREE  
MASTER PLAN | SELECTION







# CAIRNS | PART C

THE RAINFOREST CITY TREE  
MASTER PLAN SELECTION

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119-145 Spence Street - PO Box 359 - Cairns - QLD 4870

Ph: (07)4044 3044 F: (07)4044 3022 E: [council@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@cairns.qld.gov.au)

This document is available on the Cairns Regional Council website:  
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## **Acknowledgements**

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*Tropical and Sub-tropical Trees - A Worldwide Encyclopaedic Guide - Margaret Barwick 2004*

## **The Project Team includes the following Council officers:**

*Brett Spencer Manager Parks and Leisure*

*Stephen Tyter Manager Infrastructure Management*

*Malcolm Robertson Manager Inner City Facilities*

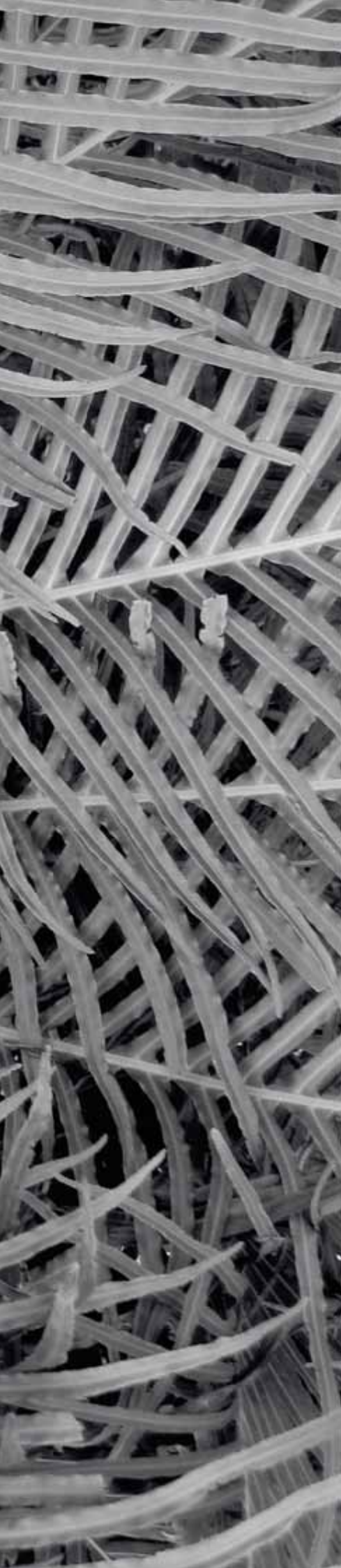
*Debbie Wellington Team Leader Strategic Planning*

*Jez Clark Senior Landscape Architect*

*Claire Burton Landscape Architect*







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TREE SELECTION

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# 1.0 TREE SELECTION

## 1.1 The right tree for the right location

### Why this is important

One of our key selection objectives is to ensure the selection of “the right tree for the right location”, in other words, to ensure that the selection of the species is appropriate to the local environmental conditions and the constraints of the planting location. The selection of species aims to ensure that trees make a positive contribution to environmental, amenity, aesthetic and heritage values of the area and any negative values are minimized. There is no perfect street tree and so every selection has some compromise between positive and negative values. The Master Plan tree selection is divided into three criteria;

### ...the right tree for the right location

- *Environmental tolerances*
- *Functional requirements*
- *Aesthetic / Design Requirements*

Adherence to the selection criteria should ensure the selection of the species with the most desirable and appropriate characteristics will be selected, no matter what their origin or type. In order to ensure the health and longevity of street trees planted, aesthetic and design considerations will be accommodated where optimum conditions for plant growth are available. The proven performance of the species in particular environmental conditions and functional requirements will be the prime considerations for street tree selection.







If these trees are performing well, are in scale with the street, and provide a desirable streetscape character then generally the Master Plan will follow the existing pattern. Some exceptions to this general policy of the continuation of the existing patterns will occur in the case of particular species that have:

- *Performed poorly.*
- *Are not in scale with the street.*
- *Have proven to be particularly damaging to pavements, kerbs, gutters overhead or underground services.*

This provides the opportunity to introduce additional tree species to our area or experiment / trial new nursery tree cultivars.

When selecting trees, consideration has been given to planting species which provide a connection between open spaces or other vegetated areas to assist in the movement of wildlife (fauna and bird life) between those areas. These species will contain some benefits to wildlife including physical benefits of protection, shelter and food source.

Please note that plantings in and around the Cairns International Airport should be carefully considered if they are within the bird and bat strike hazard zones (refer to the bird and bat strike hazard zones overlay in the Cairns Plan for full details).

#### Response to common issue:

##### **Trees cause damage during cyclones**

Tree failure during cyclones is a great concern; however stands of trees can often act as protection to surrounding property and in fact prevent damage.

Trees that have a history of susceptibility to high winds are not included in the Council's Preferred Street Tree List. Consistent pruning to establish well balanced crowns and the promotion of healthy deep roots will encourage trees to develop greater stability and improved resistance to high winds. Refer to Part B 2.8.1 on page 44 for more information about trees and cyclones.







Native bird wing butterfly



## 1.2 Native versus exotic plant selection

When addressing this issue of native versus exotic, a more useful division may be to view this point three ways:

- *Endemic Species (Local Natives)*
- *Natives from distant parts of Australia*
- *Exotics*



Myna birds are prevalent in urban areas and a threat to our local ecosystems



### 1.2.1 Endemic Species

Endemic Species (Local Natives) have the advantage of being climatically suited and live in some degree of equilibrium with pest organisms such as insects and fungi. Use of local natives;

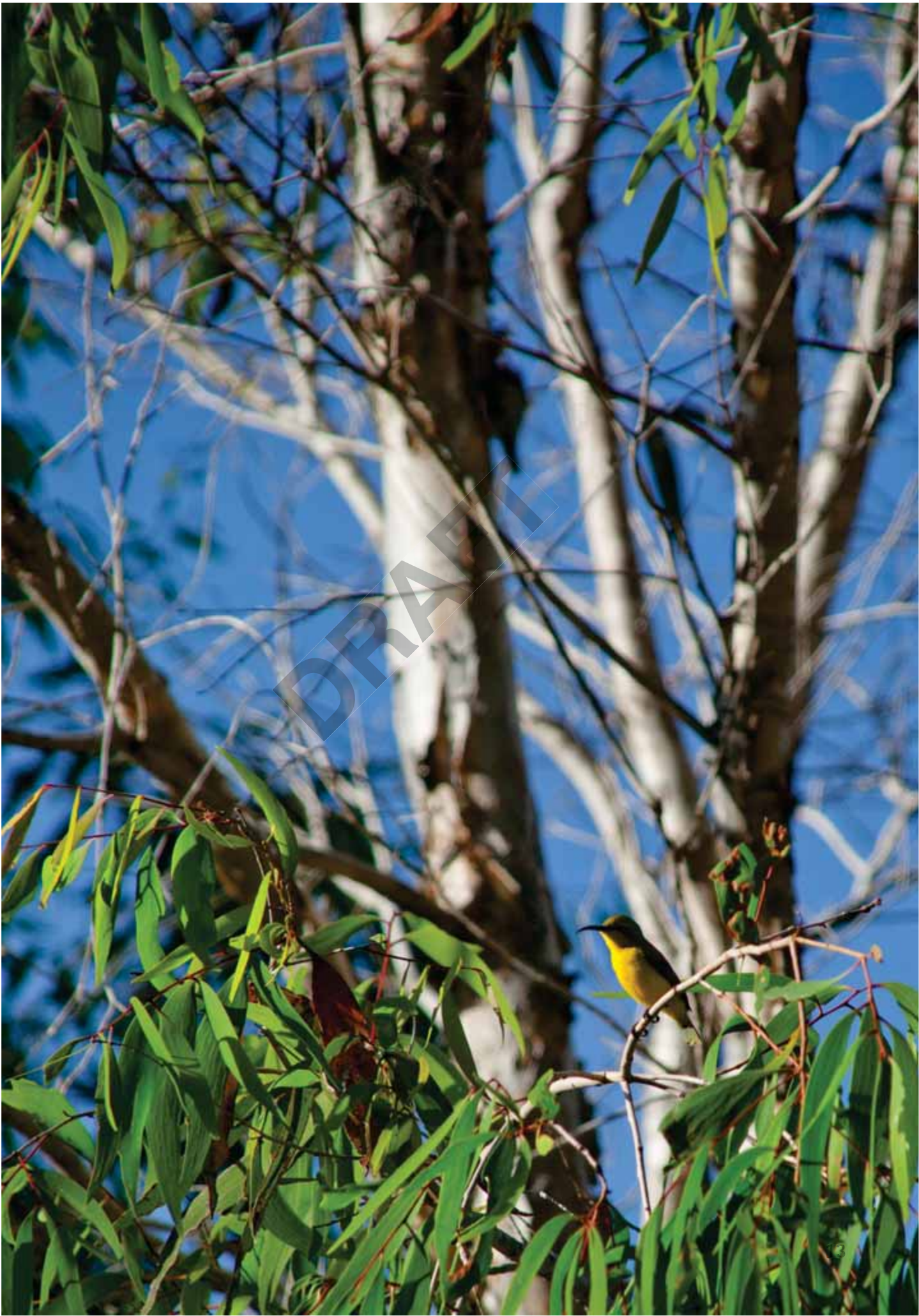
- *Promotes biodiversity*
- *Helps establish vegetation corridors*
- *Provides improved drought resistance*
- *Reinforces a unique sense of place*
- *Makes the greatest contribution to our "urban forest".*

These species will often have significant links to local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values. Endemic species are best suited to the needs of our indigenous fauna and have been proven to discourage introduced species such as the Myna Bird. During the recent Yasi cyclone it was noted that endemic species were less susceptible to damage and uprooting than non-native species.



**"Use of local natives promotes biodiversity, can establish vegetation corridors, can be drought resistant and reinforces a unique sense of place."**













### 1.2.2 Native Species

Natives from other regions within Australia are less likely to be climatically adapted; they may enjoy freedom from local pest organisms but if they become infested are likely to succumb faster.

Many species though native to Australia are not suited to the climatic conditions present in Cairns, and may in some cases represent a threat to local biodiversity. While many of these species are indicative of the broader Australian Landscape they are not features of our local plant communities.

Regarding local or at least Far North Queensland natives and their suitability as street trees; species best adapted for inner urban areas are usually from drier rainforests, particularly littoral rainforests where most trees are long lived shade tolerant; and freshwater swamps and other areas that are poorly drained and aerated, where species from these environments are highly resistant to root rot organisms and their root systems are adapted to adverse conditions.

#### Response to common issue:

#### Are coconuts considered to be native to Queensland?

According to the Queensland Herbarium, Brisbane Botanic Gardens Department of Environment and Resource Management coconuts are considered to be native to Australia. While coconuts are widespread throughout the Pacific rim it is believed that on mainland Australia the species (*Cocos nucifera*) have been planted.

The master plan recognises the value of coconuts for the role they play in establishing the resort character of many of the region’s tourist beaches and recommends the development of a Coconut Management Plan to develop a clear strategy for dealing with our coconut population.

### 1.2.3 Exotic Species

Exotics may be almost completely free of pests and diseases but run the risk of being devastated if these are accidentally introduced. Some species do however have historic cultural links to early settlement and period planting themes that can still be seen in the Cairns area. Exotic flowering trees make a valuable contribution to the Tropical Character.

“...links to early settlement and period planting themes...”

#### When should we use endemic tree species?

- *Dominant outside of urban centres (not excluded from urban centres)*
- *Within and in proximity to vegetation conservation areas (refer to Cairns Plan Overlays)*
- *For the creation/enhancement of wildlife corridors and buffer plantings to remnant vegetation and riparian corridors.*
- *To screen developments within the lower slopes and to create buffers to adjacent hills (refer to Design Guidelines Street Themes Groves for more information on “naturalistic” street tree planting strategies)*
- *To create links to the natural environment, and increase the natural biodiversity of Cairns across the built form.*
- *Parks are to be planted with a minimum of 75% Native/Endemic species (refer to FNQROC Design Manual Part D9.13)*

#### When should we use Exotic and Australian Native tree species?

- *Within urban centres (not to the exclusion of endemic species selection)*
- *As features of “Special Planting”*
- *To reinforce local traditional and historic plantings of cultural significance*
- *As part of Key City Gateways*





### 1.3 Environmental selection criteria

The capacity of trees to establish and grow successfully depends heavily on the environmental conditions at the planting location being within the tolerance range of the species selected.

We must remember trees, unlike other street infrastructure are living organisms. They need to grow to survive and their behaviour is not always predictable or consistent. Being a living thing they:

- *Will typically all need to shed leaves, bark, fruit, flowers;*
- *Need to, and will, respond to the natural prevailing conditions;*
- *Can be easily damaged and vandalised (particularly when young);*
- *Can be severely affected by pests and diseases that can kill or increase the stress on the trees.*



## Some of the environmental factors that affect tree selection are;

### 1.3.1 Climate

Cairns is located at latitude 16.9 degrees south and experiences a tropical wet climate. Parts of the Cairns area are subject to coastal influences depending on their proximity and orientation to the sea. It is an oasis in Tropical Australia, for the oblique orientation of the backing highlands relative to the prevailing southeasterly trade winds, result in between 2-7m of annual rainfall. The Cairns region is prone to a range of natural hazards including riverine floods, tropical cyclones and storm surge, landslides and possible tsunamis.

### 1.3.2 Geology and Soils

Local geology is dominated by the Middle Palaeozoic Hodgkinson Province metamorphic, a series of interbedded phyllite, schist, quartzite and chert which strike north-south, and the Lower Permian Mareeba granite that intrudes the metamorphic and varies mineralogy and texture throughout the region. There are two distinct fan surfaces throughout the Cairns region: a series of fans between 5-10m above the present flood plains and lower level modern alluvial plains and floodplains that grade to sea-level. These fan surfaces are virtually ubiquitous across the lowland plains where they abut against Quaternary shoreline deposits. Near Cairns City the fans emanating from the Macalister Range are composed predominantly of clayey gravels and gravelly clays (up to 15% gravel content). Further south the large Mulgrave fan, and those extending from the Bellenden Ker Range near Miriwinni have sediments derived from granites (have higher sand content). Between Cairns and Ellis Beach, the wider coastal plain is covered by coalesced fans which appear to extend below sea level.

The weathering and stratigraphical characteristics of the sea fans suggest that they were composed of two distinct generations. The fine-and clays of the stat lower sequence of fans white with yellow mottles. coloured fine-grained upper fan unit. evident from Kewarra south only the red unit is exposed. North of Cairns where the coastal plain narrows considerably the truncated fans of the Macalister range now forms

sea cliffs up to 3-4m in height. These have high gravel content (up to 30%) and their matrix sands and clays are extensively weathered and display red and orange mottles. This section of the Cairns coastal plain is dominated by the Barron delta, which is comprised of up to 90m thickness of alluvial sediments. Along the eastern margin of the Barron fan Holocene marine sands and muds with a similar stratigraphy to the southern portion of the coastal plain have accumulated. Alluvial fan and colluvial deposits dominate the western or landward margin of the coastal plain.

### 1.3.3 Hydrology

The Russell-Mulgrave and the Barron Rivers are the main streams draining the region. Both rise on the plateau to the west of Cairns and have carved steep sided gorges into the plateau before flowing across broad alluvial plains. The Barron River enters the Coral Sea immediately north of Cairns and the Russell-Mulgrave River turns south on the coastal plain and enters the sea near Russell Heads Areas of Cairns within the coastal strip have high salt water levels that can affect root systems.

### 1.3.4 Tolerance in paved areas

In some urban areas selected trees will need to tolerate planting in hard paving areas and must have the ability to tolerate low oxygen levels and compacted, highly modified soil conditions.

### 1.3.5 Tolerance of pests and diseases

The selected tree species should be resistant to pests and disease. A diversity of species is also important in reducing the impact of devastating diseases on specific tree species.

### 1.3.6 Tolerance of atmospheric pollution

The CBD environment and areas traversed by busy arterial roads are subject to photochemical pollution produced by vehicle exhaust systems. Trees selected for these areas need to be able to tolerate these vehicle emissions. Deciduous trees are generally considerably more tolerant than evergreen species due to the duration over which different species retain their leaves. The longer the life of a leaf the greater likelihood that the threshold levels for pollutant damage will be exceeded.





## 1.4 Functional criteria

Species selected for street tree planting also need to fulfil certain functional criteria to ensure successful establishment and reduced ongoing maintenance and management issues.

### 1.4.1 Proven performance record

Proven performance of the species under the environmental conditions of the locality is vitally important. Trees are a long term investment and substantial amounts of money are often invested in their purchase, planting and maintenance. New species should be trialled on a smaller scale before implementing their widespread use.

### 1.4.2 Readily available and transplantable at advanced sizes

The selected plant species must be able to be commercially grown and available in a suitable size for street planting. Generally the tree nursery stock used will be super advanced stock to provide high initial impact and adequate resistance to casual or intentional vandalism.

### 1.4.3 Acceptable leaf and fruit fall characteristics

The selected species must have an acceptable level of nuisance created by the shedding of leaves and fruit for a street environment. Those with large or heavy seed pods, excessive leaf drop, or fleshy fruit or flowers which may lead to slip hazards will typically be avoided.

### 1.4.4 Low risk of becoming an environmental weed

Some species are known to be, or have the potential to be serious environmental weeds due to their ability to self propagate and invade bushland areas.

### 1.4.5 Not prone to major limb shear

Limb loss occurs on an occasional basis for most trees due to wind induced mechanical breakage. Trees that are renowned for having brittle branches and regular branch drop will be avoided for use as street trees.

#### 1.4.6 Long lived

Many of the costs associated with the management of trees in the urban environment are associated with the early establishment and then the over maturity phase. Using long lived species that require replacement as infrequently as possible will help minimise tree management costs.

#### 1.4.7 Capacity to lift pavements and kerbing

Although no guarantees can be given that any particular street tree species will not interact with kerbs and pavements, species that are renowned for vigorous root systems causing pavement uplift will be avoided. The City will also investigate the use of alternative footpath materials and design to minimise tree root and bitumen interaction.

#### 1.4.8 Low maintenance

All trees selected will require minimal maintenance subsequent to establishment.

### 1.5 Aesthetic/Design criteria

Our City is a constructed cultural and urban landscape consisting of streets, buildings and parks. Trees play an important role in enriching the cultural experience of a place and so the aesthetic characteristics of the trees need to be an important selection consideration.

#### 1.5.1 Relationship with distinctive landscape characters

The selection of species may be made to reinforce historical, cultural or natural associations from our past, particularly Victorian era landscape planting.

#### 1.5.2 Ultimate size tree canopies

Very large trees in confined spaces often result in unacceptably high management costs. Conversely small growing trees in broad streets rarely contribute significantly to visual quality or canopy coverage.

Trees selected will be in scale with the streetscape and if allowed, we will utilise the largest growing species possible for the area.

Species should still be selected such that the ultimate mature size of the tree is in scale with the street giving consideration of the site constraints, such as nature strip widths, overhead powerlines, building alignments and vehicle clearances. The optimum range is not so small that it does not make a significant contribution to the amenity of the street, and not so large as to dominate and cause significant problems. In some instances the constraints imposed by the street environment will limit the optimum size of street trees or even restrict tree planting altogether. This is the case with the majority of narrow laneways and footpaths throughout the area.

#### 1.5.3 Historic / cultural associations

The selection of species may have natural, historical or cultural associations within the particular street or locality. New plantings should consider the historical context of the locality.

#### 1.5.4 Form of tree canopies

Selected species should have an appropriate and predictable form, usually with an upright trunk and stable branch structure. Street trees need to have a form that allows traffic and pedestrian movements around and under the tree. In the CBD desirable tree forms include trees with a single straight main trunk supporting a domed crown, or columnar form.

#### 1.5.5 Deciduous versus evergreen

The street tree list includes both evergreen and deciduous trees. Evergreen species provide year round screening, greenery and shelter from winds. Deciduous trees provide stimulating seasonal events whilst maximising winter light.

In residential areas deciduous trees are useful to maximise summer shading and winter light particularly for buildings located on the southern side of a street.



## 1.6 Other Factors

### 1.6.1 Overhead Power Lines

Most significant of all the factors that limit the benefits trees can contribute to a streetscape is the conflict between overhead power cables and tree canopies.

A solution to this problem could be to select smaller tree species. This could be viable for narrow streets, however with wide streets these small trees are inevitably out of scale with the streetscape and present a poor environmental, social and aesthetic outcome.

The City has been co-ordinating with Ausgrid in the roll out of Aerial Bundled Conductors (ABC). These consist of a number of insulated wires bundled into a single cable which eliminates the need for the wide stringing assemblies that are the greatest problem from a street tree perspective. ABC allows for reduced line clearance codes to be employed resulting in less impact on established tree canopies.

The City will review existing tree performance and the nominated species within this plan, following ABC installation, in order to maximise the benefits received from ABC.

Underground power cables are also an option particularly for new urban developments such as at Green Square. In established areas, costs at this stage could be prohibitive, however this high cost may in fact be a practical option when compared with the projected cost of repeated pruning, the risk that this work involves to operators, the negative impact on trees and loss of public amenity.

### 1.6.2 Underground services and structures

High pressure gas mains and electricity easements sometimes prohibit establishment of trees due to the depth of the service and potential liabilities if the service is damaged. Similarly underground structures, wall footings and the like may also limit the ability of a tree to be planted and successfully grow. Each planting site will be assessed on its merits to determine the feasibility of establishing trees in relation to underground services and structures.

### 1.6.3 Narrow footpaths

An essential factor in species selection is the width of the footway or verge proposed for street tree

planting. Trees planted in footways less than 1300mm wide (from building line to the back of the kerb) force pedestrians, particularly those with strollers, to walk on the road. As it is far safer to encourage pedestrians to stay on the footway, trees will not be planted in footways less than 1300mm in width.

In streets with footpaths less than 1300mm, that already support tree planting, in-road or shared zone options will be explored for new trees

Where site constraints limit the optimum size of street plantings, consideration may be given to mechanisms which minimise or remove the impact of these constraints. These could include for example, replacing overhead powerlines with Aerial Bundle Conductors, planting trees within the median or road carriageway (where footpaths are narrow and streets are sufficiently wide) and increasing the root zone soil volume by use of structural soils or similar technologies.

### 1.6.4 Devastation from a serious pest and disease outbreak

At the time of drafting this 2011 Master Plan, several major pest and disease threats hang over the City's tree population. These are typically introduced pests and diseases that can potentially have devastating impacts on certain species of trees.

**Myrtle Rust** - myrtle rust is a serious fungal disease that affects many plants in the Myrtaceae family which includes Paperbarks, Lily Pillies, Bottlebrush and Tea Trees. Myrtle rust cannot be eradicated.

Overseas precedents show that widespread infestations of harmful pests and diseases can have devastating consequences on parts of our urban tree populations. For further information visit the Queensland Government Primary Fisheries and Industries (DPI) web site [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

### 1.6.5 No Street tree is perfect

There is no such thing as the street tree that will fulfil perfectly all aspects of our selection criteria. Trees are living entities that can present a variety of forms and habit even within the one species type and within the one street.





It must be remembered that we are planting trees in an artificial, constructed environment that is far removed from their natural habitat. In this situation there are bound to be some negative aspects associated with trees in an urban environment, however it is generally considered that the benefits trees contribute to our environment far outweigh many of the more negative aspects.

#### 1.6.6 Frequent negatives raised about street trees include the following.

##### Allergies

Concern is sometimes raised that particular tree species cause allergies/ irritation and respiratory problems. It is important to note there is a difference between an allergic reaction to an irritation.

All flowering plants including grasses produce pollen. Generally species that rely on wind pollination create a greater pollen load to ensure continuation of the species. Pollen in the air can contribute to hay fever, eye allergies and other respiratory problems.

Grass species are by far the most prevalent pollen producers and have a long pollen season. Grasses rely on wind to disperse their microscopic pollens, which are produced in vast quantities. In Sydney the grass pollen season goes from September into January or February depending on the weather.

Plane Trees are often cited as the main culprit for causing allergies or irritations however it is difficult to isolate its contribution to urban pollen levels when there are many different species including grasses producing pollen at the same time.

Although Plane trees are pollen producers, these species have a limited season of pollen production of a few weeks only in Spring compared with longer season for grass species. The young leaves of Plane Trees do have fine pointed hairs which are gradually lost as the leaves mature. Similarly the round fruits tend to drop and shatter in autumn. The seeds have some hairs associated with them which may cause allergic reactions with some people although there is no mention of this being a problem in the texts reviewed on this issue.

##### Leaf and fruit droppings

All trees, including evergreens, drop leaves. Strategies to reduce the impact of leaf litter in our streets will be the coordination of our street sweeping resources to target problem areas. Species with fleshy fruits or leaves that become slippery on decomposition will be avoided for selection.

##### Damage to pavements

Many old established trees in our area can cause footpath uplift and cracking. These trees generally are the vigorous and large growing species.

In adhering to the principle of the 'right tree for the right location' future tree selection will be mindful of the potential of various tree species to cause pavement damage.

Also an important consideration is the site preparation and establishment techniques used for tree planting. The use of nature strips, median planting, and in-road blisters where possible, maximising the size of the planting 'cut outs' in pavements and the use of flexible pavements will help minimise future instances of pavement damage and associated risk



Example of Myrtle rust









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THE RAINFOREST  
CITY TREE LIST

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management issues.

## 2.0 THE RAINFOREST CITY

### TREE LIST

#### 2.1 The Rainforest City Tree List

The rainforest city tree list responds to the council's planting themes and provides a list of trees suitable for the following uses;

- *Large shade trees suitable for formal Avenue Planting*
- *A matrix of trees suitable for our "urban rainforest" (matrix defined by geographical location);*
  - » *Inland*
  - » *Coastal*

Trees have been selected because they;

- *Contribute to the overall biodiversity of the region's urban rainforest*
- *Are representative of the region's unique vegetation communities*
- *Can be propagated and grown to an appropriate size for street use*
- *Represent a low risk of becoming an environmental weed*
- *Are not prone to cyclone damage*
- *Have acceptable leaf and fruit fall characteristics*
- *Are not known to have toxic seeds, fruit, sap or spines.*

Endemic and native tree species feature heavily in the list and reflect our corporate vision for the rainforest city. For more details on species suitable to the Cairns Region follow links @ [www.sgapcairns.org.au](http://www.sgapcairns.org.au)





### What are the preferred characteristics of our street trees?

#### Street trees are to:

- *Have a strong, straight central leader with no lateral branches greater than two thirds the calliper of the main leader*
- *Have branches equally spaced around the central leader. Each branch having its own space*
- *Have a uniformly shaped canopy when viewed from all sides, free of large voids*
- *Have trunks that are free from all cuts and scratches.*
- *Not more than 40% of the height is to be clear of branches unless otherwise specified by the landscape architect or arborist*
- *Have tree branches with good spacing and wide angles from the main trunk with no included bark*
- *Have proper pruning cuts that are not flush cuts but pruned to the collar*
- *Have been root-pruned and irrigated during the production for a better root system*
- *Have root balls in transplanted trees that are of an appropriate size (see below) firm with no loose movement between the trunk and the root ball when the trunk is rotated*
- *Have container roots which fill the entire container without having any root greater than 1/5 the tree calliper and no roots in the upper 75mm of media encircling more than 1/3 of the root ball. Reject any container grown trees with large roots which encircle more than 1/3 of the root ball, especially in the upper 50-100mm of the root ball.*
- *Plant 40-80mm calliper trees (unless an instant effect is required) as smaller trees will establish quicker in normal conditions.*
- *Street trees must be at least 2 metres high (installed) and have a clear trunk of at least 1.4 metres from the top of the adjoining finished level to the lowest branch*
- *Planting should not obstruct sightlines. A maximum height of 750mm is recommended for all shrubs and plantings in areas where visibility across the street or footpath is required.*







# THE RAINFOREST CITY

## 2.2 The Rainforest City Native Tree List

### 2.2.1 List of suitable native trees for use in the Rainforest City

The following list of suitable native trees is intended for Avenue Planting and Grove Planting. Trees can be selected to form a matrix of species to maximise the benefits of the “urban forest” and increase local biodiversity (refer to Part A - Introduction for further details of the “urban forest”, and Part B - Design Guidelines 2.0 Design Elements for details on Avenue and Grove Planting).



Native Tree List		TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT	INLAND	COASTAL	MEDIAN	SHOULDER	VERGE	POWER LINE	PARK
Botanical Name	Common Name											
	<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Ne	M	E	L	X			X	X		X
	<i>Acmena hemilampra</i> <i>Blush satinash</i>	Ne	M	E	M	X	X	X	X	X		X
2.	<i>Atractocarpus fitzalanii</i> <i>Brown Gardenia</i>	Ne	S	E	L	X			X	X	X	X
3.	<i>Atractocarpus sessilis</i> <i>Native gardenia</i>	Ne	S	E	H	X	X		X	X		X
4.	<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i> <i>Freshwater mangrove</i>	Ne	M	D	H		X		X	X		X
5.	<i>Barringtonia asiatica</i> <i>Beach Barringtonia</i>	Ne	M-L	D	H		X	X	X			X
6.	<i>Barringtonia calyptrata</i> <i>Cassowary Pine</i>	Ne	M-L	D	H	X	X	X	X			X
7.	<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i> <i>Flame Tree</i>	Ne	M	D	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
8.	<i>Buckinghamia celsissima</i> <i>Ivory Curl</i>	Ne	M	E	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
9.	<i>Carallia brachiata</i> <i>Corkwood</i>	Ne	S	E	H	X	X		X	X		
10.	<i>Cassia "queenslandica"</i> <i>Golden Shower</i>	Ne	M	D	M	X	X	X	X			X
11.	<i>Cassia sp "Paluma Range"</i> <i>Paluma Shower of Gold</i>	N	S-M	D	L	X		X	X			X

TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT-Tolerance to salt exposure	Best suited to the following environmental conditions	POWER LINE
N Native to Australia E Exotic (from outside Australia) e Endemic to Cairns area t Traditional/Historical use in Cairns	S Small M Medium L Large	E Evergreen D Deciduous	H High tolerance M Medium tolerance L Low tolerance	Inland Coastal	Suitable for under power lines (includes species which can be readily pruned)



# NATIVE TREE LIST



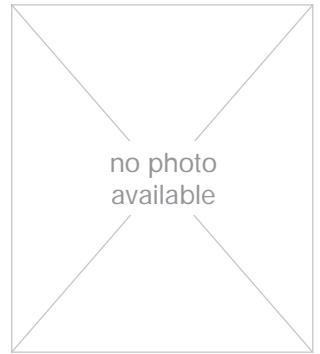
1. *Acmena smithii*



2. *Acmena hemilampra*



3. *Atractocarpus fitzalanii*



4. *Atractocarpus sessili*



5. *Barringtonia acutangula*



6. *Barringtonia asiatica*



7. *Barringtonia calyprata*



8. *Brachychiton acerifolius*



9. *Buckinghamia celsissima*



10. *Caralia brachiata*



11. *Cassia "queenslandica"*



12. *Cassia "Paluma Range"*



# THE RAINFOREST CITY

Native Tree List		TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT	INLAND	COASTAL	MEDIAN	SHOULDER	VERGE	POWER LINE	PARK
Botanical Name	Common Name											
12.	<i>Chionanthus ramiflorus</i> Native Olive	Ne	S	E	L	X			X	X		
13.	<i>Corymbia ptychocarpa</i> Swamp Bloodwood	N	M	E	H		X	X	X			X
14.	<i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i> Brown laurel	Ne	S	E	L	X				X	X	X
15.	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> Tuckeroo	Ne	S-M	E	H	X	X	X	X	X		X
16.	<i>Darlingia darlingiana</i> Brown Silky Oak	Ne	M-L	E	L	X		X	X			X
17.	<i>Deplanchea tetraphylla</i> Golden Bouquet	Ne	M	E	H		X	X	X	X		X
18.	<i>Dillenia alata</i> Red Beach	Ne	S-M	E	H		X		X			X
19.	<i>Diploglottis smithii</i> Smith's tamarind	Ne	S-M	E	H		X		X	X		X
20.	<i>Eucalyptus phoenicea</i> Scarlet Gum	N	M	E	M	X	X		X	X		X
21.	<i>Eugenia reinwardtiana</i> Beach Cherry	Ne	M-L	E	M		X	X	X			X
22.	<i>Ficus virgata</i>	Ne	L	E	M		X		X			X
23.	<i>Flindersia brayleyana</i> Queensland Maple	Ne	L	E	M	X	X	X	X	X		X
24.	<i>Flindersia iffliana</i> Cairns Hickory	Ne	M-L	E	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
25.	<i>Grevillea baileyana</i> Silky Oak	Ne	M-L	E	L	X		X	X	X		X
26.	<i>Gymnostoma australianum</i> Daintree Pine	Ne	S-M	E	H	X	X	X	X			X
27.	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> Cottonwood	Ne	S-M	D	H		X		X	X		X

TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT-Tolerance to salt exposure	Best suited to the following environmental conditions	POWER LINE
N Native to Australia	S Small	E Evergreen	H High tolerance	Inland	Suitable for under power lines (includes species which can be readily pruned)
E Exotic (from outside Australia)	M Medium	D Deciduous	M Medium tolerance	Coastal	
e Endemic to Cairns area	L Large		L Low tolerance		
t Traditional/Historical use in Cairns					



# NATIVE TREE LIST



13. *Chionanthus ramiflorus*



14. *Corymbia ptychocarpa*



15. *Cryptocarya triplinervis*



16. *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*



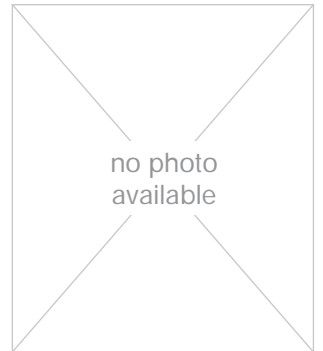
17. *Darlingia darlingiana*



18. *Deplanchea tetraphylla*



19. *Dillenia alata*



20. *Diploglottis smithii*



21. *Eucalyptus phoenicea*



22. *Eugenia reinwardtiana*



23. *Ficus virgata*



24. *Flindersia brayleana*



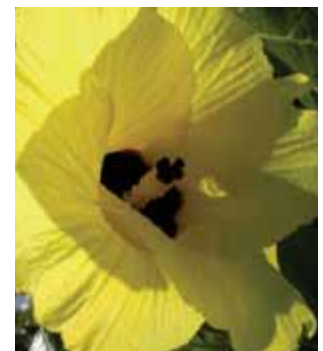
25. *Flindersia iffaiiana*



26. *Grevillea baileyana*



27. *Gymnostoma australianum*



28. *Hibiscus tiliaceum*





# THE RAINFOREST CITY

Native Tree List		TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT	INLAND	COASTAL	MEDIAN	SHOULDER	VERGE	POWER LINE	PARK
Botanical Name	Common Name											
28.	<i>Intsia bijuga</i> Kwila	Ne	M	E	H		X	X	X			X
29.	<i>Leptospermum</i> "Cardwell"	N	S-M	E		X	X	X	X		X	X
30.	<i>Leptospermum</i> "Pink Cascade"	N	S-M			X	X	X	X		X	X
31.	<i>Leptospermum madidum</i> Tee Tree	N	S-M	E	M		X	X	X		X	X
32.	<i>Maniltoa lenticillata</i> Cascading Bean	N	M	E	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
33.	<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i> (formerly Callistemon)	Ne	S	E	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
34.	<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> "Bergundy" Red Melaleuca	N	S	E	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
35.	<i>Melicope rubra</i> Little Evodia	Ne	S	E	L	X				X	X	X
	<i>Mimusops elengi</i> Mimusops	Ne	L	E	H		X	X	X			X
36.	<i>Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus</i>	Ne	S	E	L	X			X	X	X	X
37.	<i>Pleiogynium timorense</i> Burdekin Plum	Ne	M	E	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
38.	<i>Scolopia braunii</i> Brown Birch	Ne	S	E	L	X		X		X		X
39.	<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i> Fire Wheel Tree	Ne	M-L	E	L	X	X	x	X	X		X
40.	<i>Syzygium alliligneum</i> Onionwood	Ne	M-L	E	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
41.	<i>Syzygium angophoroides</i> Yarrabah Satinash	Ne	M	E	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
42.	<i>Syzygium australe</i> Scrub Cherry	Ne	S	E	L	X	X			X	X	X

TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT-Tolerance to salt exposure	Best suited to the following environmental conditions	POWER LINE
N Native to Australia E Exotic (from outside Australia) e Endemic to Cairns area t Traditional/Historical use in Cairns	S Small M Medium L Large	E Evergreen D Deciduous	H High tolerance M Medium tolerance L Low tolerance	Inland Coastal	Suitable for under power lines (includes species which can be readily pruned)

# NATIVE TREE LIST



29. *Instia bijuga*



30. *Leptospermum* "Cardwell"



31. *Leptospermum* "Pink Cascade"



32. *Leptospermum madidum*



33. *Maniltoa lenticillata*



34. *Melaleuca viminalis*



35. *Melaleuca viridiflora* "Bergundy"



36. *Melicope rubra*



37. *Mimusops elengi*



38. *Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus*



39. *Pleio gynium timorense*



40. *Scolopia braunii*



41. *Stenocarpus sinuatus*



42. *Syzygium alliginum*



43. *Syzygium angorophoroides*



44. *Syzygium australe*





# THE RAINFOREST CITY

Native Tree List		TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT	INLAND	COASTAL	MEDIAN	SHOULDER	VERGE	POWER LINE	PARK
Botanical Name	Common Name											
43.	<i>Syzygium forte</i> ssp. <i>Forte</i> <i>White Apple</i>	N	M	E	H		X	X	X	X		X
44.	<i>Syzygium hemilampra</i> <i>Blush Satinash</i>	Ne	M	E	M	X	X		X	X		X
45.	<i>Syzygium mallacense</i> <i>Malay Apple</i>	Ne	S-M	E	L	X	X		X	X		X
	<i>Terminalia muelleri</i>	Ne	S-M	E	H		X		X	X		X
46.	<i>Toechima pterocarpum</i> <i>Orange Tamarind</i>	Ne	S	E	M	X	X		X	X		X
47.	<i>Xanthostemon chrysanthus</i> <i>Golden Penda</i> (Cairns Floral Emblem)	Ne	M	E	L	X	X	X	X	X		X

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TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT-Tolerance to salt exposure	Best suited to the following environmental conditions	POWER LINE
N <i>Native to Australia</i>	S <i>Small</i>	E <i>Evergreen</i>	H <i>High tolerance</i>	<i>Inland</i>	<i>Suitable for under power lines (includes species which can be readily pruned)</i>
E <i>Exotic (from outside Australia)</i>	M <i>Medium</i>	D <i>Deciduous</i>	M <i>Medium tolerance</i>	<i>Coastal</i>	
e <i>Endemic to Cairns area</i>	L <i>Large</i>		L <i>Low tolerance</i>		
t <i>Traditional/Historical use in Cairns</i>					

# NATIVE TREE LIST



45. *Syzygium forte* ssp. *forte*



46. *Syzygium mallacense*



47. *Terminalia muelleri*



48. *Toechima pterocarpum*



49. *Xanthostemon chrysanthus* (Cairns Floral Emblem)





# THE RAINFOREST CITY PARK

## 2.3 The Rainforest City Park Tree List

### 2.3.1 List of suitable native trees suitable for parks and open spaces

The following list of native trees is intended for use in our parks and open space areas - note tree from the rainforest city list are also suitable for use within our parks and open space areas. Exotic trees are only to be used as limited feature planting and can make up only 25% of a park's tree population.

Native Trees Suitable for Parks and Open Spaces Only		TYPE	FORM	BOGGY	INLAND	COASTAL
Botanical Name	Common Name					
1.	<i>Agathis robusta</i> <i>Kauri Pine</i>	Ne	E		X	
2.	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> <i>Devil Tree</i>	Ne	E		X	
3.	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> <i>Kapok Tree</i>	Ne	D		X	X
4.	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> <i>Beauty leaf</i>	Ne	E			X
5.	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> <i>She Oak</i>	Ne	E	X		X
6.	<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> <i>Moreton bay Ash</i>	Ne	E		X	X
7.	<i>Corymbia torelliana</i> <i>Cadaghi</i>	Ne	E		X	X
8.	<i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> <i>Red Mahogany</i>	Ne	E		X	X
9.	<i>Ficus drupacea</i> <i>Hairy Fig</i>	Ne	E	X		X

Native Trees Suitable for Parks and Open Spaces Only		TYPE	FORM	BOGGY	INLAND	COASTAL
Botanical Name	Common Name					
10.	<i>Ficus virens</i> <i>Banyan</i>	Ne	E		X	X
11.	<i>Flindersia brayleyana</i> <i>Queensland Maple</i>	Ne	E		X	
12.	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> <i>Weeping Paperbark</i>	Ne	E	X		X
13.	<i>Melicope elleryana</i> <i>Corkwood</i>	Ne	E	X	X	
14.	<i>Nauclea orientalis</i> <i>Leichhardt Tree</i>	Ne	D	X		X
15.	<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i> <i>Umbrella Tree</i>	Ne	E	X	X	
16.	<i>Syzygium bamagense</i> <i>Bamaga Satinash</i>	Ne	E		X	X
17.	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> <i>Beach Almond</i>	Ne	D			X
18.	<i>Terminalia sericocarpa</i>	Ne	E			X



1. *Agathis robusta*



2. *Alstonia scholaris*



3. *Bombax ceiba*



4. *Calophyllum inophyllum*

# TREE LIST



5. *Casuarina cunninghamiana*



6. *Corymbia tessularis*



7. *Corymbia torrelliana*



8. *Eucalyptus pellita*



9. *Ficus drupacea*



10. *Ficus virens*



11. *Flindersia brayleyana*



12. *Melaleuca leucadendra*



13. *Melicope elleyana*



14. *Nauclea orientalis*



15. *Schlefflera actinophylla*



16. *Syzygium bamagense*



17. *Terminalia catappa*



18. *Terminalia sericocarpa*





# THE RAINFOREST CITY

## 2.4 The Rainforest City Exotic Tree List

### 2.4.1 List of suitable exotic trees for use in the Rainforest City

The following list of suitable exotic trees is intended to supplement the list of native trees set out in the previous pages. Trees in this list are intended as feature planting for special areas and to reinforce or replace significant existing stands of historic exotic tree planting.

Exotic Tree List		TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT	INLAND	COASTAL	MEDIAN	VERGE	FOOTPATH	POWER LINE	PARK
1.	Botanical Name Common Name											
1.	<i>Bauhinia x blakeana</i> <i>Hong Kong Orchid Tree</i>	E	S-M	D	M	X	X	X	X	X		X
2.	<i>Brachychiton velutinosus</i> <i>Lace Tree (grafted)</i>	N	S-M	D	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
3.	<i>Caesalpinia ferrea</i> <i>Leopard Tree</i>	E	L	D	M-L	X	X	X	X	X		X
4.	<i>Cassia "Rainbow Shower"</i>	E	S-M	D	M	X	X	X	X	X		X
5.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> <i>Shower of Gold</i>	Et	M-L	D	M	X	X	X	X			X
6.	<i>Cassia javanica</i> <i>Pink Cassia</i>	Et	L	D	M	X	X	X				X
7.	<i>Colvillea racemosa</i> <i>Colville's Glory</i>	E	L	D	M		X	X	X	X		X

TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT-Tolerance to salt exposure	Best suited to the following environmental conditions	POWER LINE
N Native to Australia	S Small	E Evergreen	H High tolerance	Inland	Suitable for under power lines (includes species which can be readily pruned)
E Exotic (from outside Australia)	M Medium	D Deciduous	M Medium tolerance	Coastal	
e Endemic to Cairns area	L Large		L Low tolerance		
t Traditional/Historical use in Cairns					

# EXOTIC TREE LIST



1. *Bauhinia x balakeana*



2. *Brachychiton velutinosus*



3. *Caesalpinia ferrea*



4. *Cassia* "Rainbow Shower"



5. *Cassia fistula*



6. *Cassia javanica*



7. *Colvillea racemosa*





# THE RAINFOREST CITY

Exotic Tree List		TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT	INLAND	COASTAL	MEDIAN	VERGE	FOOTPATH	POWER LINE	PARK
Botanical Name	Common Name											
	<i>Delonix regia</i> <i>Poinciana</i>	Et	L	D	H	X	X	X	X			X
8.	<i>Gustavia superba</i> <i>Membrillo</i>	E	S	E	L	X			X	X		X
9.	<i>Lagerstroemia floribunda</i> <i>Late Crepe Myrtle</i>	E	M	D	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
10.	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> <i>Crepe Myrtle</i>	Et	M	D	L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11.	<i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i> <i>Pride of India</i>	E	M	D	L	X	X	X	X	X		X
12.	<i>Lophanthera lactescens</i> <i>Golden Chain Tree</i>	Et	M	E	L	X		X	X	X		X
13.	<i>Peltophorum dubium</i> <i>Brasiletto</i>	E	L	D	M-H	X	X	X	X	X		X
14.	<i>Pterocarpus indicus</i> <i>Indian Padauk</i>	Et	L	E	L	X	X	X	X			X
15.	<i>Tabebuia aurea</i> <i>Silver trumpet Tree</i>	Et	S-M	D	H		X	X	X	X		X
16.	<i>Tabebuia chrysantha</i> <i>Golden Tabebuia</i>	Et	M	D	H	X	X	X	X	X		X
17.	<i>Tabebuia pallida</i> <i>Evergreen Trumpet Tree</i>	Et	M-L	E	M	X	X	X	X	X		X

TYPE	SIZE	FORM	SALT-Tolerance to salt exposure	Best suited to the following environmental conditions	POWER LINE
N Native to Australia E Exotic (from outside Australia) e Endemic to Cairns area t Traditional/Historical use in Cairns	S Small M Medium L Large	E Evergreen D Deciduous	H High tolerance M Medium tolerance L Low tolerance	Inland Coastal	Suitable for under power lines (includes species which can be readily pruned)

# EXOTIC TREE LIST



8. *Delonix regia*



9. *Gustavia suberba*



10. *Lagerstroemia floribunda*



11. *Lagerstroemia indica*



12. *Lagerstroemia speciosa*



13. *Lophanthera lactescens*



14. *Peltophorum dubium*



15. *Pterocarpus indica*



16. *Tabebuia aurea*



17. *Tabebuia chrysantha*



18. *Tabebuia pallida*







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THE RAINFOREST  
CITY PLANT LIST

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# THE RAINFOREST CITY



# PLANT LIST

## 3.0 THE RAINFOREST CITY PLANT LIST

### 3.1 Why this is important

The preferred plant list responds to the council's planting themes and provides a list of plants suitable for the following uses;

- *Gateways and Entry Statements*
- *Feature Planting*
- *WSUD*
- *General Planting for commercial and residential developments*

Plants have been selected because they;

- *Can be readily propagated*
- *Are adapted to the particular climatic conditions of the Cairns Region*
- *Are endemic to the Cairns Region and are representative of the region's natural vegetation communities*
- *Are 'iconic' tropical species which contribute to the "resort" feel of the Cairns Region*

#### General Requirements

- *Any planting proposed for on-street tree guards, traffic islands, medians, in-ground footpath planters and street tree planting, are subject to Council's approval.*
- *Generally, shrubs growing to a mature height exceeding 600mm should not be used in medians and traffic islands, etc. where they will interfere with vehicular sight lines.*
- *No plants are to be on the current register of 'declared pest plants'; for full listings follow the links at [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au) and refer to Council's Local Law no:3 Community and Environmental management 2011.*

The following lists are intended as a guide only to current plant selection and are not intended as a list of all available species. The plants listed represent those species most readily available within the Cairns Region. For more details on species suitable to the Cairns Region follow links at [www.sgapcairns.org.au](http://www.sgapcairns.org.au)

For further information on invasive plants and their native alternatives visit [www.growmeinstead.com.au](http://www.growmeinstead.com.au)





# THE RAINFOREST CITY

## 3.1.1 List of suitable native plants for use in The Rainforest City

Acalypha lyonsii 1-3m	Hoya pottsii Native Hoya
Acrostichum aureum 1-3m	Hymenosporum flavum
Actephila sp. (Rocky River)	Ichnocarpus frutescens
Adiantum atroviride Maidenhair Fern	Ipomoeo "pes caprae"
Adiantum hispidulum Maidenhair Fern	Leea indica Bandicoot Berry 3-5m
Alocasia brisbanensis	Lepidozamia hopei Zamia Palm
Alpinia arctiflora Native Ginger	Leptospermum "Pacific Beauty"
Alpinia caerulea Common Ginger	Leptospermum "Pink Cascade"
Alpinia hylandii Native Ginger	Licuala ramsayi Fan Palm
Alpinia modesta	Lithomyrtus obtusa Pink Myrtle 1--1½m
Argophyllum lejourdanii	Livistona muelleri Fan Palm 12m
Asplenium nidus Bird.s Nest Fern 1m	Lomandra hystrix Matt Rush 1.2m
Asteromyrtus angustifolia 3-5m	Lomandra longifolia
Baeckea virgata	Lomandra spicata
Baeckea virgata dwarf	Lomandra "Trpoic Belle" 1.2m
Banksia spinulosa	Medinilla balls-headleyi
Blechnum indicum	Melaleuca (formerly Callistemon) in variety
Blechnum orientale	Melaleuca "Little Beauty"
Callipteris prolifera	Melaleuca "Little John"
Cordyline cannifolia Native Cordyline	Melaleuca "Pink Lace"
Cordyline petiolaris	Melastoma malabathricum Native Lassandra 1-1½m
Cordyline stricta	Microsorium scolopendria (polypody fern)
Crinum pendunculatum Swamp Lily	Murraya paniculata (cutting grown form)
Dianella caerulea	Molineria capitulata
Dietes ssp.	Nephrolepis spw. (selected species only)
Dracaena in variety	Neololeba altra
Eugenia reinwardtiana	Orthosiphon aristatus "Mauve"
Gahnia aspera	Orthosiphon aristatus "White"
Gahnia sieberiana	Pandanus brookei Screw Pine 4-6m
Gardenia psidioides "Glennie River"	Pandanus cookii Screw Palm 4-6m
Gardenia ovularis Native Gardenia 4-8m	Pandanus tectorius Screw Palm
Gardenia rupicola Native Gardenia 1-2m	Pavetta australiensis
Gardenia scabrella Native Gardenia	Pavetta australiensis Snow Cloud 2-3m
Graptophyllum excelsum	Pennisetum alopecuroides
Graptopyllum spinigerum	Phaleria octandra Cape Daphne 1-1½m
Grevillea superba	Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus 3-4m
Hibbertia banksii	Phyllanthus cuscutifolius
Hibbertia scandens Snake vine	Phyllanthus cuscutifolius
Hibiscus tiliaceus	Phyllanthus multifolius
Hoya australis Native Hoya Vine	Planchonia careya Corky Apple

# PLANT LIST

*Proiphys amboinensis* Cardwell Lily 1m  
*Ptychosperma elegans* Solitaire Palm  
*Scaevola taccada*  
*Scaevola taccada* Sea Lettuce 2m  
*Sophora tomentosa* Silver Bush 2-3m  
*Syzygium australe*  
*Syzygium "Cascade"*  
*Syzygium wilsonii* ssp. *wilsonii* Powderpuff Lilipilli  
*Viola betonicifolia* Native Violet  
*Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*  
*Xanthostemon verticulatus*

### 3.1.2 List of 'iconic' exotic plants for use in the Rainforest City

*Alpinia* in variety  
*Alternanthera* in variety  
*Arachis pintoie*  
 Bromeliads in variety  
*Calliandra* in variety  
*Canna* in variety  
*Clerodendron splendens*  
*Codiaeum variegatum*  
*Cordyline terminalis* (selected species only)  
*Costus potierae* (syn with *costus speciosa*)  
*Crinum xanthophyllum aureum*  
*Dissotis rotundifolia*  
*Dracaena* in variety  
*Euphorbia pulcherrima* "Dwarf Cream"  
*Euphorbia pulcherrima* "Dwarf Red"  
*Evolvulus pilosus*  
*Gardenia radicans*  
*Heliconia* "Jamaican Dwarf" (shade only)  
*Heliconia* in variety  
*Hibiscus* in variety  
*Hymenocallis littoralis*  
*Hymenocallis littoralis variegata*  
*Ixora* (dwarf) in variety  
*Ixora* in variety  
*Jasminum nitidum*  
*Liriope* "Evergreen Giant"  
*Medenilla magnifica*  
*Miscanthus Zebrinus*  
*Ophiopogon japonicus* Mondo Grass  
*Ophiopogon japonicus* Nana  
*Ophiopogon variegata* Variegated Mondo Grass  
*Pachystachys lutea*  
*Pentas lanceolata* (selected varieties only)  
*Philodendron "Millenium"*  
*Philodendron selloum*  
*Plumbago capensis* "Alba"  
*Plumbago capensis* "Royal Cape"  
*Plumeria* ssp. in var.  
*Rhoeo* "Hawaiian Dwarf"  
*Ruellia squarrosa*  
*Schefflera arboricola*  
*Schefflera arboricola variegatum*  
*Tibouchina "Jules"*  
*Xanthostemon verticulatus*  
*Zamia*  
*Zingiber spectabile* (Spectabilis Ginger)  
*Zoysia tenuifolia* (No-mow grass)



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**March 2013 - Cairns Regional Council**

119-145 Spence Street - PO Box 359 - Cairns - QLD 4870

Ph: (07)4044 3044 F: (07)4044 3022 E: [council@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@cairns.qld.gov.au)

This document is available on the Cairns Regional Council website:  
[www.cairns.qld.gov.au](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au)

