

# Time to cut back on urban tree losses

I AGREE with Jo Bornemissza about how trees bring character to our city and improve the quality of our urban environment (Talking Point, August 30). I share her frustration about some of the significant tree losses we have witnessed this year in Hobart, where 52 per cent of streets have no trees at all and more than a third of the street trees we do have are classed as small. Our Significant Tree Register is in urgent need of review and,

unlike many cities around Australia, we do not have a process to protect large or biologically significant trees on private land. I hope, however, that we may be starting to learn from these mistakes and make some improvements. Last month, the council signed off on a new Street Tree Strategy which will deliver a 40 per cent canopy cover in the city's streets in less than 30 years, up from the current canopy level of 16 per cent. The council

also recently supported my motion about updating our Significant Tree Register and investigating how we might provide better protection for trees over a certain size on private land. However, there is still a lot of work to do and the passion of residents, like Jo, will help to keep the council improving its tree protection and planting policies.

**Alderman Anna Reynolds**  
**Hobart City Council**

*Mercury 2 Sept 2017*