

**Tuesday 22 January 2019**

## **SAVING OUR TREES FROM HEATWAVE EFFECTS**

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Narrandera Shire Council is taking proactive measures to reduce the impact of the extremely hot and windy conditions that the Shire's trees are being subjected to this summer.

An additional vehicle and watering cart have been hired to not only keep up with the current tree watering schedule, but to also increase the frequencies of watering trees planted from up to four years ago.

Young trees are being treated with a seaweed solution added to the water every two to four weeks to assist plants in recovering from heat stress, increase plant tolerance to adverse environmental conditions, promote root growth and increase nutrient uptake. While mulch has been placed around all new plantings to ensure adequate moisture is retained in the soil.

New irrigation systems have been installed along Irrigation Way and Victoria Avenue to assist the trees in both locations and additional irrigation systems are being installed at Red Hill Industrial Estate and Elizabeth Street adjacent to the Show Ground in February 2019.

Staff are currently trailing water bags and water rings throughout Narrandera township which allows water to be gradually released into the drip zone of the trees, reducing runoff and improving infiltration. These products are quick to fill, meaning staff can increase the amount of trees watered daily.

Some trees are surviving the heatwave reasonably well with the native Blood Woods and Wallangarra White Gums being stand outs. Other well performing species include Pear, Pistachio, Maple and Oak trees. The same cannot be said for Plane trees with staff noting that the species has not been performing as well over the last five years.

The Scarlett Oak planted by Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka along East Street is also showing signs of distress from exposure to full sun and has been covered with a shade cloth in an attempt to shelter it from the extreme heat amplified by the pavers that surround the tree.

It is clear from the current ongoing heatwave just how crucial species selection is to ensure the right species are being planted to tolerate such extreme conditions.

Residents are encouraged to water street trees at their homes particularly if they are in the nature strip and are new plantings.

# MEDIA RELEASE



*The newly installed automatic water system on Victoria Avenue near the Basketball Stadium.*

**END**

Precis or Summary: Saving Our Trees From Heatwave Effects			
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<b>Authorised By:</b>  George Cowan - General Manager	<b>Media Contact:</b> Communications Officer, Edwina Foley T (02) 6959 5502	Number of Pages	<b>1</b>
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