

SESSION 1 – 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

PROBLEMS

- Public Perception

- Social License

- Trust
 - Lifecycle
 - Plant
 - Harvest
 - Locking Carbon Away

 - Sacramento Tree Foundation

 - Carbon Grants Sequester
 - Non-profit
 - Price point/under-cut

 - Long Term Establishment

 - Making use of different funds/groups

 - Education/Lifecycle -
 - Is there a problem with 'death'?

- End of Life

- Ways to Address and Engage Climate Change

- Scalability
 - Types of timber
 - Valuable
 - \$ - Veneers – substrate health
 - Solid Timber
 - Place for urban sawmill/size within town zoning
 - Less of fashion timbers
 - Underutilised/over supply, wrong type of timber
 - Dry stable become @ product/market cost.

BARRIERS

- Risk/Codes
 - Food trees. Rules, safety/sight lines
 - Safety. Types of tree/crime visibility
 - WHS
 - Community involvement
 - Council State Government Universities
- Cutting trees to encourage growth
- Weak growth
- Risk/Codes
 - Community Involvement
 - WHS
 - Food Trees

- Rules – Safety/Sight Lines
- Safety
 - Types of Tree/Crime Visibility
- Types of Timber

SOLUTIONS

- \$\$\$

- Public Perception
 - Quantify fire
 - Carbon
 - How/rate of sequestering
 - Fires

- Harnessing New and Old Groups
 - Council, State Government, Universities
 - Landcare?
 - Greening Australia?
 - School Education
 - Peri-Urban

CONSERVING OR CONSERVATISM

- How is public space used/planting safety crime
 - Conform to a plan?
 - Volunteering
 - Putting them back/how to store
 - Re-standing trees, nature more than artificial
 - Is there a step before milling – hollows habitats as well as products.
Some selling it green instead of dry/stable wood.
 - “Urban Wood” – free logs. Perception of cost/cost of processing.
 - Oversupply
 - Affordability
 - Valuable tree
 - Policy to the electorate

URBAN TREE CANOPIES

- Want benefits not impacts
 - Maintenance
 - Social pressures around trees
 - Wildfire/bushfire (2003) – 4 Lives
 - Burn off
 - Regeneration
- Tension
 - Planning Rules/Codes
 - Permission
 - Developers
 - Funding
 - Poisoning and removing trees illegally

- Artificial hollows
 - Lop it back
 - Cut hollows

MODELS OF AUCTIONING/TENDERING

- Circular economy
 - What to do about Government log dumps?
 - Saw log – mulch/firewood
 - Trees coming from private to public land
- Social investment/buy in
 - Sustainable
 - Innovative
 - Industry
 - Bio-char
 - Bio-diesel
 - Pellets
 - Community use
 - Schools
 - Re-use
 - Habitat trees (Bierra Hill)
 - Street furniture
- High Value with Universities
 - Research investment required e.g. bio-diesel, bio-char

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

- Development reducing urban forest canopy
 - 50% urban canopy on private land

- How to connect all stakeholders
 - Lack of cohesive government policy to direct
 - Urban forest strategy

- No system in place to sell/market timber from urban forest
 - Chain of provenance
 - Timber returning to the location of removal e.g. furniture.

- Limited business in place to utilise timber
 - Understanding potential market. How much timber utilised in ACT.

- Education of community
 - Including schools
 - Multigenerational resource
 - Custodianship

- Connection to artisans/suppliers/Government/processors

- Managing urban forest with competing values

WHO ARE THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS?

- Indigenous community – traditional uses
- Government – TCCS, EPSDD, DoE, Icon, CMTEDD
- School, CIT, University
- Suburban community/resident's association
- Industry
- Artisans/artists/woodcraft guilds
- Business
- NFP

PROBLEMS

- How urban forest resources are used?
- Greater options for the whole life cycle of an urban forest resource
- Tree assessment that considers future use
- Balancing the diverse community views
- The best practice resource use list is long, varied and needs co-ordination
- Logs

- Environment
- Art & Craft
 - o Carbon Seq
- Hands on
 - o Nature Play
- More can do options and opportunities
- Understanding what users need/what proportion of the resource

PROBLEMS

- Scale of the Problems
- Volume
 - To be removed
 - Storage
 - Milling/curing
 - To be planted
- Lack of Protocols (enforceable)
 - Inadequate regulation for development
- Communication of problems
- Cost
 - Perceived vs. actual
- Risk vs. consequence

- Pesticide/chemical use
 - Reuse issues
 - Diseases

- Species and changes of species overtime

- Lack of Information/education on the -WHY-

- Agreement on reuse?

- Communications
 - Stories
 - Not communicating as not ready for response/requests (possible solution - 'pilot project')
 - Between government departments
 -

- People
 - Support
 - Social buy-in
 - Misinterpretation
 - Enthusiasm (+/-)
 - Consultation

- Strategy alignment
 - Planting vs reuse priority

- Demand vs cost effectiveness

- Climate
 - Of Canberra and changes

- Space

- What can you grow?
- Not treated as a system
 - Historically reactive
 - Lack of planning
 - Culturally

MYRTLE

- Towards a circular economy for street trees
 - How to create a bidding/auction/tendering mechanism for tree removal.
 - A related but much bigger challenge: how to communicate the Government's intention/ethnic in removing the tree.
- Developing a resource pathway of a tree life/death cycle and the value chain along it
- Develop a communication strategy along each step
 - Role of art and artists in the communication
 - Case study – e.g. carving out a habitat
 - Losing and commemorating a “companion tree”
- Strategic approach required that's different for street trees, private/public gardens etc.
- Milling at tree week
- Bio-diesel from trees

Qiqi Fend - Session 1 – Notes - 12/09/19

PROBLEMS

- Sea level rise in Singapore
 - Lack of knowledge or urban forest
 - Slow market
 - High cost
 - Trees are not treated as a system
 - Need information/education
- Everyone share their ideas and experiences
 - Melbourne (need strong policy)
 - Singapore (now need more focus on community. It is in the third phase “city in nature”)
 - They talk about many wood products e.g. toothbrush
 - Plastic tree

Yifan – Session 1 – Notes

(Break out group discussion (Luke, Bark(?), David, Myles)

PROBLEMS

- How urban forests resources are used. Greater options for the whole life cycle of urban forest resources.
- Tree assessment that considers future use.

(Planning has to take a role)

- [EDUCATION] → in the whole process→educational function→urban wood.

- Trees died and became dangerous/unhealthy→cut them down→and what's the next step? Chips→firewood? What are more options? What can we do?
- Balancing the diverse community views
- Categorising the trees/wood timber
 - Different parts of logs could be different uses
- Government authorised utilisation of tree removal/dead trees cut.
- Are there any industries in Canberra to deal with the urban wood (dead trees removal)
- Logs
 - o Environmental use)
 - o Art and craft) Carbon seq
 - o Nature play (hands on))
- The practice resource use
 - What more can we do?
 - o Opportunities and options?
 - o Understanding the public's demands?
 - o Users need what?

[Once a tree reaches its life span – need co-ordination/communication → do more. More possibilities.

Chris Braek – Session 1 – notes 12/09/19

- Walter & Marion Griffin's urban forest plan
- Charles Weston – set about developing a garden city
- Lindsay Pryor – active management and experimentation
- Canberra = Weston's exotics and Pryor's experimentation
- 60-70s → more indigenous species planted
- 20-50s → exotic species planted
- The problem with being alive is that you die
- Surely though, they don't die but they can be killed
- What Pryor called 'thinning' – it isn't actually dead
- Trees in the city are supposed to look attractive → trees role in urban areas
- Monoculture, single use planting areas CBR
- Green infrastructure delivering many benefits proportional to canopy areas
- Trees are dynamic but mortal
- How many trees are useful and safe?

- Millennium Drought
 - DISMUT 2000
 - DISMUT recalibration 2005
 - Rapid Audit ULE (useful life expectancy) 2011
 - Rapid Audit ULE #2 2015
 - Hotter and harsher

 - Lots of dead and dicey trees not serving their purpose

Chris Steel – Minister for City Services – notes – 12/09/19

- Stewardship of Canberra’s urban forest
- 766,000 trees on public land
- Responsible for roads and active travel
- 20,962 declining trees
- 200,000 end of useful life in 40 years
- 500,000 people by 2030 in CBR
- Growing city strategy focussed on urban intensification and reduction in sprawl
- Major infrastructure investments to support densification
- Updating plans by climate analogy for species selection (?)
- Benefit and cost of all the trees planted over the last 100 years
- How to balance ‘coming of age’ city while retaining the ‘bush capital’
- Strict tree protection act - polarising piece of legislation
- Trees look good and we want to showcase this
- Monoculture??
- Community challenges in trees coming to the end of their life
- Using tree life to justify clearance for infrastructure
- Using diseased trees?? the wrong way for the light rail
- ACT – many competing priorities
- ‘Better Suburbs’ statement 2030
- Renew and enhance CBR’s tree canopy
- Initial 17,338 trees – additional maintenance of activity trees
- Community planting and education
- Urban forest strategy

Geoff Roberts – Mullion Group – 12/09/19

- Flint Pro
- Enterprise solution to land analysis
- Modelling of environmental variables at? spatial and temporal resolution
- Modelling framework
- Shows carbon? lapse
- Quantity carbon in the urban environment, forests and plantations
- Operation using the science – this tool can help

Session 1 Questions

- Talked about trees but not about why they replant themselves – regenerate naturally in parks?
- Complicated for community to do work in public spaces – community engagement important in urban forest strategy – Chris Steel – funding available for community groups.
- Paradox in governance in CBR
- Co-ordinating between government and developers
 - Geocon smashing the bush capital and the Government promoting the bush capital
 - High-rise pro/against
- UTAS - Harnessing exclusively organisations that connect with the community now
 - Lots of expertise and volunteers to draw on
 - Difficult at urban street scape level
 - not efficient
 - need to involve community
 - managing people's enthusiasm
 - organisations experienced in managing volunteers

- Millennium drought, water and to manage trees
 - Are water managers involved in tree management in CBR
 - Campaign to encourage people to look after their trees
 - Water allocation for watering trees
 - Water is expensive
 - Community encouraged to look after their trees
 - Hotter, drier climate
- Tree protection act – negative effect from ACT grant planting trees (tree canopy size)
 - Yes
 - Tree preservation order
- Urban forest belongs to the people
- Source through community supports for urban forest maintenance
 - Looking into it
 - Interested in it (Chris Steel)
 - Social licence

Break Out – Session 1

- Focus Questions
 1. What are the problems to be addressed and solved? Bend your mind to the people element.
 2. Who are the key stakeholders (institution/individuals) in resolving the problems?
 3. How do you know what you think you know? Where is your information coming from? Do we know enough about trees to plant and in what conditions?

OAR

- Climate change not addressed adequately
 - 5-10 year draining down carbon
 - Planting trees
 - Trees by sequester carbon – logical move
 - Money \$\$\$
 - Public perceptions (social element)
 - Sacramento Tree Foundation
 - Have been planting and delivering trees to the public
 - Strong rep but still participating issue with harvesting – TRUST
 - Community beginnings (tree movement)
 - Rural focus rather than urban
 - Urban heat?
 - Plant tree species that can be used for furniture (e.g. silky oak)
 - Educate community, know about the life cycle of the tree
 - Harnessing different levels of enthusiasm
 - Energise kids and get the parents along
 - Gardening Australia – focus on youth and education
 - Harnessing existing educational links
 - City Government
 - ACT planning grant, government appointment from planning
 - Lots of hoops to jump through – ‘diabolical’ hard for community group – huge burden.
 - Sacramento
 - City codes
 - Codes move slower than property auctions/development
 - Barriers with government
 - Crime prevention through environmental design
 - Takes out structural layers of planting
 - Impacts on planting places due to restrictions

- No social space – disconnect from society
- Redfern Sydney
- Better to have some party
- More community interactions
- Allowing green space, not just buildings
- Changing the way we value social and environmental contributions
 - Planning rules
- Hard to get permission to even do the small things
- Green suburbs worth more than dead suburbs
- Want the benefits, not imports
- Stringent tree protection control planning (Syd)
 - Very strict
 - Dense urban area
 - Social pressure for change to control planning
 - The policy is now
 - Tree protection gone bad
- Council's cutting down trees
 - Sunshine Coast Council
 - Conventionism – doing things how we've always done them
- How to make forests pay for themselves
- Urban forests evoke fear
 - Bushfire fear in CBR
 - Prescribed burning fear
 - Bushfire and maintaining green space
 - Exposure to a near miss
- Public perception and opinion
 - Look at science and evidence and inform people
 - Risk is quantifiable

- Carbon sequestering plateau
 - Rate, species, age, decay
 - Effective point and juvenile trees

- Branch management – coppicing

- Life cycle of trees
 - Not appreciated enough
 - Social licence issue

- Disconnect in urban areas with nature
 - Making the connection between your table and a tree
 - Educating people on the benefits of trees after death

- Timber as a resource rather than for fashion timber products

- Higher arborist costs

- Timber product saleability
 - Cost
 -?
 - Want

- Customers willing to pay for a wood product

- Sacramento
 - Urban sawmill business x7
 - Procuring takes a long time
 - Demand and finding a market
 - Move wood coming out of urban areas
 - Free logs all day long from tree removal
 - Processing wood into a functional format

- Underutilised wood types

- Urban wood
 - Selling for what they can get
 - Sitting on product
 - Over valuing wood products

- Educating consumers on products

- Perception issues

- Adaptive reuse of materials
 - Before milling, restoration
 - Demand from the non?
 - Demand for hollows
 - Put back

- Artificial hollows in parks
 - Work with ecology
 - Species of hollows (size, height, etc.)

- Go to the loggers

- Take from the source and give back to the environment

- Convince people it is worth something

- Liability of carbon wood procuring

- Low carbon wood for fire wood

- Saw dust for compost

ANU SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN FURNITURE WORKSHOP – 12/09/19

- The ACT witness tree project
- Witness trees – long standing trees that witnessed the long history
- Tree removals
 - Yields lowest quality product
 - Chips
- Misconception about the life cycle of trees

Gordon Smith – 12/09/19

- Nails in urban trees
 - Signs

David MacClaren

- Bungendore Woodworks Gallery

Elmi – Arboretum, School Teacher – (N.....) 12/09/19

Sacramento group, 200,000 stored metric tonnes of carbon

Forestry plantation with ACT – honest system to build 5000 homes

PROBLEMS

1. What are problems to be addressed and solved?
 - 50 private land/ 50 forestry canopy.
 - Reducing tree canopies in urban environment WHEREAS a lot of uses.
 - More awareness of forestries and its needs and uses but this is not there in urban forestry.
 - No system in place to utilise use of wood – forestry are grown to harvest – there is a system/contract/license but no system in place to harvest urban forest.
 - No process in regards to urban forest – honest system – or no process to encourage community interest – how to get public and government to focus on that this is a problem – as in what do Canberrans respect about Canberra and is that being addressed?
 - No clear vision – what, where, how, in regards to urban forest.
 - No development policies in terms of green space –NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED.
 - Need awareness of management for ALL FOREST types.
 - IKEA problem – expensive to build furniture out of quality wood – expensive to buy wood – potential for economics to work but there needs to be incentives – accessibility to wood, better marketing.
 - Need more businesses to use harvested wood to make it more affordable.

- Not enough interest to use harvested wood AS WELL AS no process to see/use the wood
 - o NO SYSTEM IN PLACE
 - o Too expensive and fiddly at the moment

PROBLEM

- Need a system to be developed to buy and use harvested wood
 - License to someone to manage this function
 - To harvest dead/fallen trees in URBAN environment.

PROBLEM

- Harvesting dead trees in urban environment – public perception not wanting trees to be cut down AND then don't want government to cut down tree TO SELL
 - But actually use harvested trees to drive value – created a market for resources
 - To create market need more businesses who have capacity to use wood AND licences/system to harvest the urban trees.
 - creation of market for harvested trees

PROBLEM

- No system to harvest urban trees.

PROBLEM

- Limited education of committee in valuing resources of urban trees and possibilities.
 - SOLUTION: Schools would also want to use timber resource.

PROBLEM

- Trees are not valued – hard to sell as an asset.

PROBLEM

- Some trees have heritage.
 - SOLUTION: Sell the heritage of that tree rather than just protection, i.e. buy wood from a tree in Manuka to continue the heritage.

PROBLEM

- Lack of businesses to use harvested woods – timber = expensive; product = expensive.
- Lack of community interest

PROBLEM

- Trying to value trees is hard when you have a lot of trees. Quantative data problems, i.e. mapping.
- By quantifying an asset point to tree makes it visible to Government but not there.

PROBLEM

- Environment conservation and development part of the same directorate.
- Do we know how much timber is utilised by harvest (both forest and urban) as in how many businesses exist to use this timber? Should interest be revitalised?

PROBLEM

- We are not aware of the market that exists to utilise timber i.e. understand potential market.
- What are the potential resources if tree's life span is ending in 30-40 years?

STAKEHOLDERS

- Indigenous knowledge – traditional uses of the plants
- Know that development is aware of these issues
- Suburb community?
- Artists/crafters/guilds

PROBLEM

- No national valuation of trees between states. How do we determine value?
 - SOLUTION: Sacramento – trees are public assets – they have been valued.

PROBLEM

- Data points for each tree (2) in order to value and manage.

PROBLEM

- It is hard to value trees and there is no national system for valuation.
 - Different citizen perspectives on trees

PROBLEMS

- Conflicting perspectives – incentive to cut tree
 - Money

ASHLEY ERIKSMOEN – SESSION 1 – 12/09/19

Elisa – hashtags

DISMUT – decision – manage urban trees inventory

Chris Steel – ACT Legislative Minister

- Thousands of years of responsible natural resource management by Indigenous population.
- At least 20k vacant tree sites. About 365k trees of the 766k require maintenance.
 - ~ 200k will reach end-of-useful life in next 30-40 years
 - ~ 42kk people in Canberra; 500k by 2040(?)
- “Urban Regeneration” rather than “urban renewal”.
- 2018 – 63 days over 36 degrees → unprecedented is the new normal.
- We are experiencing both the benefit and the cost of a 100 year mature forest.
- Trees are polarising → fear of bushfire → trees are protected, takes away rights of property holders to remove their own trees.

THE MANUKA LONDON PLANE TREE – potential project?

- Community is sceptical of Government’s ability to manage trees. Lots of work ahead to engage the community and build trust.

- As they expand light rail, they will encounter more heritage trees and need to look at how to retain that heritage.
- Going to plant 17,330 trees by 2030.
- Old neighbourhoods have over 20% canopy cover, whereas new neighbourhoods such as Wright only have 1% cover.
- Urban forest strategy needs to be informed. We have more trees and more people than Melbourne.

Geoff Roberts – Mullion Group

- Flint Pro – software
- Carbon sequestration important; critical to going carbon neutral
- Modelling software uses satellite imagery – LIDAR, aerial etc. to calculate carbon stock.
- The urban forests of the ACT are a really important part of the carbon sink.
- The software can model carbon, but can also measure timber.
- Community engagement needs to become a lot more supported, community involved with planting and maintaining.
- Adopt a park program will provide some funding.

- In Germany, cities tie development of green infrastructure to development of urban areas.
- How to harness/manage enthusiasm.
- Community ownership of the trees on verges needs to be promoted, need water.
- Tree preservation order has a perverse aspect.
- The question of “the social licence” – who gets the timber?
- **Pollinator corridors**
- Why are we cutting down local woods into firewood and then importing those species back from Europe/North America? Makes no sense!
- Commercial buyers only buy select grade, clean timber. However, market is changing and will bear an imperfect timber to the source narrative.
- People will pay to be environmentally sound. Sources: private yards; institutions; the Government.

GORDON SMITH - 12/09/19

- Gordon gives off-cuts to the schools and the kids really appreciate having access to good hardwood timbers; they understand they have opportunity to use a quality resource.
- The bespoke pieces will stay out of landfill; pass down the heritage.
- Gordon told story of Radiata Pine, pine nuts and cradle.

DAVID MacLAREN

- Built his gallery from green Jarrah, coated in microcrystalline wax.
- Can add acrylic colour to the microcrystalline wax and it holds up really well.
- “If tables have feet they ought to have shoes” – David MacLaren.

SESSION 1

- ACT Tree Week
 - Getting people to love trees

- Urban forest
 - Funding
 - 200,000 trees coming down
 - \$2000-5000 per cubic metre
 - Fell properly and managed properly

- Current uses
 - Chipped (diseased fungal)
 - Mulch
 - Totems for habitat trees
 - Barra Hill (Molonglo)

- Need to saw it; crane truck

- Building a self-sustaining industry – circular economy
 - Cost absorbed by companies

- Public auction
 - Public liability
 - People just come and cut it down
 - Administration nightmare
 - People have different value on different trees

- Education
 - No education: People oppose, Government make money from auction
 - Education: People see the production out of logged tree

- Model
- Language; how you communicate

- Urban Forest Renewal Strategy (Previous)
 - Didn't work
 - Communication company hired now
 - Get everyone involved
 - I love trees, but ...
 - People love trees for their good
 - One tree is doing bad (leaf, PV), people will hate tree.

- Public sculpture

- Singapore's significant tree register

- Artist could help with communication.

- Is a tree dead?
 - No.
 - Habitat

- Different strategy for park/street tree.

- Had to bring down habitat tree
 - Mill in backyard
 - Take to kiln
 - Make front door in new house

- Pelletise
 - Efficient
 - Environment friendly

- What we should be doing now for the future workdown: highest value (saw log).