

# Urban Forestry Follow-Up Survey

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Welcome to the Urban Forestry Symposium Survey!

Now that some time has past since we gathered in Canberra, we were hoping you would help us reflect on how the symposium worked, how we might improve, and what the next steps should be. The survey consists of a series of brief questions and should only take about 10-15 minutes to complete. By pushing the "submit" button, you will be providing us with your consent to use the data you have provided. We will not be asking you for any information that would allow us to specifically identify you. If you would like to read some more details about the survey and the project in general, please read the Participant Information Sheet that was attached to the email inviting you to participate.

Thank you!!

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The Post-Symposium Survey ran from  
20/10/2019 – 18/11/2019.  
39 Participants completed the survey.

Q1 What is your primary industry sector? (If this is evenly divided among multiple sectors, please select all that apply to you).

11 Government

13 Education

8 Research

4 Industry

7 Small to Medium Business (SME)

10 The Arts

2 Non-profit or community organisation

5 Other (please specify).

*Responses as "Other" as primary category were nominated as the following categories: Media (1); Student Volunteer (2); Social Enterprise (1).*

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Q2 What is your primary role/occupation? (If you have a number of primary roles and occupations, please select all that apply to you)

- 0 Primary Education
- 1 Secondary Education
- 8 Researcher and/or Tertiary Education
- 9 Student
- 4 Forester
- 5 Sawyer/ Miller
- 5 Arborist
- 9 Designer/ Maker
- 2 Conservation Worker
- 2 Advocate

0

Activist

4

Resource Manager

5

Government Representative

7

Other (please specify).

*Responses as "Other" as primary category were nominated as the following categories: Program Manager (1); Social Enterprise Founder (1); Retired Senior Biological Program Manager (1); Place Manager (1); Television Director (1); Environmental Reporter (1); Art Writer/ Curator (1).*

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Q3 To what extent would you say the types of people at the workshop comprised a representative mix of relevant stakeholders? (Please tick the relevant option) **38 responses**

1 Many relevant stakeholders were missing

5 Some relevant stakeholders were missing

21 Most relevant stakeholders were represented

11 All relevant stakeholders were represented

Q4 You indicated some, or many, stakeholder groups weren't represented at the workshop, could you tell us which ones?

- Maybe a representative of a community (suburb, schools...). But I think most were represented.
- Indigenous people weren't represented - I think? Also, it would have been good to see youth/young planners?
- I didn't meet any other Foresters.
- Probably people from Canberra communities - what they wanted for the suburbs as well as what need there was for recycled wood or perception of cutting trees (this opinion was assumed from other stakeholders).
- A few more local arborists would have been good.
- Parks and Conservation (more).
- A broader range of potential users of urban timbers such as commercial joiners and cabinetmakers.
- No, only because I haven't compiled a list of what they could be and matched that to the list I don't have of which attended.
- Indigenous landowners.
- Residents.
- Govt subcontracted arborists seemed to be missing.
- Potentially activists - but as there is not really a activist group that addresses urban spaces as their area it would be hard to find them and might more likely be very idiosyncratic individuals....
- The public.
- Construction.
- Wood industry.
- Hort Innovation, Nursery Gardens Industry.
- Teenagers, children, members of the general public.

Q5 Did you meet people at the workshop who you haven't had the chance to engage with, or didn't think of as stakeholders in urban forestry management? If so, what sort of people were they? (please indicate all that apply)

13 Sawyer/ Miller

8 Arborist

7 Forester

9 Lecturer/ Researcher

2 Teacher

5 Government Worker

10 Government Minister

9 Writer

15 Artist

9 Designer/ Maker

- 5 Resource Manager
- 8 Urban Timber Manager
- 8 Student
- 2 Other (please specify)

*Responses as “Other” as primary category were nominated as the following categories: Singaporean senior government worker in urban forests (1); organisation from the US (1).*

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Q6 *The workshop was deliberately structured to provide short expert presentations followed by a Q&A panel, small group breakout discussions, and group reporting. Have you ever been to a workshop (or similar event) like this before? (please select your response below)* **35 responses**

14 No

11 Similar, but not the same

10 Yes

0 Not sure/can't remember

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Q7 *What did you hope to get out of the workshop? For example, meet people in similar industries, find out new approaches to urban forestry management, be exposed to new ideas, etc. (Please tell us in the box below)*

- Find out new approaches and ideas.
- Get to know the process of a urban tree after it dies.
- Information about Canberra canopy and international initiatives.
- Help get the urban forests more sustainably managed.
- Learn some practical insights on the management of urban trees.
- I wanted to show my appreciation of ANU furniture and to associate with like-minded people.
- Being exposed to new ideas.
- I wanted to gain knowledge of how other organisations were handling or processing logs from tree removals.
- As a volunteer -I wanted to experience what a multi-stakeholder discussion looked like, and to see how different opinions and perspectives were managed to try and find solutions. I am also interested in sustainability and resource management so this workshop was very illuminating.
- Hoped to learn from other places about how they manage urban trees becoming timber, and how they navigate government process for best outcomes.
- Help kick start a new market in Canberra for logs from pine plantations that are currently wasted - oversized or not radiata for example.
- Find a way to deal with the problem of tree removal in the urban area and make use of materials.



- I was interested to find out if there is the likelihood of urban timbers being better managed to become available as a resource to the broader community.
  - Hope to know the story from the forestry industries, get the inspiration from the workshop.
  - Meet people, understand potential and renewed direction of an industry that I am already involved in. Understand the local government policies and planning better regarding the urban forest.
  - I was interested in seeing where ideas and actions were at and where people hoped they could develop.
  - To gain access to some of the timber for schools and to see and meet all these other experts in the field.
  - Find new approaches to urban forestry management, be exposed to new ideas, form connections to expand network.
  - Other stakeholders opinions/points of views and ideas.
  - I wanted to see how cities, private industry and individuals were dealing with managing wood from urban tree removals.
  - Be exposed to new ideas of urban forest.
  - Encouraged to see change as a sawmiller and designer maker I've been trying to access this resource for 20 years with little success mainly due to lack of Govt processes and desire to change the system.
  - Meet people interested in trees and be exposed to new ideas - particularly about harvesting timber from urban areas and turning it into a beautiful item with a story attached.
  - Networking with relevant people (great introduction to them). Get different perspectives and opportunities. Learn from others.
  - Meeting people engaged on the issue.
  - Find out the different perspectives from different stakeholders and build connections between them.
  - The biggest draw for me was the more than human dimension approach to the Urban Forest - a very promising angle for future research and art.
  - Understand better what is urban forestry and its opportunities.
  - Exposure to the right people to start the ball rolling to implement the processes required to see better use of the logs, timber and material produced in our urban forests and street trees.
  - Meet people with whom we could develop a local urban forestry direction.
  - Meet people puzzling through similar issues in the industry. Exposure to different ways of thinking/different approaches to solutions. Building out network of urban wood utilization professionals.
  - Meet people in similar industries, share our program and hear approaches being used in Australia.
  - I hoped to meet new people and help shape the utilisation of Canberra's urban logs.
  - Be exposed to new ideas and hopefully solutions to the apparent lack of innovative urban forestry management in the ACT.
  - I was curious to see the variety of perspectives on the place of trees near human population centres, how they are valued before and after we remove them. I was also curious to see how government administrators view their role as managers of habitats-- human, plant and animal.
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Q8 *In terms of what you personally hoped to get out of the workshop, in your opinion how well did the workshop structure work?*

14 It worked extremely well

16 It worked very well

3 It worked moderately well

0 It barely worked

0 It didn't work at all

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Q9 *Was there anything about the design of the workshop that you thought worked **particularly** well? (Please tell us in the box below)*

- I really liked hearing from the wood working professionals.
- The groups, randomly allocated, got some discussions going.
- Time keeping is very well kept for all the specific programs of each day.
- The variety of participants made the workshop very enjoyable and the various industry participants combined to make it very educational.
- The amount of collaboration and time spent workshopping.
- I think the variety of different presenters from vastly different backgrounds gave a great insight into the benefits that salvaging logs can bring to the community.
- I think the presentations of each group worked particularly well - as individual group discussions could sometimes be side tracked or one-sided perspective.
- The opportunity to chat with numerous people with different perspectives, ideas and experience by having the groups frequently change around was great.
- Sawmill demonstration a huge plus as it focused back on practical aspects and the time consuming, expensive aspect of this type of manual log handling compared to industrial processes.
- Think the design worked well with the small break out groups and drawing out info from all people, avoiding one loud person taking the floor.
- I thought the presentations were particularly strong and relevant to the topic. Also, wide variety of ideas to take forward were generated.

- It divided into small group breakout discussions, which I think will bring more meaningful results.
- The adjudication style and breakout sessions.
- There seemed to be time in most activities for people to express what they wanted.
- The break-away groups were very effective after the initial speakers and then the group feedback. I also thought the spoon making and milling demonstrations were very valuable.
- The break-out rooms.
- Rotating through different groups for discussion. Enabled fresh discussion and greater depth in connections through opportunities for conversation.
- Very well structured with short presentations broken up with group discussions and group brainstorming.
- Great mix of short presentations and breakout sessions! Evening speaker was also very good.
- Bringing in international participants gave the workshop more credibility to the Government staff and Ministers as they were able to demonstrate the viability of the project.
- Loved the demonstration of the Lucas Sawmill.
- Group discussions and reporting back to the whole workshop. Presentations with case studies were also fantastic.
- It really facilitated engaging and connecting with people.
- Maybe some more reflective activities and conversation.
- I loved the deliberate attempt to mix things up. High level representation and recognition were also excellent.
- Timing of sessions, engaging and distributing participants across each session and meeting lots of people/ professions I have not been involved with.
- The Q and A style format worked really well.
- Group discussions.
- I loved everything about it - the multiple, short presentations followed by guided/collaborative question development and small group breakouts - I found it to be incredibly refreshing, inclusive and productive.
- Short presentations with differently mixed breakouts each round.
- The break-out sessions worked really well and having a practical demonstration was great.
- The open Q&A sessions with speakers after their presentations.
- The small breakout groups were good for mixing and meeting and discussing issues. It was good to see new faces in each successive grouping.

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Q10 *Was there anything about the design of the workshop that you thought **did not work** particularly well? (Please tell us in the box below)*

- No.
- More beer (lol).
- Felt rushed near the end of the two days.
- The summarising of the breakout discussions was not easy to follow. I'm not certain that that was time well spent.
- No.
- The last session was hard, I think three cycles works well.
- Sometimes, some of the characters were very strong and tended to dominate

discussions.

- Perhaps could have been 1 day only.
- The break out groups that I was the scribe for had trouble staying on track with the focus questions.
- I thought that there could have been a formal introduction of all participants at the beginning. This would have enabled all participants to more easily engage with others or interest and relevance.
- Maybe a little bit highly density, makes people feel tired when it comes at the end of day.
- The breakouts worked well but became somewhat repetitive.
- No, it was great.
- It was long, shorter breaks and a bit more concise maybe.
- Maybe a more defined or structured brainstorming session with a designated moderator from ANU. I found at times we spent the first 10 minutes working out who would write all the ideas down and another session we discussed interesting subjects, but there was no one recording the information.
- Maybe 15mins for the talks 10 mins was a little short.
- All good.
- Some big personalities did dominate the working groups ...don't know what anyone can do about that!
- I thought it was fantastic.

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Q11 *Is there anything you would have added to the structure of workshop that you think would have made it better? (Please tell us in the box below)*

- No.
- No.
- No, none that I can think of.
- More information and workshopping on the environmental and cultural uses of common native species.
- Each group really needed a facilitator, not just a scribe. There were a number of situations where not everyone got a chance to speak or provide their opinion/experience because the breakaway group would be dominated by a single personality.
- Nothing to add.
- No.
- This follow-up questionnaire/survey would have been easier if it had come sooner after the workshop.
- No.
- Group discussion.
- Timber samples and demonstration of material recovery and grading.
- Maybe let participants exchange their roles.

- Hmm - I am not qualified to comment on this.
- Not that I can think of.
- Not to the structure, but I would love to have a list of all participant and speaker names, affiliations, and contact information. There were many people I wasn't able to connect with in depth during the workshop who I would love to reach out to now (but don't quite remember their names).
- Maybe add a half day to the agenda to limit the rushed nature at the end.

*Q12 Thinking about words and language – what do you think we should we call the trees of Canberra in order to best reflect and/or shape the many values around the role of the trees across their full life-cycle? For example, do you think we should we say “urban forest trees”, or “street trees”, or some other terms? (Please write any and all suggestions you may have in the box below)*

- I love the term "urban forest" or "city forest". Also, "urban trees".
- I like urban forest as it also speaks to understory and biodiversity as well as 'just trees'.
- Public street trees?
- Planted trees.
- Urban environmental assets.
- ACT Living Urban Canopy this can include all green structures.
- Assets.
- Street Trees and Timber.
- The word Urban is popular amongst people who work in design and government, however the people who live in Canberra, refer to them as the trees from their streets.
- Interchangeable terms are fine with me. urban forest, street trees, plantation trees.
- Urban forest is good, indicates it is a whole ecosystem (which it is) rather than simply trees.
- I like the term urban forest. It implies the trees are part of a broad collective and also implies a need to manage them more holistically than just as individual trees. This in turn creates the opportunity for a different dialogue than just talking about trees as individuals.
- Urban green infrastructure.
- Urban forest trees or urban ecosystem trees.
- 'Urban forests and trees' seems to cover the diversity and generality from trees on their own through to those growing in groups. The peculiarities of urban sites with trees in long thin lines is captured too.
- Urban forest trees, urban trees.
- Urban forest trees.
- Canberra's urban forest.
- Urban trees and urban forestry seems like easy to understand terms.
- Urban forest trees.
- The urban forest, community urban forest.
- Urban Forest, City in the Trees.

- Urban forest trees / city forest trees.
- Urban trees.
- Urban plantings.
- Significant (vegetative) others.
- Street trees or Community trees.
- Planted trees, Urban trees, Street trees, they all work to describe what we are talking about.
- Urban forest.
- Trees of the urban forest. Canberra's urban trees. Street trees, in my estimation, describe public trees lining the streets but don't include park or private trees that also make up the urban canopy.
- Urban forest trees, urban canopy, tree to table.
- Community Tree, Suburb Trees.
- Urban forest trees - that way we think of our urban trees as part of a vital, living ecosystem rather than an insignificant fixture in suburbia (street trees/lamp posts/street signs etc).
- To me a forest is not simply an aggregation of trees. Forest implies a web of interdependent life of which humans may be a part. Likewise, a city is not simply an aggregate of buildings or streets, or a human population centre. Individual, tailored terminology seems better to me than sweeping romantic terms like forest. There are "boulevard trees," "neighborhood trees", garden fruit trees, parkland trees, memorial trees, witness trees, invasive trees, etc

Q13 *Did participating in the workshop inspire you to consider new ideas, or even take new actions, since you attended? (Please tell us in the box below)*

- Absolutely.
- Broadened my perspective on the issues and opportunities in the urban forestry environment.
- Churchill fellowship to visit the US.
- I left the workshop and tried to educate friends about the issue discussed...
- I'm a bit overwhelmed with inspiration at the moment, but I found the workshop good value as it was a bit to the side of my current work. It helped me to gain a wider appreciation of the continuing importance of life outside of buildings in Canberra.
- It's just given me more ideas to consider for the future with my social enterprise, The Climate Factory.
- Made me think about the importance of the urban forest and so many professionals in this area.
- Not new actions, but plenty of ideas about sustainable urban forestry.
- Not really. But it helped to put me in contact with the right people.
- Participating in the workshop made me realise the broad range of stakeholders that are involved in urban forests and how all of those stakeholders have a diverse range of ideas on how to solve this issue.
- Still thinking about it all.
- The workshop has inspired me to continue what I am already practicing but has confirmed the scale of current interest and the potential for a healthy industry in the future which will benefit both the community and the environment in many ways.
- Validated what we are doing and inspired us to think about how we can reach more people to get more trees into our program.
- What it might look like and how best to promote any programs implemented.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes - I have used the Witness Tree Project stories often since.
- Yes I am hoping to install our own nature play child's playground at some of forestry picnic sites. Also to identify and salvage logs that are otherwise not used from the pine plantation environment - these include poplar, elm, other exotics and some eucalypt and wattle.
- Yes it did, it inspired me to find out what is happening in our region and start some new conversations/ actions.
- Yes more not for profits in the tree industry moving away from capitalism models especially for tree planting.
- Yes, I took many new ideas back to work. I have presented on what I learnt and advocated for a collaboration with the Melbourne arts community to try and run a similar

project to the Witness tree.

- Yes, keen to share information in my local community and advocate for new urban forest plantings in our local streets.
- Yes!
- Yes. Have explored utilisation of urban wood in greater depth and submitted a budget bid for a trial in salvaging urban wood.
- Yes. I loved listening to the speakers from other cities who are piloting urban wood utilization programs.
- Yes. I will contact some of the stake holders and try and follow up on gaining more access to these trees.
- Yes. I'd like pitching for a paper in Spanish about Canberra's urban forest.

Q14 Please tell us how important you think it is to do research in the following areas.

Research Area	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
Creating an effective digital marketplace that provides a range of information about the trees already in the log yard or that are about to be removed	15	13	7	0
Modelling and mapping a system to predict future supplies of trees nearing the end of their useful life	22	10	2	0
Exploring ways of tagging all timber so the full provenance of a tree is easily available	16	14	5	0
Developing a system for processing and drying a heterogeneous range of green wood products in safe, timely and environmentally sound ways	21	11	3	0
Designing education and outreach systems to provide information of the full life-cycle of urban trees to local residents and students	24	7	4	0
Building a fair and equitable system to ensure residents and local schools/clubs benefit from public goods grown near them	15	16	4	
Implementing a system to support full valuation and costing of each product (including, for example, carbon sequestration and the energy cost of production and transport).	18	10	7	
Assessing the impact of art and design enterprises on public awareness and engagement with urban trees across their full life cycle	12	17	6	
Assessing the potential market demand and business opportunity for local grown/local made timber products	20	10	5	



*Q15 Did you have any particular pre-conceived ideas about stakeholders, problems, or solutions before coming to the workshop that were changed as a result of attending? If so, we'd love to hear about them. (Please tell us in the box below)*

- I came with an open mind.
- I didn't realise that urban forestry and furniture makers could be intertwined.
- I did not, however, I didn't realise a lot of the stakeholder groups that were there would be there.
- Was surprised others had the same passion as me.
- I did not realise that people with forestry backgrounds were directly employed within local government to manage resources. This was positive to know this and the impact they can have on the future direction of this important forest, resource and industry.
- The community attitude towards a government program.
- Yes I thought the government was being wasteful not giving access to their massive log pile. I didn't realise it was such an issue that the logs had to be tendered for.
- My pre-conceived idea was that it is too expensive to repurpose urban forest trees. Dandenong, Melbourne and Sacramento have proved me wrong.
- Did not realize the breadth of action in this area and the diversity of stakeholders.
- I was glad to see that State Government is aware of the issue/opportunity and that the solutions are not just for local government to work out.
- No.
- Didn't realise the timber was so in demand.

*Q16 Finally, is there anything you would like to add about the workshop in particular, or urban forestry management in general? (Please tell us in the box below)*

- Thank you for hosting the workshop.
- Well run workshop and I look forward to how this develops.
- Educate all the participants as to the value/need and processes necessary to maximise current and future use. I.e. Future plantings and pruning to help make the process more financially viable so the enthusiasm is not lost.
- The workshop captured the diversity of interests and values that urban forests and trees have in the city. An area that would be valuable to include would be to see trees as part of the larger ecosystem of the urban setting, as well as how they connect to the landscape beyond. They are an important but not isolated element in the system.
- Keep it as simple as possible.
- I think it is important to explain the issue and how the urban tree landscape works to the community earlier than later.
- That I hope there is greater access for designer makers such as myself to the resource and to connect with and participate in educating local community of the importance of all trees and plants while living and the importance of the resource when the tree is dead.
- Thank you for providing such an important and successful workshop!
- The workshop was very interesting. I think the research around the valuation and costing of each product should include the cost of having the tree removed and milled compared to removed and chipped. At the end of the day the Government and others are not going to be willing to pay a lot more for trees to be removed and milled v's removed and mulched if it works out to be a lot more money. I also think a good starting point is to come up with a list of sought-after species so when

trees are removed the list can be checked prior to see if the timber is fit for repurposing.

- Thanks for asking for such thoughtful feedback. I think it would be good if you held this forum annually...
- Forget about the ACT government solicitors 'legal' advice and loosen up the conditions on Govt wood yard operators.
- Critical resource to manage, and expand/ include diversity of stakeholders.
- Fantastically organised and a great group of forward thinkers... Well done.
- I am so incredibly impressed that you've put together such a thoughtful way to engage stakeholders in addressing this problem/opportunity. I've been thinking about the workshop several times a week and am grateful to have been a part of it.
- This was a great work shop. Very well organized and educational. Thank you!
- While the idea of reusing timber is great, there is a bigger problem to be solved first and that is that a lot of trees are being removed from the urban area that simply should not be coming down. We should be employing the Reduce Reuse Recycle concept first and reducing the timber getting to the woodyard at all. In addition, it sounds like the sought-after timber is the exotic trees. If you look at the data, most of the timber coming out of the urban area is things like brittle gum which sounds like of minimal interest to the artisans. If they don't want the majority of the timber, reuse for furniture and art is going to have minimal impact on the woodyard. It is great that people want to reuse the timber but it should not be sold is reducing the burden on the government as this won't taken if only taking certain exotic species which are a tiny percentage of the wood in the yard. The burden to the government or organising the logistics of distributing the timber to the artisans will also be considerable and should be considered.

***Thank you very much for completing our survey!***

We will email you a summary of the results when we've completed our analysis