

Selecting a new species

Council tasked the Avenue of Honour Reference Group with selecting a species of tree for replacement planting. An independent arborist provided the Group with several options, and graded each tree on its shape, growth rate, susceptibility to disease and a range of other factors.

The Reference Group elected to replace the trees with the same species: the Monterey cypress tree. Councillors endorsed this recommendation for planting in two of the Avenue's existing gaps at the November 2019 Council meeting.



Health of the Avenue

While each of the trees in the Avenue varies in health and life expectancy, independent arborists have notified Council that large sections of the Avenue have an expected life of less than ten years. Many of the trees are also affected by an incurable disease.

Council has responded to the declining health and age of the Avenue's trees by commencing strategic planning for replacement and renewal.



Replacing dying trees

Council will now conduct trial plantings of Monterey cypress trees to ensure they grow well next to mature trees and are resistant to disease. If these sample trees perform well, Council will begin replacing the existing trees with the poorest health.

Because Monterey cypress trees only grow at a moderate pace, this process is expected to take several years from when Council first orders sample trees to when the first tree replacements are made.

Council will continue to conduct health and risk assessments on existing trees to ensure the Avenue remains safe throughout this process.

Timeline and next steps

Replacing mature trees without disrupting the landscape takes time. Here's how the project will evolve over the next five years:

2019

✓ Councillors endorse Monterey cypress as replacement species in two existing Avenue gaps

2020

✓ Tree supplier selected

○ Sample trees planted in two existing Avenue gaps

○ Some dangerous, dying trees may be removed

2021 - 2022

○ New trees monitored for health and disease, including presence of seiridium canker

2023 - 2024

○ If sample trees given all clear, planting schedule arranged and full suite of trees ordered

Maintaining the Avenue is a long-term project

The Queenscliff Avenue of Honour, which consists of almost 80 trees between Murray Road and Swanston Street in Queenscliff, is a feature of our community. Much of the Avenue's appeal comes from its longevity, but this history also means that many of the trees planted a century ago are nearing the end of their lives.

Rather than allowing the Avenue to simply fade away, Council's Avenue of Honour project is developing a conservation management plan to guide the Avenue through a period of replanting and renewal.

Project summary



The Avenue of Honour contains nearly 80 trees along the Bellarine Highway in Queenscliff



Many of the trees are in a state of poor health, and are nearing the end of their natural lives



Council will be replanting the Avenue to ensure this special place is preserved for the future



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Avenue of Honour

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Councillors have endorsed a replacement species for new planting.



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Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia