

## 1.13 A GREENER CITY

There are approximately 3,000 trees in the central city, making a vital contribution to the health and amenity of its streets and public spaces. Trees increase amenity, trap airborne pollutants, absorb carbon dioxide and provide structure and definition to open spaces, creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment and human scale.

Streetscapes represent the most significant public spaces of the city, and Melbourne's street trees are maintained to the highest possible standards. Council's annual tree planting program establishes an average of 2,000 per year throughout the municipality, with an approximately 30-40 per year in the central city. The majority of 30m wide streets within the CBD have been established with London Planes. These have been selected to form a regular, continuous canopy to reinforce the formal symmetry, regularity and 'grand' landscape scale of these major streets. As new locations are created, greening opportunities are realised wherever possible, including planting in footpaths, centre medians and tree islands.

Due to the multiple demands for space, the places for planting in the narrower streets are more limited. Where space is available in the 'little streets', plazas and lanes, a variety of smaller trees is being planted to provide compatible scale, horticultural diversity and offer a subtle emphasis on local character. Biodiversity is vital to sustainable landscapes, and a range of deciduous and evergreen, exotic and native trees are being planted to ensure a healthy and diverse tree population into the future.



*In the five years since planting, the tree canopy outside the City Square has developed into an enclosed pedestrian avenue.*