



# INEFACT

## GROWING ON TREES

Have you ever wondered, while sitting under a CBD tree, how much it costs to keep a city green?

- **Greenbacks:** Melbourne's council-owned tree population exceeds 70,000 and is worth more than AS650m.
- **Long bough:** A review of 47 trees on two central Wellington streets (Kent and Cambridge Terraces) valued them at a NZ\$541,865 – including the costs of ongoing maintenance.
- **Branch office:** City tree maintenance contracts are worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually across Australia and New Zealand.
- **Scrub that:** Trees can “give back” to the local economy – for example, a 30m tree can absorb as much as 22kg of carbon dioxide per annum.
- **Growth chart:** Australian councils often keep a database of their CBD trees that documents their birth, inoculation, treatment, pruning, nourishment and eventual removal.
- **Funny business:** City trees in New Zealand are valued by the Standard Tree Evaluation Method [STEM].
- **Yew pay:** The average cost of maintaining a tree on the streets of Sydney is AS108 per year.

“For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver.”

– Martin Luther, 14th century German theologian