Bayswater Station Upgrade
Kurrajong tree

The historic Kurrajong tree has been an icon of Bayswater’s town centre for over 80 years. Located on the corner of Coode Street and Whatley Crescent it watches over one of Bayswater’s busiest intersections and the train station. This will become the upgraded Bayswater Station’s eastern entrance, so unfortunately the Kurrajong tree cannot remain in this location.

At the City of Bayswater (the City) Annual General Meeting of Electors in December 2018 a motion was passed to relocate the iconic tree to Bert Wright Park.

As a result METRONET are working in partnership with the City to relocate the Kurrajong tree to the decommissioned playground in Bert Wright Park, less than 200m from its current location.

About the Kurrajong species

Kurrajong trees are also known as *Brachychiton populneus* which means ‘popular short tunic’.

Originating from the eastern states of Australia, the Kurrajong tree sprouts bell shaped flowers and rows of seeds hang inside a woody shell. The tree revegetates by re-sprouting seedlings which can withstand a fire.

Kurrajong trees can take 35-50 years to reach their mature height.

Their foliage can provide food for livestock and ground-up Kurrajong seeds can be added to bread or brewed as a coffee substitute.

Historically eastern states Aboriginal groups used the fibre from inner bark to build nets to catch fish and birds, as well as using the seeds and the tap roots of young Kurrajong trees for food.

Next time you are reading May Gibbs’ *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* books you might recognise that the boat used by the characters to sail down the stream is the shell of the Kurrajong seeds.
Four stages of relocating the Kurrajong tree

**STAGE 1: Root pruning**
Duration: 1 day
A trench will be dug around the Kurrajong tree and its roots will be trimmed. The trench will be back filled with clean loose soil to encourage establishment of new feeder roots to help the tree prepare for its new home.

A temporary fence will be placed around the tree until moving day and two parking bays will be removed in order to facilitate the works.

**STAGE 2: Monitoring and maintenance**
Duration: 6 months
Once the roots are pruned, the Kurrajong tree will sit in its current location for six months over the winter period while it is closely monitored and cared for, to make sure it remains healthy and strong enough to be relocated. During this stage its new home will be prepared at Bert Wright Park.

**STAGE 3: Moving day**
Duration: 1 day
The Kurrajong tree will be lifted onto a mobile crane on Whatley Crescent and transported upright along King William Street. Finally the Kurrajong tree will be passed from the mobile crane to another stationary one in Bert Wright Park and planted in the prepared hole.

Some road and path closures will be required for the move. Disruptions will be communicated closer to the date.

**STAGE 4: Settling in**
Duration: 3-5 years
The Kurrajong tree will be owned and carefully looked after by the City. While the first 12 to 18 months after it is relocated are critical it can take up to five years to fully establish in its new landscape. Arborist advice indicates that the Kurrajong species is very tolerant with a history of successful relocations.

An aim of the Bayswater Station Project is to reduce impact to trees, however removing some trees is unavoidable. Many trees are unable to be relocated because the species is unlikely to survive, the tree is of ill health or cost implications. We will work with City of Bayswater to revegetate the area with more trees than are removed.

We will have a better idea of how many trees need to be removed once a contractor is on board and further design work has been completed.

Want to know more about moving day?
Register for project updates via the METRONET website or join the community Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/bayswaterstationupgrade/ to find out how you can get involved.

If you would like to plant a tree on your property or verge visit the City website to request a free street tree. www.bayswater.wa.gov.au