



utility arborist association

**UAAA**  
australia

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2014



Arboriculture Australia™



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## Utility Arborist Association of Australia

The Utility Arborist Association of Australia (UAAA) has structured its self to become the peak national body for Australia's Utility Arborists and Vegetation Managers to provide assistance and expertise for all pertinent issues relating to Utility Arboriculture.

Whilst initially focussing on Utilities within the Electricity Distribution & Transmission

industry, the UAAA aims to build its capability to encompass all Utilities involved with vegetation management across Australia.

It is estimated that the Electricity Industry Utilities across Australia invests in the vicinity of \$800M per annum managing vegetation around powerlines and employs approximately 5000 employees and contractors.

It is the aim of UAAA to be inclusive of all utilities which includes water, sewage, gas and telecommunications.

## Background of UAAA

In October 2006 the International Society of Arboriculture – Australian Chapter (ISAAC)<sup>1</sup> held a meeting in Geelong (VIC) to discuss the possibility/viability of establishing an industry body in Australia that would enable Utilities and Contractors to develop an avenue for industry forums and shared expertise on a range of issues facing the industry such as education, safety, management methodologies, innovation, Regulatory input and communication.

It was agreed at this meeting that such an industry body would be supported by and become a division of ISAAC (Arboriculture Australia™), which already had established relationships with several other overseas not for profit associations and the Utility Arborist Association (UAA).

Following successful Arboriculture Australia™ annual national conferences from 2007 to 2011, growing interest and Utility support for establishing an industry body led to the

formal establishment of the UAAA Standing Committee as a subset of Arboriculture Australia™ in 2011.

The Standing Committee of the UAAA is structured to include a cross section of Utilities and Contractors from across Australia and aims to have representation from all Australian States & Territories.

<sup>1</sup>The 'International Society of Arboriculture – Australian Chapter' (ISAAC) was re-named to 'Arboriculture Australia™' in 2010



## UAAA Aims

The UAAA aims to:

- Influence and promote safe, efficient and effective vegetation management programs for Utilities throughout Australia by providing professional representation and advocacy on behalf of its members.
- Promote collaboration throughout Utilities within Australia to ensure best practices, continuous improvement and national consistency delivers sustainability to industry and the environment.
- Be recognised as the peak body for Utility forums and expert advice on matters relating to safety, policy, regulation, innovation and education.

## UAAA Goals & Objectives

The UAAA goals & objectives are to:

### 1. Enhance safety within Utility vegetation management activities.

UAAA will:

- Engage with State & National bodies where appropriate in assisting with development of policy, guidelines and best management practices
- Provide a communication channel to facilitate awareness of safety across the industry
- Provide expertise and representation where requested to all associated stakeholders





## UAAA Goals & Objectives (continued)

### 2. Proactively communicate with members to ensure dissemination of knowledge and provide opportunities for networking among members.

UAAA will:

- Provide members with regular updates and education on relevant matters occurring nationally and internationally through print and electronic media
- Organise conferences, workshops and agendas to enable face-to-face discussion and develop other communication channels such as business and social media applications
- Pursue further development of relationships with other organisations and continually build UAAA's capability & growth through increasing membership

### 3. Ensure training requirements are appropriately targeted and adequately address Utility requirements.

UAAA will:

- Evaluate training environment to look for improvements including 'portability', effectiveness and opportunities
- Provide advice on practical approaches for industry relevance and career development
- Assist the industry to ensure training requirements are appropriately targeted and adequately address Utility requirements.



## UAAA Goals & Objectives (continued)

### 4. Actively drive efficiency and innovation to ensure sustainability for industry and the environment.

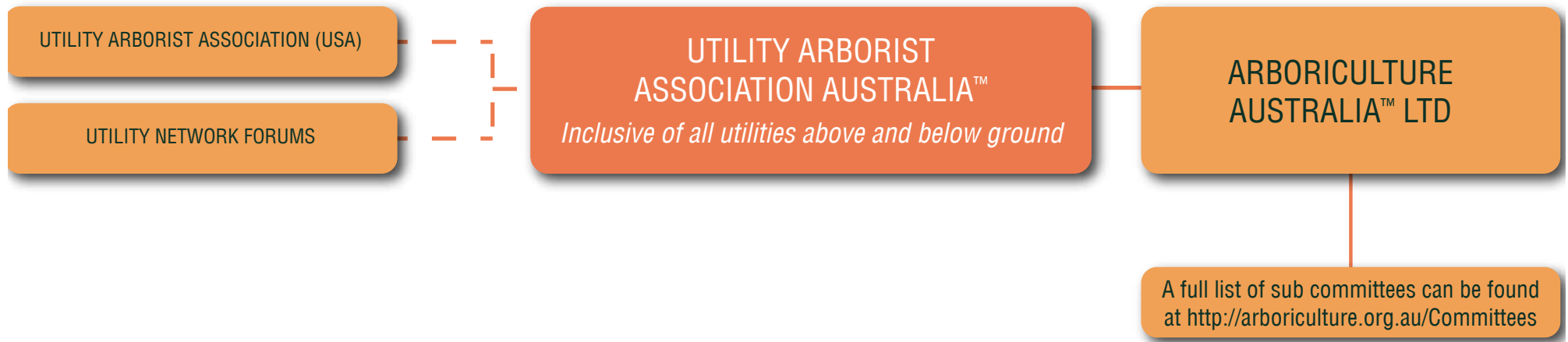
UAAA will:

- Identify opportunities for research and development through national & international affiliations and contacts
- Assist in development of business cases for specific topics
- Develop a process for determining appropriateness of projects to be considered
- Seek and manage funding for selected research and development projects
- Provide peer review of research and discussion papers
- Assist Utilities with knowledge and tools currently being utilised and/or developed nationally & internationally, such as:
  - Tree growth regulators
  - Data management
  - Tools & equipment
  - Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)
  - Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR)
- Assist Utilities with provision of knowledge and updates on policy and planning issues experienced nationally & internationally in areas such as:
  - Safety
  - Various maintenance cycles
  - Various clearance/code requirements
  - Carbon issues
  - Risk Management
  - Benchmarking
  - Building relationships with Local Government
  - Arboricultural practices



## Organisational Structure of UAAA

The UAAA is a sub set of Arboriculture Australia™ and is controlled by a Standing Committee comprised of a Chairman, a director of Arboriculture Australia™ and members from utilities, contractors and relevant industry sectors.





## UAAA Management Plan 2013-2014

Strategic Initiative	Detail	Responsible Person	Due By
1. Review UAAA Structure	Review roles and structure within the UAAA including executive management and the establishment of Sub-committees aligned to Strategic Objectives (Safety, Communication, Training, Projects/R&D) to ensure Goals and Objectives are achieved.	Mick Emmett & Wayne Evans	
2. Development of an incident report for use by the Utility Vegetation Management Industry (Safety)	UAAA to develop and manage a Vegetation Management incident report for use by the Utility Vegetation Management Industry (Distribution Businesses and Contractors) that would enable the UAAA act as a conduit to gather information and supply it back to the industry in a meaningful format that can be used by individual utilities/companies as an input into improving performance or resolving specific issues.	Brendan Murphy & Trevor Fisher	
3. Develop Stakeholder Strategy for UAAA to communicate with Utilities (Communication)	Stakeholder Strategy to include various formats of communication and methods to ensure communication is correctly targeted and current. The strategy will include options for current web site, Linked In, and potential for periodical News Letters.	Heath Freewin	
4. Ensure UAAA are proactively involved in industry training environment (Training)	The UAAA will proactively contact various training bodies throughout Australia to ensure an appropriate level of awareness is maintained and feedback can be disseminated to members.	Robert Boyce & Craig Hallam	
5. Ensure opportunities for innovation and efficiency continue to be sought from members and within the industry (Projects/R&D)	The current list of opportunities for innovation, improvement, efficiency, R&D to be made more visible to members and development of a process for receiving and assessing ideas received.	Mick Emmett	
6. Increase representation and communications within and from other Utilities (such as Gas, Water, Telecommunications)	Over 2013-14 the UAAA will target all utilities to help grow awareness of all utilities needs.	Greg Fitzgerald	





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Utility Arborist Association Australia Administration Office  
PO Box 76, Edwardstown SA 5039  
Phone 1300 664 374 or +61 8 8340 4911  
Facsimile +61 8 8340 4909  
[enquiries@arboriculture.org.au](mailto:enquiries@arboriculture.org.au)

[www.arboriculture.org.au](http://www.arboriculture.org.au)