**Section 4. Traits database**

Following the milestone report in July 2018, a final list of functional and bioclimatic plant traits has been established and data collection commenced on plant species appropriate for Australian urban environments. For a description of our trait selection process, please see the July 2018 Milestone report and a full list of traits is available on request/in appendix?.

Plants are selected for inclusion in the database from a range of species lists. These include council planting lists from across Australia, species flagged as promising by our industry contacts, as well as focal species from other modules of the Which Plant Where project. There is significant overlap in many of the lists which further confirms species relevance.

A methodology for prioritisation of data sources has also been established. Scientific institutional bodies and government websites are given priority when collecting trait data, however a wide range of sources from the grey literature are also being consulted to fill any existing knowledge gaps. Grey literature sources include nursery catalogues, environmental group publications and private horticultural and arborist literature. So far, more than 150 different sources have been consulted. A full list can be viewed on request/in appendix?.

To improve the accuracy of some of the more subjective functional traits, e.g. drought tolerance, statistical comparisons between some of the major data sources have been conducted. The preliminary findings suggest a high level of compatibility between sources.

A breakdown of progress in data collection:

* Total species 397
* Traits per species: Of a possible 68 different traits, data on 45 traits have been collected per species on average.
* This equates to 17,719 traits with at least one entry distributed over the 397 species, or, 28,703 entries in total.
* There are 314 trees and 83 non-tree type plants
* At least 234 are native species and at least 102 exotics

The data collection process is being continuously streamlined and the rate of species addition is projected to increase as new technological methods are explored. Not sure if we need this?