

## COUNCIL POLICY EN302

### ROAD VERGES

KEY FOCUS AREA ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding permissible verge treatments and the obligation of owners and occupiers for their care and maintenance and for the safety and convenience of the public.

#### Policy

The Policy recognises that verges are required principally to contain:

1. Utility services and associated equipment (communication; electricity; water; gas; sewer; storm water drainage; street lighting.)
2. Footpaths, cycle paths, shared paths
3. Street trees
4. Road furniture, (street name signs; regulatory and advisory traffic signs; traffic signals; bus stops, bus shelters and bus bays; parking spaces; vehicle and pedestrian movement control devices; seating; litter receptacles)

Council's Activities on Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law includes provisions governing the power to carry out public works on verges, details of what are permissible verge treatments and the obligations of owners and occupiers for their care and maintenance and for the safety and convenience of the public.

Reticulation of verges is encouraged within the following conditions:

1. Owners and/or occupiers are responsible for the installation, maintenance, operation and related costs of reticulation in street verges and its operation must comply with watering roster requirements set by the Water Corporation.
2. Such reticulation is to be installed centrally in the verge, not parallel or adjacent to paths, crossovers or kerbs and no wiring or solenoids are to be installed in road reserve and verge areas.
3. The local government will take due care and may, at its cost, reinstate reticulation equipment it damages during works carried out by or authorised for the local government provided the installation is in line with the criteria in point 2 above.

Paving of street verges will be permitted only where on-street parking is not permitted or rendered impossible because of the traffic function of the street and alternative nearby parking is not available.

Where paving of street verges is permitted, the following conditions apply:

1. Plain dark colours to be used in the appropriate material.
2. Drainage to be collected and disposed of in soakage pits (1m<sup>3</sup> for each 90m<sup>2</sup> paving).
3. All verge treatments containing hardstand materials are required to include at least one street tree (Spacing of 8 to 10 meters to maintain the avenue effect) unless there are serious mitigating circumstances as determined by the Town.

4. Street trees to be carefully protected from root damage using the Australian Standards for protection of trees on development sites, and tree bubblers connected to private irrigation to be provided.
5. Hardstand materials may not be installed closer than 2 metres from a street tree or interfere with a street tree in any way.
6. Standard road kerbing to remain.
7. Installation over no more than one third of the area of the verge (excluding any vehicle crossing) of an acceptable material, and the planting and maintenance of either a lawn or a garden on the balance of the verge in accordance with the following:
  - a. clear sight visibility is maintained at all times for a person using the abutting thoroughfare in the vicinity of an intersection or bend in the thoroughfare; and
  - b. where there is no footpath, a pedestrian has safe and clear access of a minimum width of 2m along that part of the verge immediately adjacent to the kerb.
8. Council's crossing paving specification to apply to verge paving construction
9. All requests to be submitted in writing, with plans and specifications
10. Permissible materials are porous paving, to the satisfaction of the Manager Engineering Design.
11. Council promotes sustainable and environmentally sensitive landscaping and encourages ratepayers to do likewise.- See guidelines on verges at
12. Artificial Turf is not considered a sustainable or environmentally sensitive landscape treatment by Council.

If a landowner installs unapproved surfaces such as Artificial Turf on the verge they may be instructed to reinstate it to an approved surface. The landowner would be responsible for the cost of reinstatement.

#### **Verge Maintenance Guides for Council Staff**

1. Verges in the Claremont Business District (Stirling Highway, Stirling Road, Guger Street and Leura Avenue inclusive), the Swanbourne Shopping Centre (Claremont Crescent) and the Ashton Avenue Shopping Centre will be inspected and spot maintained daily and receive general maintenance once a week or as required.
2. Verges in District Distributor (A) and (B) as well as Local Distributor: Roads will be inspected from a vehicle fortnightly for litter collection and the reporting of other observed needs for attention. These roads are as follows: Stirling Road, Shenton Road, Alfred Road, Claremont Crescent, Guger Street, Queenslea Drive, Victoria Avenue, Bay View Terrace (Victoria Avenue to Stirling Highway), Chancellor Street, Ashton Avenue, Judge Avenue, Princess Road, Bay Road, Agett Road (Bay Road to Goldsworthy Road), Goldsworthy Road, Richardson Avenue, Bindaring Parade, Osborne Parade, Melville Street, Loch Street (Stirling Highway to Railway Parade), Graylands Road (Shenton Road to Lapsley Road), Lapsley Road (Graylands Road to Davies Road), Davies Road (Lapsley Road to Alfred Road), Barnfield Road, Devon Road and Narla Road.
3. Verges in Barnfield Road, Claremont Crescent and Guger Street reserves adjacent to the railway reserve will be litter picked approximately fortnightly.
4. Verges in Stirling Highway will be walked and litter removed approximately each month, footpath condition inspected / recorded every second month.
5. Residential, commercial or industrial verges will be slashed/maintained upon warranted complaint or an observed need. These types of verges will be particularly inspected for maintenance needs:

- a. In the Showground area in the fortnight before the Royal Show;
- b. In the period before Christmas;
- c. Towards the end of winter.

Council will encourage residents to show pride in their neighbourhood through caring for the verge treatments by:

1. Publishing Town Talk articles on best methods
2. Recognising and reporting superior verge treatments
3. Fostering Tidy Towns/Keep Australia Beautiful/Clean Up Australia campaigns
4. Providing administrative and technical support to encourage self-help improvement to verges.

Document Control Box			
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