



POLICY NO:-
<b>CP057 – RESIDENTIAL ROAD VERGE</b>

GOVERNANCE INFORMATION			
Procedure Link:	NA	Administrative Policy Link:	NA

ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION						
History:		New	OCM: 28/04/10	Res: 115/10	Synopsis:	Policy created.
	1	ENG17	OCM: 10/05/12	Res:	Synopsis:	Reviewed Policy Adopted
Version:	2	CP057	SCM 26/07/18	Res: 251-18	Synopsis:	Reviewed and Adopted by Council

## 1. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE

Engineering & Development Services

## 2. PURPOSE OR OBJECTIVE

This policy complements the Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law by:

- Providing guidelines for the landscaping of street verges by the adjacent property owner or occupier;
- Ensuring treatments are aesthetic, safe, water wise and have a positive impact on others; and
- Serving to control, manage and permit verge treatments other than grass.

## 3. POLICY

Council delegates its authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve the installation of any gardens, reticulation, landscaping or treatments other than grass to the verge between the front property line and the kerb.

The following principles shall apply to all applications:

All treatments are to be in accordance with the Policy and installation may only take place after formal written approval from the Chief Executive Officer.

Verge treatments will be assessed on an individual basis against the following criteria:

- Safety;
- Drainage;
- Water Conservation;
- Ongoing Maintenance;
- Appearance; and
- Impact on others (including public services).

### Safety

No part of the verge treatment shall present a hazard that is assessed as being of a medium risk or greater to a pedestrian, cyclist, motorist or other user of the road environment.

Hazards include but are not limited to the following examples:

Trip Hazards - sudden depressions, protruding (ie. Not flush) garden edging, kerbing, etc.

Slip Hazards - loose aggregate and stones, etc.

Obstructions - stakes, pickets, walls, etc.

Designs shall take into account the sight lines of vehicles using nearby intersections and driveways.

Consideration should be made for pedestrians, gophers, bikes, etc. An allowance should be made for a clear zone of 2m wide if no footpath is provided.

Materials used shall be a different colour to the existing road surface to provide definition and reduce the chance of the verge being confused as part of the road.

Planting within 6m of an intersection is restricted to grass, ground covers, low shrubs or similar plant; and no plants may be planted between 6m and 10m of an intersection that exceeds or may exceed 750mm in height.

### **Drainage**

Stormwater run-off should not affect any other property, roadway or adjoining verge. If non-permeable materials are used as any part of the verge treatment, drainage must be accounted for in the design.

### **Water Conservation and Environment**

Council encourages designs to incorporate planting of drought tolerant and water sensitive plants and ground covers. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles are encouraged.

When considering planting options allowances for carbon absorption and bio filtration, etc should be considered.

### **Ongoing Maintenance**

The ongoing maintenance requirements will form an important part of Council's assessment. The assessment will consider the overall maintenance requirements of the treatment as a whole, including pruning, stabilisation of hardstand areas, etc.

All verge treatments must be maintained by the adjoining property owner to ensure any approved treatments do not become unacceptable. Where there is a change in ownership the new owner will become responsible for any ongoing maintenance.

### **Appearance**

Proposed works will be assessed on their aesthetic qualities and should be designed with the local streetscape in mind.

### **Impact on Others and/or Services**

Proposed treatments should take into account the impact on neighbours and service providers.

Examples:

- Planting low growing plants under power lines; and
- A minimum clearance of 3m around any letterbox.

Other requirements to be considered by the applicant include:

- Australia Post requirements;
- Access to the water meter; and
- The Shire's Verge Tree Policy.