

COUNCIL POLICY EN302

ROAD VERGES

KEY FOCUS AREA ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to supplement the Town's Activities on Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law and Verge Landscaping Guidelines by providing guidance on "permissible verge treatments" on verges adjacent to properties.

Policy

General

1. All requests by residents or property owners for any treatment to a road verge adjacent to their property must be submitted in writing with plans and specifications. Such plans and specifications are not required to be professionally prepared but need to clearly indicate the finishes and extent intended.
2. The definition of an adjacent frontage for the purpose of this Policy is as follows:
 - a. The area of the road reserve between the road edge, road kerb or sealed surface and the immediately alongside this area.
 - b. This area is defined longitudinally by the two property boundary limits along the frontage and does not extend beyond these limits.
 - c. In the case of "battle axe" lots, the adjacent verge is defined as being adjacent to the lot(s) fronting the public road reserve for single level development, and in the case of multi-level dwellings, the verge is defined as being adjacent to the ground-level strata lot.

Paving

Council supports the paving of Town owned verges where on-street parking is not permitted or readily available.

Where paving is permitted, the following conditions apply:

1. Permissible materials are porous paving, to the satisfaction of the Town's Infrastructure Department.
2. Parking restrictions (e.g. signage or line marking) will not be installed to limit public road parking or facilitate access to the hardstand.
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 expansion of streetscape).
4. Street trees are to be:
 - a. carefully protected from root damage in accordance with Australian Standards for protection of trees on development sites (AS4970:2025),
 - b. irrigated by bubblers connected to private irrigation or hand watered.
5. Hardstand materials may not be installed within 2 metres of a street tree or otherwise interfere with a street tree in any manner.
6. Installation of an acceptable hardstand material over no more than one third of the area of the verge (excluding any vehicle crossing) is permitted. Planting and maintenance of either a lawn or a garden on the balance of the verge is to be in accordance with the following:

- a. clear sight visibility is always maintained for a person using the adjacent thoroughfare in the vicinity of an intersection or bend in the thoroughfare; and
 - b. where there is no footpath, a pedestrian is to have safe and clear access of a minimum width of 1 meter along that part of the verge immediately adjacent to the kerb.
7. Council's crossover paving technical requirements apply to verge paving construction.
 8. Artificial Turf is not considered a sustainable or environmentally sensitive landscape treatment and is therefore not permitted.

Landscaping

Where landscaping (plants and mulch) is permitted, the following conditions apply:

1. Permissible materials are to the satisfaction of the Parks and Environment Team.
2. No sharp, poisonous, hazardous or pest plants are permitted.
3. Plants must be less than 0.5 meters high if they are within sightlines for users of the adjacent footpath or thoroughfare.
4. No large rocks, large logs or pot plants are permitted where they pose a risk to users of the adjacent footpath or thoroughfare.
5. No loose stone or gravel is permitted.
6. No fences, walls or raised garden beds are permitted.
7. Course mulch, waterwise local native plants and suitable reticulation where appropriate are encouraged.
8. Street trees are always carefully protected.
9. If a landowner installs unapproved surfaces on the verge they may be directed to remove it and reinstate the area to an approved treatment. The landowner is responsible for all costs of removal and reinstatement.

Document Control Box			
Legislation:	<i>Nil</i>		
Organisational:	Activities on Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2003		
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1.	Adopted	21 June 2005	232/05
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5.	Reviewed	9 December 2014	203/14
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