

Policy Section:	4. Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Policy Name:	Landscaping Verge Areas by Residents
Classification	Public – Council Policy
Adopted:	14 December 2021
Frequency of Review:	Biennial
Last Review:	December 2021
Next Review Due:	December 2023
Responsible Officer(s):	Manager Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Policy and Code of Practice Manual File Ref:	CC10/2601
Council File Reference:	CR21/37957
Legislation Authority:	<i>Local Government Act 1999 Sec 221 Electricity Act 1996</i>
Related Policies:	Town Centre Footpath Designs Footpath and Cycleways Tree Management Tree Planting for New Land Divisions Tree Removal on Council Land
Related Procedures:	Application for Permit to Alter/Occupy a Road

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In urban areas, the Council's standard service level for maintaining verges directly adjacent properties between the property boundary and kerb is weed management quarterly and street tree watering during the warmer months of the year for all the planted juvenile trees to aid their establishment.
- 1.2 Where residents do not wish to maintain the verge adjacent to their property Council will manage it in accordance with its standard service level for maintaining verges in urban areas.
- 1.3 Many residents wish to maintain the verge area in front of their property to a standard amenity that is higher than that of Councils. Council also acknowledges a resident's right to enhance the visual appeal of their property to suit their individual requirements and has introduced some clear information to allow them to do so appropriately. Where a resident is unable to maintain or chooses not to develop the verge in front of their property Council will continue to maintain this area in accordance with Council's standard service level.

LANDSCAPING VERGE AREAS (FOOTWAYS) BY RESIDENTS POLICY

- 1.4 For the purpose of this policy a Road Verge (includes the footpath) is considered to be the Council owned portion of land that lies between the kerb and the property boundary. Residents are permitted to landscape this area provided they conform with the following; the landscaping includes an area that can be safely traversed by pedestrians.
 - 1.4.1 This area must have a clear non-landscaped width of 1.5m for a standard footpath unless specified otherwise in Council's Roadside Verges factsheet.
 - 1.4.2 where Council's Walking and Cycling Plan 2018-2028 has identified locations for future shared paths, a clear width non-landscaped of 2.5m is required and must be continuous across the frontage of the property.
 - 1.4.3 a resident must ensure that the type of plants and/or shrub species used to landscape the verge do not exceed 500mm in height when mature. Selected species must not have any spikes, thorns and must not be poisonous.
 - 1.4.4 Declared or proclaimed pest plants will not be permitted under any circumstances.
- 1.5 Any landscaping design must not;
 - 1.5.1 obstruct the clear widths noted in Clauses 1.4.1 and 1.4.2
 - 1.5.2 prevent Council or any other service authority from installing new or maintaining existing services,
 - 1.5.2 prevent Council from planting street trees,
 - 1.5.3 prevent Council from installing new footpaths,
 - 1.5.4 include any concrete, impervious membrane (such as black plastic), letter box structures, stones, river pebbles, raised edging or moss rocks
 - 1.5.5 include any structures such as fences and walls
- 1.6 Prior to commencing any landscaping the resident is required to submit a Section 221 application with a landscaping proposal plan to Council for approval (Required under the Local Government Act 1999). This proposal must include a signed application ensuring the resident agrees to Council's terms and conditions. If a resident landscapes the verge the ongoing maintenance of the landscape remains the responsibility of the resident. Council reserves the right to remove any landscaping deemed not to be adequately maintained or a reconstruction of the road or streetscape is required.
- 1.7 Council has developed a Verges factsheet for new Land Development as part of Council's Open Space Guideline, as updated from time to time, this provides further details to assist developers on acceptable verge treatments. A roadside verges fact sheet is available to assist private residents with developing and maintaining their verge.
- 1.8 Council will maintain a register of permits and be available on the public register.
- 1.9 Staff are to provide Council with an annual report of this policy and its application.

2. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The effectiveness of this Policy will be reviewed on a biennial basis and may be reviewed at any time.

The Chief Executive Officer will report to Council on the outcome of the evaluation and if relevant make recommendations for amendments, alteration or substitution of a new Policy.

The Policy will not be altered or substituted so as to affect a process already commenced.

3. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about this Policy can be obtained by:-

Telephone: 8522 9211

Email: council@gawler.sa.gov.au

Appointment: Town of Gawler Administration Centre, 43 High Street, Gawler East.

Letter: PO Box 130, Gawler SA 5118

4. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

The Policy is available for inspection during ordinary business hours at the Council principal office, Town of Gawler Administration Centre 43 High Street, Gawler East or is available on the Council website at www.gawler.sa.gov.au.

A copy of this Policy will be provided to interested parties upon request, for a fee as contained in the Register of Fees and Charges.