

VERGE IMPROVEMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

This Policy outlines the Shire of Quairading's scope of activities in the road verge and clarifies the property owner's requirements regarding improvements and maintenance of this public land.

Any person who wishes to carry out any works on the verge shall do so in accordance with this policy, guidelines and specifications.

OBJECTIVE

Residents are encouraged to maintain the verge area, directly in front of their property, to contribute to the community's amenity. In most instances, this may include mowing of lawn grass and maintenance of their driveway crossing.

POLICY

The Shire supports the efforts of residents and property owners within the Shire designated townsites to develop and maintain verges that contribute to the aesthetic presentation of streetscapes and a sustainable quality environment for the community, in accordance with the guidelines detailed below.

Council will only undertake works on the verge to ensure public safety, make capital improvements (e.g. install pathway) or undertake maintenance of the Council drainage system (excluding roof water lines).

All verge treatments are to be in accordance with Council's local laws. Works can only be undertaken after approval by Chief Executive Officer.

GUIDELINES

To be read in conjunction with the Shire's *Activities in Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2016*.

Annexure A – Verge Treatment & Maintenance

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Activities in Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares And Public Places Local Law 2016

Record of Policy Review						
Version	Author	Council Adoption	Resolution	Reason for Review	Next Review Date	CEO Signature
01	JA Martin	15/10/92	189/93	New Policy		
02	Graeme Fardon Allan Rourke	27/09/18	41-18/19	<i>Policy Review Project – 7/09/2018</i>		
03	Graeme Fardon	17/12/20	97-20/21	Biennial Policy Review	Dec 2022	
04	Nicole Gibbs Sarah Caporn	15/12/2022	143-22/23	Biennial Policy Review	Dec 2024	
05	Sarah Caporn	12/12/24	105-24/25	Biennial Review	Dec 2026	

Annexure A – Verge Treatment & Maintenance

It is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 1995* that permission is sought from a local government before any private works are undertaken on a public thoroughfare or local government land.

A written application to the Chief Executive Officer, supported by a sketch plan of their intention (where appropriate) is required to be submitted, and approved in writing before any modification using these materials commences.

When undertaking any modification on a verge area adjoining a property, the property owner must ensure these works comply with Shire of Quairading's *Activities in Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2016* and this Policy.

The following general conditions apply for verge improvements: -

1. The landholder accepts responsibility for removal or relocating the plants if required by any public utility.
2. The verge is maintained at a positive gradient up from the top of the kerb, to the frontage of the property abutting the carriageway.
3. The plants are kept clear of the roadway or any footpath where applicable.
4. The landscape scheme is to be of such a nature as not to create any undue hazard to road users or pedestrians.
5. No plants taller than one (1) metre in height are to be planted on verges at a road junction or intersection.
6. Reticulation sprinklers are not to spray water on a footpath or road, and watering is to be restricted to time where inconvenience to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists is at a minimum.
7. Any gravel is to be compacted so as not to allow loose material to be spread on to the road, footpath or neighbouring properties.
8. The landholder agrees to maintain the area so as not to cause a hazard.
9. Should the verge become a hazard, the ratepayer agrees to remove the treatment at their expense e.g. obscured sight distance.
10. The landholder agrees to indemnify Council against all claims which may arise as a result of the treatment.