

POLICY TITLE: Nature Strip Landscaping

EXPIRY DATE: UNLIMITED

OBJECTIVES: to guide residents in the landscaping of nature strips which will enhance visual amenity in balance with sustainability and public safety.

POLICY STATEMENT

General

Nature strips are part of the road reserve between the property boundary and the back of kerb or road shoulder.

Service authorities utilise this area for underground mains, e.g. water, sewer, telecommunications and for fixtures such as poles, fire plugs and seating.

A minimum width of 1.5m is set aside for the use of pedestrians, normally against the property boundary.

Responsibility

Council expects that residents and owners will landscape and maintain nature strip areas in front of their property as an extension of their garden area.

Council will develop and maintain footpaths and other high profile areas in town centres and along selected gateways to townships. The planting and maintenance of street trees is the responsibility of Council.

Landscaping

➤ Grassed Nature strips

it is expected that grassed nature strips will remain the most common form of treatment, requiring only periodic mowing and weeding to maintain. Service authorities are committed to restoring nature strips developed to this standard, following excavation works.

➤ Mulch or granular materials

Council approves the use of the following

- Fine gravels or toppings at a minimum depth of 75mm
- Pebbles of max size 14mm and at a minimum depth of 50mm
- Organic mulch graded to be resistant to dislodgement by wind and rain, at a minimum depth of 75mm.

These materials must be contained by an edging free of tripping hazards for pedestrians.

➤ Plantings

Residents are able to plant their nature strips with a range of ground cover plants or grasses, provided the following conditions are met:

- At least 1 metre from the back of the kerb is kept clear to allow for the opening of car doors,
- Only ground cover plants are used for corner blocks to ensure a good line of sight for motorists and pedestrians,
- There is suitable space for the location and emptying of refuse bins,
- There is safe and suitable access to the footpath for people exiting a parked car,
- Where there is no footpath, 1.5m from the property line is kept clear of planting to allow safe pedestrian access; and
- Plantings do not exceed 500mm in height at maturity.

The following plants are not acceptable for nature strip planting:

- ☒ Woody plants
- ☒ Plants with spikes or prickles
- ☒ Shrubs which grow to 500mm or higher, or which obscure driver's line of sight; or
- ☒ Species considered to be weeds.

Maintenance

Residents/owners opting to landscape nature strips with mulch, granular materials and plantings must

1. Commit to both the additional maintenance needs of the treatment (e.g. rubbish removal, weeding) and to the restoration of the areas following disturbance by service authorities in the management of their assets,
2. Keep the nature strip in a safe condition free of tripping hazards and protruding objects,
3. Prune plants to a height of no more than 500mm (excepting street trees), and
4. Keep surrounding areas free of loose materials.

Policy Review

This policy may be amended at any time and must be reviewed at least every five years following its adoption (or latest amendment)

Adopted by Council – 18/08/09

Refer Minute No. – 08.09.2042