



Infrastructure Policies

4.5 Street Tree and Verge Management Policy

Governance Policy - 4.5 Street Tree and Verge Management Policy

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To ensure that Peppermint Grove retains its treasured leafy ambience through the sound management of its street trees and verges.

Purpose Council affirms that the Shire of Peppermint Grove's Agonis Flexuosa street trees are a valuable community asset for environmental, aesthetic and social reasons including shade, heat reduction, and habitat for native fauna, visual amenity and replenishment of the atmosphere.

Status

The Shire is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of street trees on verges, parks and bushland areas within its jurisdiction.

The Shire is not responsible for the establishment, maintenance, or reinstatement of lawn on street verges, but encourages residents to establish and maintain the approved grasses to a high standard and welcomes the assistance of residents in the watering of street trees.

The Shire is not responsible for reticulation on street verges.

Policy

The Policy recognises that street verges are required principally to contain:

- Utility services and associated infrastructure such as communication, electricity, water, gas; sewer, storm water drainage and street lighting.
- Footpaths, cycle paths, and shared paths.
- Street trees.



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- d) Planting to provide useful shade and urban cooling as well as biodiversity and habitat.
- e) Road furniture such as street name signs, regulatory and advisory traffic signs, traffic signals, bus stops, bus shelters and bus bays, parking spaces, vehicle and pedestrian movement control devices, seating and litter bins.

Reticulation of verges by the resident is encouraged within the following conditions:

- a) Owners and/or occupiers are responsible for the installation, maintenance, operation, and related costs of reticulation in street verges. NB: all reticulation must comply with watering roster requirements set by the Water Corporation.
- b) Reticulation is to be installed centrally in the verge, not parallel or adjacent to paths, crossovers or kerbs and no wiring or solenoids are to be installed in road reserve and verge areas.
- c) The Shire will take due care and may, at its cost, reinstate reticulation equipment it damages during works carried out by or authorised for the local government. Then Shire will not be responsible for damage caused by external utility providers or their contractors.

1. **Street Trees** The standard tree is the Peppermint Tree (*Agonis Flexuosa*). Other species presently standing are to be replaced with Peppermint Trees when they have deteriorated. Street trees may only be planted, pruned and removed by the Shire unless a specific approval is granted by the Chief Executive Officer or Manager of Infrastructure Services.
2. **Retention of Existing Street Trees** Developers will be encouraged to retain existing street trees wherever possible.
3. **Planting of New Street Trees** Council will budget funds each year to plant sufficient new street trees to at least maintain total street tree numbers and preferably increase them. Spacing of street trees shall be the minimum required to maintain a near continuous tree canopy in the street even if this means multiple trees per lot frontage. All properties will have at least one verge tree.
4. **Maintenance of Street Trees** Council will budget sufficient funds each year to properly maintain and water young street trees to ensure a good survival rate.
5. **Pruning** Trees will only be pruned to improve their form, structural integrity/health, or clear infrastructure such as street lights, street signs and to maintain pedestrian and vehicle access and/or sight lines. Only authorised Council contractors may prune trees under instruction from the Shire. The Shire does not prune or remove trees for reasons such as



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views, leaf litter, allergies, wind noise, aesthetics, sightlines for commercial signage unless approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

6. **Removal of Trees** - Trees will generally only be removed where they are dead, diseased or dangerous.
7. **Street Verges** Street verges at the front, side or rear of all lots are to be grassed and the establishment and maintenance is the responsibility of the ratepayer. Couch, Buffalo, Dichondra or Lippia are the approved grasses. Vegetation other than Peppermint Trees and approved grasses, are not permitted. Verges already developed with other plants and grasses, shall be allowed to remain, but their continuance may be terminated by Council. If, due to health or financial reasons, a ratepayer is no longer able to maintain a street verge, they are welcome to discuss this matter with the Chief Executive Officer.
8. **Reinstatement of verges.** In the course of activities by the Shire such as kerbing, footpath, drainage works and activities conducted by external utility providers, it is acknowledged that some site disturbance to verges is inevitable. The Shire will ensure that once works are complete the verge will be backfilled with quality soil and any affected reticulation will be reinstated. The Shire will not supply or re-lay turf, replacement turf, nor will it upgrade reticulation systems.
9. **Overhanging Vegetation** It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that branches of trees, shrubs and creepers on their property do not extend beyond the boundary of the property or present a hazard to pedestrians, pets, or vehicles.
10. **Storage of materials and placement of skip bins** Council discourages the storage of skip bins or building and landscaping materials on public land, street verges and right of ways, but will consider applications in cases where there are exceptional circumstances.

Approval will be at the discretion of the CEO which may include a bond

Related Local Law/Legislation

Activities on Thoroughfares and Trading In Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law, particularly Part 2, Div 3 – Verge Treatments.

Local Government Act – Schedule 3.1, items 8 & 9 Re trees on private property obstructing or endangering persons on a thoroughfare.

Local Government Act (ULP) Regs – “Disturbing local government land or anything on it”



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A person who, without lawful authority –

- a) interferes with the soil of, or anything on, land that is local government property; or*
- b) takes anything from land that is local government property, commits an offence the penalty for which is a fine of \$1,000.”*

Thoroughfares' Local law, clause 2.2 (1) (i), which requires a permit, and clause 6.3 (g) under which a bond may be imposed.

Adopted/Amended

September 2000
September 2004
November 2015

Reviewed

June 2024