



WS11 Street Verge Treatments

Policy Objective

To encourage the establishment of street lawns and gardens that are suitably maintained but do not impede traffic vision, safe pedestrian thoroughfare or general public safety. To allow the installation of hard stand surfacing to the street verge subject to conditions.

Policy

In the content detailed below, unless indicated otherwise the term 'acceptable material' means laterite gravel, brick paving, bitumen, mulch or synthetic turf. Materials not classified as acceptable include concrete, crushed brick, limestone, pea gravel or other unstable material.

A person shall not plant a garden in a road reserve without approval of the Executive Manager Infrastructure Services or Authorised Officer and then only in conformity with the conditions set out below.

The Shire shall not issue approval for the planting of a garden in any portion of a road reserve, except on written application of the owner of the land that abuts that portion of the street.

A person requiring an approval to plant a garden in a road reserve shall submit to the Shire a sketch plan setting out details of the proposed garden and the positions of the proposed garden beds and any trees or shrubs proposed to be planted in relation to the adjacent carriageway.

The owner of land that abuts a portion of a road reserve may plant and reticulate a lawn in that portion of the road reserve without obtaining approval to do so except when the lawn is to be a part of a street treatment or paved treatment.

A person shall not plant a garden in a road reserve:

- Such that it extends beyond the frontage of the adjoining/abutting property in respect of which the approval is granted.
- Such that it encroaches on the pavement of the carriageway or a made path.
- Such that it encompasses earth mounding, rocks or retaining walls or built structures, ie fountains, ponds etc.
- To the exclusion of any public pedestrian access.

The owner of land abutting a road reserve in which a lawn or garden is to be planted shall make arrangements to determine the location of public utilities which may be located within the road reserve prior to installation and shall be liable for any damage made to any utilities.

The owner or occupier of land abutting onto a road reserve may, on the road reserve in front of such land, install one of the following four permissible treatments:

Treatment 1 - Lawn –

Plant and maintain a lawn provided that any reticulation pipe laid to that lawn:

- is laid and kept beneath the surface of the road reserve at a depth of not more than 300 mm nor less than 150 mm and so that any fitting connected to a pipe does not project above the surface of the lawn or garden.
- if connected to a public water supply, is laid to comply with the requirements of the Water Corporation being the body constituted for, and having control of, water in the district.



- if connected to a private water supply, where passing under road, pavement, made footpaths, or crossings, is of at least class 12 PVC.
- has approved valves, located within the private property where they are connected to the water supply and is fitted so as to give complete control of the flow of water from that supply.
- irrigation sprinklers must be positioned to ensure that water does not spray on either pedestrian pathways or vehicle carriageways.

Treatment 2 - Garden –

Plant and maintain a garden provided that:

- no part of the garden (or plant, or other vegetation making up the garden) exceeds a height of 750 mm (excluding street trees).
- no plant or other vegetation making up the garden is of a thorny or poisonous nature or may otherwise create a hazard.
- if there is no footpath, a 2 metre wide strip parallel and adjacent to the kerb be provided and this area be sufficiently stable for foot traffic and conform to the investigating officer's approval.
- in the event that a portion of the garden is lawn, that development shall comply with Treatment 1 above.

Treatment 3 - Part Paved Area –

A portion of the street verge may be treated with an acceptable material provided that:

- the area of hard surface is limited to a maximum of 33% of the total area of the verge (excluding any crossover) if paving bricks or blocks are used, or 25% of the total area of the verge if bitumen are used.
- hard surface treatments will be installed in compliance with the Shire's specifications for urban crossings.
- the remainder of the street verge be developed with lawn or garden.
- in the event that lawn or garden is not planted on the remaining portion of the road reserve, that development shall comply with Treatment 1 and/or Treatment 2 above.

Treatment 4 - Complete Paved Area –

The Shire, at its absolute discretion, may approve the paving of an area that is greater than 33% of the total verge (excluding existing crossings) with an acceptable material provided that:

- In the opinion of the Shire it would not constitute a negative impact on the aesthetic value of the existing streetscape.
- An appropriate storm water drain disposes of excess water into a soak well situated internally on the owner's land.
- The construction of the drain and soak well is to specification approved by the Shire.
- The land abutting the verge to be paved does not fall within an area not suitable for soakwells as specified by the Shire.
- In the event that lawn or garden is planted on the remaining portion of the road reserve, that development shall comply with Treatment 1 and/or Treatment 2 above.



DOCUMENT CONTROL BOX		
Custodian: Chief Executive Officer		Decision Maker: Council
Compliance Requirements:		
Legislation:		
Industry:		
Organisational:		
Document Management:		
Risk Rating: Low	Review Frequency: 4 Years	Next Due: 2026
Version #	Decision Reference:	Description:
a	OCM 21/07/20 – Item 13.2	Comprehensive policy register review.
b	OCM 19/07/2022 Item 12.1.2	Comprehensive Policy Register Review
c	OCM 15/12/2025 Item 12.1.1	Policy Reconfirmed – No Amendments