

Policy Number:	WRK 9
Policy Type:	Works
Policy Name:	Road Verge Development
Policy Owner:	Manager Infrastructure
Authority:	Shire of Nannup

OBJECTIVE

To encourage and support the development of road verges in urban areas in a safe and aesthetically satisfactory manner appropriate to the surrounding environment.

DEFINITIONS

Verge: The section of the road reserve which lies in between the property boundary and the edge of the constructed road surface.

Footpath: That part of the actual road reserve set apart or constructed for use by pedestrians and cyclists.

POLICY

1. The local government encourages the establishment of lawn and gardens of small trees, shrubs and ground covers with mulch provided that –
 - 1.1. Clear sight visibility is maintained at all times for a person using the abutting road in the vicinity of an intersection or bend in the road; and
 - 1.2. Where there is no footpath, a pedestrian has safe and clear access of a minimum width of 1.5m along that part of the verge immediately adjacent to the kerb.
2. An owner who installs or maintains a verge development should keep the area in a good and tidy condition and ensure, where the development is a garden or lawn, that a footpath on the verge and a road adjoining the verge is not obstructed by the development.
3. All landscaping must allow for pedestrian and cyclist access off the road and road shoulder with no spillage of vegetation onto road edges, footpaths or covering of public utility facilities on the verge.
4. Spreading varieties, poisonous trees / shrubs, spiky plants, plants with weed potential and any other plant species deemed dangerous or hazardous are not to be planted.
5. The local government discourages use of gravel on verges as it is not in keeping with the amenity of the area and tends to encourage undesirable parking on verge.

6. Fixed items such as walls, letterboxes and retaining walls must be constructed behind the front property boundary line and not constructed on the verge.
7. Any irrigation equipment is installed in the verge at the risk of the owner and is to be maintained by the owner. Equipment and its operation must not inconvenience pedestrians or constitute a hazard (eg water spraying onto a road which causes motorists to swerve).
8. The levels of new verge areas shall be compatible with properties on either side.
9. Land owners should check the location of underground services within the verge area, prior to any development.
10. Trees planted under overhead electrical power lines should comply with Western Power recommendations "Trees and Power Lines: A Guide for Safely Planting Near Power Lines" or any updated version of this.
11. To prevent obstruction of visibility, trees or shrubs which grow taller than 750mm are not to be planted within six metres of intersecting kerb-lines.
12. Any enhancements placed or constructed on the verge is placed there at the risk of the property owner. The local government will endeavour to preserve the layout, but no guarantee can be given.
13. The local government reserves the right to remove any existing vegetation, trees, shrubs, or landscaping deemed to present a safety problem and/or maintenance problem and the local government will not be responsible for reinstatement of items removed.
14. No assistance can be given by the local government for development, ongoing operation or maintenance costs.
15. Where the local government or an authority empowered to do so under a written law disturbs a verge, the local government or the authority –
 - i) is not liable to compensate any person for that disturbance;
 - ii) may backfill with sand, if necessary, any garden or lawn; and
 - iii) is not liable to place or restore any verge development and, in particular, any plant or irrigation equipment.
16. All verge developments must conform with any street tree policies that the local government may adopt.

Related Policies	
Related Procedures/Documents	
Delegated Level	
Adopted	OM 28 November 2002
Reviewed	OM 25 January 2018