



FOOTPATH/ NATURE STRIP MOWING POLICY

Adopted: 23 November 2016

TRIM: 085490.2017



FOOTPATH/ NATURE STRIP MOWING POLICY

PURPOSE/ OBJECTIVES

- a) Define the extent of Council involvement in the mowing and weed poisoning of footpath/nature strips.
- b) Provide direction to officers when determining the limit of maintenance activities with respect to footpath/nature strips mowing.
- c) Clarify the criteria for determining eligibility to receive Council service.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Local Government Act 1993

DEFINITIONS

Footpath and nature strips - The area of land between a property boundary's private frontage and the edge of a roadway. The primary purpose of this land is to facilitate pedestrian movement alongside the roadway and provide an area for infrastructure provision.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. FOOTPATHS ADJACENT TO COUNCIL-OWNED PROPERTIES

The properties with high visibility such as The Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, City Centre, Libraries, Community and Childcare Centres and in the vicinity of these properties should be maintained at a high standard, including hand mowing, edge trimming and removal of clippings.

All other Council properties - Tractor mowing should be carried out wherever possible to a standard sufficient for safe and nuisance-free pedestrian usage. Hand mowing activities are not encouraged unless unavoidable.

Glyphosate herbicides to be used only on multi-lane roads.

The Council owned properties that are tenanted or leased - the tenant or lessor will initially be asked to carry out the work.

2. FOOTPATHS ADJACENT TO GOVERNMENT – OWNED PROPERTIES

Mowing should not be carried out unless the Government body concerned meets the cost.

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3. FOOTPATHS ADJACENT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY

Council does not mow footpaths and nature strips in front of private, commercial or industrial property.

Council will encourage property owners or occupiers to mow their footpaths or nature strips to a standard that enhances the amenity of their property and does not create any potential for a public safety risk.

The property owners or occupiers shall not use Glyphosate Herbicides for controlling grass growth.

Where the property owner is not carrying out mowing or, upon receiving a complaint regarding an overgrown footpath or nature strip, or a request to mow a footpath or nature strip, Council will inspect the site to undertake a risk assessment.

The risk assessment will determine whether further action is necessary, based on the following criteria:

- a) The grass on the footpath or nature strip is generally higher than 500mm and/or the footpath or nature strip is overgrown to the extent that it hinders the safe passage of pedestrians along the footpath or nature strip;
- b) The footpath or nature strip is overgrown to the extent that it potentially obstructs traffic visibility;
- c) The footpath or nature strip is overgrown to the extent that it is detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood.

If the public risk is assessed as being unacceptable, then Council will make appropriate arrangements to undertake a "rough cut" of the area to eliminate the risk.

The property owner or occupier will then be contacted to ascertain their intentions regarding the regular mowing of the footpath and nature strip.

4. SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS

Council is committed to ensuring an emergency service is available for mowing footpaths and nature strips in front of residential properties where resident/ owners are 65 years or older (65+) and have genuine hardship based on medical evidence.

All applications for the provision of footpath and nature strips mowing services are to be made in writing. Applications will be considered based on the following:

- a) Provision of a medical certificate from a registered physician which states they are unable to mow their nature strip area due to medical reasons; and

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- b) A statutory declaration stating that the applicant does not have the financial capacity to employ a contractor to perform the service; and
- c) Confirmation that a family member or friend is not able to perform the work

The emergency footpath and nature strips mowing service is to be reviewed after six months to ensure residents remain eligible for this service and to maintain the accuracy of Council mowing service records.

Council requires applications including the medical certificate to be updated and resubmitted on a six-monthly basis.

5. GENERAL

The Director City Presentation has authority to approve exceptions to this policy due to special circumstances.

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APPROVED BY:

Council Resolution 23 November 2016

DIRECTORATE RESPONSIBLE

City Presentation

REVIEW DATE

23 November 2018

VERSIONS

Version	Amended by	Changes made	Date	TRIM Number
1	Council Resolution	Not applicable	23 November 2016	085490.2017

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH

Governance, Legal and Procurement