



MAINTENANCE OF STREET TREES, RESERVES AND STREET VERGES ADJOINING RESIDENTIAL

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1. OBJECTIVE

To ensure that regular maintenance is undertaken on all undeveloped drainage, parkland, recreation areas, drainage reserves and street verges where adjoining residential properties.

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 Scope

This policy includes:

- reserves not developed or maintained as formal parks, gardens, sportsgrounds, or playgrounds or otherwise specifically maintained on a regular basis for any public purpose and vested in the City of Karratha (City). Often referred as Open Areas or verges;
- land adjoining residential properties in the City of Karratha that comprises part of a street reserve and is vested in the City of Karratha (verges); and
- vegetation within these reserves and is not limited to sedges, grass, shrubs and trees either endemic or non-native.

2.2 Maintenance of Reserves

All reserves comprised within the intent of Clause 2.1 shall be inspected on an annual basis and where it is deemed that maintenance is warranted, the works are to be carried out in a planned and systematic schedule.

Requests for maintenance from residents and ratepayers will be assessed by the Coordinator Parks and Gardens, and/ or Senior Ranger and if deemed warranted the City shall arrange for the work to be carried out in conjunction with Council's open areas maintenance program, unless the work can be conveniently conducted at another time without disruption to Council's works program.

Requests for maintenance from residents and ratepayers will be assessed by the Coordinator Parks and Gardens, and/or Senior Ranger to determine if the area of concern:

- constitutes a hazard and necessity for safety;
- is attributable to the actions of the resident or ratepayer, and if so, they will be advised that the costs associated with any action shall be borne by the resident or ratepayer concerned.

Maintenance, where effected, shall be by slashing the growth of grass to a width not exceeding 3.0 metres from the property boundary, in exceptional circumstances where growth is of such an excessive nature or the area is prohibitively difficult to slash, other mechanical means may be employed to remove the refuse and growth provided that minimal impact to the area occurs.

Maintenance to trees and shrubs shall only be authorised by the City's Manager Infrastructure Services or representative and is to be carried out by City's authorised contractors. Any tree or shrub pruning not authorised by the City will be referred to the City's Ranger Department for follow up investigation with possible prosecution.

Burning of growth or refuse by residents, ratepayers or contractors is not permitted on any land contained in Clause 2.1 except where approved by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer in conjunction with the Coordinator Parks and Gardens.

2.3 Maintenance for Lands

Any maintenance of grass, weeds or shrubs on street verges adjoining residential property is the responsibility of the respective resident or property owner, except where a constructed footpath traverses the verge, a strip 1.0m wide may be slashed or sprayed with herbicide along the edge of the path, or where a traffic hazard is considered to exist, action may be taken by the City to remove the material concerned.

Street verges adjacent to or adjoining schools in residential areas will be maintained by the City by periodic slashing of grass growth as determined appropriate by the Coordinator Parks and Gardens.

Pruning and or removal of street trees and shrubs shall only be authorised by the Manager Infrastructure or representative and is to be carried out by City staff or City preferred contractor. Any pruning not authorised by the City, will be referred to the City's Ranger Department for follow up investigation with possible prosecution. The intent is that the majority of street tree pruning will be carried out during the scheduled Cyclone clean-up program.

2.4 General

Council acknowledges that it is preferable for environmental considerations to promote and maintain the establishment of endemic flora species and vegetation forms. Therefore, appropriate land management techniques are to be used.

Council is cognisant of problems of excessive grass growth generated on reserves adjoining residential properties being attributable to occupiers applying excessive amounts of water to lawns and gardens, and discharge of backwash water from residential pools.

Rubbish, tree pruning and garden waste dumped on reserves is often a cause of complaint from residents and ratepayers. In the case of illegal dumping, Council maintains the right to investigate and if proven, recover costs of the clean-up from the adjoining property owner.

Council maintains its right to only carry out clean up works in conjunction with its annual cyclone season clean-up operations or when appropriate resources are available.

Council acknowledges that grass and weed growth following heavy rainfall events can be prolific and rapid. In such cases, Council's resources may not be able to attend to all areas of concern within the expectations of residents and ratepayers.

3. CONSEQUENCES

This policy represents the formal policy and expected standards of the Council. Appropriate approvals need to be obtained prior to any deviation from the policy. Elected Members and Employees are reminded of their obligations under the Council's Code of Conduct to give full effect to the lawful policies, decisions and practices of the Council.

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Next Review:	June 2022
Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Parks and Gardens

This policy takes effect from the date of adoption by Council and shall remain valid until it is amended or deleted.