

**Purpose:** This fact sheet outlines some useful information about Shire policy surrounding verge maintenance.

**Background:** A verge is the portion of land between the road and the property boundary. Road reserves (this includes the verge) are crown land and not owned by the Shire. However, Local Governments do have responsibility for the care, control, and management of this land (unless the road has been designated a highway or main road). The responsibility for the management of verges does not mean that the Shire is required to undertake all works that might be requested. Council policy dictates the level of service provided with this being a balance between the activities undertaken and the associated cost to ratepayers. This means that Shire works tend to be restricted to essential areas such as public safety and infrastructure maintenance.

### Verge Mowing, Slashing and Weed Spraying and Removal

Verge mowing, slashing, and spraying should be done by the owners of adjoining property. The Shire only undertakes his work for reasons of road safety or for maintaining Shire infrastructure.

The Shire may spray verges for weed elimination where this is part of an annual budgeted weed removal program. The intent of this program is to achieve broad outcomes for the community such as road infrastructure management. Flora declared as a pest species for the Bridgetown-Greenbushes area according to the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act) will be considered for inclusion in the program with other works on a priority basis within the budget constraints of the program. Isolated works for other reasons, such as for the amenity of local resident, are not considered for inclusion.

### Footpath Hazards

Hazards due to structural faults on pedestrian and shared paths will be assessed by a suitably qualified and/or experienced Shire representative and managed on a priority basis under the budgeted annual maintenance program. Hazards assessed as presenting an imminent risk to public safety will be addressed as soon as practical.

Hazards due to debris such as nuts, sticks, and leaves will be addressed under the budgeted annual street sweeping program.

### Stormwater Discharge onto Private Property

The Shire generally will not discharge stormwater runoff from a road drainage system onto private property unless a drainage easement is in place or the runoff is following a natural flow path. Some minor concentration of runoff to the

natural flow path is considered reasonable and consistent with the land use.

### Waste removal (excluding bulk waste collection)

Where waste material is left on a verge The Shire will attempt to identify the person responsible and hold them accountable for removal. If no person can be identified, the Shire will remove waste from verges where:

- It is putrescible material and if it were left in situ, it would cause nuisance to nearby properties and public places in terms of odour / flies / vermin.
- It is an abandoned vehicle.
- It is causing a significant hazard or impact on local amenity.
- Leaves and branches will only be removed from verges where part of a developed and Shire managed streetscape or deemed a necessary for fuel reduction.

### Animal carcasses

Large animal carcasses will be removed from verges at locations where if left in situ it would cause nuisance to nearby properties and public places in terms of odour / flies / vermin.

### Removal of Fauna

The Shire will not eradicate or relocate fauna unless it presents an imminent risk to public safety (as determined by a suitably qualified and/or experienced Shire representative) or it is impacting public infrastructure. This includes but is not limited to, termites, ants, and bees.

### Verge Fire Hazard

Locations of concern regarding fire hazard will be assessed by a suitably qualified and/or experienced Shire representative and considered for inclusion in the Shires budgeted fire mitigation program on a risk priority basis and according to available budget.