

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

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.

Private Verge Development

The owner of the property adjoining the verge may install gardens and trafficable hard-stand on the verge adjoining their property without the approval of the Shire with the following conditions:

- (a) No plant over 0.75m in height is allowed on a verge within 6m of an intersection.
- (b) Other than lawn, no plant or loose material is permitted within 2 m of the road and no part of a development is to encroach on the road.
- (c) Trafficable paving and/or hard standing is permitted where this occupies an area of less than one third of the verge (excluding the crossover) and 2m away from the trunk of a street tree.
- (d) Verges are public space and as such developments must not create a hazard or nuisance for persons using the area. The development must have finished levels that tie into adjacent verges, footpaths, property lines, crossovers, and service pits. They must not cause water to pond or cause run-off to become a hazard or a nuisance. No large rocks or other non-frangible items can be placed on the road reserve.
- (e) Development must not interfere with the function or maintenance of installed infrastructure.
- (f) By developing the road verge, the adjacent property owner accepts responsibility for all risks, costs, and ongoing maintenance of the development. Infrastructure owners may conduct works within the verge as required and have an obligation to reinstate the verge to safe condition only.

Developments not meeting the conditions will be remedied at the adjacent property owner's cost.

The current owner of the property adjoining a developed verge is responsible for all conditions, risks, costs, and ongoing

maintenance associated with the verge development regardless of if they undertook the development.

Vehicle Crossovers

Installation, repair, and maintenance of vehicle crossovers are the landowners' responsibility. This includes maintaining any stormwater infrastructure associated with the crossover as well as managing vegetation for safe line of sight.

Verge Parking

Shire controlled verges are generally not managed for the purpose of vehicle parking and such use on a permanent or semi-permanent basis is not considered desirable. The Shire will not undertake works to improve or maintain verges for the purpose of parking apart from areas identified by the Shire as being of benefit to the general public.

Unmade Road Reserves

An unmade road reserve is a road reserve that does not currently contain a Shire constructed road. Some road reserves may contain an informal track created by incidental use however these are considered unmade and are not included in the managed road network.

Unmade road reserves are generally left in a natural unmanaged state. Hazardous situations that may arise are addressed in the same manner as road verges.

There is no expectation for landowners to take responsibility for management of adjacent unmade road reserves.

Private Use of Unmade Road Reserves

Road reserves are public thoroughfares and must be kept accessible to the public. Placing an obstruction across a thoroughfare requires Shire approval and may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval, if granted, will require suitable gates to allow public access. The gates cannot be locked.