

Fact Sheet

Developing and maintaining road verges

Council has a Road Infrastructure Plan for the whole Council area which includes a footpath and kerb program. This program of works is subject to annual budget allocations.

The Plan involves major upgrades of footpath facilities within township main streets and key footpath linkages from the main street precincts to community facilities, such as aged care homes, schools, hospitals, shopping centres, libraries, churches, ovals and cemeteries. Funding for these new projects comes from the Capital Works budget.

Additionally, Council undertakes routine maintenance on its footpath network to ensure safety of pedestrians and motorists.

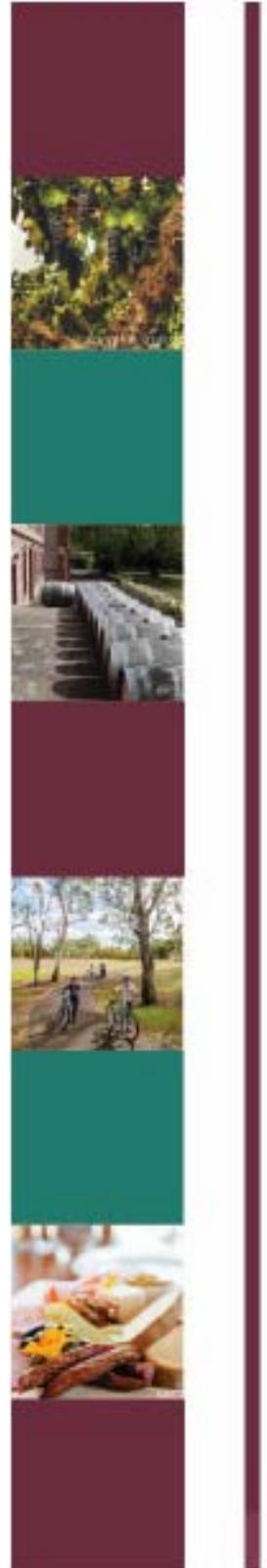
The road verge is the area of land between the back of the kerb or road edge and the front property boundary.

The maintenance of road verges is a shared responsibility between Council and property owners because Council does not have the finances or resources to maintain all road verge areas to a standard that would be in keeping with the adjoining property.

There are certain guidelines for landscaping and maintenance of council road verge in established township areas that residents need to follow to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists. These policy guidelines are available from Council.

Council's responsibilities

- To ensure that pedestrian access is available within a road verge area;
- To ensure that adequate sight distance is available to and from vehicles and pedestrians; and,
- If a formal footpath has not been provided and the verge area is not maintained by the residents, Council will spray these areas to control weeds and reduce fire risk, and under-prune or prune trees to provide pedestrian access and sight distance.



Resident's responsibilities

Residents adjacent to a road verge must ensure:

- Any landscaping or driveway in the verge area provides for safe pedestrian usage;
- Landscaping does not create a sight distance problem, or obstruct street lights or street signs;
- Only trees which are approved by ETSA are planted directly under power lines; and,
- Tree planting should not interfere with nor impact underground services. Residents should check with service authorities (e.g. power, gas, water and telephone) for the location of any underground cables and pipes prior to the development of the road verge area.



Road verge development

Landscaping of the road verge does much to enhance the appearance of individual properties and of the area in general. However, it is optional.

If a verge development proposed by a resident fits within Council's Footpath Improvement Plan and Capital Works budget, Council will undertake the work within its planning timeframe and meet the full cost of the development. However, if the proposed verge development does not fit within Council's Footpath Improvement Plan and budget, then all costs associated with the development must be met by the resident.

Council approval

Alterations to road verges cannot be undertaken until residents have submitted a written application to Council outlining their proposed plans. Council's approval or otherwise of the plans will be based on Council's road verge development guidelines which are available from Council.

The approval process will ensure the landscaping of road verge areas will not restrict the movement of pedestrians nor prevent Council from undertaking scheduled footpath maintenance work along the street.

Additionally, the planting of trees and large shrubs near the kerb will not be allowed as tree and shrub roots may eventually damage the footpath, kerb and road pavement, while excessive plant growth may create sight distance problems at corners, bends and driveways.

Where a Council road has not been identified in the Footpath Improvement Plan, development of road verge areas must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Where possible, a distance of at least 1.8 metres from the kerb must be provided for the safe and convenient passage of pedestrians. Allowable surfaces within this area include lawn, compacted crushed rock, brick pavers and concrete, and only where necessary and appropriate, spray seal and asphalt;
- Other landscaping materials such as wood chips and small rocks may be established on the road verge area, but not within 1.8 metres of the kerb; and,
- Retaining walls must be constructed on the property boundary or within the property, and not encroach onto the road verge.

Ongoing development

Council takes no responsibility if road verge landscaping has to be removed in the future due to any necessary road works or works in the road verge area by Council or any public utility.