



MAINTENANCE OF RESERVES AND STREET VERGES ADJOINING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

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1. OBJECTIVE

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

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 Scope

This Policy includes reserves not developed or maintained as parks, gardens, sportsgrounds, or playgrounds or otherwise specifically maintained on a regular basis for any public purpose and vested in the City of Karratha.

This Policy includes land adjoining residential properties in the City of Karratha that comprises part of a street reserve and is vested in the City of Karratha.

2.2 Maintenance for Reserves

All reserves comprised within the intent of Clause 1.1 shall be inspected on an annual basis and where it is deemed that maintenance is warranted the works are to be carried out in conjunction with Council's annual cyclone season clean-up operations, unless, the work can be conveniently conducted at another time without disruption to Council's work programme.

Requests for maintenance from residents and ratepayers will be assessed by the Manager Infrastructure and/or the Engineering Works Coordinator and if deemed warranted shall arrange for the work to be carried out in conjunction with Council's annual cyclone season clean-up operation, unless the work can be conveniently conducted at another time without disruption to Council's works programme.

Requests for maintenance from residents and ratepayers will be assessed by the Manager Infrastructure and/or the Engineering Works Coordinator, on the grounds of reasonableness and necessity for safety however, where it is considered that the area concerned does not constitute a hazard or the area of concern is attributable to the actions of the resident or ratepayer then the resident or ratepayer shall be advised that the cost of any action to remove the problem shall be borne by the resident or ratepayer concerned.

Maintenance, where effected, shall be by slashing the growth of grass and scrub 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 a front end loader may be employed to remove the refuse and growth providing that minimal disturbance of soil occurs.

Burning of growth or refuse by residents, ratepayers or contractors is not permitted on any land as per Clause 1.1, except where approved by the Manager Infrastructure in conjunction with the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

2.3 Maintenance for Lands

Any maintenance of grass, weed or shrub growth on street verges adjoining residential property is the responsibility of the respective resident or property owner, except that 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 Council to remove the material concerned.

Street verges adjacent to or adjoining schools in residential areas will be maintained by Council by periodic slashing of grass growth as determined appropriate by the Manager Infrastructure and/or the Engineering Works Coordinator.

2.4 General

Council acknowledges that it is preferable for environmental considerations to promote and maintain the establishment of indigenous 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, also that refuse dumped on reserves is often a cause of complaint from residents and ratepayers. In such cases Council will only carry out clean up works in conjunction with its annual cyclone season clean-up operations.

Council acknowledges that grass and weed growth following heavy rainfall events can be prolific and rapid. In such cases Councils 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 City. Appropriate approvals need to be obtained prior to any deviation from the policy. It is imperative that Councillors and Officers retain appropriate documentation to substantiate their expenditure. Elected Members and Employees are reminded of their obligations under the City's Code of Conduct to give full effect to the lawful policies, decisions and practices of the City.

4. REFERENCES TO RELATED DOCUMENTS

Policy Number:	TE-03
Previous Policy Number:	TS-06
Resolution Numbers:	5933-Jul 1993; 12738-Sep 2002; 13130-Sep 2003; 14223-Oct 2007
Last Review:	September 2009
Next Review:	September 2010
Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Works and Technical Services

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