

# POLICY

## Nature Strip Policy

---



### 1 Purpose

Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges that well maintained nature strips add to the appearance and presentation of the major townships and their streetscapes. They also provide economic benefits to businesses and property owners. Council encourages property owners to recognise the value of nature strips and to take pride in maintaining them.

### 2 Scope

This policy applies to all residents in Hindmarsh Shire.

### 3 Policy

Residents of Hindmarsh Shire must ensure nature strips are well maintained and in a safe condition at all times.

Council does not carry out renovation or maintenance (including mowing and watering) of nature strips. It is common, accepted practice throughout Australia that the property owners or residents of abutting properties maintain the plants (excluding trees) and any landscape features on the nature strip. Generally, this amounts to weeding, mowing and edging turf.

### 4 Definitions

**Council** means Hindmarsh Shire Council

**Nature Strip** means an area of public land between the property boundary and the back of the kerb or table drain, excluding any public pavement. In most cases a nature strip is grassed.

### 5 Responsibility

Director Infrastructure Services is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

### 6 Nature strips

It is the responsibility of the ratepayer to maintain the property's nature strip in a clean, tidy state, which compliments the existing streetscape and:

- minimises the risk to the community;
- provides for the unobstructed and safe flow of pedestrian traffic;
- provides access for postal deliveries and utility service providers;
- doesn't impede access to fire hydrants;

- doesn't impact the safety of vehicles using the road;
- allows kerbside parking of vehicles (including door opening space) and safe and practical conditions for emptying rubbish and recycling bins;
- are in keeping with heritage areas;
- can act as additional footpath space when two or more people walk together or pass by.

Residents are permitted to grass nature strips between the property boundary and pavement/kerb.

Application to replace existing grassed areas with alternate low maintenance material such as aggregate, synthetic grass, paving or similar materials will be considered on a site specific basis.

Excavation and cultivation must be by hand as mechanical excavation (bobcat/dingo) or cultivation (rotary hoe) may damage infrastructure and services that may be underground. Property owners/contractors are advised to contact "Dial Before you Dig" prior to carrying out works. The owner or occupier is responsible for repairing any damage to infrastructure caused by any landscaping works.

## **6.1 Trees**

Council is responsible for the planting, maintenance and removal of all street trees in the urban area. If a resident requests trees for their nature strip, the trees must be listed on Council's 'Approved Tree Varieties' List and which do not cause any vehicle or pedestrian sight distance issues, restrict pedestrian access or cause any public safety hazards. In such cases, Council will provide the trees and the maintenance will be the responsibility of the resident.

Planting of shrubs around trees is prohibited, retaining walls and edging on nature strips are prohibited.

Temporary or permanent electrical wiring must not be installed on the nature strip (e.g. lighting of trees is not permitted).

## **7 Nature strip access**

Utility companies that supply water, gas, electricity and telecommunications may from time to time require access to the nature strip to perform maintenance work. The utility companies are required to make good the nature strip following maintenance work, but are not required to reinstate residential nature strips that have been landscaped other than in grass.

## **8 Council maintenance**

Council may in some instances exercise its discretion to tidy certain nature strips. Particularly if the nature strip is:

- creating an eyesore in a high trafficked area of the Shire
- used by the community as a footpath; or
- poses a risk of personal injury or property damage.

**9 References**

Related documents	Legislation
Hindmarsh Shire Council's approved tree varieties Hindmarsh Shire Council Road Management Plan	<i>Road Management Act</i>

**10 Document Control**

Hindmarsh Shire Council Nature Strip Policy		<b>Policy Category</b>	INFRASTRUCTURE
<b>Version Number</b>	1.2	<b>Policy Status</b>	APPROVED
<b>Approved/Adopted By</b>	CEO	<b>Date approved/adopted</b>	16 September 2021
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manager Operations	<b>Review date:</b>	3 YEARS FROM APPROVAL
<b>Version history</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Description</b>
	17 September 2021	1.2	Updated responsibilities.