

# Waterwise Native Verge Program

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The City of Bayswater encourages residents to convert their verges into waterwise native verges. Waterwise native verges have many advantages, with the main benefits being:

- Reduction in water consumption
- Creation of wildlife corridors
- Enhancement of local biodiversity through inclusion of native plants
- Building resilience to climate change

The City is offering property owners a rebate of up to \$250 (for verges smaller than 80m<sup>2</sup>) or up to \$500 (for verges larger than 80m<sup>2</sup>) to assist with improving their verge this winter season. Funds will be granted to eligible applications on a 'first come, first serve' basis until the pool of funding is exhausted.

To be an eligible application the verge garden makeover must:

- Comply with the City's **Street Verges Policy** and **Verge Greening Guidelines**
- Be from a City of Bayswater property owner. Where the verge area is shared (properties part of a strata complex, grouped dwelling or battle-axe development) the application will need to be supported by a letter from strata management.
- Residents will be encouraged to transform the whole verge with a minimum of 2/3 of the available area (excluding hardstand) or 20m<sup>2</sup>, whichever is greatest.
- If a corner block, only installation of low ground cover plants is permitted (native grasses and similar) to ensure sightlines to oncoming traffic are maintained
- Have removed grass or hard surfaces completely and thoroughly prior to planting and complete all works before 1 September 2022
- Ensure to only install waterwise irrigation, if irrigation is required at all
- Include a street tree (unless determined by the City upon application that planting of a street tree is not possible). Free street trees can be requested **here**
- Include 5-10cm of coarse mulch (woodchip or tree prunings)
- Solely include waterwise plants (local native plants preferred). The Water Corporation's **Waterwise Plant Directory** and the City's **local native plant booklet** provide information on suitable plants. As the program is not just about reducing water usage but equally about enhancing biodiversity a minimum of 20 plants for verges smaller than 80m<sup>2</sup> or a minimum of 30 plants for verges larger than 80m<sup>2</sup> should be included. This may be tube stock sized plants. The City will supply 10 tube stock plants at no cost.

The Waterwise Native Verge Program does not support:

- 'Infill verge projects' where there is an already vegetated verge and the applicant wishes to add or replace plants or mulch
- Verge installations prior to the dates of application approval (there are no retrospective rebates)

## What do you need to do?

1. Download the application form and submit the application with a 'before' photo of the verge by email (preferred), post or in person. The City will advise if the application is successful within three weeks of submitting the application.
2. Undertake the verge conversion works before 1 September 2022; including the removal of irrigated grass or hard surface and replacement with mulch and waterwise plants. The verge may be inspected before and after the conversion to verify the application and claim.

3. Submit the claim form, receipts of expenditure and an 'after' photo by 12 September 2022. The City will provide the rebate via an electronic bank transfer within four weeks of receiving a claim.

This initiative is proudly co-funded by Water Corporation's 'Waterwise Greening Scheme' and forms part of our ambition for the City of Bayswater to be a leading waterwise and climate change resilient community. For more information on waterwise verges please have a look at our [Verge Greening Guidelines](#) or visit <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/save-water/in-the-garden/creating-a-waterwise-verge>