

Supplementary Items

Policy Review and Development Committee

Monday 13 March 2023

8.7 New Policy: Extended Street Verge Policy

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Responsible Branch:	Parks and Gardens
Responsible Directorate:	Works and Infrastructure
Authority/Discretion:	Executive/Strategic
Voting Requirement:	Simple Majority Required
Attachments:	1. Extended Street Verge Policy 2023 [8.7.1 - 2 pages]
Refer:	Item 10.1.3: OCM 06.12.2022

SUMMARY

For Council to adopt a new policy as requested at the Annual General Meeting of Electors (AGM) held on 7 November 2022 and endorsed by Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on 6 December 2022, which is titled *Extended Street Verge Policy*.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the *Extended Street Verge Policy* as outlined in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

At its Ordinary Meeting held on 6 December 2022, Council made the following resolution:

“Council requests the Chief Executive Officer to develop a Policy that will enable the following:

1. *Residents of a property whose verge is adjacent to a verge in front of a residential-street water corporation drain can improve and/or maintain that verge, if the resident chooses to do so.*
2. *Residents should be able to improve and/or maintain these verges in accordance with existing polices and laws that are applicable to residential verges.*
3. *Offer the same rebates for these spaces as are currently offered to residents to improve their own verges.*
4. *Offer the subsidised 10 native plants scheme for these spaces as seasonally offered to residents own verges under the “Plants to Residents” programme.*
5. *Recognition of any improved verges, so that the Policy can be endorsed and operational by March 2023.”*

A new policy has been developed and is presented as an attachment to this report.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

No consultation has occurred with the public or other agencies on the draft policy.

However, there has been discussions with a resident in regard to the possibility of improving a verge adjacent to a Water Corporation drain, which has led to the motion being raised at the AGM. Discussions had also occurred with Water Corporation on the same matter.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The new policy effectively extends the provisions of the current *Street Verge Policy* to enable residents to improve and or maintain verges in front of land owned and or managed by utility providers and state agencies where that verge adjoins their verge.

Under this policy, residents are permitted to undertake activities to improve and or maintain these additional verges in a similar way to that permitted in the existing local laws, policies and

guidelines that are applicable to residential verges. These are all referenced in the policy under the 'Related Documentation' section.

The policy also includes provision that allows the same rebates, subsidies and programmes for improving residential verges to be applied to improving these additional verges.

Consideration will be given to possibly incorporating this policy into the *Street Verge Policy* when it is reviewed in future.

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Not applicable.

RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the City's Risk Management Framework, the officer's recommendation has been assessed against the City's adopted risk tolerance. Comments are provided against each of the risk categories.

Risk Category	Adopted Risk Appetite	Risk Assessment Outcome
Strategic Direction	Moderate	Low
Reputation	Low	Low
Governance	Low	Low
Community and Stakeholder	Moderate	Low
Financial Management	Low	Low
Environmental Responsibility	Low	Low
Service Delivery	Low	Low
Organisational Health and Safety	Low	Low
Conclusion	The approval of this policy will not increase the risk in any of the risk categories.	

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is expected to be limited financial implications for this policy, and any additional costs will be covered from the existing budget.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with the City of Bayswater Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031, the following applies:

- Theme: Community
- Goal C3: Maximise the use of the City's facilities and parks by all sections of the community.
- Theme: Environment and Liveability
- Goal E2: Remain focused on greening the City's suburbs and streetscapes and increasing the tree canopy.
- Goal E5: Protect and enhance the City's natural environment and biodiversity, and encourage the community to participate in its protection.
- Theme: Leadership and Governance
- Goal L1: Engage the community in a meaningful way.
Provide opportunities for the community to have their say and consider their views when making decisions.

CONCLUSION

That Council adopts the *Extended Street Verge Policy* in accordance with its resolution at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 6 December 2022.



Extended Street Verge Policy

Responsible Division	Works and Infrastructure
Responsible Business Unit	Parks and Gardens, Engineering and Spatial Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Parks and Gardens, Manager Engineering and Spatial Services
Affected Business Units	Parks and Gardens Engineering and Spatial Services
ECM Document Set ID	[ECM document set ID]

Purpose

This policy provides guidance on how residents can improve verge areas adjacent to land owned and / or managed by utility providers and State agencies.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy —

verge means land within the road reserve that is between the boundary of private or public property and the back of existing kerb or edge of road surface.

Policy Statement

1. An owner or occupier of a property whose verge is adjacent to a verge in front of a property owned and / or managed by a utility provider or State agency can improve and / or maintain that verge subject to meeting the requirements of this Policy.
2. Residents are permitted to improve and / or maintain these verges in a similar way to that permitted in the existing local laws, policies and guidelines that are applicable to residential verges.
3. The improvement and maintenance of the verge must not impact on access to the property. Any modifications to access must be approved in writing by the property owner / manager.
4. Residents will be eligible for rebates, subsidies and programmes when offered by the City in regards to verge improvement initiatives and provision of native plants.

Related Legislation

- *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995*
- *Environmental Protections Act 1986*
- *Thoroughfares Local Law 2020*
- *Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - Guidelines for the management of vegetation near power lines.*

Related Documentation

- *Street Verges Policy*
- *Verge Greening Guidelines*
- *Garden Planting Guideline*
- *Tree Planting Guideline*
- *Urban Tree Planting and Maintenance Policy*
- *Crossovers Policy*

Document details

Relevant delegations	[list]		
Risk evaluation	[low/moderate/high/extreme]		
Strategic link	[link to Strategic Community Plan]		
Council adoption	[date]	Resolution	[item no.]
Next review due	[date]		
Reviewed/modified	[date]	Resolution	[item no.]
Revision details	[description]		