



MAINTENANCE OF NATURE STRIPS

Summary:

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear direction to the maintenance of nature strips and road verges on the shire road network.

Policy Number	2.131
File Number	CM/159
Document version	V5.0
Adoption Date	27 October 2021
Approved By	Council
Endorsed By	Council
Minute Number	189/21
Consultation Period	Nil
Review Due Date	October 2024 – 3 years
Department	Engineering / Infrastructure Services
Policy Custodian	Manager Asset & Program Planning
Superseded Documents	Maintenance of Nature Strips and Road Verges (Policy 2.131) 23 August 2017 - Minute 168/17
Related Legislation	Roads Act 1993 Crown Lands Act 1989 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 Local Government Act 1993
Delegations of Authority	Nil

1. Overview

Each year, Council receives requests from owners and residents of land within urban and rural areas of the Shire about the following:

- For Council to cut the grass on the nature strips or road verge in front of their property either on a "one off" or permanent basis.
- To obtain approval to burn off or slash sections of the Road Reserve adjacent to their property.
- To obtain approval to remove trees adjacent to fence lines to enable renewal of existing fences or to improve sight distance at access points.
- For Council to control Noxious Weeds within the Road Reserve.

2. Policy Principles

The policy aims to provide equity for all residents and stakeholders in the shire.

3. Policy Objectives

This policy sets out Council's expectation for the level of service relating to the maintenance of nature strips and road verges on the roads.

4. Policy Statement

It is the accepted practice in Tenterfield Shire Council for owners and residents of land in urban and rural areas to maintain the strip of land between their boundary fence and the road to protect and enhance their investment. Such maintenance includes, but is not limited to mowing, edging and weeding.

The Director of Infrastructure be authorised to arrange for slashing or burning, (following consultation with the FCO or Brigade Captain as appropriate) by Council staff of these areas when they are situated in front of vacant or long term unoccupied land and present a safety or fire hazard, vermin harbour, or if it is in the public interest. Following slashing, Council does not remove the grass cuttings.

In urban areas this slashing may include the full width of the verge for the benefit of pedestrians.

In rural areas the slashing of verges will generally be undertaken along the immediate shoulder of the road or wider to enhance safety by removing sight distance obstructions.

The Director of Infrastructure be authorised to issue permits under Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993, to carry out activities within the Road Reserve which may include burning off or tree clearing adjacent to boundary fences or to improve sight distance at vehicular access crossings.

Council will maintain the unsealed area between the edge of seal and kerb and gutter where the area forms part of the road carriageway.

Council will control noxious weeds within the Road Reserve at Council's cost in accordance with annual budget constraints and Council's Noxious Weeds guidelines.

5. Scope

This policy applies to public roads within the shire road network.

6. Accountability, Roles & Responsibility

Elected Council

- Council Endorsement

General Manager, Executive and Management Teams

- Management of policies.

Management Oversight Group

- Review and Monitoring

Individual Managers

- Implementation of policy requirements

7. Definitions

Nil

8. Related Documents, Standards & Guidelines

Council's Noxious Weeds guidelines.

9. Version Control & Change History

Version	Date	Modified by	Details
V1.0	27/07/00	Council	Adoption of Original Policy (Res No. 645/00)
V2.0	22/08/12	Council	Review/Amended (Res No. 300/12)
V3.0	23/08/15	Council	Review/Amended (Res No. 303/15)
V4.0	23/08/17	Council	Review/Amended (Res No. 168/17)
V5.0	27/10/21	Council	Review/Amended (Res No. 189/21)