



## POLICY: ENG-PR-004

### Verge and Public Open Space Maintenance

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#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to maintain and develop the aesthetic appeal of the City's streetscapes and public open space by ensuring that effective management principles are applied and consistency in advice is given to ratepayers with regard to the City's commitment to the maintenance of these areas.

This policy details:-

- Areas of responsibility
- The City's maintenance standards
- Spraying of weeds

#### Definitions

Nil

#### Statement

##### 1. Areas of Responsibility

1.1. Property owners are responsible for ensuring that vegetation, rubbish and disused material from their property does not encroach onto the verge causing obstruction or hazard to the public.

1.2. The City will endeavour to provide a verge mowing and cleaning service within the city limits as follows:-

- Entrance roads                      3 to 6 months
- Main streets                            6 to 12 weeks

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- Residential areas 6 to 12 months
- Industrial areas 6 to 12 months
- Dual use paths 3 to 6 months

The frequency of this service will also depend on seasonal growth or the condition of the area to be maintained.

- 1.3. The City will avoid mowing or spraying verge lawns that are maintained on a regular basis by the resident.
- 1.4. The City will maintain entrance roads and roundabouts as per agreement with Main Roads Western Australia.
- 1.5. The City will encourage residents to become involved in the general presentation of the streetscapes by assisting at the request of the resident, with the removal of leaves and litter generated from the verge. In such cases it is the responsibility of the resident to collect and place the material adjacent to the roadside for collection. The City will not remove any material that has been generated from within private property, including vegetation encroaching onto the thoroughfare.
- 1.6. The City will tractor slash public open space within the city limits on a rotational basis at three monthly intervals, depending on seasonal growth.

## **2. The City's Maintenance Standard**

- 2.1 The City will ensure that all works are carried out in a safe manner to minimise potential risk to and damage to property. Staff will take into consideration peak traffic flows on main streets and children using paths to and from school, ensuring works are programmed to avoid these areas at times of high use.
- 2.2 City staff will remove litter and debris identified whilst undertaking works and dispose of same in an appropriate manner.
- 2.3 City staff will identify potential hazards and take appropriate measures to minimise risk.
- 2.4 The City will mow or spray vegetation on verges; trim around trees, service pits, poles, accessible drains, and alongside footpaths, fences and kerbs as deemed appropriate at the time.

2.5 City staff will remove material from footpaths or dual use paths by means of sweeping or blowing.

### **3. Spraying of Weeds**

3.1 The City will spray weeds in areas defined by the city's operational staff as priority areas, as follows:-

- Dual use paths                      6 to 12 months
- Right of ways                      3 to 6 months
- Main entrance roads              as required
- Industrial areas                    as required
- Residential areas                  as required

3.2 The City will endeavour to minimise the occurrence of declared weed species through an approved control program

3.3 The City will take all reasonable precautions to avoid damage to property and exposure of residents to the spraying operation.

3.4 The City will only use those herbicides considered which pose the least risk to the environment, the public and staff.

3.5 The city will encourage property owners and residents to actively participate with the control of declared or nuisance weeds on verges, laneways or their own property through educational programs.

### **Relevant Documents**