



Maintenance of Nature Strips and Laneways

Date June 2022
ESC Resolution Date 23 June 2022
Clause Number CCL22/144 (CCC22/23)

Responsible Position Manager Greenspace Operations
Branch Greenspace Operations
Division Liveability
Version 1.0
TRIM Reference Number ED22/132623
Review Period 5 years
Review Date November 2026
Consultation Executive Leadership Team

Document Revision History	
Description	Date
This was a former Management Policy and now has been adopted as a Council Policy	
Notes	

POLICY

PURPOSE

To outline the respective responsibilities of Dubbo Regional Council (Council) and residents in relation to the mowing of nature strips and laneways in order to provide a safe, functional and aesthetically pleasing streetscape.

NATURE STRIP

For the purposes of this policy, the 'nature strip' is the area of public land between the private property boundary and the curb and gutter or roadside.

Nature strips should be maintained to a reasonable level. This usually translates to the regular mowing of grass throughout the year, in order to keep the nature strip aesthetically pleasing, free of vermin and conforming to the overall streetscape of urban areas.

LANEWAYS

For the purposes of this policy, 'laneways' are those areas of public land separating the rear boundaries of properties.

BACKGROUND AND RELATED LEGISLATION

Nature Strips serve an important purpose of providing a buffer between the vehicle carriage way and the private boundary. The space is typically occupied by footpaths, street trees, lawn and a range of public service utilities both above and below the ground.

Laneways are typically the narrow strip of land between the rear boundaries of some properties that have been used for access.

Council is committed to ensuring that the streetscape in Dubbo Region LGA is of a standard that improves local amenity, minimises public safety risks and maintains pedestrian access. However, Council does not have sufficient resources to maintain all nature strips and laneways across the LGA. This policy reinforces Council's position of not mowing nature strips and laneways of residential, commercial or industrial properties.

Council does not mow nature strips and laneways adjacent to other government facilities including schools, hospitals, Housing NSW properties, Government and non-Government entity managed properties, religious institutions, private childcare centres, or other public and private businesses.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the management of all nature strips and laneways, property owners and occupiers, in the Local Government Area.

POLICY

1. Council's Responsibility Regarding Nature Strips and laneways

1.1. Council will maintain nature strips adjoining or within:

- Public reserve areas such as, bushland, parks or gardens;

- Council facilities such as public buildings, recreation grounds or public swimming pools; and
- Certain areas of Central Business Districts.

2. Property Owners (and Tenants) Role Regarding Nature Strips and Laneways

- 2.1. Council lacks adequate resources to effectively maintain these diverse areas, which taken together, constitute a large and sparsely spread area of land.
- 2.2. The footpath must be kept unobstructed to permit pedestrian access. If no footpath exists then an unplanted space adjoining the property boundary must be maintained to permit the same.
- 2.3. Areas subject to native vegetation protection must be maintained in accordance with those specifications, which may limit mowing and removal of vegetation.
- 2.4. Street trees that have been planted by Council in accordance with its Street Tree Masterplan are excluded. They remain the property and responsibility of Council. Residents must not prune or interfere with Council maintained street trees nor plant their own trees within the nature strip.
- 2.5. Garden beds, median gardens, footpaths and other identified features installed by the developer on public land are maintained by the developer for a defined period of time. After that period maintenance is undertaken by Council.

3. Areas of Neglect, Where Nature Strips and Laneways Create an Eyesore or Safety Hazard

In cases where footpaths, nature strips and Laneways become overgrown, Council may write to the property owner and advise them of this policy.

An application can be made for exceptional circumstances that requests Council to undertake maintenance of a nature strip or laneway. The CEO's decision on each application is final.

RELATED RESOURCES

- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- Roads Act 1993 (NSW)

RESPONSIBILITIES

Director Infrastructure