

## Maintenance of Nature Strips and Laneways

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**Branch** Operations  
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<b>Notes</b>	

# 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.

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

## BACKGROUND AND RELATED LEGISLATION

A 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 watering and mowing of grass throughout the year, in order to keep the nature strip aesthetically pleasing and conforming to the overall streetscape of urban areas

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 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. This Policy reinforces Council's position of residents and property owners assuming primary responsibility for the mowing of the nature strips and laneways as Council does not mow nature strips and laneways in front of, and adjacent to residential, commercial or industrial properties.

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

Council relies on the community spirit of its local residents and property owners to contribute to the amenity of the region.

## SCOPE

The policy applies to all nature strips and laneways throughout the Local Government Area.

## DEFINITIONS

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply: (Delete section if not required)

Term	Definition
<b>Nature Strip</b>	A nature strip is the area of public land between the private property boundary and the curb and gutter or roadside
<b>Laneway</b>	Laneways are typically the narrow strip of land between the rear boundaries of properties that have been used for access.

## **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 swimming pools; and
- Certain areas of Central Business Districts.

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

2.1. Traditionally, Property Owners (and tenants) have maintained nature strips adjoining their properties. Council lacks adequate resources to effectively maintain these diverse areas, which taken together, constitute a large and sparsely spread area of land. As such, Property Owners (and tenants) efforts are required in order to maintain nature strips throughout our urban areas to a reasonable condition.

2.2. Residents and property owners are expected to maintain the nature strip and laneways (where they exist) adjoining their property. Maintenance refers to keeping the area tidy, mowing, edging and weeding, removing litter, leaf fall and tree debris.

2.3. 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.

2.4. Grass height is expected to be maintained to less than 300mm.

2.5. Areas subject to native vegetation protection must be maintained in accordance with those specifications, which may limit mowing and removal of vegetation.

2.6. 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.

2.7. Garden beds, median gardens 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 Create an Eyesore or Safety Hazard**

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

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Director Liveability