

**MAINTENANCE OF GRASS &
HERBACEOUS WEEDS –
COUNCIL CONTROLLED
AREAS**

Endorsed by the CEO



on

8 June 2023

public policy

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1. PREAMBLE

Council controlled areas are maintained for the purpose of aesthetics, bushfire risk prevention and to prevent the spread of certain herbaceous weeds. This is achieved through various maintenance programs including brush cutting, mowing, and spraying.

2. PURPOSE

To provide a framework to manage the maintenance of grass and weed growth by Council staff in Council controlled areas to allow for the safe access, sustainability and enhancement of the natural environment within these areas.

3. SCOPE

This policy outlines the approach the City of Mitcham will adopt to manage the maintenance of grass & herbaceous weed growth on Council controlled areas by Council staff.

4. DEFINITIONS

Council Controlled Area

For the purposes of this policy a Council Controlled Area can refer to Council owned parks, reserves, sports fields, garden beds, verges and other open spaces including open woodland reserves.

5. PRINCIPLES

5.1. Safety & Accessibility

Council has a responsibility to ensure that Council Controlled Areas are maintained for safe and accessible use, and to minimise fire risk.

5.2. Environmental Sustainability

Council endeavours to minimise pest activity and reduce the spread of unwanted weeds.

5.3. Amenity

Council aims to maintain and enhance amenity value of Council controlled areas.

6. POLICY STATEMENT

6.1. Council will maintain grass and herbaceous weeds using a variety of methods including mowing, brush cutting/slashing, cultural and chemical control. Council will adopt the most appropriate method at its discretion, taking into consideration factors including location, cost efficiency and the presence of native vegetation.

6.2. Council is supportive of residents maintaining the grass, weeds and leaf litter on the verges adjacent to their properties to enhance the streetscapes and minimise the attraction of vermin and litter.

6.3. Council will continuously review maintenance programs as needed.

- 6.4. Maintenance programs differ based on the appropriate application for each area type.

Parks, Reserves and Sports Fields

- 6.5. Council operates a proactive maintenance program for parks, reserves and sports fields.
- 6.6. Council undertakes an annual bushfire fuel reduction program across selected reserves as per its Bushfire Management Operational Plan.
- 6.7. Council follows a maintenance regime guided by the relevant Community Land Management plans for various parks, reserves and sports fields.

Verges

- 6.8. The suburb of Colonel Light Gardens is a state heritage area and Council operates a maintenance program subject to operational considerations in this area. This policy is to be read in conjunction with Council's Conditions for the Use of Verges policy. This policy directs the relevant status of verges including areas such as the state heritage status of Colonel Light Gardens.
- 6.9. Council operates a streetscapes weed control program for verges in selected suburbs. Verges that appear maintained will be avoided. Council will maintain a No Spray Register that residents can request for their property to be included on.
- 6.10. Council is not required to notify residents prior to initiating the streetscapes weed control program.
- 6.11. Council undertakes an annual bushfire fuel reduction program across selected verges as per its Bushfire Management Operational Plan.

7. POLICY REVIEW

This Policy will be subject to review every four (4) years or sooner at the discretion of the relevant General Manager.

The CEO has delegated authority to endorse any amendments to the Policy that do not vary the intent of the Policy.

8. VERSION HISTORY

VERSION	AUTHOR(S) POSITION	CHANGES	DATE
1	Infrastructure	New Policy	4 December 1995
2	Environment	Updated	21 July 1997
3	Governance Officer	Refer to Full Council Resolution 12 November 2019 Item 9.4	12 November 2019
4	Compliance Support Officer	Renamed Policy Updated document structure and content	13 April 2022

9. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Responsible Department	Engineering & Horticulture		
Delegations Contained within Policy	YES / NO		
Classification	Infrastructure		
Applicable legislation	Local Government Act 1999		
Related Policies & Corporate Documents	Tree Policy Conditions for the Use of Verges Policy Bushfire Management Operational Plan Community Land Management Plans		
Additional references			
Endorsed by Council	4/12/1995		
Effective Date	4/12/1995	Next Review Date:	2026
Policy Set ID		Template Set ID:	3345084

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