

# Management of Urban and Rural Residential Verges

2024/25

Noosa greatly values the efforts of our residents in maintaining the front verges of their urban and rural properties. Since Council does not actively manage these verges, we rely on the support and cooperation of adjacent residents and property owners. This community-driven approach helps keep property rates low while allowing residents the freedom to maintain their verges according to their own standards of presentation. Road reserve planting contributes to climate change resilience, biodiversity outcomes and helps reduce the net loss of ecosystem values.

To support this collaborative effort, Council has endorsed an Encroachments Policy to provide clear guidelines on verge management in urban and rural residential areas. This includes specific guidance on garden planting and other verge enhancements.



## Key Principles for Verge Gardens

- **Maintenance Encouragement:** Community use and management of urban road verges can contribute to Noosa's green look and feel, provide wildlife habitat and help cool our urban landscapes. Residents and adjacent private property owners are encouraged to maintain their lawns and remove common weeds from the verges.
- **Low Planting:** Planting low groundcovers and small shrubs that grow to less than two meters is supported, as long as it is done in accordance with The Road Verge Plant Species Guide.
- **Street Tree Planting:** Council is responsible for street tree planting as part of our asset management program.
- **Prohibited Landscaping:** Drainage, driveways, footpaths, fences, planting boxes, retaining walls, garden structures, and sculptures are not permitted.
- **Replacement Restrictions:** Public landscaping, gardens, and infrastructure on verges cannot be replaced with private planting or landscaping.
- **Utility Disruptions:** Utility providers may need to disrupt verge areas for essential infrastructure maintenance. Please note that they are not responsible for reinstating any damaged verge planting.

## Application

Private gardening and landscaping on road verges are permitted in urban areas and rural residential estates with formalised verges throughout Noosa. If you are considering planting on your road verge, please contact Council, and we will assist you in determining the best options for your verge

## Species Selection and Layout in Road Verges

**Plant Selection:** Use native, non-invasive ground cover and shrubs under 2 metres.

**Site Suitability:** Ensure plants are suitable for the area's aspect, sunlight, and drainage.

**Expert Consultation:** Consult local experts and Council for guidance.

**Pathway Clearance:** Keep a 1.5-metre path clear for pedestrians and cyclists between the kerb and the verge garden.

## Critical Considerations in Road Verges

When maintaining your verge, ensure it doesn't obstruct drivers' visibility, driveways, or access to post boxes. Leave space for kerbside bins, utilities, and footpath maintenance. Avoid planting trees, hedges outside your property, shrubs over 2m, and species like palms, pandanus, and bamboo due to maintenance issues.

## Weeds in Road Verges

Verges can harbor bushland weeds that threaten local flora and fauna. Remove weeds listed in the Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld) and the Road Verge common weeds that should be removed list. Dispose of weeds in landfill bins instead of composting. For help with weed identification and removal, consult local environmental groups.

## Maintenance of Verge Planting

As a property owner, you are responsible for maintaining your turf and verge plantings by replacing lost plants, replenishing mulch, and weeding.

## Council Planted Trees on Road Verges

The Council manages street tree planting. Please do not prune or remove trees planted by the Council. If you have any issues or questions regarding a Council-planted tree on a road verge, please contact the Council directly.

## Removal of At-Risk Trees in Verges

If you notice any trees on the verge that seem unsafe or problematic, contact the Council for assessment and possible removal.

**For more information on managing your verge, please contact Council.**

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## Self-Assessment Criteria - Road Verge Gardens

<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Health and Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't present a hazard or risk. No trip or fall hazards, drop offs, sharp edges, spikes or thorns, poisonous plants.</li> <li>• Doesn't contain structures, retaining walls, sculptures, fences, plant boxes or solar lights.</li> <li>• Maintains sight lines for pedestrians, cyclists or vehicular traffic, and entering and exiting a driveway. Maintains a vegetation-clear zone on corner points and intersections.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Size and extent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 1.5 metres width is left clear between the garden and road edge or formed kerb, to allow access for pedestrians, services, motor vehicles parked along the roadside and a location to place bins for collection.</li> <li>• Plant selection and maintenance ensures the maximum height of the garden is 2 metres.</li> <li>• Ensure small shrubs and low ground covers in planting plan.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Bushfire risk management and access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't complicate any fire trail construction, maintenance or management for emergency access – e.g. fire breaks.</li> <li>• Planting is in road verge frontage only – not side or rear boundaries.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Soil environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintains soil stability, and soil depth.</li> <li>• Doesn't contribute to erosion or sedimentation.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Vegetation environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant species are preferably native and listed on the "Road Verge and Park Garden Plant Species Guide". Link <a href="https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/encroachments-organisational-procedures">encroachments-organisational-procedures (noosa.qld.gov.au)</a>, p14-18.</li> <li>• Weed free and doesn't include any plants on the "Common Weeds" list or a known declared weed. Link <a href="https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/encroachments-organisational-procedures">encroachments-organisational-procedures (noosa.qld.gov.au)</a>, p19-20.</li> <li>• Preserves street trees, remnant bush or high value vegetation. Avoids planting, pruning or removal of Council trees.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Community amenity and enjoyment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is well maintained by the owner, is tidy and is weed and debris free.</li> <li>• No expectation of Council maintenance, reinstatement or renewal</li> <li>• Vegetation is not overhanging or growing into areas used as thoroughfares.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Impact on public asset or public service and nearby property</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No restriction on function, maintenance, access, or reduction in life of Council assets eg footpath, kerb and channel, lighting, bus stops. Doesn't conflict with underground or above ground utilities (refer to Dial Before You Dig online service)</li> </ul>