

POLICY No. AM14 MOWING POLICY

DEPARTMENT:	Works and Infrastructure
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Manager Infrastructure and Development Services
LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	To provide quality infrastructure which enhances the liveability and viability of our communities for residents and visitors
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	Nil.
OBJECTIVE:	The objective of this policy is to define Council's responsibility and property occupants' role in relation to the mowing of nature strips and roadsides in order to provide a safe, functional and aesthetically pleasing streetscape.
POLICY INFORMATION:	Adopted 16 June 2014 – Minute 06/14.12.6.165 Amended 25 June 2018 – Minute No. 06/18.13.5.135 Amended 28 June 2021 – Minute No. 06/21.14.4.163 Amended 15 July 2024 – Minute No. 07/24.14.8.414

POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy outlines Council's position and the level of service regarding the mowing of nature strips in urban areas and roadsides in rural areas.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council controlled lands between property boundaries and Council controlled roads, including the built-up areas of Ansons Bay, Beaumaris, Binalong Bay, Cornwall, Falmouth, Fingal, Four Mile Creek, Mangana, Mathinna, Pyengana, St Helens, St Marys, Scamander, Seymour, Stieglitz and Weldborough.

3. DEFINITIONS

Mowing

Mowing is the act of cutting a lawn or grassed area to an even height, which may include edging, trimming and whipper snipping and where deemed necessary; herbicide spraying.

Nature Strip (Urban)

The area of land within a road reservation bound by a property boundary and the edge of a roadway.

The primary purpose of this land is the provision of service infrastructure corridors and to facilitate pedestrian movement alongside the roadway.

Roadside (Rural)

The area of land within a road reservation bound by a property boundary and the edge of a roadway.

The primary purpose of this land is to accommodate roadside stormwater drainage, road delineation (e.g. guideposts), directional and information signage and roadside infrastructure (e.g. telecommunications wiring). Mowing will improve the visibility of wildlife, roadside infrastructure, signage and other vehicles using the road.

4. ACCEPTABLE CONDITION OF NATURE STRIPS AND ROADSIDES

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

Rural roadsides should be maintained to ensure roadside drains function properly and to provide and maintain safe sight distance for motorists and other road users

5. COUNCIL’S RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING MOWING

Council will maintain urban nature strips and rural roadsides according to four (4) levels:

Level	Level Description	Service Level	Frequency
1	Urban Public Amenity	<p>Council will maintain nature strips adjoining or within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public reserve areas such as parks, gardens and playgrounds; • Council facilities such as public buildings, recreation grounds and sports grounds; and • Central business areas; 	Normally four (4) to six (6) weeks rotation dependent on growing season.
2	Urban Other Areas	<p>Council does not maintain nature strips in front of private, commercial and industrial properties, including government agencies.</p> <p>If there is genuine and demonstrated hardship based on medical evidence or financial constraints, residents may apply to the General Manager for intervention.</p> <p>Written submissions will be assessed according to the resident’s individual circumstances.</p> <p>If approved, council will only mow four (4) times during a twelve month period.</p>	No maintenance unless otherwise approved by the Councils General Manager.
3	Fingal Rural Living Blocks	Council will slash nature strips in front of private properties under this exemption.	Maximum of twice in a 12 month period.

4	Rural Roads	Roadside slashing Class 1 roads being – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Rural Road (sealed) • Carries heavy commercial traffic • Vehicle count greater than 2000 vehicles per day • Major tourist destination or route. 	Six (6) months
		Roadside slashing Class 2 roads being – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural collector road sealed or unsealed • Carries heavy commercial traffic • Vehicle count between 1,000 and 2,000 vehicles per day with seasonal high traffic count. 	Twelve (12) months.
		Roadside slashing Class 3 roads being – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural collector or through road sealed or unsealed. • Minor tourist and commercial traffic. 	No maintenance unless there is an emerging safety risk.
		Roadside slashing Class 4 roads being – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel surfaced rural road • Not a through road • Minor commercial traffic • Vehicle count less than 100 vehicles per day. 	No maintenance unless there is an emerging safety risk
		Roadside slashing Class 5 roads being- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unformed road • Minimal or no drainage • Basically no pavement • Poor alignment • Track in a road reservation 	No maintenance.

6. PROPERTY OCCUPANTS' ROLE REGARDING NATURE STRIPS

Traditionally, property occupants 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, Council encourages and relies on the goodwill and established community expectation that property occupants' will maintain nature strips throughout our urban areas to a reasonable condition.

Property occupants' maintenance of nature strips not only benefits the adjoining properties, but also enhances the utility, attractiveness and value of the community as a whole.

7. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years in line with the Council's Policy Framework or earlier in the event of major changes to legislation or related policies, procedures or if deemed necessary by the General Manager.