

POLICY NO 7.8

7.8 - Verge Enhancement

Origin/Authority

Council Meeting: 16 August 2012

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the street scape of the townsite areas and to provide financial assistance to property owners/occupiers that carry out approved verge enhancements.

POLICY STATEMENT

Property owners or occupiers that carry out approved verge enhancements will be eligible upon presentation of copies of receipts of goods and/or services purchased locally for reimbursement to the respective amounts as adopted by Council Budget for a single verge and for a corner block where dual verges are enhanced.

Eligibility for the reimbursement is subject to the following conditions:

1. Concrete kerbing being insitu or as approved by the Executive Manager Engineering Services;
2. A plan of the enhancement shall be provided to the Shire's administration for approval prior to any works commencing. The plan shall provide information relating to the proposed method of enhancement, existing street trees and any proposed new trees or other vegetation;
3. Any proposed removal of trees shall be in accordance with Council's Townsite Street Tree Policy;
4. An "approved verge enhancement" is one that is consistent with that defined in this policy;
5. The current or previous owner/occupier of the premises immediately adjacent to the verge not having already received a reimbursement for such works on the same verge;
6. The applicant taking all responsibility in relation to the protection of any underground services. The cost of any repairs to such services resulting from verge works shall be borne by the applicant.
7. The applicant to accept full responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the verge.

Definitions: An "approved verge improvement" is one that;

- is consistent with Council's Policy relating to Townsite street trees;

- involves the removal of top soil and placement of fines to the following specification OR the installation of a water wise reticulation system and/or other suitable landscaping; and
- if the proponent intends to carry out landscaping of the verge, he/she shall give consideration to the recommendations and guidelines provided in section 10.0 of the Exmouth Townscape Plan, in particular 'plant descriptions'.

Specifications:

For Fines Treatment: Removal of 100mm of top soil, backfill and compaction of 80mm of fines.

Lawn Treatment: Sprinklers shall be located adjacent to the street kerbing facing towards the verge. The spray shall be set so as to minimize any water wastage on to hardstand or road areas. Note: Council does not support the installation of lawn on verges and does not reimburse costs associated with the installation of lawn.

Garden Beds: Planting and maintenance of a garden bed is permitted provided that –

- i. clear sight visibility is maintained at all times for a person using the abutting thoroughfare in the vicinity of an intersection or bend in the thoroughfare; and
- ii. where there is no footpath, a pedestrian has safe and clear access of a minimum width of 2 metres along that part of the verge immediately adjacent to the kerb.

In all of the above treatments a minimum of two trees must be planted and maintained by the resident. Tree and/or plant species to be approved by the Council Officers and selected from the Shire's Townscape Enhancement recommended plant list.

Note:

All applicants are advised that should the Shire at some time in the future be installing a footpath along the verge in question, the footpath will be laid from the kerb a maximum of 2.0 metres into the verge. The Shire will reinstate any fines to enhanced verges following the footpath works.