

# MAINTENANCE OF STREET TREES, RESERVES AND STREET VERGES ADJOINING

*Document Control Statement – This Policy is maintained by the Infrastructure Department. Any printed copy may not be up to date and you are advised to check the electronic copy at <http://intranet/> to ensure that you have the current version. Alternatively, you may contact Customer Service on (08) 9186 8555.*

## 1. OBJECTIVE

To ensure that regular maintenance is undertaken on all undeveloped drainage, parkland, recreation areas, parkland and drainage reserves and street verges where adjoining residential properties.

## 2. PRINCIPLES

### 2.1 Scope

This Policy includes:

- ~~reserves not developed or maintained as f~~Formal parks, gardens, sportsgrounds, or playgrounds or otherwise specifically maintained on a regular basis for any public purpose and vested in the City of Karratha (City). ~~These reserves are e~~Often referred to as Open Areas or verges;
- ~~This Policy also includes~~ land adjoining residential properties in the City of Karratha that comprises part of a street reserve and is vested in the City of Karratha ~~(verges)~~; and
- ~~This policy refers to all~~ vegetation within these reserves and is not limited to sedges, grass, shrubs and trees either eEndemic or nNon-nNative.

### 2.2 Maintenance offer Reserves

All reserves comprised within the intent of Clause ~~2.14.4~~ shall be inspected on an annual basis and where it is deemed that maintenance is warranted, the works are to be carried out in a planned and systematic schedule. ~~conjunction with Council's annual cyclone season clean-up operations, unless, the work can be conveniently conducted at another time without disruption to Council's work programme.~~

Requests for maintenance from residents and ratepayers will be assessed by the Co-ordinator of Parks and Gardens, and/ or Senior Ranger ~~Manager Infrastructure and/or the Engineering Works Coordinator~~ and if deemed warranted the City shall arrange for the work to be carried out in conjunction with Council's open areas maintenance program ~~annual cyclone season clean-up operation~~, unless the work can be conveniently conducted at another time without disruption to Council's works programme.

Requests for maintenance from residents and ratepayers will be assessed by the the Manager Infrastructure Co-ordinator Parks and Gardens, and/or Senior Ranger ~~to determine if the area of concern:~~

- ~~constitutes a hazard and and/or the Engineering Works Coordinator, on the grounds of reasonableness and necessity for safety; however, where it is considered that the area concerned does not constitute a hazard~~
- ~~or the area of concern~~ is attributable to the actions of the resident or ratepayer, and if so, then the resident or ratepayer shall they will be advised that the costs associated with ~~of any action to remove the problem~~ shall be borne by the resident or ratepayer concerned.

Maintenance, where effected, shall be by slashing the growth of grass and scrub to a width not exceeding 3.0 metres from the property boundary, in exceptional circumstances where growth is of such an excessive nature or the area is prohibitively difficult to slash, a front-end loader ~~other~~

~~mechanical means~~ may be employed to remove the refuse and growth provided ~~that minimal impact to the area disturbance of soil~~ occurs.

~~Maintenance to trees and shrubs shall only be authorised by the City's Manager Infrastructure Services or representatives and is to be carried out by City's authorised contractors. Any tree or shrub pruning not authorised by the City will be referred to the City's Ranger Department for follow up investigation with possible prosecution.~~

Burning of growth or refuse by residents, ratepayers or contractors is not permitted on any land contained in ~~as per~~ Clause 2.14.1, except where approved by the ~~Manager Infrastructure-Chief Bush Fire Control Officer~~ in conjunction with the ~~Chief Bush Fire Control Officer~~ ~~Co-Ordinator of Parks and Gardens.~~

## 2.3 Maintenance for Lands

Any maintenance of grass, ~~weeds or shrubs or sedge~~ ~~weed or shrub growth~~ on street verges adjoining residential property is the responsibility of the respective resident or property owner, except ~~that~~ where a constructed footpath traverses the verge, a strip 1.0m wide may be slashed or sprayed with herbicide along the edge of the path, or where a traffic hazard is considered to exist, action may be taken by ~~the City Council~~ to remove the material concerned.

Street verges adjacent to or adjoining schools in residential areas will be maintained by ~~the City Council~~ by periodic slashing of grass growth as determined appropriate by the ~~Manager Infrastructure~~ ~~Co-Ordinator Parks and Gardens.~~ ~~and/or the Engineering Works Coordinator.~~

~~Pruning and or removal of street trees and shrubs shall only be authorised by the Manager Infrastructure or City representatives and is to be carried out by City staff or nominated persons. Any pruning not authorised by the City, will be referred to the City's Ranger Department for follow up investigation with possible prosecution. The intent is that the majority of street tree pruning will be carried out during the scheduled Cyclone clean-up program.~~

## 2.4 General

Council acknowledges that it is preferable for environmental considerations to promote and maintain the establishment of ~~indigenous~~ ~~e~~ ~~Endemic~~ flora species and vegetation forms. Therefore, appropriate land management techniques are to be used.

Council is cognisant of problems of excessive grass growth generated on reserves adjoining residential properties being attributable to occupiers applying excessive amounts of water to lawns and gardens, ~~and discharge of backwash water from residential pools.~~

~~Refuse/Rubbish, tree prunings and garden waste~~ ~~also that refuse~~ dumped on reserves is often a cause of complaint from residents and ratepayers. ~~In the case of illegal dumping of Garden Refuse, Council maintains the right to investigate and if proven, recover costs of the clean-up from the adjoining property owner for the cost of clean-up.~~ ~~of Green waste.~~

~~In such cases~~ Council ~~maintains its rights to~~ ~~will~~ only carry out clean up works in conjunction with its annual cyclone season clean-up operations ~~or when appropriate resources are available.~~

Council acknowledges that grass and weed growth following heavy rainfall events can be prolific and rapid. In such cases, Council's resources may not be able to attend to all areas of concern within the expectations of residents and ratepayers.

## 3. CONSEQUENCES

This policy represents the formal policy and expected standards of the City. Appropriate approvals need to be obtained prior to any deviation from the policy. It is imperative that Councillors and Officers retain appropriate documentation to substantiate their expenditure. Elected Members and Employees are

reminded of their obligations under the City's Code of Conduct to give full effect to the lawful policies, decisions and practices of the City.

#### **4. REFERENCES to RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Policy Number:	TE-03
Previous Policy Number:	TS-06
Resolution Numbers:	<del>5933-Jul 1993; 12738-Sep 2002; 13130-Sep 2003; 14223-Oct 2007</del> <del>5933-Jul 1993; 12738-Sep 2002; 13130-Sep 2003; 14223-Oct 2007; September 2009</del>
Last Review:	<del>September 2009</del> June 2019
Next Review:	<del>September 2010</del> July 2020 June 2022
Responsible Officer:	Coordinator <del>Works and Technical Services</del> Parks and Gardens

*This Policy takes effect from the date of adoption by Council and shall remain valid until it is amended or deleted.*