

RESIDENTIAL NATURE STRIP POLICY

Policy Reference No.	POL/194
File No.	HCC15/190
Strategic Objective	4.2 Create community pride through a well-designed and maintained City.
Adopted by Council	November 2011
Re-Adopted	15 June 2021
Date for Review	28 February 2023
Responsible Officer	Manager City Parks and Open Spaces
Department	City Parks and Open Spaces

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 Council is committed to improving the appearance of Hume City through the maintenance and enhancement of roadsides.
- 1.2 Council supports residents who maintain and enhance nature strips when done in a manner that is safe, is not detrimental the local amenity, sustainable and compliant with relevant legislation.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of the Policy is to provide guidance to residents wishing to undertake personalised landscape works on Council Residential Nature Strips.
- 2.2 The Policy also provide guidance on how Council will address non-compliant landscape works on Nature Strips.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1 The Policy applies to landscape works on Council Residential Nature Strips.
- 3.2 The Policy does not apply to roads where Council is not the Responsible Road Authority including Arterial Roads and Freeways. It also does not apply to works undertaken by Council, utility authorities and Victorian and Federal Governments.

4. OBJECTIVES:

- 4.1 To ensure a safe, sustainable, and consistent approach to the design and selection of materials used on residential nature strips throughout the City.
- 4.2 Provide clarity to Hume residents about the management and maintenance and governance of Residential Nature Strips in the municipality.
- 4.3 Provide separate guidelines to residents on suitable landscape treatments, public safety and asset protection.

5. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Consent to undertake landscape works on Council Nature Strips

- 5.1.1 A person undertaking landscape works on a Council Nature Strip needs to apply for a *Consent to Works Within a Hume Road Reserve* permit.
- 5.1.2 Council will consider applications for landscape works on Council Nature Strips in accordance with Council's Residential Nature Strip Guidelines.

5.2 Non-compliant landscape works on Council Nature Strips

- 5.2.1 Where Council becomes aware of non-compliant and/or unsafe landscape works on a Council Nature Strip and where the works do not comply with the Residential Nature Strip Guidelines, Council may:
 - a) invite the resident/property owner to bring the works into compliance with the Guidelines;
 - b) Where this is unsuccessful undertake enforcement action; and,

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- c) Where Council cannot identify the responsible person or, the identified person fails to bring the landscape works into compliance with the Guidelines, remove the landscape works and topsoil and seed or apply a mulch layer to the area as appropriate.

6. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Nature Strip - is the land that is within the boundaries of a road (other than the shoulders of the road) which is not a roadway or pathway as stated in the Road Management Act 2004. Council Residential Nature Strip – is Nature Strip on a road listed on Council's Register of Public Roads adjacent to residential land use.

Personalised Landscape Works – landscape works on a Council Residential Nature Strip that comply with Council's Residential Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines

Other terms shown in capitals are defined by the Road Management Act 2004.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

7.1 Legislative requirements

- a) Road Management Act 2004.
- b) Local Government Act 2020

7.2 Hume City Council:

- a) Local Law Number 1
- b) Road Management Plan
- c) Register of Public Roads
- d) Residential Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines
- e) Sustainable Gardening Handbook

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