

2216 - Maintenance of Nature Strips in Urban Areas

Governance Policy



PURPOSE

- 1) The purpose of this policy is to outline the manner in which Council will manage the maintenance of footpaths and nature strips within the Urban Areas of Council's local government area to ensure a safe, functional and aesthetically pleasing streetscape.

SCOPE

- 2) This Policy applies to all North Burnett Regional Council controlled land.
- 3) This Policy does not apply to rural areas or the maintenance of private property.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Council	means North Burnett Regional Council.
Council Controlled Land	means any and all land owned, controlled, or held in trust by Council.
Footpath	means an area open to the public that is provided principally for the movement of pedestrians along a street or road, usually located in urban areas.
LL1	means <i>North Burnett Regional Council Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011</i> .
Nature Strip	means the area land between a property boundary and the edge of a roadway. The primary purpose of this land is to facilitate pedestrian movement alongside the roadway and provide an area for infrastructure provision.
Region	means any location occurring within the defined boundaries of North Burnett Regional Council.
Resident	means, for the purposes of this Policy, any person/s occupying a residential property and includes a tenanted occupant/s and/or property owner/s.
Roadway	means the constructed section of a carriageway between the backs of kerbs in streets and roads, or that area between the inverts of surface drainage swales where kerbing has not been provided in streets or roads.
SLL1	means <i>North Burnett Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011</i> .
SLL4	means <i>North Burnett Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011</i> .
Urban Area	means any developed area within the region where there is a density of residential houses and/or commercial buildings.
Rural Area	means – an area of land outside the densely populated urban area. Usually, large open areas with few houses and people.
Maintenance	means, for the purposes of this policy, mowing, weeding, sweeping and spraying activities.
Landscaping	means, for the purposes of this policy, the activity of making a garden or area of land more attractive by adding trees, plants, shrubs, ground covers or any other hard feature.

POLICY

OBJECTIVES

- 4) The objective of this Policy is to outline the respective responsibilities and expectations of Council and Residents in relation to the maintenance of Nature Strips.

PRINCIPLES

- 5) The Nature Strip is the area of land that falls within Council's control to maintain pursuant to section 60 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld).
- 6) The primary purpose of the Nature Strip is to provide a safe buffer zone between the property boundary and traffic traversing the road as well as allowing an area for the provision of essential infrastructure.
- 7) Council acknowledges that to maintain the Nature Strip throughout the entire local government area, would not only be financially onerous, but also heavily resource dependent in addition to the services Council already provides to the community.
- 8) Council relies on its Local Laws which obligate residents to maintain the Nature Strip adjacent to the property boundary in a tidy condition, as a contribution to the amenity of the Region which allows Council to direct its resources to other essential services.

POLICY STATEMENT

- 9) Nature strips should be maintained to a reasonable level of appearance, requiring regular maintenance and mowing of the grassed area to ensure:
 - (a) the safe movement of pedestrians; and
 - (b) that the Nature Strip remains aesthetically pleasing and confirms to the overall streetscape of residential areas.
- 10) It is expected that Residents will regularly maintain the Nature Strip, including where roadworks have resulted in an increase to the Nature Strip area, regardless of whether the property is private, commercial, or industrial.
- 11) Maintenance of the Nature Strip by Residents not only benefits the Resident, but it also enhances the utility, attractiveness and value of the community as a whole.
- 12) Council will respond to complaints regarding a poorly maintained Nature Strip in accordance with this policy and Local Laws.
- 13) In circumstances where the Nature Strip becomes overgrown, littered or not maintained to an acceptable condition, Council will write to the Resident advising them of this policy and Councils Local Laws.

Landscaping

- 14) Landscaping of the Nature Strip is considered to be a prescribed activity requiring approval under Council's LL1 and SLL1. Residents wishing to undertake landscaping works within the Nature Strip directly adjoining their property are required to obtain a written approval from Council.
- 15) In evaluating a request to undertake landscaping within the Nature Strip, Councils Authorised Officer will consider:
 - (a) Impact on the streetscape;
 - (b) Access to and Safety of pedestrians;
 - (c) Risk of impacting on street drainage;
 - (d) Shadow and shade effects; and
 - (e) Likely ability of the Resident (and future Residents) to maintain the landscaped area in an acceptable form.
- 16) Any landscaping that is undertaken on the Nature Strip without Council approval is considered an offence under LL1 and SLL1.

Street Trees

- 17) Street trees will be managed in accordance with Council's Public Space Tree Policy.
- 18) Residents seeking removal of any existing tree and/or shrub within the Nature Strip must not remove it without first obtaining the written approval of Council.

Activities Prohibited within the Nature Strip

19) Councils Local Laws, as amended from time to time, will prohibit some activities within the Nature Strip.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 20) Council will maintain Nature Strips adjoining or within:
- (a) Public reserve areas such as bushland, parks or gardens;
 - (b) Council facilities such as public buildings, recreation grounds or swimming pools; and
 - (c) Central Business Districts.
- 21) Residents are required to maintain the Nature Strip directly adjoining their property.
- 22) Council will carry out pruning, removal and replacement of trees and shrubs located in the Nature Strip and public places when carrying out its routine maintenance, entirely at Councils discretion.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

- 23) Applicable legislation and regulation:
- (a) *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld).
 - (b) North Burnett Regional Council Local Laws.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 24) Related documents are:
- (a) Public Space Tree Policy.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

General Manager Works

APPROVAL DATE

10 November 2021

REVIEW DATE

November 2025 (Standard four year term)

REVISION HISTORY

Version	General Managers	Approval Date	History
1	General Manager Works	10 November 2021	New