



Shire of Derby / West Kimberley

DERBY VERGE MAINTENANCE POLICY

POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to define the roles and responsibilities of the Shire, community, and private and commercial landowners for the maintenance and development of verges within Derby.

The Shire will manage and undertake verge maintenance in accordance with this policy.

POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to the maintenance of verges of selected road reserves and public areas. It does not apply to private roads and rural residential / land.

DEFINITIONS

“Fire Hazard” is any condition, vegetation, object, or accumulation of material that increases the likelihood, intensity, or spread of fire, posing a risk to life, property, or the environment.

“Median” is the strip of land or raised area that separates opposing lanes of traffic on a divided road. The median is an area not normally intended for use by traffic.

“Mowing & slashing” is the activity that involves the cutting (or slashing) of grass and vegetation. Cut vegetation and grass is spread and left on site.

“Public Road” is a road or street that is open to and used by the public. A public road is shown on a deposited plan or survey.

“Shire Land” is land that is owned or in the care, control and management of the Shire and usually for public use, community services, infrastructure, or operational purposes. This includes undeveloped land that is owned or vested to the Shire.

“Undeveloped land” is land from which the native vegetation has been cleared but no further substantial development of the land has been undertaken.

“Verge” is the portion of land between the edge of a roadway (carriageway) and the property boundary of adjacent land. It is part of the road reserve but lies outside the paved road surface.

1. MANAGED ROADS & RESERVES

Managed roads & reserves categories include:

1) Primary Roads

- a. Derby Highway (from Conway Street, generally north to Lock Street).
- b. Loch Street (to Jetty Road) including medians.
- c. Jetty Road (full length).

2) Reserves

- a. Wells Reserve (the portion of land to the western side of Derby Highway, Guildford Street to Le Lievre Street).
- b. The Marsh Reserve verges.



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- c. Jetty Walkway (Extending from Derby town to the wharf).
- d. All verges fronting a Shire maintained reserve or public open space.

3) Shire Land

- a. Undeveloped land owned or vested to the Shire
- b. Land that is owned or in the care, control and management of the Shire

2. VERGES IN OTHER AREAS

The maintenance of verges on roads and land that is not detailed within the aforementioned clause (Managed Roads & Reserves) are the responsibility of the landowner adjacent to the verge.

3. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The Shire will consider requests to maintain verges outside of Managed Roads & Reserves in special circumstances that include:

1. The Shire has determined that pedestrian lines of vision are obstructed, posing a safety hazard.
2. The Shire has determined that the verge is a fire hazard.
3. The owner and/or occupier of the land adjoining the verge can provide evidence of a disability or medical condition that prevents them from performing mowing and slashing and/or attending to the verge.

Requests for special consideration must be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer (sdwk@sdwk.wa.gov.au). Any special request for maintenance will be required annually with a maximum of two (2) services per year. The Chief Executive Officer's decision is final and no review of an application will be made.

The Shire may use herbicide to maintain verges to reduce the requirement for ongoing mowing and slashing. This will predominantly apply to areas where costs are increased by a requirement for traffic management or access is impeded.

Policy Details			
Original Adoption date:	21 August 2025	Review Frequency	2 years
		Next Review Due:	November 2027
Policy Implementing Officer or Team:	Manager Assets and Works	Policy Reviewer:	Director Infrastructure
Legislative Head of Power (Act, Regulation, or Local Law):			
Related Documents (other Policies, Operational Procedures, Delegations, etc.):			
Version Control Council Meeting Review Details:			
Review #:	Council Meeting Date:	Item/Resolution#:	
1.	21 August 2025	Item 13.2, CCO82/25	