

'The Verge'

The verge is the area of public land between the front boundary of a property and the road alignment or kerb.

The verge is also often referred to as the Council strip, Council land or Council footpath.

Many residents would not be aware that approval is to be sought from Council for, changes to driveway locations (changes to locations as approved with the Development Application for the dwelling) or storage of materials or equipment on the verge.

Creating driveways over side entry pits or pram ramps is prohibited. Drain covers are not designed for vehicular traffic.



Letter boxes, moss rocks, or other landscaping materials when installed on the verge can be cause for concern if a path is physically blocked, the road or path is visually impeded (around corners or backing out of driveways) or creates a tripping hazard.



Footpaths may be installed in the future.

Allow for and give consideration to pedestrians.



The verge is to allow free and unrestricted access for pedestrians. Reports of impediments will be investigated by Council.



Above: A good example of the driveway, gradient and verge landscaping spoilt by the car parked on the verge.

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VERGES AND FOOTPATHS



Building & Landscaping



When proposing any building work, home improvements or landscaping ensure that consideration is given to the delivery and storage of materials.

Do not store materials, equipment or waste on the verge. Waste should be contained within a bin on the site.

Use of Council Land

Council land shall not be used for the storage of building materials, rubbish skips, on site toilets etc without the written permission of Council. Failure to receive permission may result in an expiation notice being issued.

Damage

Section 233 of the Local Government Act 1999 provides that where damage to Council roads, footpaths, kerbing or services occurs as a result of the development, the owner / applicant shall be responsible for the cost of repairs to the damage. Your co-operation is sought in ensuring that the street, road, kerb, gutter, and footway are protected from damage during delivery of any building materials to the site. Reinstatement costs can be recovered from the owner in addition to any penalty imposed by a court, if damage is caused.

Building & Landscaping

Landscaping & Driveways

Any changes to existing entranceways must be approved by Council. Ensure when landscaping that there are no tripping hazards created on the verge (area of land between the front boundary and gutter). For example, do not construct kerbing or garden edging across the verge, plant bushes and trees or place letterboxes on the verge. Simple landscaping such as grass is suitable.



Above: A good example of landscaping the verge with no obstructions, visual impairments when backing out of driveways or tripping hazards. Allows for a future footpath and clear space for pedestrians.



Above: the landscaping causes a tripping hazard and forces pedestrians, prams etc on the road.

Parking on the Verge



Council have received numerous complaints from Residents in the Light area regarding vehicles parking either partly or wholly on verge.

Parking in this manner makes it difficult for pedestrians to navigate the area, especially those with prams, pushers and small children.

Vehicles parked on the verge are putting the lives of pedestrians at risk by forcing them to walk on the road.

The manner in which the vehicles are parked also causes damage to the verge, kerb and gutter and formed footpaths. The construction of footpaths and repairs to damage is ultimately borne by ratepayers.

Section 197 of the Australian Road Rules states **“a driver must not stop on a bicycle path, footpath, shared path or dividing strip, or a nature strip adjacent to a length of road in a built up area,”**

An expiation fee is applicable for this offence.

Given the complaints have been justified, Council's inspectors will be performing random inspections of the area at all times of the day and night, including weekends. Expiations will be issued for offences of the Road Traffic Act, Australian Road Rules and Local Government Act.

Your assistance is sought to protect the safety of pedestrians using the footpath and to eliminate unnecessary expenditure of ratepayers' money for footpath repairs.

Please consider pedestrians and other ratepayers.