



## **MOWING OF GRASSED AREAS UNDER COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>MOWING OF GRASSED AREAS UNDER COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>SUPERVISOR PARKS AND RESERVES</b>
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### **INTRODUCTION**

Councils throughout Australia generally rely on residents to mow nature strips alongside urban roads. This accepted practice avoids the need for Council's to undertake the work at ratepayer's expense. The majority of residents maintain the nature strips in front of their property. Some however do not resulting in long, untidy grass which can impact an urban streetscape.

Council maintains grassed areas such as playing fields and their surrounds, rural roadsides, parks and reserves and open drains. These areas have traditionally been maintained to a standard consistent with their usage and/or natural values and fire management.

The following procedures are designed to establish a systematic approach to mowing standards.

### **NATURE STRIPS – MAIN ROADS IN URBAN AREAS**

Where grass length exceeds 250mm mow to 100mm height.

Where there is no fronting residence or business within urban areas, the Council will mow regularly and the nominal intervention level to be 150mm and mow to short standard (usually about 40mm).

Tall weeds will be sprayed.

### **NATURE STRIPS – OTHER ROADS IN URBAN AREAS**

Where grass length exceeds 300mm mow to 100mm height.

Tall weeds are to be sprayed.

Where there is no fronting residence or business, the Council will mow regularly. The nominal intervention level will be 150mm and the Council will mow to a short standard (usually about 40mm).

Tall weeds are to be sprayed or slashed at the correct time to prevent further propagation. The correct time will be determined by the use of reliable reference material.

### **SPORTS GROUNDS AND SURROUNDS**

Playing surfaces are to be prepared to suit the sport being played and the season. Grass length and watering will be undertaken in accordance with accepted standards and practice and safety issues.

Generally surrounds used by spectators will be mowed fortnightly but with the following intervention guidelines:

- Surrounds with high spectator use shall be cut to 40mm after they reach 150mm.
- Surrounds used for light spectator use shall be cut to 75mm after the grass reaches 150mm.

Surrounds beyond the spectator area shall be cut to 75mm after the grass reaches 300 mm. Designated walkways shall be treated as high spectator areas.

## **RESERVES IMPROVED**

(Fenton Street, Billy Kessarios, part Vancouver Street, Pioneers Park, Rose Garden, Denison Canal, Imlay Street, Boat Park, Skate Parks, Seventh Avenue, Primrose Sands Playground, Pembroke Park and Amelia Court)

Improved grassed areas will be mowed fortnightly but to combat seasonal growth the intervention level shall be that grass will be cut to 40mm when it reaches 150mm.

## **RESERVES WITH NATIVE GRASSES**

Native grasses will be allowed to grow and set seed except where access and fire safety is compromised. Grass should be allowed to go to seed to facilitate natural regeneration. If mowed, native grass lands will be cut no lower than 100mm.

Pathways shall be mowed occasional where access or safety requires it.

## **SPECIAL CASES**

Since 1998 the Council has maintained a list of ratepayers in the urban areas who do not have the capacity to mow their nature strips (this includes aged and infirm). For their respective frontages the Council mows the nature strips (to a short standard except where inappropriate).

Additionally the Council workforce mows areas such as table drains, surrounds of some structures and other difficult areas on nature strips in urban areas.

## **RURAL ROAD VERGES**

On rural roads roadside slashing will typically be carried out within the area from the edge of the sealed gravel shoulder/back of kerb for a minimum distance of 2.4m (i.e. two passes or one pass beyond the table drain. In addition, additional grassing cutting will be undertaken where improved sight distance is required for safety reasons, particularly at junctions, property accesses and the inside of bends in road alignments. This grass cutting will be undertaken once per year from October. However, a second cut may be required due to weather conditions e.g. summer rains. The length of cut will be determined by safety requirements for road users and the mowing activity, but will usually be approximately 100 mm.

## **UNDEVELOPED COUNCIL LAND AND BUILDING SITES**

Grassed areas at these properties will be managed in accordance with accepted building management practices. Weed management and fire hazards will be addressed in a timely manner and property appearance will be considered and addressed as appropriate to the image of the site.