

Verges

A shared responsibility



Verges are shared public spaces that provide property access, support essential services, accommodate pedestrians and contribute to the character and natural environment of local streets.

With around 1,300 kilometres of verges across the Shire, maintaining these areas is a shared responsibility. Residents are encouraged to care for the verge adjoining their property, helping to create safer, greener and more attractive neighbourhoods.

Verge management can also play an important role in reducing bushfire risk. Incorporating verge maintenance into your property's fire management plan can help make the community safer for everyone.

The Shire is available to provide advice and support to residents looking to enhance their verge areas while maintaining a balance between community needs, infrastructure and the natural environment.

Verge improvements

- » It is recommended that native vegetation is maintained in those areas where it occurs naturally, anticipating the need for regular weed control.
- » Prior to commencing the formal approval process, residents are encouraged to share their ideas by submitting a sketch of their verge plans to the Shire's Infrastructure Services team.
- » The Shire requires prior written notice for any construction activities involving property access, object placement, or works within the verge, promoting compliance with the Thoroughfares Local Law and facilitating a hassle-free permit approval process.

- » Verges accommodate essential underground services, so digging within them can lead to costly damage and potential hazards. As such, excavations within the road reserve are discouraged, especially near electricity and gas lines to prevent accidents.

Know what's *below*

Find information about underground utilities and assets through Before You Dig Australia. Call 1100 or visit www.byda.com.au.

Bush verge protection

- » Bush verges are vital for preserving biodiversity and supporting native flora and fauna.
- » The Shire follows a Roadside Conservation Policy and prioritises the protection of rare plants and habitat trees in these areas.
- » Residents are encouraged to maintain bush verges adjacent to their properties, with tips provided for effective management.

A clearing permit may be required from the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for clearing within bush verges, or for black-cockatoo habitat trees.

Verge tree management

- » The Shire is committed to the safe preservation of trees, and maintaining a balance between environment and infrastructure. We understand the importance of maintaining a practical level of hazard minimisation in regards to trees, whilst understanding that trees are a living organism and can be unpredictable at times. It should be noted that the Shire simply manages verge trees when and where necessary, but does not take ownership of a particular trees growing on Crown Land.

- » Street trees offer numerous benefits, including shade, habitat and enhanced aesthetics including more attractive streetscapes.
- » The Shire manages planted verge trees for public safety and infrastructure preservation. Residents are discouraged from conducting their own tree works on verge trees without proper authorisation.
- » Requests for removal or pruning of verge trees must meet specific criteria related to hazards.
- » If a verge tree falls, or is damaged as a result of a storm or high winds, and causes damage to a resident's infrastructure, the Shire cannot be held responsible for any damages as this is a naturally occurring event.

For more information about verge improvements and verge tree management please contact the Shire's Infrastructure team on 9290 6716.

Please contact Western Power, 13 10 87, for information relating to responsibilities around trees near power lines and poles.

Crossovers

A crossover is the driveway component of the property access from the kerb or road edge to the front boundary of the property.

A constructed crossover prevents a number of hazards such as erosion and washing of gravel onto the road, and potential silting and blocking of open drain and/or piped drainage networks.

Although a crossover is located within the road reserve (verge), it is the responsibility of the property owner to construct and/or maintain that area.

All crossovers require approval from the Shire before they can be constructed. The first crossover to a property built to required standards is eligible for a Shire contribution.

Weed control

- » The Shire employs weed control measures along kerb lines and footpaths, avoiding maintained verges. Due to limited resources, these works cannot address all footpaths and kerbs within the Shire therefore this program focusses on prioritised areas.
- » Residents can seek assistance for weed identification and advice with regards to weed control on their properties.

For more information about bush verge protection and weed control please contact the Shire's Environmental team on 9290 6651.

Fire hazard management

- » Given the Shire's financial and resource constraints, landowners are encouraged to include their verges in their fire hazard management plans.
- » A written permit from the Shire is required for works on the verge, this includes burning or clearing.

It is an offence to clear, damage or burn native vegetation (trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses or groundcovers) on the verge without Shire and/or Department of Water and Environmental Regulation approval. The Shire may issue a warning or infringement, or initiate legal proceedings.

Public land management

- » The Shire's Emergency Management team manage a comprehensive fire mitigation program across Shire reserves, which includes annual inspections, hazard reduction burning, slashing and mechanical mulching.
- » State Government-managed public lands fall outside the Shire's control and should be addressed with the respective authorities.

For more information about fire hazard and public land management please contact the Emergency Management team on 9290 6696.

Native vegetation clearing

Native vegetation is protected by law and may require approval before it can be cleared. Check whether a permit or exemption applies before removing native plants, trees or shrubs from your property. More information and permit applications can be found on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulations website.

If in doubt, don't pull it *out*

If you need assistance identifying which vegetations are native, contact the Shire's Environmental Service team on 9290 6651 or shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au.

Other queries and requests

For other queries residents can scan the QR code below or contact the Shire by calling 9290 6666 or email shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au.



Scan for more information on verge maintenance and management.

Plan your verge

Use the grid on the back to plan how you'd like your verge to look and function. Consider where plants, pathways, access points and existing features will go.