

	Vegetation Management Policy	
	Version Adoption by Council: 28 August 2023 Resolution Number: 2023/239 Current Version: V3	
	Administered by: Director – Infrastructure and Environment	Last Review Date: 2023 Next Review Date: 2025
Document No: D23/30249	Strategic Outcome Enviably Lifestyle <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage growth to sustain and activate our townships Remarkable Landscapes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance our coastal and riverine landscapes, native vegetation and heritage 	

1. Objective

The purpose of this policy is to provide the strategic framework and management principles which will guide actions to ensure the protection and promotion of existing remnant native vegetation, the management of planted Australian and European vegetation throughout the Adelaide Plains Council whilst recognising the important role that vegetation has to the districts character, amenity, environment and value.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to land and road reserves within Adelaide Plains Council owned and/or controlled by Council.

3. Policy Statement

This Policy aims to:

- Provide vegetation management that is consistent with community expectations, through legislation and policies whilst working within resource boundaries
- Recognise the importance that vegetation and open space has on the physical and mental health on the community as a whole
- Maintain vegetation in a safe and healthy condition and ensure appropriate sight distance clearances are maintained on all council road networks
- Preserve, enhance and promote the existing remnant native vegetation in the coastal, riparian and terrestrial areas

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- Manage and control the existing weed suite and any incursions that arise.
- Maintain biodiversity of flora and provide habitat for native fauna.
- Effectively manage the impact of vertebrate pests on the natural environment
- Maintain and implement best practice methods for vegetation management and consider alternative practices
- Maintain and improve the character of parks, gardens and reserves at a consistent level of service in line with Council's Open Space Hierarchy
- Deliver fit for purpose sports and recreation precincts
- Maintain all road and drain infrastructure
- Provide a practical approach of Councils vegetation management

4. Road Reserve Vegetation and Council's Roadside Marker Scheme (RMS)

Council's rural roadsides hold the majority of remnant vegetation within the district. Council's roadside vegetation will be managed in accordance with Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. A person must not interfere with roadside vegetation unless permitted to do so by Council under a Section 221.

Currently there are 99 roadside marker sites which had an ecological assessment undertaken on them in 2023. A roadside marker highlights significant native indigenous flora with noteworthy ecological value. The sites are indicated with a blue and white sign.

Council will commit to maintain and improve the existing Roadside Marker Scheme for the biodiversity of the natural environment and to prevent further loss of native species. A full copy of the ecological assessment can be viewed on Council's website.

5. Natural and Coastal Areas

In conjunction with the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board and its District's Officers, Council will protect and continue to enhance the districts natural assets. In collaboration with neighbouring councils, Council will endeavour to build connectivity of natural areas through vegetation corridors with in the Roadside Marker Scheme.

Remnant vegetation is vitally important to protect and preserve. Apart from the vegetation that is left on council's roadsides, there are significant pockets that remain intact with credible threats to their existence. These areas total to approximately 322 hectares (Coastal 165, Lewiston/Two Wells 67, Light River 28 and Other Areas 62). The "other areas" include Barabba Scrub, Blue Bonnet Reserve, The Rockies, Dublin Parklands and Baker Wetland. Of these the Dublin Parklands is Councils only heritage listed site.

The protection of our foreshores is extremely important given our unique and valuable mangrove forests and coastal wetlands. Council will adopt a planned and strategic approach to preserving our foreshores utilising key existing documents and strategies. Documents such as the Metropolitan and Northern Coastal Action Plan, Parham and Webb Beach Action Plan and Light Beach Action Plan will be

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the guiding documents when identifying environmental on-ground works along the coast. It is important to recognise that the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary comprises over 30km of the Adelaide Plains coast line.

Declared weed species will be prioritised and control will be in accordance with the Declared Plant Policy for each identified species. Council will endeavour to support other Government and community initiatives such as the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

Levees installed as part of the Coastal Settlements Adaptation study are to be maintained and revegetated to reduce weed spread into native vegetation.

6. Formal and Memorial Gardens

Formal and memorial gardens must be maintained to a standard consistent with community expectations. Improvements must be ongoing to reflect changes in trends and in some circumstances remain the same especially with memorial gardens as they typically represent history and/or culture and plants provide an important link within these gardens.

7. Street Tree and Streetscape Management

Street trees and streetscapes are regarded by Council and the community at large, as a valuable asset that must be managed to create an aesthetically and environmentally pleasing urban environment, which helps cool and soften hard infrastructure.

8. Street Tree Planting

In order to prevent damage to Council and residential infrastructure, impact public health, eliminate hazards along footpaths and roads appropriate species for street tree planting will be authorised by Open Space and Environment Services in conjunction with Management and Councils Community Consultation Policy as required.

Council will implement an ongoing street tree replacement program to combat these issues. Species to be planted will be chosen on the proviso of the following factors:

- a) Adherence to Acts of Law, regulations, relevant Council policies and other regulatory authorities and/or stakeholders i.e.: Department for Infrastructure and Transport, S.A. Power Networks, Telstra, S.A. Water, Epic Energy, NBN Co.
- b) Aesthetic and environmental value to the streetscape
- c) Habit and form
- d) Manageability through low maintenance and best practice
- e) Longevity including condition tolerances
- f) Impacts on associated road infrastructure

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- g) Safety of all road users and pedestrians
- h) Species that will not prove invasive in the long term

9. Street and Reserve Tree Removal and Maintenance

Removal of street and Reserve trees will only occur when the species:

- a) Are in decline and not able to return to health
- b) Hazardous to the community
- c) Have reached the end of their useful life
- d) Has an impact on existing or the implementation of new Council or Service Provider infrastructure (e.g. Street Scape renewal)

Street and reserve trees will not be removed due to:

- a) Nuisance reasons including but not limited to leaf, bark, flower or fruit litter
- b) Installation or maintenance of new or existing residential infrastructure. E.g. fences, swimming pools or sheds unless otherwise agreed upon
- c) Shading of roof top solar panels

Aesthetic reasons, including interruption of views

Street and reserve trees will be pruned in accordance with Council's pruning programs. Street and reserve trees will not be pruned for nuisance over hang vegetation into private property unless presenting a hazard.

10. Streetscapes

Streetscapes are an integral part of creating an atmosphere that invites people into a street. Known as "soft" infrastructure, this style of landscaping helps to soften built up township areas. Council will continue to provide a level of standard that is consistent with community expectation and that continues to improve the aesthetics of the area.

11. Recreation Reserves

Recreation Reserves compose the majority of "useable" space by the public for passive recreation. These areas include:

- a) Trails for horse riding, exercising and dog walking.
- b) Picnic/BBQ shelters.
- c) Sporting clubs, social gatherings and special events
- d) Stormwater reserves.

12. Stormwater Reserves and Undeveloped Reserves

Due to the size and complexity of the Stormwater network and undeveloped reserves throughout the district, maintenance requirements will vary. All reserves will receive slashing required to manage fire suppression for bush fire control. Additional slashing will be undertaken as per Council's Reserve Classification and Level of Service. Weed control will be undertaken along paths to minimise any adverse effect on infrastructure. Declared and invasive weeds will be maintained as they present and in accordance with legislative requirements.

13. Cemeteries

Cemeteries have individual characteristics that require different management approaches. Vegetation will be managed and maintained consistent with the character of the individual sites. Council will keep all cemetery weed infestations to a minimum, maintain existing plantings and undertake improvements as required.

Council is not responsible for maintaining vegetation within individual grave sites. If the lessee extends plantings beyond the confines of the site, Council may remove the plantings to rectify any hazards/problems caused.

14. Playgrounds

Weed infestations will be managed so as to minimise any adverse impact on the use of the playgrounds whilst maintaining the natural environs. Trees and other plantings will be maintained and/or upgraded as required. Irrigated turf areas will be maintained on a regular basis and other turf management will take place as required.

No hazardous vegetation (poisonous etc.) will be utilised within the bounds of the playground for the safety of all children.

15. Major Sports and Recreation Precincts

Major sport and recreation precincts must be maintained to a standard consistent with community expectations.

16. All Other vegetation

Outside of the sports arena, all other vegetation will be managed to a standard that incorporates safety and weed prevention while maintaining the feel of a country/rural sporting venue.

17. Road and Drain Infrastructure

The maintenance of roadside vegetation will be undertaken to ensure standards for carriageway clearances and sight distances at intersections are met.

The maintenance of roadside vegetation within the rural living area and rural intersections will be undertaken in line with statutory requirements for fire prevention (Fire and Emergency Service Act 2005), to maintain line of sight for the safety of motorist, weed control and preservation of remnant vegetation.

All road and drainage infrastructure must be protected from the incursion of weeds and other vegetation to allow for safe passage and unimpeded water to flow.

Weed control along all bitumised roads and roadside drains will occur as required.

See Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan for further information in regards to road reserve vegetation management.

18. Road Reserve/Verge Development

Residents who wish to develop and/or maintain verges adjacent to their property/s, must apply to Council to do so under Section 221 of the Local Government Act. Failure to obtain a permit is an offence under the Act, the maximum penalty is \$5000.00. Council may also request the owner reinstate the verge at the property owner's expense if they interfere or make an alteration to a public road without permission.

19. Fire Wood Collection

Firewood collection is not permitted from Council's reserves or roadsides. Refer to Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan for more information.

20. Pest Management

Pest management involves a holistic approach to control all variants of pests including, weeds and insects that have an adverse impact on remnant vegetation or formal landscaping

21. Invasive Weeds

Pest species that are deemed invasive throughout the district, will be controlled by Council as required, so as to not become a significant and costly problem in the area.

22. Declared Weeds

Council is responsible for the control of declared weeds on land owned or under the care and control of Council, as required under the Landscape Act 2019.

Council will work with the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board and its District Officers, to effectively control declared weeds within road reserves and manage declared weed infestations on private property.

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Pesticide Use

Council staff that utilise pesticides will be adequately trained. Appropriate records will be kept by staff through Councils record management systems including daily spray records, to comply with relevant legislation.

Programs and schedules are in place for pest management and are adjusted with seasonal climatic conditions and outbreaks of weed suites and other incursions with a focus of keeping pesticide use to a minimum.

23. Related Documents

Land Under Roads Policy

Authorisation to Alter a Public Road

Application Form Open Space Plan Back

Ground Report 2016

Open Space Plan Directions Report

2016 Community Lands Management

Plans 2016

Reserve Development Policy

Adelaide Plains Council RMS Ecological Survey Report 2023

Adelaide Plains Council Roadside Vegetation Management
Plan 2023

Bushfire Management Area Plan (BMAP)

24. Records Management

All documents relating to this Policy will be registered in Council's Record Management System and remain confidential where identified.

25. Document Review

This Policy will be reviewed every two (2) years.

26. References

Application to Alter a Public Road

Development Act 1993

Land Under Roads

Policy Local

Government Act 1999

Local Government Regulations

2013 Native Vegetation Act 1991

Native Vegetation Regulations 2019

Fire and Emergency Service Act 2005

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27. Further Information

Members of the public may inspect this Policy free of charge on Council's website at www.apc.sa.gov.au or at Council's Principal Office at:

2a Wasleys Road, Mallala SA 5502

A copy of this Policy may be obtained on payment of a fee.

Any queries in relation to this Policy must be made in writing to info@apc.sa.gov.au to the attention of Director– Infrastructure and Environment.