

## POLICY NO EP07 VEGETATION AND VEGETATION CONTROL POLICY

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Works and Infrastructure
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Manager Works and Infrastructure
<b>LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:</b>	Ensure sustainable management of natural and built resources is respectful to our unique location.
<b>STATUTORY AUTHORITY:</b>	Council Spraying Guidelines State Government DPIWE Spraying Guidelines
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b>	The objective of this policy is to ensure that the most appropriate option is used for vegetation control and that where necessary public notification takes place in accordance with this policy.
<b>POLICY INFORMATION:</b>	Adopted 19 March 2012 – Minute No 03/12.15.4.069

### POLICY

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This policy serves to provide guidance in relation to the management of vegetation within the municipal area on Council owned or controlled property.

#### 2. IDENTIFICATION

Vegetation control relates to tree and shrub management, grass and weed control on Council maintained reserves, playgrounds, recreation areas, footpaths, nature strips, roads, parking areas and stormwater drains.

The methods that are to be considered when vegetation control includes:

- Mechanical hoeing or whipper snipping;
- Hand or machine removal or suppression;
- Herbicidal spraying or weed wiping;
- Heavy slashing with “SCRUBBUSTA” type units.
- Improved design or construction.
- Mulching

In making a decision, consideration needs to be given to effectiveness of the method, environmental considerations, size of the problem, potential costs of the methods and permanently resolving the problem.

#### 3. FOOTPATHS

Clearing of weeds or grass growing within the footpath, or soil or gravel lying upon the surface of the path, and edging of footpaths to remove encroaching grass, the build-up of soil and organic matter and weeds to restore the clear width to the nominal width of the path is to be by hand or mechanical means, such as hoes, spades, edging tools, whipper snippers, brooms etc. Herbicidal spraying is not allowed for edge treatment in any case, but in severe cases of grass or weed infestation within a footpath where hand or mechanical treatment is unable to obtain satisfactory

removal or suppression, weed wiping or spot spraying is permitted subject to prior authorisation by a supervising officer and is to be recorded under an appropriate procedure.

#### **4. HERBICIDAL SPRAYING ACTIVITIES**

All employees carrying out this activity must be trained and work to the specified guidelines of the Chemical Safety Handbook.

Particular attention has to be paid to wind drift. A wind meter should be used to test conditions. A spray activities log will be kept and conditions recorded. Previous written undertakings not to spray frontages of a property are to be checked and complied with keeping in mind that persons who reject spraying in front of their properties also agree to control weeds effectively or Council has the right to use appropriate methods of control which may include spraying.

#### **5. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

##### **a) Urban Areas**

The requirement for public notification applies to Herbicidal spraying within the main urban areas but excludes small individual tasks that arise from time to time.

- Council news to refer to forthcoming activities prior to spraying commencing; or
- Advertisement to indicate periods in which spraying will take place, general locations and purpose of spraying in the local paper; and
- Notice should be 7 days in advance to allow any property owners who don't want spraying to occur to state their objection and notify Council of the methods of weed control they will undertake (spraying guidelines); and
- Signage as required in work practices should be erected where practical

##### **b) Rural Areas**

Heavy slashing activities such as "scrubbusta" work should be advertised at least 14 days in advance where there are neighbouring properties who may object. Objections will be considered on their merits, with road safety being the governing criteria.