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 Synergy Reference No: CM.STD.3 / NF25194329

APPLICATION FOR VERGE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

APPLICANT'S DETAILS				
Date of Application				
Name of Applicant				
Postal Address				
Contact Number	Home		Mobile	
Email				
VERGE PROPERTY DETAILS				
Lot No.		House No.		Street Name
VERGE DEVELOPMENT DETAILS				
Is there currently a footpath on the verge?	Y/N	Are you installing irrigation?	Y / N	
Are you constructing any hardstand areas?	Y/N	Are you requesting a street tree?	Y / N	
Do you intend to apply for a Waterwise Verge Rebate?				Y / N
Estimated date of landscaping completion (must be between 1st May and 1st October)				
Detailed description of the proposed works and materials to be used on the verge				

Important Notes

1. Please read the attached Verge Development Guidelines before completing this form.
2. Please ensure a site plan is attached with the application.
3. If you intend on applying for the Waterwise Verge Rebate, then please read the attached Terms and Conditions.
4. If you intend on applying for the Waterwise Verge Rebate, then please provide a list of species to be planted using the [Local Waterwise Plant Species List](#).

I have read and understand the City of Albany's Verge Development Guidelines.

 Applicant Signature

 Date

VERGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been formulated to assist residents in carrying out landscaping or other improvement works to the Verge adjoining their property.

What is a Verge?

A verge is the area between the road and the boundary of an adjacent property. The verge provides safe pedestrian space and vehicle access to properties. The verge also accommodates public service utilities such as street lighting and underground services like water, gas, sewerage and telecommunications. It can also comprise of vegetation, such as native vegetation, street trees and other vegetation.

Although the verge is owned by the City, the maintenance of lawns and gardens on verges is the responsibility of the adjoining landowner. The City of Albany (City) encourages residents to take pride in their verges to enhance the aesthetic value of their properties. However, street trees can only be planted, maintained and removed by the City, or with written approval from the City.

These guidelines have been formulated to assist residents in carrying out landscaping or other improvement works to the verge adjoining their property.

What is a Verge Development?

In order to ensure modifications to verges are consistent and to standard, a verge development application is required. This application will cover any proposed works on a verge that involves changing what is currently on the verge, usually undertaken by the adjacent landowner. Proposed works may include changing the surface of the ground, landscaping, reticulation and the planting of a garden or a tree.

All verge developments must have written approval from the City.

Verge development must not:

- Prevent any pedestrian from walking along the verge in preference to walking on the roadway.
- Prevent the City or any service authority from installing new services or maintaining existing services.
- Create a hazard for pedestrians/motorists/cyclists.
- Involve the clearing of native vegetation. [Remnant vegetation]

It should be noted that healthy trees will not be approved for removal unless they are considered dangerous or are determined to be causing infrastructure damage.

Application Process

Complete and submit a Verge Development Application Form to the City, ensuring that a sketch of the proposed development is attached. The plan will be assessed based on suitability, and in view of the safety of the community. The City will then provide written approval and notify you of any alterations or conditions that may be required. No works can commence on the Verge until a permit has been received from the City.

On completion of the development, a City officer may undertake a site inspection to ensure that permit conditions have been met. The maintenance of the Verge Development will be the sole responsibility of the owner of the adjoining property.

If the verge is altered in any way other than the approved development, the City must be notified immediately. Failure to comply with the permit may result in infringement or prosecution under *Activities on Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2011 (as amended)*.

Irrigation

Waterwise verge gardens, that don't require permanent irrigation, are preferred as they use less water. However, residents may install belowground irrigation systems provided the resident accepts all responsibility for damage caused by the activities of the City, any service authority or the public.

When installing irrigation in the verge, the following must be adhered to:

- Irrigation pipes and connections shall be laid between 150mm and 300mm deep. Pipe fittings should not protrude above the surface.
- Irrigation pipes and connections shall be set back at least 250mm from the edge of the footpath or where applicable, the alignment of a proposed future footpath.
- No ground disturbance is permitted within the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) of a street tree. The TPZ is calculated by multiplying the Diameter at Breast Height (measured at 1.4 m above ground) by 12.
- The installed irrigation system must have all valves located in the adjoining property and water supplied to the system must be sourced from the adjoining property.
- Where irrigation extends to the kerb line "half" sprinklers must be used to ensure that the flow of water is directed away from paved surfaces, such as footpaths and roads.
- Sprinklers are not to cause inconvenience to any person using the thoroughfare.
- The adjoining property owner remains responsible for any damage to public utility services within the road reserve. The City recommends utilisation of the 'Dial Before You Dig' service to determine where public utility services are situated in the verge area.
- Irrigation may only be operated as per allocated watering days between 6pm and 9am. For allocated watering days, visit <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Help-and-advice/Watering-days/Find-watering-days-or-report-a-breach/Check-your-watering-days>.
- Residents may be eligible for a watering exemption when installing a new verge garden. For further information, visit <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Help-and-advice/Watering-days/Apply-for-a-watering-exemption/Apply-for-a-watering-exemption>.

Gardens and Landscaping

The design of a garden is an important consideration of the verge development assessment process. It is the City's preference that verge developments are Waterwise, as they can improve water efficiency, provide habitat for local wildlife, increase biodiversity and improve streetscape amenity.

Lawn, although a preferred option for most verges by residents, is not a waterwise solution. An established low-water using garden using Waterwise or native plants can be an environmental and cost saving alternative.

Good soil preparation is the key to ensure a healthy successful garden. Removal of lawn/grass is crucial for a successful native Waterwise verge and there are a number of options available such as manual removal with a turf cutter, smothering with newspaper and mulch, or herbicides.

Water use can also be reduced by using local native species. The City can provide advice on the species of plants best suited to verge areas. Declared and environmental weeds must not be used as per the City's Environmental Weed Management Plan: <https://www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/469/environmental-weed-management-planning-strategy>. Suitable Waterwise verge plants can also be found via Water Corporation's Waterwise Plant Directory at <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Waterwise/Waterwise-plants>.

Verge gardens must not be a hazard to pedestrians or motorists. Landscaping treatments must meet the following requirements:

- Where there is no footpath an area a minimum of 2m width from, and parallel to, the kerb line shall be kept clear of landscaping to allow pedestrians safe and clear passage.
- Landscaping must be kept clear from obstructing the roadway or any footpath.
- Landscaping on the verge area must not create any undue hazard to road users or pedestrians, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act.
- Adequate sight lines must be maintained at vehicle crossovers and at road intersections. As a general guide, landscaping shall not exceed 750mm in height at full maturity.
- For properties located at intersections, contact the City for further details.

Street Trees

Upon request, the City may provide a street tree. A request can be made via the City's website or as a Verge Development Application by submitting the necessary form. At certain times of the year, the City may also coordinate a street tree infill program in a particular area. Usually a select number of suitable tree species will be available for the adjacent landowner to choose from. Once planted, watering of street trees for the first summer will be undertaken by the City until it is established.

Surface Treatments

The permissible verge surface treatments are:

- Lawn (warm season varieties are preferred)
- Waterwise and native landscaping/gardens
- Shredded organic mulch, such as shredded wood chips or compressed sawdust. The mulch must be easy to walk on and not cause a tripping hazard.

Hardstand Treatments

Hardstand treatments are areas with a hard/impervious surface. Hardstand treatments must be free of loose materials and dust, are not to occur within the TPZ (as defined above) of street trees and are to be constructed by competent tradespeople. Hardstand treatments are not to be installed over more than one third of the verge area (excluding crossovers). Crossovers are to be delineated from hardstand treatments either by colour or material. Hardstand treatments are not to be used for parking.

The following provides a summary of acceptable hardstand treatments.

- Brick paving
- Concrete
- Asphalt
- Cement stabilised gravel/limestone

Non-Compliance

Loose materials, fencing, rocks, kerbs and walls are not permitted on your verge. These materials create hazards for motorists and pedestrians.

The adjoining property owner may be asked by the City to remove treatments which are installed contrary to these guidelines, and may be requested to replace them with an approved verge treatment. Such work is to be carried out by the adjoining property owner at their own cost.

Conditions Applicable to all Verge Treatments

The City reserves the right to remove any verge treatment for the purpose of carrying out works, without being liable to compensate any person for such loss. The City also reserves the right to request the removal, any verge treatments that deteriorate in condition and are assessed as a risk to the public.

For further information regarding permissible verge treatments, please refer to the City's Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law (as amended).

For more information on what you can do on a verge, please refer to the City's Verge Vegetation Information Form at www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/360/verge-vegetation-information-sheet.

For information on managing Bushfire Attack Levels (BAL) on City managed land, please refer to [www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/1958/bushfire-attack-level-\(bal\)-public-land-management-policy](http://www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/1958/bushfire-attack-level-(bal)-public-land-management-policy).

WATERWISE VERGE REBATE

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The applicant must be a resident within the City of Albany.
- Only residential properties are eligible.
- Only one rebate per household.
- Written permission must be obtained from the home owner including the landlord for a rental property or the body corporate or strata manager for a property that is part of a strata complex. Only one application will be accepted per strata complex.
- Existing native gardens are not eligible.
- The converted waterwise verge must comply with the City of Albany Verge Development Guidelines (www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/322/verge-development-guidelines) and have submitted a Verge Development Application Form (www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/321/verge-development-application-form)
- Works must commence after the Verge Development has been approved.
- Planting can only be undertaken between **1 May and 1 October** to be eligible for the Waterwise Verge Rebate. Gardens planted outside of these dates are not eligible.
- Landscaping must include 5-10cm (depth) of coarse mulch (woodchip or tree prunings) and waterwise plants (local native plants preferred)
- Eligible items include: waterwise plants, mulch, slow release native fertiliser, soil wetting agent and soil improvers. The cost of delivery of plants, mulch or other items is not included in the total rebate cost.
- Tax invoices must state name of business purchased from, purchase date, ABN, list of items and costs.
- Applications must include:
 - Tax invoice for purchase of eligible items, and
 - Proof of residency showing name and current address (e.g. driver's licence, rates notice, lease agreement).
 - A photo of the completed works. Photos may be used for promotional purposes
- Final inspection by a Council officer may be undertaken to ensure the works have been completed, and rebate approved.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application by email.
- An application does not automatically guarantee rebate success.
- Successful applicants will be provided with a Refund/Contribution Request Form which will enable the rebate to be paid.
- This rebate is a one-off payment.
- The City of Albany will not be held responsible for incorrect or incomplete details on the application form or Refund/Contribution Request Forms.
- The City of Albany reserves the right to reject any application that does not comply with the Terms and Conditions.
- By applying for this rebate, applicants agree to be contacted via email to complete a survey on the rebate program.
- The Waterwise Verge Incentive Rebate will conclude on 1 October 2025 or when the allocated funds have been expended, whichever is first.

