

PURPOSE OF THIS UPDATE

This information sheet is intended to provide answers to commonly asked questions regarding proposed works within road verges.



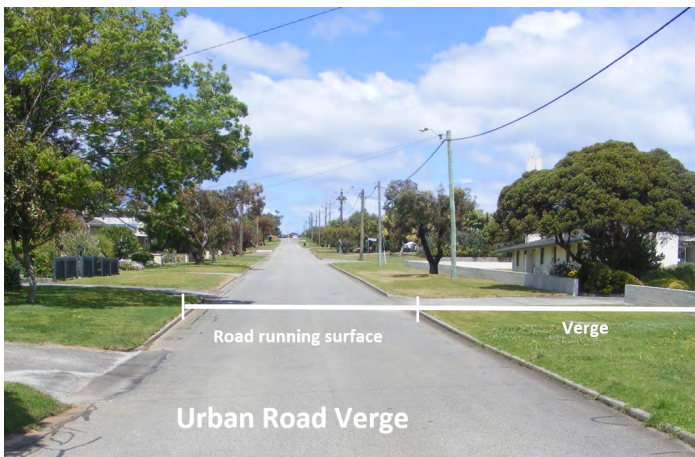
VERGE VEGETATION

2018

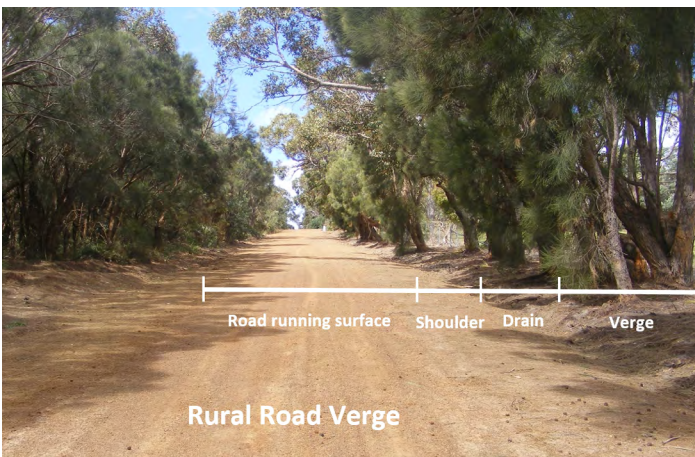


WHAT IS A VERGE?

In urban areas, the 'verge' is the portion of land that lies between the road kerbing or shoulder and the adjacent property boundary.



In rural areas, the 'verge' is the portion of land that lies between the top of the back slope of the roadside drain and the adjacent property boundary.



Vegetation within the verge may comprise of either native plant species, introduced plant species and grass or a mix of all three. The verge may also contain drainage infrastructure, paths, street trees (see street tree information sheet) and public utilities such as power and telephone lines.

TYPE OF VERGE PERMITS

To ensure verges are managed appropriately, the City of Albany requires residents to apply for a permit before undertaking any works within a verge. There are three types of permits available, depending on the types of works proposed. There is no cost associated with applying for a verge permit.

- **Fence line clearing application** - This application is for when residents wish to maintain or construct a new boundary fence and require vegetation to be cleared on the road verge. This application must also be used if your boundary fence adjoins a Council reserve. A maximum of 1.5 metres may be cleared inside the verge/ reserve.
- **Verge Development application** - This application is for when residents wish to improve their adjoining verge using landscaping or other works. All improvements must abide by a minimum construction standard and must not interfere with vehicle and pedestrian safety or public utilities. A condition of this permit is that the applicant (adjoining resident) is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the verge.
- **Crossover application** - This application is for when residents wish to construct a driveway between the roadway and the private property. Crossovers must be built to a minimum construction standard. Council may contribute a subsidy towards the first crossover of a property in the form of cash or concrete drainage pipes.

Please note that the cost of undertaking works under a permit on the verge is the responsibility of the resident. The resident is also responsible for removing any cleared vegetation from the verge and disposing of it appropriately.

Other requests for vegetation management on a verge will be lodged as a service request and responded to by the relevant City of Albany officer.

WHAT WORKS ARE NOT PERMITTED?

Please note that permits will not be issued for the following reasons:

- Clearing trees to improve views and enhance the value of the property.
- Installing fire breaks on the verge, which should be installed on private property.
- Clearing within the verge to reduce the BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) rating for the adjoining property.
- Fuel reduction works, including burning

Native vegetation that exists on verges is valuable habitat for local flora and fauna and is protected under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Where possible, previously disturbed or cleared areas within a verge should be used instead of applying to clear new areas.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Prior to lodging any of the above applications, or undertaking any works within a verge, it is recommended that you contact the City of Albany to discuss the proposed works. Permit applications can be downloaded from the City of Albany website at www.albany.wa.gov.au/council/directorates/infrastructure-and-environment/ under 'Information Sheets and Popular Forms'.

