

# ROAD VERGE LANDSCAPING

guidelines

**STRONG VIBRANT COMMUNITIES**



CITY OF  
DURRUMBIDGEE

## Introduction

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline our obligations and assist residents in meeting their responsibilities and provide information on what you can and cannot do on an urban road verge.

There are certain obligations and responsibilities that both council and the property owners or occupiers must comply with under the Local Government Act 1999 and our council by- laws.

The relevant sections of the Act are:

- Section 221 which states that alteration of a road (which includes the road verge) requires a permit or authorisation.
- Section 217 grants the council the power to order the owner of infrastructure on a road to carry out specified maintenance or repair work and gives council authority to enforce repairs to driveways, retaining walls, etc on the verge.

The principal purpose of that part of road reserve between the kerb (or edge of the road pavement) and the adjoining property boundary (referred to as the road verge) is recognised as being for use by pedestrians.

The maintenance of road verges has traditionally been a shared responsibility between council and its residents. As you can imagine, it would require tremendous resources for council to maintain all road verge areas to a standard that would be in keeping with the adjoining property.

The landscaping of the road verge is of course optional, yet it does much to enhance individual properties and the appearance of the area in general.

When council officers respond to a request regarding verge maintenance a one-off longer term solution, for example, spraying or vegetation removal will normally be sought to prevent on-going frequent maintenance visits.

## Our responsibilities

Ensure that reasonable pedestrian access is available within a road verge area and meet our obligations and duty of care relating to relevant legislative compliance and standards. We will negotiate with residents to address such problems and this will be done on a site by site basis.

Ensure that adequate sight distance is available for vehicles use and pedestrians from a distance of 2.5m from the back of the kerb. We reserve the right to address such problems as required.

If a formal footpath has not been provided and the area is not maintained by the residents, we will spray these areas once a year and prune trees as necessary to provide pedestrian access and sight distances.

## Your responsibilities

- Ensure your property access and landscaping is contained to the verge area adjoining your property.
- Ensure safe pedestrian usage through any landscaping or across any driveway or private access path in the verge area.
- Ensure that verge landscaping does not create a sight distance problem or obstruct streetlights, street signs etc.
- Ensure specifications and authorisation when constructing on or modifying the road verge. Please contact our Permits and Licensing Officer on 8384 0666.
- Residents are encouraged to keep their verges free draining and have any footpaths kept clear of debris.

Do	Don't
Leave 1.5m clear for pedestrian access on all road verges.	Plant vegetation or install letterboxes, moss rocks, retaining walls or other structures that blocks pedestrian access or obstructs vision.
Use surface materials within pedestrian access such as lawn, 200mm compacted crushed rock or dolomite and pavers (pavers are to be installed professionally).	Use surface materials such as scoria, mulch, loose stones etc. These materials are not acceptable in pedestrian access.
Ensure the surface is level to allow safe pedestrian access.	Place objects on the verge that may be a tripping hazard such as concrete garden borders or retaining walls.
Maintain your verge to allow safe pedestrian access and neat appearance. Keep grass/weeds cut, prune landscaping plants/hedges, garden mulch etc.	Prune council street trees. Contact our Customer Relations team on 8384 0666 or <a href="mailto:mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au">mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au</a> to request tree pruning.
If you modify the verge it is your responsibility to maintain the surface materials, structures and driveway/ crossovers.	Modify council infrastructure including footpath and kerbing. Contact our Customer Relations team on 8384 0666 or <a href="mailto:mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au">mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au</a>

## Guidelines for residential roads within the City of Onkaparinga

1. Our intent is to provide a footpath on one side of every residential street and on both sides of major roads. Paths will be constructed progressively year by year in order of priority and funding availability.
2. A clear area of at least 1.5m width from the back of the kerb must be provided for the safe and convenient passage of pedestrians regardless of whether a footpath has been provided on the opposite side of the street. Allowable surfaces within this area include lawn, compacted crushed rock or dolomite sand, pavers or other materials approved by council. The surface should be smooth with no tripping hazards. Hazardous materials to pedestrians such as scoria, loose stones and moss rocks or vegetation such as cacti and roses are not permitted within the verge area.
3. No structure is to be placed within the road verge area that may be unsafe or inconvenient to the passage of pedestrians, or affect sight distances. This includes such things as retaining walls, brick letterboxes or driveways with a different level to the footpath etc.
4. To provide safe and convenient access along a footpath for all pedestrians (including prams and wheelchairs), the driveway grade is to be 2½% positive (+75mm) above the top of the kerb for a distance of 2m from the back of the kerb. Before any additional paving is undertaken by the resident on the verge contact council to arrange an onsite meeting with an appropriate officer to ensure that all legislative requirements such as Disability Discrimination Act is complied with.
5. Between 1.5m from back of the kerb to the property boundary, vegetation is to be less than 300mm high (ie, ground cover/low shrubs). No vegetation is to encroach onto the pedestrian thoroughfare.
6. Residents wishing to plant trees within the verge are required to contact council's Urban Forest team to arrange an on-site meeting to determine planting locations and tree species.
7. It is important when maintaining and landscaping the road verge that residents keep in mind the convenience of pedestrians using the road verge and the safe sight distance required by motorists.
8. Regardless of any beautification or works within the road verge, council reserves the right to construct a footpath at its discretion and in so doing may remove if necessary, any lawn, trees, garden landscaping or other impediments which prevent the provision of a footpath.
9. Utilities also have infrastructure within the road verge and the construction/maintenance is not under the control of council but falls within the individual utilities responsibilities i.e. Telstra service pits.

## Footpath construction

Our intent is to provide a footpath on one side of every residential street and on both sides of major roads. Paths will be constructed progressively year by year in order of priority and funding availability.

The entire footpath network is being developed in stages, which is in line with council's annual budget allocation. Footpaths to be installed are then prioritised by taking into consideration such issues as proximity to pedestrian generators (for example schools, shopping centres, bus routes and retirement villages), identified pedestrian traffic and the status of the road within the network.

## Suggested trees and shrubs

As trees grow they can impact on sewer mains, overhead power lines, roads and footpaths. A listing of trees and shrubs suggested for planting by SA Water, SA Power Networks and Natural Resources Management (NRM) board are at the following links:

### **SA Water**

[https://www.sawater.com.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/53196/GuideTreePlantingAvoidBlockages2011.pdf](https://www.sawater.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/53196/GuideTreePlantingAvoidBlockages2011.pdf)

### **SA Power Networks**

<http://sapowernetworks.com.au/public/download.jsp?id=7708>

### **NRM board**

<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges/plants-and-animals/native-plants-animals-and-biodiversity/urban-biodiversity>

## Planting fruit and nut trees

We support community led food growing initiatives. Planting edible fruit trees on verges can encourage social interaction in neighbourhoods and public spaces to build community connections. Accordingly we have listed below a number of suitable fruit and nut trees for planting along road verges.

Species list (suitable for streetscape):

- Prunus dulcis – Almond tree
- Macadamia integrifolia – Macadamia tree
- Pistacia vera – Pistachio
- Prunus avium – Cherry Tree
- Citrus aurantifolia – Tahitan Lime
- Citrus x sinensis – Orange Tree
- Citrus x limon – Lemon Tree
- Punica granatum – Pomegranate

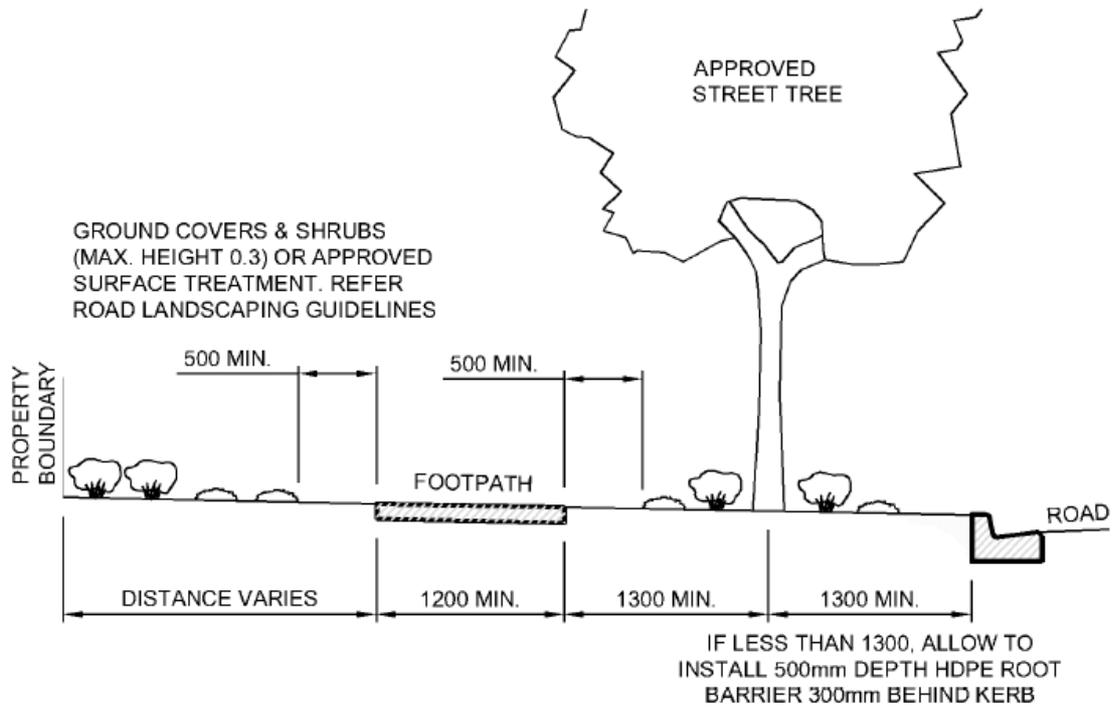
The following specifications need to be adhered to in addition to these Road Verge Landscaping Guidelines:

<b>Do</b>	<b>Don't</b>
Phone Dial Before U Dig on 1100 or visit their website <a href="http://www.1100.com.au">www.1100.com.au</a>	Plant anything that may create a public hazard.
Understand that produce from edible plants on verges may be used and consumed by other people.	Use snail pellets (these are dangerous when consumed animals and children)
Apply for 'Authorisation to alter a Public Road' Please contact our Permits and Licensing Officer on 8384 0666.	Erect any structures such as raised garden beds, trellises, fences without authorisation.
Use organic methods of pest and weed control.	Use non-organic pesticides.
Refer to our approved list of fruit and nut trees for planting on verges.	Allow fruit to fall to the ground.
Maintain the tree including pruning, watering, fertilizing, netting and collecting fruit.	
Understand that if a tree is not being maintained and is becoming a hazard it may be removed by council.	
Be aware of soil contamination.	
Contact council to have your verge added to the no spray list (but then must be maintained by the resident).	
Take responsibility to water and maintain the verge gardens.	

Council reserves the right to request that you remove any plant that creates a public hazard, nuisance or safety issue.

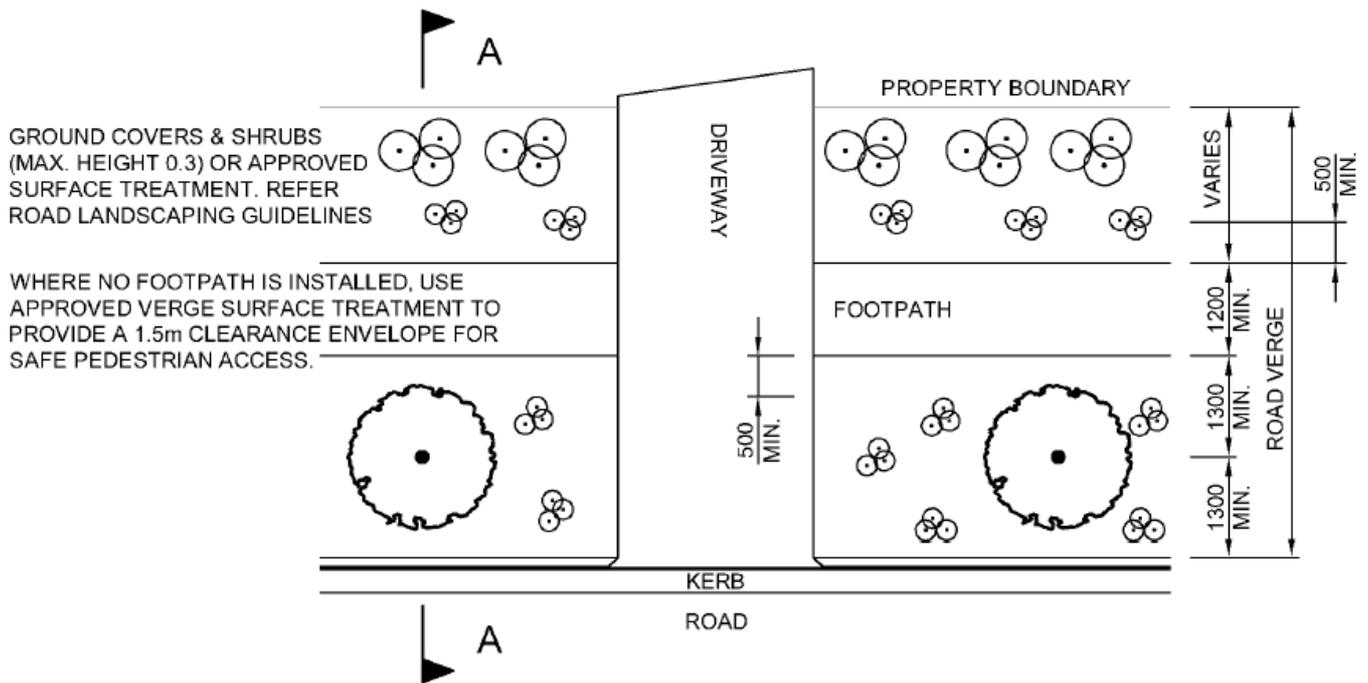
## Questions?

If you have any further questions please contact our Customer Relations team on 8386 0666 or [mail@onkapinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:mail@onkapinga.sa.gov.au)



## ROAD VERGE (FOOTPATH AWAY FROM KERB)

SECTION A - A  
NOT TO SCALE



## ROAD VERGE TYPE 1 (FOOTPATH AWAY FROM KERB)

PLAN VIEW  
NOT TO SCALE

1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN.
2. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE USING THE CURRENT VERSION OF THIS DRAWING. COUNCIL ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ISSUES ARISING FROM THE USE OF SUPERSEDED DRAWINGS.

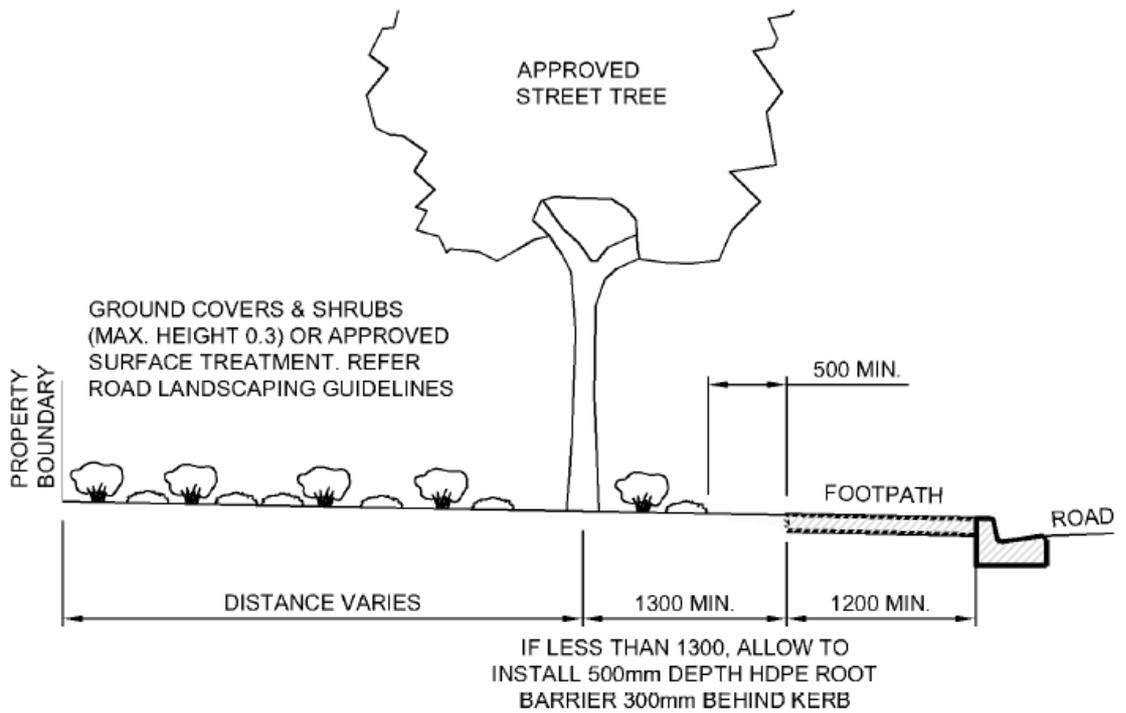
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## ROAD VERGE TYPE 1 - FOOTPATH AWAY FROM KERB

MAY, 2011.

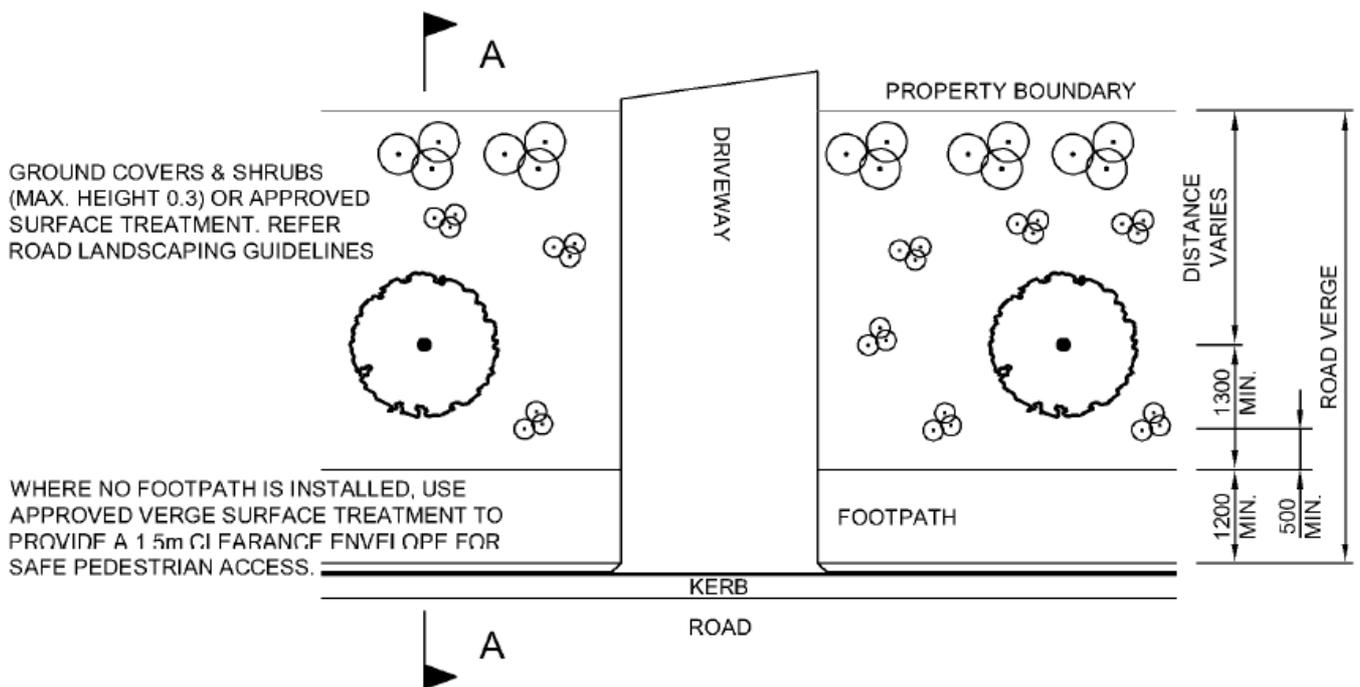


COUNCIL OFFICES  
Ramsay Place, Noarlunga Centre  
P.O. box 1 ph. 8364 0685



## ROAD VERGE (FOOTPATH AT BACK OF KERB)

SECTION A - A  
NOT TO SCALE



## ROAD VERGE TYPE 2 (FOOTPATH AT BACK OF KERB)

PLAN VIEW  
NOT TO SCALE

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ROAD VERGE TYPE 2 - FOOTPATH AT BACK OF KERB

MAY, 2011.



COUNCIL OFFICES  
Ramsey Place, Noarlunga Centre  
P.O. box 1 ph. 8364 0666