

NATURE STRIP MOWING POLICY [DRAFT]

1.0 PURPOSE

The Nature Strip Mowing Policy sets out the respective responsibilities of Canterbury-Bankstown Council (Council) and residents in relation to the mowing of nature strips and defines how Council will manage nature strips in the City. It also outlines the criteria for determining whether Council may provide assistance to residents in the mowing of nature strips adjacent to private property.

2.0 SCOPE

This Policy applies to all Council owned and/or controlled nature strips and grassed areas between private property boundaries and Council controlled roads in the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area (LGA).

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to ensuring that the streetscape in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA is of a standard that improves local amenity, minimises public safety risks and maintains pedestrian access.

This Policy reinforces Council's position of residents and property owners assuming primary responsibility for the mowing of the nature strips as Council does not mow nature strips in front of and adjacent to residential, commercial or industrial properties. Council does not mow nature strips adjacent to other government facilities including schools, hospitals, Housing NSW properties, religious institutions, private childcare centres, or other public and private businesses.

Council relies on the community spirit of its local residents and property owners to contribute to the amenity of the city.

Council realises that not all of the community is able to carry out this work. Council therefore provides a Nature Strip Mowing Service (the Service) for eligible residents, as outlined in Clause 3.3 of this Policy. The Service will only be provided subject to available funding.

3.1 Areas that Council will maintain

Council undertakes to maintain the nature strips that meet any or all of the following general criteria:

- Adjacent to Council community facilities, parks and reserves;
- Road reserves adjacent to railway lines;
- Gateway locations to the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA and other areas of public significance;

- Grassed natured strip areas where the resident is physically or generally unable to undertake the work themselves, has no other household members or others means in which to mow their nature strip, has made an application to Council and received approval for Council to maintain that area.

3.2 Areas expected to be maintained by Owners/ Residents

All nature strips not maintained by Council are expected to be maintained by the owners and/or residents of the adjoining private property. Nature strips are expected to be mowed regularly by residents or property owners and kept neat and tidy such that they provide a safe environment and contribute to the general appearance of the streetscape.

It is recognised, however, that not all residents are able to carry out this work. Some residents may appoint a contractor or have other family members or friends undertake this work for them. It is considered reasonable that the nature strip mowing would be carried out in conjunction with the mowing of the private property. Nature strips will not be mowed by Council if other lawns on the private property are being maintained by the resident, friends, other family members or a contractor on behalf of the resident.

3.3 Eligibility Criteria for Nature Strip Mowing Service

Council may provide assistance in mowing nature strips in front of or adjacent to residential properties where there is a demonstrated genuine need. Council will consider the following criteria when assessing applications for Council's Nature Strip Mowing Service. Eligible residents must:

- Be a permanent resident of the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA and occupy the subject property;
- Be receiving or be assessed as eligible to receive services under the Commonwealth Home Support Program or Home Care Packages Program; or
- Be the recipient of a Disability Support Pension.

Applicants must also confirm that no other member of their household is able to mow the nature strip and they do not have a contractor maintaining their own property lawns and/or gardens. They must also notify Council immediately if their circumstances change.

3.4 Maintenance Schedule

The Nature Strip Mowing Service does not provide a guarantee of service and at all times will only be provided subject to available funding. Sites mowed under the Nature Strip Mowing Policy will be done so at Council's discretion and in accordance with Council's maintenance schedule and weather conditions.

While Council does not remove grass clippings from the site, it will ensure the area is left in a clean and tidy state following the mowing of the nature strip. No other rubbish, debris or green waste will be cleaned up and/or removed from the nature strip or private property at the time of mowing.

3.5 Application Process

Residents requesting the Nature Strip Mowing Service based on the aforementioned criteria are required to submit a Nature Strip Mowing Service Application Form. The following must accompany the application:

- Documentation to support that applicant is either eligible for or is the recipient of services under the Commonwealth Home Support Program or Home Care Packages Program; or
- Documentation to support that applicant is a recipient of the Disability Support Pension.

Council will undertake an assessment of the application and notify residents of the outcome. If the eligibility criteria has been met, and Council approves the request, the applicant will be added to the Nature Strip Mowing Service Maintenance Schedule.

3.6 Review of Service

Council will review a recipient's eligibility for the Nature Strip Mowing Service annually to validate the need to continue mowing. A reminder notice accompanied by an application form will be sent out by Council in order to confirm eligibility. The service may be suspended if the completed application form and supporting documentation is not received by Council within 6 weeks.

3.7 Loss of Service

Council reserves the right to remove any recipient of the Nature Strip Mowing Service from the maintenance schedule at any time should any of the following circumstances occur:

- The recipient sells or transfers their interest in the property and/or ceases to occupy the property;
- The circumstances of the owner/occupier of the property change dramatically, such that a person no longer meets the eligibility criteria stated in this Policy;
- The person fails to report any changes in their circumstances which could make them ineligible to be a recipient of the Nature Strip Mowing Service;
- Council deems that the person no longer meets the eligibility criteria stated in this Policy;
- Any other reason Council deems appropriate.

4.0 RELATED RESOURCES

4.1 Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)
- *Roads Act 1993* (NSW)

4.2 Associated Documents

- Nature Strip Mowing Service Application Form

4.3 Definitions

<i>Nature Strip</i>	The grassed area of land between a property boundary's private frontage and the edge of a roadway.
<i>Nature Strip Mowing Service</i>	The service provided by Council whereby residents meeting eligibility criteria who are unable to maintain the nature strip adjoining their property.
<i>Permanent Resident</i>	Ratepayer or renter of a property located within the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA.

5.0 POLICY OWNER

Manager Parks

6.0 AUTHORISATION

Adopted by Canterbury-Bankstown Council on [INSERT DATE].