

# Nature Strip Guidelines

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## 2 INTRODUCTION

Kingborough Council has developed Nature Strip Guidelines to help residents better understand their responsibilities and to guide residents who are interested in establishing a garden or landscaping in their nature strip.

Nature strips are the area of public land between a property boundary and the adjacent road. The land is set aside for a variety of purposes, providing space for:

- Footpaths
- Access in and out of vehicles
- Essential services and utility infrastructure (such as: power, sewage, water, stormwater, and telecommunications)
- Street trees
- Placement of waste and recycling bins for collection
- Streetlights, bus stops and shelters
- Extra visibility for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists at intersections and driveways.

These guidelines apply to both nature strips and roadside verges (referred herein as ‘nature strip’), with a specific focus on nature strips in urban areas.

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### 3 WHO LOOKS AFTER MY NATURE STRIP?

Kingborough Council has general responsibility for the management of local road reservations. We install and maintain footpaths, signage, street trees, and other important streetscape elements within nature strips.

It is not Council policy to maintain nature strips. We request that residents maintain and mow any lawns or other vegetation (excluding street trees) within the nature strip adjacent to their property.



### 4 HOW DO I LOOK AFTER MY NATURE STRIP?

Vegetation within the nature strip must not obstruct line of sight for vehicles, pedestrians, or cyclists. Other than street trees installed and managed by Council, all vegetation within the nature strip must be maintained to a maximum height of 900mm.

Any foliage on your property that overhangs the nature strip and footpath must be pruned to maintain a minimum clearance of 2m above the nature strip and footpath.

Please report any obstructions, safety hazards or street tree issues on nature strips or footpaths to Council via the website or Customer Services on 6211 8200.

### 5 CAN I REQUEST ASSISTANCE MAINTAINING MY NATURE STRIP?

If you are unable to maintain your nature strip to a reasonable standard, you may apply to Kingborough Council for assistance. Written requests for assistance can be submitted to the General Manager for consideration. Please clearly outline your individual circumstances and the reason(s) why you are unable to maintain your nature strip. We will consider requests for assistance and may provide up to two mowing services per annum.

### 6 CAN I PLANT A GARDEN IN MY NATURE STRIP?

Kingborough Council supports alternatives to mown grass within nature strips, provided these comply with the below Conditions for nature strip gardens.

Residents are responsible for any gardens in the nature strip adjacent to their property. If your garden does not comply with these Guidelines, then you may be asked to remove or make changes to your garden.

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Your garden must not encroach onto your neighbour's nature strip. We encourage residents to talk with their neighbours before installing a garden in their nature strip – are there others in your street who may be interested in establishing their own nature strip garden?

## 7 CONDITIONS FOR NATURE STRIP GARDENS

- 7.1 Small shrubs, groundcovers or grasses (under 900mm) are permitted but must be pruned away from the edge of the footpath.
- 7.2 Vegetable gardens are not recommended, and root vegetables are not permitted due to the regular digging and soil cultivation required. Edible plants under 900mm height are permitted but remember, the nature strip adjacent to your property is public space. If you grow edible plants in your nature strip people may harvest from your garden.
- 7.3 If there is no formed footpath within the nature strip adjacent to your property then a clearway of at least 1.2m is required to provide safe and convenient access for waste and recycling bins, pedestrians and postal services.
- 7.4 All costs associated with the installation and maintenance of gardens are the responsibility of residents.
- 7.5 Council is not responsible for reinstating or compensating any damage caused to a nature strip garden – this includes damage caused by animals, persons, utility service providers, or weather events.
- 7.6 Utility service providers may require access to the nature strip to install, maintain or remove their infrastructure. Clear access to any utilities and essential services must be maintained, this includes access to telecommunication pits, manholes, stormwater pipes, water meters and electricity poles or lines.
- 7.7 Utility service providers (or their contractors) are required to reinstate nature strips to a 'normal condition' (generally top-soil and grass seeds) after undertaking installation or maintenance works. The service authority is not obliged to reinstate alternative landscaping like-for-like.
- 7.8 Level nature strips (not subject to erosion) may contain organic mulch or fine to medium gravel (4mm-20mm particles). To suppress weed growth, coverings should be kept to a depth of 75mm and will need periodic top up and weeding. The covering must be compacted and contained. Loose material can be an environmental and safety risk and road drains empty into our streams and rivers without treatment.
- 7.9 You must initiate and complete a Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) application prior to any excavation or digging within the nature strip. Excavation deeper than 300mm will also require a Road Works Permit from Council. Do not dig before you have completed a DBYD and where required received an approved [Road Works Permit](#) (PDF).
- 7.10 Council may issue a notice or direction to remove any works (including gardens) within the nature strip that do not comply with these Nature Strip Guidelines, or that present a safety hazard, or impede vehicular, pedestrian, or bicycle access.

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If your garden will comply with all the above guidelines you are welcome to start planting. You do not need to submit an application to Council. Gardens that do not comply with these guidelines or do not have required approvals from Council are not permitted.

### 8 WHAT IS NOT PERMITTED ON NATURE STRIPS?

The following are NOT permitted on nature strips (unless a permit is granted by Council):

- × Hardscape elements or structures (such as rockeries, retaining walls, paving, sculptures)
- × Fencing (temporary protective fencing may be permitted with written approval from Council)
- × Concrete or asphalt
- × Coarse gravel or pebbles (20mm-63mm particles)
- × Synthetic turf
- × Declared weeds (Tasmanian Government [declared weeds list](#))
- × Trees or large wooded plants (other than Council planted street trees)
- × Prickly, spikey and poisonous plants, or plants that are common causes of allergies
- × Root vegetables
- × Irrigation systems.

### 9 CAN I STORE MATERIALS ON MY NATURE STRIP?

Council can issue a permit for the temporary storage of building materials, skip bins, or storage containers within the road reservation. To apply for a skip bin permit please read the [Skip Bin Guidelines](#) (PDF) and complete and return our [Skip Bin Application Form](#) (PDF).

### 10 CAN I PARK ON MY NATURE STRIP?

You are permitted to stop a registered vehicle on a nature strip if you are the owner or occupier of a property adjacent with the nature strip and the parked vehicle does not obstruct other road users.

You are NOT permitted to:

- × Drive over the road kerb to access your property or nature strip,
- × Park partly or wholly over a footpath,
- × Park within the nature strip adjacent to your neighbours.

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### 11 RECOMMENDED PLANTINGS LIST FOR NATURE STRIPS

Whilst not a complete list, the below table provides an indication of the types of native species that may be planted in nature strips.

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Allocasuarina monilifera</i> 'Necklace Sheoak or Little Sheoak'	Necklace Sheoak (prostrate form)
<i>Aotus ericoides</i>	Golden Pea
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	Native Cranberry
<i>Austrodanthonia caespitosa</i>	Wallaby Grass
<i>Bauera rubioides</i>	Wiry Bauera (prostrate Form)
<i>Bossiaea cinerea</i>	Showy Bossiaea
<i>Brachyscome multifida</i> 'Break O Day'	Cut-Leaf Daisy
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Bulbine Lily
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i> 'White Anzac'	Lemon Bottlebrush (prostrate form)
<i>Carpobrotus rossii</i>	Pigface
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Yellow Buttons
<i>Coronidium scorpioides</i>	Creeping Everlasting
<i>Correa backhouseana</i> var. Velvet Correa	Velvet Correa (prostrate form)
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	(semi-prostrate form)
<i>Craspedia glauca</i>	Billy Buttons
<i>Deyeuxia monticola</i>	Bent Grass
<i>Dianella brevicaulis</i>	Coastal Flax-lily
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Blue Flax-lily
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney Weed

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<i>Diplarrena moraea</i>	Butterfly Flag, White Iris
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath (prune to max. allowable height)
<i>Euryomyrtus ramosissima</i> , prev. <i>Baeckea ramosissima</i>	Rosy Baeckea
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club Rush
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia (prune to max. allowable height)
<i>Hibbertia procumbens</i>	Spreading Guinea-flower
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	Erect Guinea-flower
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Running Postman
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i> 'Petal Point Spread'	Woolly Tea-tree (prostrate form)
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> 'Hobart Spread'	Common Tea-tree (prostrate form)
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	Peach Heath
<i>Lomandra nana</i>	Dwarf Mat-rush
<i>Melaleuca gibbosa</i> 'Slender Honey-myrtle'	(Compact form, prune to max. allowable height)
<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> 'Coastal Capet'	Scented Paperbark (prostrate form)
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
<i>Ozothamnus obcordatus</i> 'Grey Everlasting'	Grey Everlasting
<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	Long Purple Flag
<i>Pelargonium australe</i>	Native Storksbill, Wild Geranium
<i>Pimelea nivea</i>	Bushmans Bootlace (prune to max. allowable height)
<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	Silver Tussock-grass, Silver Tussock-grass
<i>Poa poiformis</i>	Coastal Tussock-grass
<i>Poa rodwayi</i>	Velvet Tussock-grass
<i>Poa sieberiana</i> var. <i>sieberiana</i>	Grey Tussock-grass

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<i>Pultenaea pedunculata</i>	Matted Bush-pea
<i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i>	Chamomile Sunray
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Grass Trigger Plant
<i>Styphelia adscendens</i>	Golden Heath
<i>Themeda triandra, prev. Themeda australis</i>	Kangaroo Grass (maintain to max. allowable height)