5.07 Nature Strip Policy

Council Resolution:	**2026/09/19/015**
Date to take effect:	19th September 2026
Policy Custodian:	Chief Executive Officer
Review Date:	September 2030
Version (Revision Number)	1.0

1. Purpose

To provide guidance to the community and Council staff in relation to managing nature strips and regulatory functions in the Adelaide River and Batchelor townships.

2. Scope

This policy relates to the maintenance and planting of Coomalie Council controlled nature strips in the townships of Adelaide River and Batchelor. This policy applies to:

- The process for obtaining authorisation from the Coomalie Council to undertake planting on a nature strip.
- The ongoing maintenance responsibilities of the property owners/occupiers and the Coomalie Council in relation to nature strip maintenance and planting.
- Unregistered/Abandoned vehicles on the nature strip.

This policy excludes:

- Private land and land managed by authorities other than the Coomalie Council.
- Public street trees

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Council	Refers to Coomalie Community Government Council
Nature Strip	The nature strip is the area of public land between the property boundary and the road edge/kerbing in the townships of Batchelor or Adelaide River
Lawn/grass	Means living, organic grass species which grow from the soil and require regular maintenance like mowing and watering
Street tree	Any tree within the Coomalie Councils Road verge that has any part of its trunk growing on Councils controlled land.

4. Policy Statement

4.1 Application process- Planting

Any planting on nature strips must be authorised by Council. Requests for planting on the nature strip must be in writing, and works must not commence until approved, and authorisation has been received by the Council.

4.2 Responsibility for maintaining a road verge

Maintenance of the nature strip is vital to the presentation and liveability of our community.

Council requires owners/occupiers to maintain vegetation on the nature strip, (excluding street trees). If an authorisation for planting on the nature strip is approved, the adjoining owner/occupier is responsible for the maintenance of the planted nature strip.

Ongoing maintenance can include but is not limited to:

- Keeping lawn/grass areas short and tidy- including mowing and whipper snipping
- Weeding and rubbish removal
- Pruning of planted verges for pedestrian and road users (except street trees)
- Material or plant replacement

If nature strips are not maintained appropriately, they can appear overgrown, unsightly, harbour vermin and rubbish and cause obstructions which may create safety issues.

If a property is sold and has established planting on the nature strip, it becomes the responsibility of the new owner/occupier to ensure the nature strip planting is maintained appropriately. The new owner may keep the plantings or seek authorisation from Coomalie Council to remove the plants and reinstate the nature strip to natural grass.

4.3 Works on natures strip by the Coomalie Council and other agencies

Regardless of any plantings on the nature strip, Coomalie Council reserves the right to maintain infrastructure; and the right to construct on any part of the nature strip at its discretion. If necessary, road plantings will be removed without compensation. Where possible, communication to the owner/occupier will occur to provide the opportunity to remove the plant before commencement of works.

For any works undertaken on the nature strip, remedial work to reinstate the nature strip will occur. This will generally be grass seed only. If evidence shows the nature strip has been maintained to a high standard (evident prior to works occurring) the Coomalie Council may use turf as a replacement option. The onus is then on the property owner/occupier to water and establish the site.

Utility companies may be required to undertake maintenance works on the nature strip and may require access from time to time. The Utility companies will undertake reinstatement of the nature strip; however, the treatment will be grass seed only (if there is green lawn) unless otherwise agreed between the Coomalie Council and the utility providers. The responsibility is on the property owner/occupier to water and establish the site.

4.4 Non-compliance with nature strip policy and or planting requirements

Council reserves the right for the removal of nature strip plantings at any time if it is not maintained to Council's satisfaction or is not safe.

When a breach is identified, a letter will be issued to the property owner/occupier requesting remedial works to be carried out.

Where the owner is unable or unwilling to complete the requested remedial works, Coomalie Council may commence enforcement action. This may result in the Coomalie Council undertaking the works and recovering the costs from the owner as a debt payable to Council.

4.5 Abandoned vehicles

Under the provisions of the *Northern Territory Traffic Regulations 1999*- Council has the authority to act on Unregistered/Abandoned vehicles on Council's road verges/nature strips.

A letter will be issued regarding the breach with the direction to move the vehicle from the public road or place in a specific timeframe.

Failure to comply with the notice, will result in the vehicle being removed and impounded by the Coomalie Community Government Council. Should your vehicle be impounded, any additional costs incurred by the Council will be borne by the owner and/or property resident.

Adelaide River Township roads	Becker Street Dogherty Street Finlay Road Hardy Street Hatt Street Hopewell Street Memorial Terrace Silverton Road Swannell Street
Batchelor Township roads	Awilla Road Cameron Road Campbell Way Cutler Place Flynn Crescent Hyse Way Kirra Crescent

	Kirra Way Mardango Crescent Mardango Way Meneling Road Naranga Street Nurndina Street Pinaroo Crescent Pinaroo Way Tarkarri Road Turana Street Wandaree Street Woolley Court

Fees and Charges

Cost of non- compliance works carried out by Council will be charged or the cost of repairing damage to Council assets by third parties will be charged as per the current Council adopted Fees and Charges Schedule, at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

5. Responsibilities

5.1 Responsible Officer

The CEO is the Responsible Officer for this Policy.

The CEO has the authority to waive or modify the requirements of this Policy as needed to meet demonstrated operational requirements.

5.2 Managers

The Council and Community Services Manager is responsible for ensuring their Service Unit adheres to the requirements of this Policy and provides guidance in respect of achievement of the strategic objectives of the Policy within their division and the organisation.

5.3 Employees

Employees must adhere to the requirements of this Policy and operate within its authorities.

6. Associated Documents

- Permit to Work within a Road Reserve
- Current Council Strategic Plan
- Road Hierarchy Plan
- Current Council adopted Fees and Charges

7. References and Related Legislation

Local Government Act 2019

Local Government (General) Regulations 2021

Northern Territory Traffic Regulations 1999

DOCUMENT HISTORY	
Date Adopted:	19th September 2026