

## **1.1 NEW POLICY – VERGE AND STREET TREE POLICY**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** GOVERNANCE OFFICER  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** GENERAL MANAGER

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of Central Darling Shire Council (CDSC)'s draft Verge and Street Tree Policy (Version One).

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

#### **That Council will:**

- 1. Receive the report**
- 2. Approve the draft Verge and Street Tree Policy.**
- 3. Place the Verge and Street Tree Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to allow for public review and submissions.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Verge and Street Tree Policy provides guidelines for residents to create, install and maintain an authorised street verge in front of their property on CDSC land. It supports the strategic plan delivery program objectives for the greening and beautification of towns and streetscapes.

### **REPORT:**

CDSC supports the opportunity for residents to plant and maintain verge gardens adjacent to their property. Verges (commonly referred to as nature strips) provide an area to increase biodiversity, offer a way to reduce maintenance with the right planting, and can make the area aesthetically appealing. This policy provides guidance for residents to do that in a way to ensure their design complies with Council requirements, minimises risk and considers other uses associated with the space. The policy ensures residents:

- Consider responsibility in relation to other users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists
- Consider the other functions of the land including garbage collection, stormwater management, utility service corridors, parking and street trees
- Promotes and guides effective management and maintenance of established street trees

### **LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN:**

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
5 Rural and Urban Land Use	5.2 Greening and beautification of towns	5.2.3 Develop an ongoing program to plant street trees throughout towns and villages within the shire
		5.2.1 Develop and maintain streetscape masterplans for towns and villages within the shire

#### **SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**

<b>Social</b>	Positive
<b>Environmental</b>	Positive
<b>Economic</b>	NA
<b>Governance</b>	Positive

#### **Financial and Resource Implications:**

There are no financial implications, as the implementation of the new policy will be managed within existing staff resources.

#### **Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

Nil.

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	Assessment
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<b>Environmental</b>	Positive
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**Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:**

Nil.

**Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:**

Without a formal policy in place, CDSC can be exposed to a greater risk of public safety and non-compliance with desired standards.

**OPTIONS:**

That Council approves the draft Verge and Street Tree Policy as presented, or, makes recommendations for any changes needed before placing on Public Exhibition,

**COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:**

No

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**

### **Internal Exhibition:**

Approved by the Management / Executive Group (ManEx) at their meeting on 12 February 2025.

### **External Exhibition:**

To be placed on public exhibition via CDSC's website for a minimum of 28 days, to allow for community review and comment.

### Attachments

1. <list attachments>