

# YOU AND YOUR STREET VERGE



This information booklet is for people who may not be sure of property boundaries or their entitlements and responsibilities for care and maintenance of their street verge.

## YOUR VERGE EXPLAINED

The verge is the area between the road and your property boundary. Verges have the potential to serve important ecological functions in urban environments.

The verge remains the property of the Crown, but is a shared resource and is used in a number of different ways, including:

### FOR UTILITY PROVIDERS

The verges enable a number of utilities to service private lots - telecommunications, electricity, gas, water, sewers and trunk or regional services.

### FOR CROSSOVERS

Also known as a driveway, a crossover is the strip of land which runs at a right angle to the road, dissects a verge, is established to connect a property to the road and is the responsibility of the property owner it is adjacent to.

### FOR STREET TREES

A strip of soil approximately 60cm wide and 2.75m from the front property boundary has been set aside for the planning of street trees by the City.

### FOR PATHWAYS

The City's policies determine if a pathway is to be introduced alongside a kerb or close to the property boundary.

The verge is the responsibility of the property owner or resident and we strongly encourage residents/tenants to care for their verge in order to increase the aesthetics of their property and the street.

## CROSSOVER

Crossovers must be installed to an approved standard to allow vehicles to gain access from the road reserve and into your property. This insures that vehicles do not damage pathways, make the verge uneven, alter the level of the verge, cause hazards to pedestrians and dislodge soil onto the road.

Applications should be made to the council for specifications and approval to construct a crossover to the City's approved standard. On completion, a claim can be made to the City for its contribution towards the cost of one crossover per lot.

Current policy is to approve bitumen/asphalt, concrete and brick/block paved crossovers in residential areas with street kerbing and gravel crossovers in semi-rural/rural areas with lots greater than 4 hectares.

Please Note: A gravel crossover must be sealed for the first 5-6m from the edge of a sealed road.

Crossovers can be constructed by removing the existing pathway to keep the current theme of the driveway or constructed up to the edge of the pathway or back of kerb. Mountable kerbs are to be retained and semi-barrier/barrier kerbs can be removed to create a smoother crossing point from the road pavement into the driveway. The City would prefer that the pathway is not removed if it is in a good condition. The wings on the crossover can be curved or straight and they are also optional.



For more information on Crossovers, please refer to the City's Crossover Specifications, which can be found on the City's website.

## FENCING

Regulations govern the maximum height and configuration of a fence along the front boundary of a property and set out certain conditions which must be met before the height of the fence can be raised. When fencing a corner lot, sight lines must be maintained for vehicles approaching the intersection.

A dividing fence is a fence that separates the land of different owners whether the fence is on the common boundary of adjoining land or a line other than the common boundary. A dividing fence does not include a retaining wall.

The City of Greater Geraldton does not contribute to the dividing fence when it is adjacent to a road reserve, access-way, public open space or other land that is owned by the crown or under the care of the City of Greater Geraldton.

For more information, please refer to the City's Dividing Fences - Local Planning Policy, which can be found on the City's website.

Additionally for more information regarding Dividing Fences Act 1961, an online brochure 'Dividing Fences

A Guide' can be downloaded from the Department of Commerce - Building Commission website [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/building-commission](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/building-commission) or telephone the Building Commission on 1300 489 099.

## KERBSIDE HOUSE NUMBERS

The City supports the clear identification of house numbers on kerbs for ease of access by emergency vehicles and visitors. There is no obligation on property owners to have their house numbers painted on the kerb.

It will be the responsibility of the property owner/resident to ensure the correct house number only is painted on the kerb. Lot numbers are not allowed. If you are unsure or having issues with your property street address, please contact the City of Greater Geraldton.

For more information on Kerbside House Numbering, please refer to the City's Verge Treatment Specifications, which can be found on the City's website.

## PERMISSIBLE VERGE TREATMENTS

### STREET LAWNS AND GARDENS

The City of Greater Geraldton does not assist with the maintenance of the property adjoining verge. The City relies on each property owner/resident maintaining the verge at the front or side of their property. Verge maintenance by the City is limited to pruning of street trees and slashing of grass once a year, on request, to prevent a fire hazard. Any further improvement is by the property owner and adds to the aesthetics of the property. It is not possible for Council to control weed growth by mechanical means, so where they become a problem, weeds along pathways and kerbs are sprayed.

Local laws allow street lawns, street trees, gardens and reticulation to be installed. Street verge gardens must not be hazardous to pedestrian or motorists. Thorny or prickly plants such as roses should not be planted and shrubs that block the line of sight to neighbours backing out of their properties should be avoided. Shrubs should not exceed 600mm in height.

No barriers or other obstructions are permitted on the verge other than a temporary enclosure consisting of wooden stakes and rope to assist in the establishment of a new lawn. Once the lawn has been established the wooden stakes and rope must be removed. Steel

star pickets and rocks are not to be placed on the verge under any circumstances.

### OTHER VERGE COVERING MATERIALS

Materials such as brick/block paving, bitumen/asphalt, faux brick and limestone/gravel are permitted on the verge but must be maintained so it does not end on the road, pathways or in the City's drainage system. Any materials that are placed on the verge must not alter the existing verge level, generally a 2% gradient/fall towards the road.

Please Note: The verge is primarily a public service corridor and at times will be dug up to install new services. The City and service providers are not responsible for any private access or verge treatment reinstatement placed within the corridor.

For more information on Permissible Verge Treatments, please refer to the City's Verge Treatment Specifications, which can be found on the City's website.

## NON-PERMISSIBLE VERGE TREATMENTS

### VERGE OBSTRUCTIONS

The City of Greater Geraldton will not accept items being placed within or encroach into the verge unless otherwise approved. Obstructions can be a hazard to pedestrians and have the potential to cause an accident or injury. Some of these things can be: retaining walls, letterboxes, rocks, steel stakes, edging not flush with the ground level and kerb, spiky/thorny plants, rubble, building materials.

For more information on Non-Permissible Verge Treatments, please refer to the City's Verge Specifications or the City's Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2020, which can be found on the City's website.



Example of what is not allowed on the verge.

## RUBBISH DISPOSAL

The City offers a weekly mobile garage bin (MGB) collection service for all residents and businesses. Please ensure the MGBs do not weigh more than 70km and are placed on the verge prior to 6am on your collection day. On public holidays, MGB collections continue as normal with the exception of Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday. Collections that would normally occur on these days usually take place the following day, unless advertised.

MGBs must be in a serviceable condition (i.e. no cracks/splits that could allow rubbish to escape, not overfilled – lid to be closed etc) and orientated so that the bin lids open facing the road with handles and wheels nearest the house. MGBs should be placed a maximum of 1m from the kerb or road edge and multiple MGBs should be spaced approximately 1m apart.

For more information regarding Domestic Rubbish Collection, please refer to the City's Household Rubbish Collection Day maps, which can be found on the City's website.

### DROP-OFF SERVICE

Residents can also drop-off waste to the Meru Waste Disposal Facility (Landfill Lane, Narngulu) or Mullewa Transfer Station (Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, Mullewa), fees may apply for this service.

### PENISONER BULK BIN PROGRAM

This program is no longer available.

If in doubt on any matter concerning Waste Management within the City, please don't hesitate to contact the Environmental Health and Waste Department on (08) 9956 6600.

## STORING MATERIALS ON THE VERGE

Building materials cannot be stored on a verge unless the work being carried out on a property has been approved and a verge bond held by the City. The storage of materials is subject to the conditions of the building hoarding licence.

For more information, please refer to the City's Application for Hoarding, Deposit Materials on, or Excavate near a Street permit, which can be found on

the City's website.

## STREETLIGHTS

The majority of the streetlights in the City of Greater Geraldton are provided by Western Power. The City of responsible for the cost of new streetlights and the running costs of the existing streetlights. If you are aware of any safety, vandalism or maintenance issues for streetlights, please contact Western Power on 13 13 51 or go to [www.westernpower.com.au](http://www.westernpower.com.au).

### FAULTY STREET LIGHTS

Streetlight fault reports should be sent directly to Western Power with information to identify the location and pole number. You can contact Western Power on 13 13 51 or via an online form on their website [Report a Faulty Streetlight](#).

### SHADING

The City will not consider requests for streetlight shading where; carriageway, pathway or verge illumination or safety would be comprised. Where a decision has been made to request the installation of streetlight shading, the cost of the installing the shading will be met by the applicant.



## STREET TREES

The City regards street trees as being highly desirable and integral to the urban landscape, providing a range of social, environmental and economic advantages. As such they are considered to be a primary part of the public landscape amenity affecting and benefitting all residents within a locality.

### STREET TREE PLANTING

Requests for new trees to be planted can be made throughout the year. The City of Greater Geraldton shall undertake tree planting in streets annually (May/June), as an ongoing planned programme

for creating functional and aesthetic streetscapes. The City will provide one street tree per frontage or on large properties a minimum of 15m apart. The species of tree will be in keeping with an existing theme planting for your street. Council accepts that the City of Greater Geraldton is responsible for the post planting care and maintenance of all street trees; however, property owners/residents will be encouraged to assist with street tree watering. The City will water street trees for the first two years, but specific requirements can be discussed with the City's Infrastructure Department.

### STREET TREE REMOVAL

The City staff will evaluate requests for removal of street trees following an inspection. Certain conditions must be evident for a street tree to be considered for removal. Shedding leaves, flowers, bark fruit and obstruction of surrounding view are not valid reasons to remove street trees.

### STREET TREE PRUNING

The City will prune street trees that have grown close to power lines and are a genuine threat to power lines. Street tree pruning is carried out in accordance with horticultural acceptable practices. Unnecessary pruning can result in poor canopy formation, limb shedding and structurally dangerous trees.

For more information, please refer to the City's Street Tree Specifications, which can be found on the City's website.

## UNDERGROUND SERVICE LOCATIONS

Before any landscaping or excavation works on your verge, contact 'Dial before You Dig' on 1100 or go to [www.1100.com.au](http://www.1100.com.au) to ascertain the location of any underground services such as gas, water and telecommunications. If you damage any public utilities during your landscaping without checking first, you may be liable for the cost of the repair.

## VERGE STOPPING & PARKING LOCAL LAWS

### VERGE PARKING

1. A person shall not stop or park a vehicle on a verge where signs prohibits the stopping or parking of vehicles on the verge.
2. A person, not being the occupier of the land abutting on to a verge, shall not without

consent of that occupier, drive, park or stop a vehicle upon that verge.

3. A person shall not park a commercial vehicle on a verge unless it is being loaded or unloaded with reasonable expedition with goods, merchandise or materials collected from or delivered to the premises adjacent to the portion of the verge on which the commercial vehicle is parked, provided no obstruction is caused to the passage of any vehicle or person using a carriageway or a path.

A person can only stop on a pathway or in front of a driveway if the driver is picking up, or dropping off passengers.

### NO PARKING OF VEHICLES EXPOSED FOR SALE AND IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

A person shall not park a vehicle in any portion of a thoroughfare –

1. For the purpose of exposing it for sale;
2. If that vehicle is not licensed under the Road Traffic Act;
3. If that vehicle is a trailer or a caravan unattached to a motor vehicle; or
4. For the purpose of effecting repairs to it, other than the minimum repairs necessary to enable the vehicle to be moved to a place other than a thoroughfare.

### STOPPING HEAVY, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER TYPES OF VEHICLES IN BUILT-UP AREAS

1. A person shall not park – a. A vehicle or any combination of vehicles that, together with any projection on, or load carried by, the vehicle or combination of vehicles, is 7.5 metres or more in length or exceeds a GVM of 4.5 tonne; b. A commercial vehicle; c. A caravan; d. A bus; e. A tow truck; f. A tractor; or g. A trailer on a carriageway or verge in a built-up area between the hours of 6.00pm one day and 7.00am the following day and for more than 3 hours consecutively between the hours of 7.00am and 6.00pm.
2. Nothing in this clause mitigates the limitations or conditions imposed by any other clause or by any local law or traffic sign relating to the parking or stopping of vehicles.

For more information, please refer to the City's Consolidated Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2012 (Parking Amendment Local Law 2020), which can be found on the City's website.

# CONTACT DETAILS

## **City of Greater Geraldton**

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Phone: (08) 9956 6600  
Facsimile: (08) 9956 6674

Mullewa District Office  
Phone: (08) 9956 6643  
Facsimile: (08) 9961 1206

Email: [council@cgg.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@cgg.wa.gov.au)

Website: [www.cgg.wa.gov.au](http://www.cgg.wa.gov.au)