



Vehicle Crossings and Nature Strip Policy

DOCUMENT AUTHORISATION

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:		MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY			
REVIEWED BY:		DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES			
REVIEW DUE DATE:		26 JULY 2025			
VERSION NUMBER:		1			
DOCUMENT NUMBER:		1			
VERSIONS:	DATE:	RESOLUTION NO:	DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS:	AUTHOR / EDITOR:	APPROVED / ADOPTED
1	28 July 2022	26.07/22	New Policy Draft	Jacob Davis	Council

Note: Document Control continued at Appendix A



 General Manager

8 August 2022

 Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Glen Innes Severn Council acknowledges and pays respect to the Ngoorabul people as the traditional custodians of this land, their elders past, present and emerging and to Torres Strait Islander people and all First Nations people.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure that the Property Owner of land has a properly constructed and maintained vehicle crossing at each point of vehicular access from a carriageway on a road to the land.
- Provide approval for the maintenance of nature strips by the adjoining property owner.
- Set out Council guidelines in relation to approving the construction of vehicle crossings to properties.
- Adopt standards of construction for all driveway and culvert installations.

APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to the maintenance of nature strips and construction of property accesses for residential, commercial, and industrial premises within Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area.

OUTCOMES

This policy will provide for safe and tidy vehicle crossing and nature strips.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility for issuing consent to perform works within a public road reserve lies with Council as the Roads Authority. This function is delegated to Council's Director of Infrastructure Services.

DEFINITIONS

"Vehicle crossing" means the area between the edge of the roadway/carriageway (including kerb and channel where present) and the property boundary that is used for vehicular access from the roadway into the property. Also sometimes called; cross-over, vehicular entrance, driveway, vehicular access or apron. The driveway also includes any section of constructed footpath that crosses the driveway.

"Nature strip or Street Verge" means any council owned and/or controlled land located between the edge of the roadway (and/or kerb and channel) and the property boundary.

“Footpath” means a constructed area within the nature strip used predominantly for pedestrian travel. The footpath may be constructed from concrete, bitumen seal, asphalt, pavers, or gravel.

POLICY STATEMENT

Property Owners are responsible for the construction, maintenance, and repair of vehicle crossings. A person must not construct, install, remove, or alter a vehicle crossing without a consent being granted by Council in accordance with Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993. Council may impose a fine for non-compliance with this requirement.

Accesses are to be installed at full cost to the Property Owner unless the work required arises out of an action by Council. Any modification or alteration required to the footpath or kerb and channel is considered to be part of the construction of the driveway and therefore is the responsibility of the Property Owner.

Vehicle crossings must be located, designed, and constructed to meet Council's standards and specifications, which are available to the public on request. Where work has been undertaken that is substandard, Council reserves the right to have all or the part of the vehicle crossing reconstructed at the Property Owner's expense.

Construction of vehicle accesses must only be undertaken by persons authorised by Council. The Property Owner shall ensure that they (or their contractor) have adequate public liability insurance, and that all work is completed in accordance with consent conditions, including implementation of traffic controls to ensure the safety of road users.

It is expected that property owners will maintain any nature strip associated with their property to maintain the standard of amenity that they wish to enjoy. Grassed nature strips are permitted to be mowed and maintained by persons on behalf of property owners under this policy without further approval by Council. Persons performing such works must ensure that they do so in a manner that does not compromise the safety of themselves or others.

It is important to note that utility service authorities such as water, gas, electricity, fire services and telecommunications, as well as Council have access rights to the road reserve. These service authorities and Council may be required to excavate the nature strip periodically and where previously mown, will reinstate the surface to facilitate mowing.

Should the adjoining property owner / resident wish to have a treatment other than a standard grass nature strip, they must seek Council permission and comply with all requirements of Council. Council will not maintain or assist with funding in these circumstances, and cannot guarantee that it or other agency's works will not impact this area.

Council may require a person to carry out works to comply with this policy. If that person fails to carry out the works Council may do so (or employ a contractor) and charge the person for costs incurred.

PERMITS

Specific permits for works may be issued under Section 138 and 139 of the *Roads Act 1993* upon application. A Permit Fee will apply as advertised in Council's schedule of fees and charges. Applications for permits are required to be in writing on the prescribed form.

Under this policy Council grants a general approval to undertake the following types of work in the nature strip without a specific permit:

- Slashing (rural areas only).
- Mowing.
- Whipper Snipping.
- Edge Trimming.
- High-pressure cleaning of paved and concrete surfaces.
- Weed control (when conducted in compliance with the *Pesticides Act 1999* and the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*).

Any person performing works in the Road Reserve must manage any associated risks and indemnify Council against liability.

VARIATION AND REVIEW

The Vehicle Crossings and Nature Strip Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years, or earlier if deemed necessary, to ensure that it meets the requirements of legislation and the needs of Council. The term of the Policy does not expire on the review date, but will continue in force until superseded, rescinded or varied either by legislation or a new resolution of Council.
