

# Council Policy 5.1.5 – Reserve Improvement / Development by the Community

**Objectives:** People

**Outcome:** 1.1 - A healthy, active, connected and inclusive community.

**Strategy:** 1.1.1 - Provide well planned and maintained public open space and community infrastructure.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the commitment and effort of community groups in carrying out improvement or development works on Council reserves is undertaken within approved guidelines and has lasting value.

## Definitions

Not applicable

## Policy

Policy clause	Explanation and implementation issues
1. Any work carried out by the community on Council reserves must be in accordance with the endorsed Management Plan for that reserve.	Self-explanatory.
2. If a Management Plan is not in existence, any community improvement or development works must be assessed through the “Reserves Improvement” or “Development Approval Process” prior to their commencement.	<p>The Shire is working towards having a Management Plan in place for all significant reserves. If a Management Plan does not exist for the reserve then this process is designed so that the Shire has knowledge and approves all community on-ground works on reserves to ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. works are in accordance with purpose / values of the reserve;</li> <li>2. Shire and Operations staff are aware of works taking place to prevent accidental damage to plantings or structures during maintenance activities; and</li> <li>3. activities on the reserve will not cause a public liability concern.</li> </ol>



<p>3. Only local native species are to be planted on reserves.</p>	<p>Shire and/or Landcare Officers can assist in providing advice for suitable species to be planted on reserves. Only local native species are recommended as they are low maintenance, have a greater chance of survival and do not pose a risk of becoming a problem weed in the future.</p>
<p>4. Unless part of an agreed partnership project with the Shire, community groups/members are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of any plantings on Council reserves for two years.</p> <p>Structures are to be maintained by the community group members.</p>	<p>Mass plantings of seedlings require ongoing maintenance (predominately weed control) to ensure plants survive. In the past some planting projects have taken place with little thought to the issue of further maintenance. Reserve management budgets have been stretched to accommodate these planting sites. Prior to these projects taking place it should be agreed upon between the Shire and the community group who will be responsible for the initial ongoing management, thus the Shire can budget for any contributions.</p> <p>By the same token, structures such as horse jumps must be maintained to ensure they are safe. This maintenance should also be agreed upon with the community group prior to any work taking place.</p>

**References**

<b>Name of Policy</b>	5.1.5 Reserve Improvement/Development by the Community			
<b>Previous Policy</b>	PC107 – Reserve Improvement/Development by the Community (E15/5096)			
<b>Date of Adoption and Resolution Number</b>				
<b>Review dates and Resolution Numbers</b>	Reviewed	OCM023.1/01/10	25/01/2010	Ordinary Council Meeting
	Reviewed	OCM187/09/15	29/09/2015	Ordinary Council Meeting
	Modified	OCM179/12/17	18/12/2017	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Next review date</b>				
<b>Related documents</b>	<p><b>Acts/Regulations</b> <i>Local Government Act 1995</i></p> <p><b>Plans/Strategies</b> Strategic Community Plan 2017 - 2027</p> <p><b>Policies</b> Nil</p> <p><b>References</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Delegations</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Work Procedures</b> TBD</p>			

Note: changes to references may be made without the need to take the Policy to Council for review.