

Northern Rivers Food Links – Local Government Resource Kit

Food Security Policies

Edible Streetscapes template policy and supporting documents

This policy template was prepared to assist Northern Rivers Food Links Councils to develop an edible streetscapes policy.

Objectives

*** Council recognises the importance of urban agriculture in promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging local food production, distribution and consumption.

Growing edible plants along the nature strips of streets within towns and villages is an effective means of inspiring and enabling urban agriculture and contributes to :

- neighbourhood beautification
- increasing biodiversity
- food security
- urban regreening
- visual amenity
- global warming amelioration through carbon sequestration in garden soils
- reduction of the urban heat island effect that raises air temperature in cities
- developing social capital and community engagement.

Kerbside gardening makes productive use of land in villages, towns and cities. It puts to practical use small patches of land that are otherwise neglected or planted to simplified plant communities—such as lawn verges—that are unproductive or that may consume excessive water and fossil fuels in their maintenance.

In an effort to support community action, this policy also aims to ensure the prevention of damage to Council's underground water, gas, sewerage and stormwater services and maintain access to services, residences and businesses.

In locations where there is community support for the maintenance of the plantings ** Council will consider the incorporation of a program to establish edible perennial street trees as part of urban greening plans noted in **** LEP.

Scope

The Edible Streetscapes Policy applies to all roads under the management control of **** Council** and is designed to identify the minimum requirements in relation to edible streetscape projects.

The key principle embodied in this policy is that edible streetscape projects should be initiated, designed, constructed and operated by individuals within the local community with support from Council.

Definitions

The following definitions are provided to assist in understanding the requirements of this policy.

Built-up area – has a public road that is lit by street lighting located at intervals of not more than 100 metres for a distance of not less than 500 metres.

Footpath – that part of a road reserve predominantly used for pedestrian traffic.

Street planting - the planting of a tree or shrub, or the establishment of garden beds or a nature strip within a road reserve under the control of Council.

Related legislation, policies and procedures

Attachment 1 Edible streetscape self assessment checklist

Attachment 2 Edible streetscape guidelines

Attachment 3 Staff checklist – edible streetscapes

Attachment 4 Edible streetscapes application form

Attachment 5 Edible streetscape suggested tree and shrub list

Attachment 6 Edible streetscapes - Species to Avoid

Attachment 7 Edible streetscape resource list

**** Council** Community Strategic Plan

**** Council** Development Control Plan

**** Council** – other policies

**** Council** Local Environmental Plan

Mandatory Inclusions:

[Council to insert any specific details they require as a “must do / have”]

1. Council will generally allow edible streetscape projects as complying development, that is you will be able to develop an edible streetscape project as long as you comply with a set of conditions. The conditions ensure suitable locations are utilised, appropriate species are used, pedestrian movement is maintained and the vision for motorists is maintained.
2. Proponents will be individuals who make a commitment to maintain edible streetscapes that they establish, usually on road verges in front of their place of residence.
3. Where an edible streetscape project is planned to be undertaken by a large number of people along the same street, the process will be managed and assessed as a community garden.
4. No retaining walls, trees, shrubs, hard landscaping or massed plantings or physical structure with hard edges or rockeries to be placed within the footpath or nature strip within road reserves and drainage easements controlled by Council unless it complies with this policy and guidelines.
5. Council reserves the right to remove any tree, shrub, planting or landscaping, etc., deemed to present a safety problem or a maintenance problem.
6. Plants must not interfere with overhead or underground services.
7. Plants must not be known or likely environmental weeds.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually following assessment of the outcomes from edible streetscape projects to ensure the processes and sustainability outcomes are consistent with the policy objectives.