Strategic Directions - Urban Roadside Vegetation Management

2011-2015

CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO
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1. INTRODUCTION

Urban streetscapes play an important role in contributing to the biodiversity, heritage, environmental and social character of Bendigo.

Typically in urban streetscapes the vegetation is trees or large shrubs with a ground cover of grass or mulch. Trees in particular are an essential part of that streetscape, providing aesthetic appeal and desirable functional and biological characteristics. They enhance buildings and other structures, screen and/or frame views, and can help to define functional areas such as intersections and traffic control measures. Trees provide shade, reduce the dangers of ultraviolet radiation, cool the air, insulate against cold or hot winds and reduce glare. In addition, trees may provide habitat for indigenous wildlife, filter atmospheric impurities, sequester carbon emissions, reduce stormwater run-off, reduce erosion and contribute significantly to the general quality of urban living. The oxygen emitted by a large tree is equivalent to the daily consumption of at least four adults.

However, urban centres create harsh environments for trees and they consequently require intensive cultivation and maintenance practices to prevent their decline. Trees themselves can cause problems and conflicts such as damage to essential services and property and can sometimes be perceived as a public nuisance due to shading, interruption of views and litter drop. These problems can be minimised through effective streetscape design, planning, tree variety selection and a professional and programmed approach to tree establishment and care.

1.1 Objectives

Through the implementation of this Strategic Directions - Urban Roadside Vegetation Management a clear basis will be provided for consistent decision-making relating to the design, provision and management of vegetation in the urban streetscapes of the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) that meet the following objectives:

1. Provide streetscape plantings that will enhance the existing character of individual towns, suburbs and streets that:
   - Complement the built and natural environments, heritage and historical values;
   - Are adaptive to variable climatic conditions; and
   - Reflect the desires and needs of the community.

2. Enhance neighborhood amenity through considered design and management of urban roadsides.

3. Manage and protect existing streetscapes contributing to urban character and biodiversity values.

4. Increase community awareness and appreciation of the benefits and value of vegetation on urban streets.

In addition, a number of strategic actions have been developed (section 9). These actions have been developed to provide specific strategic improvements to urban roadside vegetation management; they will be implemented over the life of this plan.

1.2 Context

Greater Bendigo municipality covers approximately 2,995 square kilometres and is located in north central Victoria approximately 150 kilometres northwest of Melbourne. The City of Greater Bendigo has a population of over 104,000 people. The regional hinterland surrounding Bendigo contains a number of small towns including Heathcote, Elmore, Goornong, Marong, Raywood, Redesdale and Axedale, and diverse agricultural activities and natural resources including extensive areas of Box and Ironbark forest.
While most of Bendigo is built upon Lower Ordovician sedimentary rocks, other geology types are found within the municipality. Soils derived from Lower Ordovician sediments are duplex soils that are generally shallow, poorly structured and rather infertile and can become water repellent when dry. These factors place constraints on the vegetation types and species that can be grown without significant inputs.

The City’s rich and diverse heritage is evident in its architecture and continues to exert an influence on its settlement patterns, with residential development dating back to the gold rushes of the 1850s. Bendigo’s urban structure is based on spines leading away from the centre of the city along creeks and streams, which are today important road and rail corridors.

The City offers a mix of residential development with the higher density areas predominantly clustered around the commercial centres and the lower density areas the newer developments. This mix of development supports a range of streetscapes from intensively cultivated to roadsides of remnant native vegetation.

Likewise the small townships are built around a main thoroughfare, where the commercial activity is usually located. The look and feel presented by the streetscapes of these main thoroughfares is very important to the social and economic wellbeing of small townships, engendering a sense of welcome and pride of place.

The municipality has areas of ecological significance which provide environmental and economic benefits, and make an important contribution to the city’s unique character. These areas are protected as National, Regional and State Parks and their close proximity to Bendigo and Heathcote has influenced the pattern of growth and development.

The interface between the urban and forest areas presents a unique set of issues that has resulted in the development of policies that may impact on the management of road reserves such as utility services to be placed underground in common trenches and the development of biolinks to link critical vegetation.

This plan focuses on the roadsides within the Urban Growth Boundary (Appendix 1) as defined by the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.
2. BENEFITS OF ROADSIDE/STREETSCAPE VEGETATION

Streetscapes and in particular street trees, contribute significantly to the character and identity of the streets and precincts of our city and towns.

Their environmental, aesthetic, historical, cultural and economic benefits are beyond measure. In the long term, they can create a sense of place and enhance public domain.

Street trees:

- When developed into quality tree scapes, provide aesthetic and functional outcomes which enhance the overall quality of life of residents and establish a sense of place, character and theme;
- Improve the comfort of pedestrians and residents by providing summer shade, windbreaks, visual screening of unwanted views and reduce glare and noise;
- Improve environmental values and conditions by filtering air pollution including dust, absorbing heat, storing carbon and reducing storm water run-off;
- Provide fauna and habitats and a source of food, ecological linkages and bird corridors to parks and remnant bushlands within and outside the city and towns;
- Provide historical values, where they are part of a historic setting, have identifiable associations with important past events, people, phase or activity of historic importance;
- Create a sense of place - provide orientation and contribute to character;
- Provide seasonal interest and natural beauty through foliage and their interesting leaf patterns, flowers, bark, fruit and canopy; and
- Enhance property values as they establish and mature.
3. PLANNING

3.1 Streetscape Design

City of Greater Bendigo is a municipality with a great variety of road and street types. The variation of city, urban, sub-urban, semi-rural and rural streets and roads create an interesting and valuable street landscape. Each type of street landscape provides unique benefits, presents different challenges and each requires a different management regime.

The absence of trees in a street, or the inconsistency of species or style of planting or a street of near-senescent vegetation may prompt a street-wide planting scheme design. Whether designing a planting scheme for a particular street or for a whole precinct there are many variables to consider: such as, the physical constraints of the location, the scale and setting of the planting site, species selection to complement both the particular site and surrounding planting and the function of the location. The location of services should be checked to avoid future damage to infrastructure or onerous maintenance issues.

New subdivisions sometimes involve street-wide or precinct-wide planting design and are prepared by the developer, and approved by Council through the planning process.

3.2 Municipality Scale Projects

Projects at this scale generally relate to arterial, sub-arterial and collector roads, and therefore affect large numbers of the community.

They may also be implemented over long periods of time, and involve multiple stakeholders throughout the time frame of the project.

Municipal scale projects include:

- Planting design of boulevards and highway entrances across the City.
- Development of a prohibited species list.
- Planting design in the CBD.

Arterial roads are generally four lanes in width closer to the CBD and two lanes in width further out, with additional allowance for parking, bikes and turning. Service lanes and medians are sometimes present. Trees are usually planted in either nature strips or on the road shoulders, with vegetation sometimes planted into the median.

Most of the major entrances to Bendigo as defined in the Bendigo Highway Entrances and Boulevards Study (BHEBS) are Arterial Roads. These are major urban features, and make a significant contribution to the enhancement of the character and overall presentation of Bendigo. Large-scale and consistency of treatment are characteristics of a successful streetscape.

Planned provision and maintenance of vegetation to this road type is a costly and long term exercise done in conjunction with VicRoads.

Sub arterial roads are generally two lanes in width with additional allowance for parking, bikes and turning. Vegetation is generally limited to trees planted into nature strips.

Collector roads are generally two lanes in width with additional allowance for parking. Vegetation is generally limited to trees planted into nature strips.

Community Engagement

In order to balance the need for community engagement with effective implementation of the project, engagement for these projects should occur during the development of the policy or governing document. When a thorough engagement process has been completed, the resulting document should be adopted by Council. After this point implementation should commence and continue with minimal need for further consultation.

Note: Municipality scale projects including planting style, species selection and large scale tree removals must be approved by Council.
3.3 Precinct Scale Projects

Projects at this scale generally relate to small neighborhoods. These projects involve a reasonable number of stakeholders and may be implemented in a short or long time frame. Projects of this scale are varied in nature, and as a result will require the development of an engagement program specific to the objectives of the project.

Precinct scale projects include:
• Neighborhood character plan
• Succession planning for senescent trees

Community Engagement

A community engagement program should be developed during the planning phase of these projects, enabling engagement to be a fundamental and integrated component of each project. Early engagement planning will also assist in allowing timelines and budget to reflect the requirements of engagement. Engagement may be necessary at more than one point during the progress of a project, and in relation to more than one issue.

Note: Precinct scale projects would be influenced by the Neighborhood Character Plan which incorporated into the Planning Scheme.

3.4 Street Scale Projects

Projects at this scale would generally involve a small number of stakeholders, and are usually based around an individual suburban local road, or a segment of a larger road. The projects are likely to be small in scale and implemented within a short time frame.

Street scale projects include:
• The planting of street trees in a street with no existing trees
• The implementation of a replacement streetscape design

Local roads are primarily residential in character, with limited through traffic. Parking is informal and is quite often incorporated into the traffic lanes. Trees are the dominant nature strip vegetation. Constructed footpaths can often be limited to one side of the street.

Uniform tree planting in terms of species, age and spacing are characteristics of appropriate planting within the central and older areas of Bendigo. Some neighborhoods are defined within a particular Neighborhood Character Precinct envelope, which may provide guidance relevant to street planting.
4. SPECIES SELECTION

There are approximately 75,000 trees within urban Bendigo alone - 60,000 in streets and 15,000 in parks and reserves. The City actively organises the planting of trees and shrubs throughout the municipality and plants on average about 1,500 advanced trees along with other trees and shrubs through the various plantings.

Street tree planting shall:

1) Be compatible with knowledge of local soil types, climatic conditions and species characteristics;

2) Take into account in the design phase, existing vegetation, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, orientation and the historic or cultural significance of the area;

3) Create a distinct image and character through species selection and provide uniformity by using only one species wherever possible;

4) Provide minimum interference with both existing below and above ground services, signage, lighting, etc.

The right mix of species and age diversity are vital components of a sustainable tree population. An industry accepted rule for achieving this is for particular genera to not make up any more than ten percent of the whole tree population. One exception to this policy is the genus *Eucalyptus* owing to their natural dominance in the Bendigo area and vast number of diverse species within the genus.

Poor or uninformed species selection may expose the City of Greater Bendigo to the following risks;

- Increased tree maintenance costs.
- Increased public risk (i.e. limb-shed, wind-throw)
- Pest risks.
- Poor establishment.
- Aesthetic shortcomings leading to lower than ideal property value.
- Increase infrastructure disturbance.
- Community health risks (i.e. allergies or toxins).
- Weed and invasiveness risks.
- Non-compliance with planning requirements.
- Unmanageable conflicts with solar access requirements or overhead infrastructure.

With good planning and management systems, most of the issues above can be minimised or eliminated.

The benefits that trees contribute to the environment and the community far outweigh any negative aspects.

4.1 Significant Landscapes and Trees

Landscapes may be of cultural or environmental significance where the term ‘landscape’ denotes the fact that it is the arrangement of multiple elements in a particular location, rather than individual plants that is the significant factor. Individual trees can also be of cultural or environmental significance. The City of Greater Bendigo is fortunate to have a diverse range of established streetscapes and trees with many regarded as significant and registered on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Several examples of locally significant vegetation including individual trees that do not meet criteria for registration onto the Victorian Heritage Register, but are deemed of local importance may be included on the City of Greater Bendigo Significant Vegetation Register. This register has no statutory controls attached to it at present. Work has commenced on reviewing the appropriate tool to protect the vegetation/trees within this list through either a Local Law or Planning Scheme amendment.
5. ROAD RESERVES - NATURE STRIPS AND ROADSIDES

The area of crown land between the property boundary and the road is referred to as either the roadside or the nature strip. The level of infrastructure on this area varies from the highly developed with kerbing and footpaths in the urban areas (nature strips) to a more natural form consistent with rural roadsides. The vegetation also varies from the well maintained grass and trees on nature strips to remnant native vegetation on roadsides particularly in areas adjacent to forests.

Nature strips provide for a variety of uses, some of which complement each other and others that may be in conflict. Services such as telephone, gas, water and sewerage (underground), as well as power (above ground on poles or below ground) are usually located in the nature strip.

Footpaths are located on nature strips and allow safe and unimpeded access along property frontages for the public and allow space for passage from private property to road ways. However, in many inner urban areas the footpath covers from the property boundary to the kerb, while in some residential areas the footpath is only on one side of the street and in some areas of low density development, there is no footpath between the property boundary and the road edge.

5.1 Benefits of Nature Strips and Roadsides

Benefits of nature strips include:

- Provide an open space that allows open view lines for motorists and cyclists at intersections and curves.
- Reduce the amount of storm water runoff experienced during a rainfall event.
- Reduce the amount of pollution transported by storm water into waterways.
- Unpaved area of land allows for the penetration of rain water and air into the soil, improving soil health and promoting healthy growth of street and garden trees.

5.2 Management of Nature Strips

Maintenance of road reserves or in the urban context nature strips, is best described as a partnership between residents and the City of Greater Bendigo. There is an established community expectation that the residents of the adjacent properties will maintain the nature strip in order to present a neat and tidy street frontage.

The City provides additional assistance with tree maintenance and mowing in areas such as medians.

In managing roadside containing remnant native vegetation activities must be consistent with maintaining and preserving the biodiversity values of the area and are compliant with legislation that is in place to protect those values.

5.3 Nature Strips treatments

The typical nature strip consists of a ground cover of grass with street trees planted at intervals. There are two acceptable alternatives to a grassed nature strip; a Crushed Recycled Stone and Brick treatment, and an organically mulched planting treatment.

As part of Council’s obligations to manage works within Road Reserve, approval is required for alternative treatments. Proposed treatments in accordance with the Nature Strip Guidelines (Appendix 5) will be exempt from a permit fee.

Works are to be undertaken in a way that is consistent with other council policies. These include but are not limited to:

- City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme
- Neighbourhood Character Precincts
- Urban Stormwater Management Plan

Council does not approve of the use of synthetic surfaces such as artificial turf for nature strips.
Several criteria must be met when considering an alternative nature strip treatment. These include:

- A minimum 1.5m width clear pedestrian access adjacent to property
- A minimum 700mm width clear access adjacent to kerb
- An accessible location for bin collection
- Open view lines for vehicle traffic and cyclists at intersections and curves
- Loose materials must be kept stable and properly contained
- Non-tree vegetation must not exceed 700mm in height
- Hard landscaping materials including timber, timber edging, rocks, sleepers, retaining walls, bollards, pavers, stepping stones and ornaments are not permitted.
- Irrigation systems are not permitted
- Electrical cabling or lighting infrastructure is not permitted

5.4 Vehicles on Nature Strips

Parking vehicles on nature strips can contribute to soil compaction, development of wheel ruts creating an uneven surface, and erosion. These problems negatively affect the appearance of the street for all users.

Cars parked on nature strips can also obscure sight lines for motorists and impede pedestrian movement, particularly affecting mobility of impaired users.

Vehicles of all types are prohibited from parking on nature strips unless a Council built and approved parking bay has been provided.
6. TREE MAINTENANCE

6.1 Routine Maintenance Activities

Maintenance activities are conducted in a pro-active manner on a regular basis and as a response to specific events or individual requests.

Routine works include tree watering, canopy lift pruning, dead branch removal, woody weed removal and pruning for power line clearance. Maintenance is scheduled more often in areas of high usage, such as the central business areas of COGB.

Maintenance activities also occur in response to climatic events. These include the removal of fallen limbs or wind-damaged vegetation, remediation of damage from floods and treatment of weed outbreaks.

Maintenance activities are also performed in response to specific requests from residents, COGB operational units and other agencies. These requests are processed through the Customer Request System.

6.2 Infill Planting

The loss of individual trees along a particular length of a street can negatively affect the impact of the streetscape design, and also the amenity of the street. Trees can be lost through damage, ill-health, advanced age, inappropriate species selection or intentional removal by residents.

Requests for infill planting can be received through the customer request system and in most situations a replacement will be provided in the next planting season. However, if the remaining trees in that streetscape are in poor condition it may suggest that the species selection was not appropriate in the first instance so it may be necessary to develop a new planting scheme.

Note: Infill planting on streets of any hierarchy does not need the approval of Council.

6.3 Damaged and Aging Vegetation

Individual plants occasionally sustain damage from a variety of causes such as vehicles or storms. Plants also have a natural life cycle that leads them to senesce (decline) at a particular age. While smaller plants can be replaced with little impact on the overall streetscape, the treatment and/or removal of larger trees or groups of trees can have a large impact.

The natural aging of entire contiguously planted streetscapes is a major event that can be anticipated, with a succession strategy planned for in advance of the event.

A succession plan should identify sites requiring replacement within ten years, and enable co-ordination of the removal of aged vegetation, any required civil works, and prompt replacement of vegetation.

Damaged or diseased trees are often reported to Council through the Customer Request system, or observed by staff during maintenance activities. Each recorded incidence is assessed and the appropriate action determined which can either be treatment or removal. (Specific criteria must be met in order for a tree to be considered suitable for removal). The assessment will include a recommended timeframe for the works to occur as well as other actions that will be required such as traffic management while works are carried out.

Where trees are removed from the streetscape, replacement planting should follow automatically during the following planting season.

6.4 Tree Removal

The removal of vegetation particularly large trees will have a major impact on a street, with replacement vegetation taking years to provide equivalent amenity and environmental benefits. For this reason when vegetation is nominated for removal by external parties or internal staff, because of factors such as development pressures, maintenance issues or ill-health a thorough assessment is undertaken and careful consideration given to the request.

Note: Where a tree is proposed for removal by another authority is located on an arterial road and does not pose a danger to people and/or property, removal must be approved by Council.

6.5 Damage Caused by Trees

At times the growth of tree roots can have an adverse effect on adjacent infrastructure particularly footpaths, kerbing, underground pipes, concrete slabs and fencing. This infrastructure may be owned by the COGB, residents or service providers such as Powercor, Telstra or Coliban Water.
Damage to infrastructure is usually reported to Council through the Customer Request system, or observed by staff during maintenance activities. The damage to the infrastructure should be assessed by the owner and a proposal for repair/reinstatement and the cost involved reported in writing to the City of Greater Bendigo. As a component of the assessment the tree concerned may be assessed by an arborist, to determine the best strategy to prevent or minimise further damage to the asset or the tree.

If poorly designed or located infrastructure is deemed to be at fault, the City of Greater Bendigo may instruct the owner to repair/reinstate at their own expense.

Refer Appendix 23 - Tree Removal Criteria
7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Public Safety
The City of Greater Bendigo works to provide a safe urban area for all road and nature strip users and is proactive in ensuring that threats to public safety are identified and treated. The community can assist by promptly reporting through the Customer Request system potential issues that come to their attention.

Where a significant risk evident COGB will act to ensure the prompt removal of the cause of risk. This may occur without prior communication to adjacent residents due to the urgency of works. In these situations, residents should be informed after the event of the reason for immediate removal.

Risks that are deemed to require less urgent rectification should include the prior consultation of residents.

7.2 Bushfire Risk
Concern is at times expressed by residents that street trees particularly eucalypts, increase the risk of fire. A streetscape where the trees are planted at intervals of approximately 10 - 20 metres, usually in short well kept grass or very low ground cover, maintained regularly; including canopy lift, dead wooding and with dead trees removed will not increase the risk of fire.

In a very few cases where the vegetation surrounding a street tree is considered to be hazardous for reasons such as fire risk or obstruction to sight distances the City will send a letter to the adjacent resident requesting their cooperation in clearing excess vegetation. If no action follows the City will intervene and reduce the hazard.

7.3 Flooding Risk
Grassed and vegetated surfaces generally have a positive impact on flood mitigation by increasing potential for absorption of storm water and slowing the rate of run-off. At specific times action may need to be taken in response to particular events to maintain unimpeded drainage.

Fallen limbs, branches or leaf litter blocking swales, gutters, open drains or access to storm water pits need to be removed promptly.

While these actions are undertaken routinely by the City, residents can assist by reporting particular issues.

After a flooding event, loose material including litter, leaf litter, branches and occasionally larger material can be trapped in areas that have been exposed to high water. Given the high demand on the limited resources of the City ‘at these times, it is helpful if residents can be responsible for cleaning these materials from the adjacent streetscape where safe to do so.

7.4 Invasive Species Management
Appropriate management of invasive plants and animals on nature strips and roadsides can help prevent spread across the municipality and region.

The City of Greater Bendigo has developed an Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy to set priorities, guide decisions and improve systems and processes relating to invasive species management on land owned and managed by the City of Greater Bendigo.

The Strategy provides the strategic directions and management approaches to invasive species management on all City of Greater Bendigo owned and managed land, including nature strips and roadsides.

The key objectives of the Strategy are:

- To ensure City of Greater Bendigo meets its legislative responsibilities in relation to invasive species management
- Development of processes, systems and procedures which improve the way City of Greater Bendigo manages invasive species
- Ensures the City of Greater Bendigo invasive plants and animals strategy aligns with the North Central Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy
- Demonstrates a commitment to leadership and continued support for community action
- Managing community expectations by providing clear guidance concerning how City of Greater Bendigo will manage invasive plants and animals

A copy of the Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy is available on the City of Greater Bendigo website: www.bendigo.vic.gov.au
8. UTILITIES AND SERVICES ON ROADSIDES

8.1 Above Ground Utilities

Many areas of Bendigo still have above ground power lines suspended from poles along the street, and supplying an overhead connection to individual properties. Power infrastructure is owned and maintained by Powercor. Any damage to road reserves by Powercor or its contractors must be re-instated to a serviceable finish at the completion of works.

During the planning phase for new infrastructure consideration should be given to the location of structures such as power poles and lines to ensure views are not obstructed and vegetation is not impacted either during installation or over time as streetscape plants mature. Likewise when streetscape works are planned Powercor also has requirements in relation to works adjacent to existing infrastructure such as poles and specific permission may be required.

8.2 Below Ground Utilities

Water, sewer, gas, telecommunications and in some areas electricity are supplied to residents through underground service trenches. In newer subdivisions, water commonly shares a trench with gas on one side of the street and electricity and telecommunications cabling shares a trench on the other side. In older streets, these arrangements are varied. Water and sewer mains are never placed in the same trench.

Dial Before You Dig is a national referral service allowing individuals or organizations to apply for information about the location of underground pipes and services. This service should be used when planning or constructing works within the road reserve.

Any damage to grassed road reserves by the asset owners must be re-instated to a serviceable finish. If the nature strip finish is other than grass, the service owners are obliged only to leave the ground safe and level, not to match the surface finish.
## 9. STRATEGIC ACTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>RESPONSIBLE MANAGER</th>
<th>TIMELINES</th>
<th>PARTNERS</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.1 Review all plantings in streetscapes using the WRAPM process to assess invasiveness of selected species.</td>
<td>Manager of Parks and Natural Reserves</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>BGANZ ABGWN</td>
<td>Review completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2 Review systems that manage third party activity on road reserves.</td>
<td>Manager Asset Planning and Design / Manager Parks and Natural Reserves</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Review completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3 Review procedures associated with the delivery of this plan.</td>
<td>Manager Parks and Natural Reserves / Manager Asset Planning and Design</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Review completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4 Ensure that the appropriate sections of this strategy are incorporated in all tender and contract documents.</td>
<td>Manager Parks and Natural Reserves / Manager Asset Planning and Design</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Section incorporated in tender documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.5 Monitor implementation of the actions.</td>
<td>Manager Parks and Natural Reserves</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td></td>
<td>Progress report completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.6 Review document on a 3 yearly basis to coincide with Planning Scheme review and renewal.</td>
<td>Manager Parks and Natural Reserves</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Review conducted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Glossary of Terms

These terms may have technical definitions other than those described below; however these definitions apply to their use in this document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arterial Road</td>
<td>A road declared under the <em>Road Management Act 2004</em> that is managed by VicRoads. (Historically referred to as 'main' roads.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>The variety of all life forms; the plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collector Road</td>
<td>A road managed and maintained by council that allows the movement of traffic to distribute to the local street systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
<td>Ongoing dialogue with our communities to improve decision making processes through inclusive, accessible and responsive community participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infill Planting</td>
<td>Planting into gaps between existing street tree plantings and avenues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Manager</td>
<td>The person or organisation responsible for managing the land, Land tenure could be private, public or leased public land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Road</td>
<td>Collective term of roads managed and maintained by council. Includes roads identified in the <em>Road Management Act 2004</em> as tracks, local roads, collector roads or sub-arterial roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Vegetation</td>
<td>Any local indigenous plant community containing throughout its growth the complement of native species and habitats normally associated with that vegetation type or having the potential to develop these characteristics. It includes vegetation with these characteristics that has been regenerated with human assistance following disturbance. It excludes plantations and vegetation that has been established for commercial purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Reserve</td>
<td>The total strip of land reserved for transportation purposes from fence-line to fence-line or boundary to boundary if unfenced. The road reserve includes the roadside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Strip</td>
<td>Area of land between the property boundary and the road kerb in an urban street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regionally Controlled Weeds</td>
<td>Weeds gazetted under the <em>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</em>, are widely distributed in the region; are capable of spreading further; and are difficult to eradicate, i.e. ongoing control measures are need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regionally Prohibited Weeds</td>
<td>Weeds gazetted under the <em>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</em>, are not widely distributed in the region; are capable of spreading further; and are expected to be eradicated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Weeds</td>
<td>These weed are a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in another state or Territory of Australia, which have the potential to spread into Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remnant Vegetation</td>
<td>Areas of existing native vegetation that have not been planted, where the dominant species still remain and is greater than 10 years of age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road</td>
<td>An area that is open to or used by the public and is developed for, or has as one of its main uses, the driving or riding of motor vehicles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Road Formation**
That portion of the road reserve along which vehicles travel. It includes the road pavement, shoulders and the area to the outermost side of the roadside drain, at least to where the drain batter meets the natural surface.

**Roadside Reserve**
Any land within the boundaries of a road (other than the shoulders of the road) which is not a roadway or pathway and includes the land on which any vehicle crossing or pathway which connects from a roadway or pathway on a road to other land has been constructed (Road Management Act 2004).

**Rural Roadsides**
Roadside areas that fall outside the Urban Growth Boundary (as defined by the Municipal Planning Scheme).

**Road Shoulder**
The cleared area, whether or not constructed or sealed, next to a roadway that provides clearance between the roadway and the roadside but does not include any area that is not in the road reserve (Road Management Act 2004).

**Senescent**
Aging vegetation, decaying with the lapse of time.

**Urban Growth Boundary**
Is used to define the limits of urban growth and promote new development with this boundary. It is a policy tool to manage urban outward growth by channeling development into designated growth areas and away from areas which Council wants to protect.

**Urban Roadsides**
Roadside areas that fall within the Urban Growth Boundary (as defined by the Municipal Planning Scheme).

**Utility**
an entity (whether publicly or privately owned) which provides, or intends to provide, water, sewerage, drainage, gas, electricity, telephone, telecommunication or other like services under the authority of an Act of Victoria or the Commonwealth; RMAct 2004.

**Works**
Includes any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land including the removal, destruction or lopping of trees and the removal of vegetation or topsoil (Planning and Environment Act 1987).

**Road Management Act (2004)** “includes any kind of activity conducted on or in the vicinity of a road or proposed road in connection with the construction, maintenance or repair of the road or the installation, maintenance or repair of any infrastructure in, on, under or over a road “ i.e., excavating or breaking up the surface of a road; erecting a structure in, on or over a road; removing or interfering with any structure or marking on a road; planting or removing a tree or other vegetation; tunnelling under a road; connecting a road to a road; installing pipes, drains, cables, poles, buildings, shelters, or other structures on a road reserve; erecting any obstruction on a road or otherwise impeding the use of a road for the purpose of conducting any works.”

**WRAPM**
Weed Risk Assessment Procedure & Management.
APPENDIX 1: Urban Growth Boundaries
APPENDIX 2: Preferred Street Tree Species

This list is a reference guide to the range of species deemed suitable as street trees for road reserve planting within the City of Greater Bendigo. Not all species are suitable in any given location. Species not on this list may be proposed if they are particularly appropriate for the site and well adapted to climate conditions.

Final approval of any proposed street tree planting rests with the City of Greater Bendigo.

### Smaller Native Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Water Requirement</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Suitable Location</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angophora hispida</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>4m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callistemon salignus</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>6m x 3m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus forrestiana</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>6m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus torquata</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>4m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geigera parvifolia</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>5m x 5m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acacia pendula</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 4m</td>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acacia salicina</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>7m x 5m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corymbia ficifolia</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>6m x 5m</td>
<td>Protected</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melaleuca linearifolia</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>6m x 5m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callistemon ‘King’s Park Special’</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>2.5m x 3m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Cultivated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callistemon viminalis sp.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>4m x 3m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Cultivated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corymbia eximia ‘Nana’</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>7m x 5m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Cultivated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acacia implexa</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Indigenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acacia stenophylla</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>7m x 3m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banksia marginata</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 2m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Victoria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Smaller Exotic Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Water Requirement</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Suitable Location</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acer x freemannii ‘Jeffersred’</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>6m x 4m</td>
<td>Fertile/Protected</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer negundo</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5m x 5m</td>
<td>Fertile/Protected</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagerstroemia indica sp.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>4m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photinia robusta</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>5m x 5m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pistacia chinensis</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>6m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus cerasifera ‘Nigra’</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>4m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior ‘Aurea’</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>6m x 6m</td>
<td>Fertile/Protected</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrus calleryana ‘Bradford’</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>6m x 3m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrus ussuriensis</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>6m x 6m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmus parvifolia</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 8m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Medium Native Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Water Requirement</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Suitable Location</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allocasuarina cunninghamiana</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>10m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angophora costata</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>10m x 5m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brachychiton populneus</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>10m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus scoparia</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 6m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flindersia australis</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>10m x 5m</td>
<td>Fertile/Protected</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melia azedarach</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 6m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melia 'Caroline'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 6m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Cultivated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melia 'Elite'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 6m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Cultivated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myoporum platicarpum</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>3m x 2m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Indigenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocasuarina verticillata</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>10m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angophora floribunda</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>12m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Victoria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Medium Exotic Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Water Requirement</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Suitable Location</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus 'Raywoodii'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 6m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus cerris</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>10m x 6m</td>
<td>Fertile/Protected</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus ilex</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 6m</td>
<td>Fertile/Protected</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus robur</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>10m x 10m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus suber</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>8m x 6m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Larger Native Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Water Requirement</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Suitable Location</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corymbia citriodora</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>20m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corymbia maculata</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>20m x 4m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>20m x 10m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Indigenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>20m x 6m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Indigenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus microcarpa</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>20m x 8m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Indigenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>15m x 10m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Indigenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>18m x 8m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Indigenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus tricarpa</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>18m x 8m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Indigenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus melliodora</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>15m x 10m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Native - Indigenous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Larger Exotic Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Water Requirement</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Suitable Location</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Platanus x acerifolia</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>20m x 15m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmus procera</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>20m x 15m</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Exotic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 3: Some unsuitable Street Tree Species

These species have been determined to be unsuitable for planting on road reserves.

It is acknowledged that these species may currently exist in road reserves throughout the municipality. Removal of these species will be determined on a case by case assessment.

Other species that have characteristics classifiable as environmental weeds will not be planted. A comprehensive list of very high risk environmental weeds is contained in the City of Greater Bendigo Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2011 – 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Gleditsia</em> sp.</td>
<td>Gleditsia</td>
<td>Thorns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Robinia</em> sp.</td>
<td>Black Locust</td>
<td>Thorns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Taxicodendron</em> sp.</td>
<td>Rhus</td>
<td>Allergy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ailanthus altissima</em></td>
<td>Tree of Heaven</td>
<td>Allergy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nerium oleander</em></td>
<td>Oleander</td>
<td>Poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lagunaria pattersonii</em></td>
<td>Pyramid Tree</td>
<td>Allergy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fraxinus oxyarpa</em></td>
<td>Dessert Ash</td>
<td>Environmental Weed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Salix</em> sp.</td>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>Environmental Weed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</em> ‘Rosea’</td>
<td>Red Flowering Yellow Gum</td>
<td>Cross Pollination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acacia baileyana</em></td>
<td>Cootamundra Wattle</td>
<td>Environmental Weed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 4: Tree Removal Criteria

Scope
This list of criteria should be used to determine whether a tree on a council controlled urban roadside, median or nature strip should be removed.

Responsibility
The responsibility to undertake the assessment of a tree against these criteria and make a determination is that of the CoGB arborist.

Overall Process

Receipt of Request for Removal
In most cases these requests are communicated to the arborist via the Pathways system. Occasionally requests may be received verbally from internal City of Greater Bendigo units or external. They should be inspected as soon as is practical, particularly where there may be issues of public safety.

If the request for removal is in relation to land development or roadside earth work, such issues should be referred to Council’s Planning department at the planning stage of the project. Councils’ planners shall refer the matter to the City of Greater Bendigo arborist and/or DSE for comment. Council shall be furnished with all relevant information prior to considering the permit application.

Consideration against Removal Criteria
To a qualified arborist must assess the nominated tree against the following criteria. At least one criterion must be met for a tree to be considered suitable for removal.

- **Criterion A: Dead**
- **Criterion B: Diseased**
  Where trees are suffering from known disease symptoms and where there is no chance of recovery.
- **Criterion C: Structurally Unsound**
- **Criterion D: Inappropriate according to one or more of the options below:**
  a. Detracts from, or contributes little to the streetscape and are inconsistent with the streetscape
  b. Are known to be causing serious health problems
  c. Young trees or poor form or vigour
  d. Are known invasive weed species and contribute little to the streetscape
If a tree does not meet the criteria a request for removal may be refused by the City of Greater Bendigo arborist. If a tree is exhibiting known disease symptoms but has a chance of recovery and is still appropriate in its location, all reasonable efforts should be made to assist survival.

**Plan for Mitigation of Environmental and Amenity Loss**

Where wild life (i.e. birds, possums etc) is likely to be displaced due to the removal of a tree or dead stem, all reasonable efforts should be made to either leave the task until young have vacated the nest or ensure that alternative survival opportunities are provided to the wildlife.

Where a tree contributes greatly to amenity (e.g., shade) and removal will cause hardship to users of the space, consideration should be given to expediting replacement planting, or whether built infrastructure may be necessary.

**Programming and Urgency**

When it is determined that a tree is suitable for removal, the Pathways system should be used to communicate this within City of Greater Bendigo operational units. Urgency should be determined based upon the following.

**Significant Foreseeable Risk**

Where trees qualify for removal under the criteria above, and exhibit significant foreseeable risk as determined by the City of Greater Bendigo arboriculturist, they may be removed by City of Greater Bendigo without reference to Council or consultation to the community. Communication should be made after the fact to affected members of the local community explaining the necessity for removal and the proposed replacement.

**Moderate Foreseeable Risk**

If the tree is considered to pose a moderate foreseeable risk AND is:

a. Listed as a tree of local or state significance, or a

b. Large specimen situated in prominent location or on major boulevard

Council shall be informed prior to removal.

In all cases where trees are considered to be of moderate foreseeable risk attempts should be made to communicate with affected members of the local community explaining the necessity for removal and the proposed replacement prior to the tree removal. If this is not possible then this communication should be made after the removal.

**Low Foreseeable Risk**

In all cases where trees are considered to be of low foreseeable risk communication should be made with affected members of the local community explaining the necessity for removal and the proposed replacement prior to the tree removal.

**Consents, Permits and Consultation**

**Internal Consents**

Consents for removal of a tree may need to be obtained from other CoGB operational units.

**Permits**

In the case of native vegetation, a permit may be required for removal. This needs to be applied for by the City of Greater Bendigo arborist.
Community Engagement

Members of the community that will be affected by the removal of a tree should be communicated with prior to the removal event wherever possible.

The primary form of communication should be in the form of a latter to owners and/or residents of adjacent properties. This should explain the following:

- The reasoning behind the decision to remove the vegetation
- Contact details for a City of Greater Bendigo arborist to discuss any concerns
- The timeline for removal and reinstatement

If the tree is of significance, it may be useful to erect a sign explaining the same details. Letters should be sent a minimum of two weeks prior to the programmed removal.
APPENDIX 5: Nature Strip Guidelines
What is a Nature Strip?

The term “nature strip” commonly refers to the area of land between the property boundary and the road kerb in an urban street. The typical treatment is grass with street trees planted at intervals along the strip. Nature strips provide for a variety of use:

- Safe access along streets for pedestrians,
- Provision of open view-lines for road users,
- Location for services (above and below ground),
- Access for posties and other personnel,
- Location to place bins for collection,
- Access to parked cars.

Nature strips provide many benefits:

- Develop streetscape character,
- Allow healthy development of street trees,
- Penetration of rain water and air into the soil,
- Reduce storm water run-off during storm events.

Residents are expected to:

- Keep nature strip material at the level of adjacent path and kerb to prevent trip hazards,
- Keep nature strip free of weeds and litter,
- Prevent foliage from private property over-hanging kerb or footpath.

Points to Remember

- Residents are encouraged to maintain nature strips regardless of treatment type.
- All treatments that are not grass require a Works Within Road Reserves Consent issued by the Asset Planning and Design Unit. (Form can be accessed on-line.)
- Electrical wiring or irrigation systems may not be incorporated into a nature strip.
- Utility organisations such as Telstra and Powercor at times dig up nature strips to access infrastructure and are required to only repair grassed areas. Repairs to other treatments will be the responsibility of the resident.
- Hard landscaping elements such as timber, rocks, retaining walls and ornaments must not be used.
- A pedestrian access of 1.5m minimum width must be maintained.
- Vehicles are not to be parked on nature strips to promote pedestrian safety.

For further assistance, please contact the Landscape and Open Space Planning Unit
Telephone: 03 5434 6000
TTY: 03 5434 6460
Email: info@bendigo.vic.gov.au
Website: www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

Nature Strip Guidelines

Three alternatives for nature strip treatment in the urban areas of the City of Greater Bendigo
Grass

Benefits:
• Low cost installation,
• Good infiltration of rainfall,
• Easy to repair after any works in nature strip.

Drawbacks:
• Some seasonal variation in appearance.

Installation Guidelines:
• Select a drought-tolerant species,
• Cultivate soil to reduce compaction,
• Sow seed together with appropriate fertilizer,
• Top up soil to match kerb and path levels.

Maintenance Guidelines:
• Grass will need to be weeded, mowed and edged throughout the year,
• particularly during growth periods.

Crushed Recycled Stone and Brick (CRSB)

Benefits:
• Moderate installation cost
• Environmentally sound material choice

Drawbacks:
• Glare from summer sun can occur,
• May be difficult to repair after any works in nature strip.

Installation Guidelines:
• Correct installation involves excavation and compaction.

Maintenance Guidelines:
• A CRSB surface will require periodic weeding, and attention to ensure the material is not spread onto the footpath or road

Note: Assistance with installation details can be obtained from the City of Greater Bendigo.

Planting and Mulch

Benefits:
• Attractive treatment that contributes to local environment,
• Low water use if correct plants are chosen.

Drawbacks:
• High installation cost,
• High ongoing maintenance required,
• May be difficult to repair after any works in nature strip.

Installation Guidelines:
• Pedestrian access must be maintained,
• Plants should be low growing, drought tolerant and not weed species.

Maintenance Guidelines:
• Regular weeding, plant and mulch replacement required

Note: Assistance with installation details can be obtained from the Landscape and Open Space Unit.