



LANDSCAPING

POLICY

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Owner: Department of Transport

Manager: Transport Infrastructure Planning Division

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Landscape works in Territory road reserves are viewed as an integral part of the civil works to improve the streetscape. Arterial road and national highway streetscapes are an important visual element as it provides one of the first impressions about the Territory, its cities and towns for visitors.

Landscaping work proposed in Territory road reserves shall be consistent with relevant existing Departmental landscaping proposals for the road network and require minimum maintenance. The landscape should reinforce the status and character of each type of road.

Where any existing vegetated, landscaped or grassed area is disturbed as part of a proposed development, such locations shall be rehabilitated, reinstated and re-vegetated to the Department's requirements and standards.

In subdivision developments, full landscape plans are to be submitted to the Department for approval and works within Territory road reserves are to be undertaken in accordance with the Department's standards. The Developer will be responsible for all construction and establishment works, including the cost of power and water.

Where an individual lot development's landscaping is approved to extend into the road reserve, the Department does not guarantee maintenance of the road reserve to the same standard after acceptance of the works.

SERVICES IN THE ROAD RESERVE

Developers are to recognise that the Department has established service corridors within Territory road reserves. Developers are to confirm with all service providers that proposed landscaping will have no adverse effect, nor interfere with the installation and maintenance of existing and future services within these corridors.

SIGHT DISTANCE AND CLEAR ZONES

Landscaping in road reserves must not present a hazard to road users by obscuring visibility or sight distances appropriate to the design speed for the road. Sufficient space should also be available for errant vehicles to recover by the provision of a clear zone.

The desirable clear zone limits for trees within road reserves with a fully grown trunk of more than 100 millimetres in diameter, measured 1 metre from the ground, are set out in Table 1. Naturally occurring trees with a trunk greater than 100 millimetres should be removed from the clear zone.

Table 1: Clear Zone Requirements for Trees in Road Reserves

85 th Percentile Speed	Clear Zone
< 60km/h	Not less than 4m
80km/h	6m
100km/h	9m
> 100km/h	Not less than 9m

EXISTING TREES AND VEGETATION

Where existing trees and vegetation are to be affected by proposed works or excavation, the proposal shall be developed in consultation with the Department. The current AS 4373 *Pruning of amenity trees* applies to existing vegetation. No trees are to be removed without specific permission from the Department. Where the Department permits the removal of trees, it may require the Developer to plant replacement trees to restore the amenity of the area.

PLANT SELECTION

The approval of suitable species of street trees and shrubs for landscaping within Territory road reserves rests with the Department. Trees should preferably be native to the development area, exhibit stable deep rooted structures and have a dominant leader trunk. Shrubs and groundcovers should be hardened off to full sun upon planting, have sufficiently developed root systems to sustain expected growth and not require supplementary care once planted.

PLANTING REQUIREMENTS

Where landscaping is provided in the road reserve (whether it is dry land grassing or other landscaping elements), a minimum topsoil depth of 100 millimetres after natural settlement shall be provided. Topsoil shall be free from stones greater than 20 millimetres in diameter, debris and deleterious material and shall be lightly compacted to minimise subsidence.

Grass species to be used in road reserves shall be low in maintenance. Seeded areas for grassing are to be maintained in a moist condition and free from pests and weeds. Areas that fail to germinate and propagate after 28 days shall be reseeded by hand raking. Any wheel ruts resulting from maintenance in grassed areas are to be reinstated by the Developer.

LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

Species should be selected so that maintenance after establishment is minimal and irrigation is unnecessary. Where necessary to establish landscaping, an irrigation system will be provided by the Developer. Landscaping that requires irrigation for ongoing maintenance shall require specific prior approval from the Department. Permanent irrigation systems shall:

1. be designed using up to date technology and materials
2. be vandal proof
3. be efficient in the use of water
4. require low maintenance
5. be installed in accordance with the Northern Territory [*Plumbers and Drainers Licencing Act*](#) and the current version of AS 3500.1 *Plumbing and drainage*.

Prior to connection of water supply, approval shall be obtained from the Power and Water Corporation. If the irrigation system is to be handed over to the Northern Territory Government, the meter identification number, meter size, current meter reading and service location shall be provided at the handover of the system.