

OVERGROWN AND UNSIGHTLY ALLOTMENTS

As a resident, it is your responsibility to ensure your property is kept neat and tidy.

A property that has a build-up of objects, materials and rubbish is often an eyesore to other members of the community and can become a home for reptiles and vermin. In addition to being a nuisance for neighbours and the community, it is also a fire hazard.

Indications that an allotment might be 'overgrown'

- Grass and weeds are over 30cm (300mm) high
- Vegetation from the land interferes with people using a footpath or road.

Indications that an allotment might be 'unsightly'

An unsightly allotment has objects or materials that are brought onto or allowed to accumulate on a property, causing its visual appeal to be seriously affected.

Examples of unsightly objects are disused, second-hand material and similar objects, as well as derelict vehicles, old white goods, building materials and household waste.

What can you do to prevent having an unsightly or overgrown allotment?

- Store goods out of sight in your garage or shed
- Put your rubbish out weekly (use Council's kerbside collection service)
- When storing objects or materials, place them out of view and neatly stacked off the ground (so as not to attract vermin)
- Dispose of old vehicles and machinery
- Mow or slash your overgrown grass, trim overhanging plants and remove weeds
- Regularly dispose of waste vegetation by mulching or taking it to the green waste section of your local refuse facility.



What do I do if I notice an overgrown or unsightly allotment?

In most cases, the best way to resolve an overgrown or unsightly property issue (e.g. neighbouring property) is through a polite, direct request to the property owner.

If you are concerned about approaching the property owner, or this action has proven ineffective, you can report the problem to Council, stating the address or location of the property and the concerns that you have in relation to that property.

If you have difficulty walking along footpaths or driving along streets as a result of hedges or trees growing out into your path or line of sight please report the problem to Council.

How Council deals with overgrown and unsightly premises

Using *Local Law No 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011*, Council regulates a range of potential nuisances relating to overgrown and unsightly conditions on allotments. An authorised officer of Council will inspect the property and attempt to gain agreement with the owner to bring the property to a compliant state.

Step 1 - Inspection conducted, owner contacted and warning issued.

Step 2 - If no action is taken, owner contacted and compliance notice issued.

Step 3 - If no action is taken an infringement or other legal action may be commenced.

If necessary, Council may make arrangements for the property to be cleared of rubbish and for grass and vegetation to be trimmed. The cost of such work will be the responsibility of the owner.

Achieving the right result can often take time; on average the time taken to bring a property to a compliant state with the cooperation of the owner is approximately 6 – 8 weeks.

