

# FACT SHEET

## Management of Overgrown Properties



An overgrown property is unsightly, it can be both a nuisance and a danger to neighbours and the community. All residents have a responsibility to keep their properties neat and tidy to improve the appearance of our community, remove places for vermin to breed, reduce health risks and potential fire hazards.

### What is considered “overgrown”?

Council’s Local Law No.3 empowers Council to take action in relation to properties that are considered to be overgrown or unsightly to an extent that it has;

- seriously affected the visual amenity of the allotment or
- Is likely to attract or harbour reptiles

“Overgrown” may be defined as plants, trees, weeds or grass that protrude over the public right-of-way (footpath or lane), or property which has become unsightly due to lack of maintenance.

### What action does Council take?

Once Council becomes aware of an overgrown property, an authorised person will inspect the property to determine how serious the situation is. If it is found to be overgrown, a compliance notice may be served on the owner requiring the overgrown vegetation to be removed and land maintained in the future.

### What is a compliance notice?

A compliance notice is a written notice from Council that is intended to communicate to you; the problem, what is required to resolve the problem and the consequences of not complying.

### If you receive a notice?

If you receive a compliance notice to clear your property you are required to cut or rid the property of all overgrown grass, weeds, plants on the land by the date in the notice.

The land must be cleared and maintained so that it is no longer untidy. The land should also be cleared so that it is no longer a likely breeding place for any vermin such as rats, mice or snakes.

### If you disregard a compliance notice?

If a compliance notice has been forgotten or ignored and the land has not been cleared by the date on the notice, Council will issue a penalty infringement notice (PIN) for non compliance of the compliance notice.

On expiry of the notice, Council will issue a second notice (with a fine) to advise property owners that Council will be entering the property to do the work required by the original notice. This notice will include a date that Council (or its contractors) will enter and perform the work. In this case, all costs incurred in clearing the property will be charged to the landowner, plus an administration fee. An invoice will be issued for these costs and if let unpaid will be included as a charge on the land.

### Need help?

Council Local Laws Officers and Regulatory Support Officers are available to discuss any concerns that you may have, including the need for an extension of time. Please call Council on 1300 308 461 or visit a customer service centre.

### Report an overgrown allotment

If you know of overgrown land in our community, please contact Mareeba Shire Council with a description and the location of the land, so that the problem can be addressed as quickly as possible.



*It's up to all residents  
to make our region  
a safe and pleasant  
place to live.*