

Verge Maintenance

Community Engagement Summary Report

July 2025



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

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1 INTRODUCTION

This summary report presents feedback received during engagement with residents of Woodforde between 11 March and 30 April 2025, specifically regarding their preference for verge maintenance. This engagement was part of a larger engagement which also included mulching works, footpath maintenance works and proposed barbecue and shelter location. The outcome of the barbecue and shelter consultation can be found on Rostrevor, Woodforde and Hamilton Hill Hub.

This summary report will be made available to those who participated in the consultation on Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub.

The consultation comprised an opportunity for the local residents to provide their preference on how their verge is maintained from a list of three potential options. A copy of the information provided on Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub and via a letter delivered to residents, is available in Appendix A.

There was a total of 50 Participants (including 1 group) who provided feedback on their verge preference. All responses were received via email.

Advertisements, email blasts, promotional newsletters and social media posts, are provided in Appendix B.

2 SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

2.1 BACKGROUND

Many garden beds within Hamilton Hill now require renewal or modification to ensure sustainable maintenance. The purpose of the engagement was to determine the preferred verge maintenance option for residents going forward. This engagement was part of a larger engagement which also included mulching works, footpath maintenance works and proposed barbecue and shelter location.

A verge (or nature strip) is the area between the property boundary and the kerb (or edge of the roadway) and includes the footpath. Verge maintenance is considered a joint responsibility between Council and residents. Council undertakes an annual verge maintenance program to provide for road safety and fire mitigation requirements; however, Council is unable to maintain all road verges in the district. In various areas of our district, property owners often maintain the verge in front of their property to achieve their desired level of appearance.

The developer and Council did maintain verges whilst the development was being completed. However as stated above, many garden beds now require renewal or modification. To ensure the verge standards within the Hamilton Hill area align with the level of service throughout the remainder of our Council district, we offered residents the following options:

- (a) The property owner / resident elects to maintain the verge area by completing the required S221 application form;
- (b) Council will maintain the verge. The verge will then be topped up with mulch or replaced with compacted rubble. Irrigation and declining landscape plants may be removed; or
- (c) Convert the verge area adjacent to your property to parallel vehicle parking. In some situations, this would require modifications to the kerbing and sealing with asphalt.

Noting in all options above, the garden bed area's will be considered non-irrigated spaces, and no working irrigation will be decommissioned.

We asked residents or property owners to advise Council of their preference by emailing mail@ahc.sa.gov.au by 30th April 2025. If Council did not receive a response, we informed residents that council would therefore assume they will not be maintaining their verge, and it will be added to the list for option B.

Feedback received will assist council staff to make an informed decision on next steps area.

2.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Consultation was undertaken with the Community over 51 days from Wednesday 11 March to Wednesday 30 April 2025.

2.3 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The Council's engagement approach aimed to provide information and seek community feedback regarding local residents' preference for their verge maintenance. Feedback could be provided via email, alternatively council provided a contact phone number.

The engagement was targeted at residents living in close proximity to Lewis Yarluperka O'Brien Reserve with letters sent to properties within Hamilton Hill Estate and surrounding areas of Woodforde. The engagement was promoted on Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub via the Rostrevor, Woodforde and Hamilton Hill Hub page.

A copy of information provided is included in Appendix A.

2.4 DISTRIBUTION AND PROMOTION

The opportunity to provide feedback was promoted through the following channels:

- Letter delivered to residents residing within Hamilton Hill on 11 March 2025 (553)
- Social media post on 19 March 2025 (1 x Facebook Post)
- 4 x Corflute signs onsite positioned at various points in Hamilton Hill Estate

3 EMAIL RESPONSES

Council received 50 emails regarding residents' preference for verge maintenance. Below is a summary.

Stakeholder	Number	Preference selected			Queries / comments / requests
		Self maintain	Council maintain	Verge parking	
Residents /	50	19	8	5	28

resident group

Key themes of feedback and queries received:

Feedback / query	Council response
S221 Application Queries about S221 application, including: • Confusion about how to complete the S221 application form and for what activities an application needs to be completed. • Whether there is a fee to submit the application. • Whether maintaining footpath is included under self maintenance. • Whether residents will be liable for any third party accidents within the verge. • What plants can be selected for planting within the verge.	Council's Section 221 Application form is required to be completed if you wish to alter a public road or access to it. This includes planting, interfering with or removing a tree or vegetation from the road verge. In this instance for Hamilton Hill Estate residents, Council will not be charging the nominated fee associated with processing the required application form. Council will continue to maintain all footpath services and S221 applications do not extent to managing pathways. Currently residents are required to hold public liability insurance to undertake development works in verge areas. We understand this is a barrier to residents who are considering taking over maintenance of their verges. Through the establishment of the Verge Maintenance Policy, council aims to implement a best practice approach which will reduce barriers for the community.
Irrigation Questions about whether the existing irrigation will be maintained or replaced?	If verge garden bed irrigation is in working condition it will remain in place until the final verge concept plan is established. No upgrades or repairs will be conducted to existing garden bed verge irrigation.
Street trees Questions / concerns about whether: • Street trees will be removed to introduce parking? • How will street trees be effected by removal or irrigation? • Will council continue to	Where possible, established verge vegetation that is considered to be in good condition will be retained. Council will continue to support the establishment of juvenile trees within road verges through scheduled watering. Many of the street tree plantings within the development are considered now to be self sufficient and no longer require irrigating. Council will continue to maintain street trees as

maintain street trees?	required.
Verge definition / explanation Questions about what exactly constitutes the verge.	A verge (nature strip) is the area between the property boundary and the kerb and includes footpaths.
Parking - Questions about the design of verge parking e.g. paving, indent into curbing, step up to kerb or flat - Comment not supporting parking - Request for designated parking for contractors	Any proposed changes to kerb side parking will aim to maximise available space and user accessibility. Parking designs plans will be shown in the draft concept plan.
Individual verges Requests for certain vegetation / works within individual verges e.g. mulching not rubble, bark chips, existing plants removed	Council will supply a standard streetscape treatment which will maintain the current look and feel of each verge area. Requests relating to certain sight specific treatments and materials will be addressed as part of the S221 process.
Design and next steps Question about how will the decision be made by council on future verge maintenance.	Upon completion of the consultation period, Council will review feedback and preference provided by residents and property owners. Council will then carefully consider the impacts of these preferences and develop a plan of proposed verge modifications. Given the mixed responses, council will in the short term continue to deliver verge maintenance, whilst planning a more holistic verge maintenance strategy. We will develop a plan of proposed verge modifications to be shared with residents and property owners for further consideration and feedback during the second half of 2025.
Request for street lighting	Council is currently reviewing options for low level lighting that is directed at the existing footpath along Lewis Walk. This will be considerate to residents and wildlife in order to improve access along the existing section of path, for delivery within the 25/26 capital works program.
Other feedback not specifically related to verges or verge maintenance: - Request for a playground - Complaint about general maintenance of Hamilton Hill Estate	

- Complaint about Womma Oval

4 CONCLUSION

A total of 50 people participated in the consultation regarding verge maintenance via email. From here, given the mixed responses, council will in the short term continue to deliver verge maintenance, whilst planning a more holistic verge maintenance strategy.

We will develop a plan of proposed verge modifications to be shared with residents and property owners for further consideration and feedback during the second half of 2025.

APPENDIX A – INFORMATION PROVIDED

EHQ PLATFORM - ROSTREVOR, WOODFORDE AND HAMILTON HILL HUB

Verge Maintenance Consultation

17 Mar 2025



A verge (nature strip) is the area between the property boundary and the kerb and includes footpaths. Verge maintenance is a shared responsibility between Council and residents. While Council provides annual maintenance for road safety and fire mitigation, it is unable to maintain all verges across the district.

Many garden beds within Hamilton Hill now require renewal or modification to ensure sustainable maintenance. Residents are invited to select their preferred verge maintenance option:

1. Self-Maintenance:

- Residents can opt to maintain their verge.
- Fill out the S221 Application Form [here](#) and email it to mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

2. Council Maintenance:

- Council will maintain the verge, topping it with mulch or compacted rubble.
- Irrigation and declining landscape plants may be removed.

3. Conversion to Parking:

- Residents can opt to convert their verge to parallel vehicle parking.
- This may require curb modifications and asphalt sealing.

Important Notes:

- In all cases, verge areas will be non-irrigated, and irrigation will be decommissioned.
- Please notify Council of your preference by emailing mail@ahc.sa.gov.au by 30th April 2025.
- If no response is received, Council will assume you do not wish to maintain your verge, and it will be added to the list for Option 2.
- More information on verge maintenance responsibilities can be found [here](#).

(Part) Letter to Hamilton Hill Estate residents - 11 March 2025 Page 5



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Verge Maintenance - Community Consultation

A verge (or nature strip) is the area between the property boundary and the kerb (or edge of the roadway) and includes the footpath.

Verge maintenance is considered a joint responsibility between Council and residents. Council undertakes an annual verge maintenance program to provide for road safety and fire mitigation requirements, however Council is unable to maintain all road verges in the district. In urban areas of our district, property owners often maintain the verge in front of their property to achieve their desired level of appearance.

The developer and Council did maintain verges whilst the development was being completed. Many of these garden beds now require renewal or significant modifications to ensure they can be maintained in a sustainable manner. To ensure the verge standards within the Hamilton Hill area align with the level of service throughout the remainder of our Council district, we would like to offer residents the following options:

- (a) The property owner/resident elects to maintain the verge area. Please fill out the required S221 application form below and email to mail@ahc.sa.gov.au <https://www.ahc.sa.gov.au/assets/downloads/development/application-forms/Authorisation-to-Alter-a-Public-Road-Application-Form-2024.pdf> or;
- (b) Council will maintain the verge. The verge will then be topped up with mulch or replaced with compacted rubble. Irrigation and declining landscape plants may be removed, or;
- (c) Convert the verge area adjacent to your property to parallel vehicle parking. In some situations, this would require modifications to the kerbing and sealing with asphalt.

Please note in all options above, the verge area's will be considered non-irrigated spaces and irrigation will be decommissioned. We ask residents or property owners to please advise Council of your preference by emailing mail@ahc.sa.gov.au by 30th April 2025.

If Council does not receive a response, we will assume that you will not be maintaining your verge, and it will be added to the list for option B.

For further information regarding the responsibilities of verge maintenance within the Adelaide Hills Council region, please see the information is located on Council's website: <https://www.ahc.sa.gov.au/environment/roadside-vegetation>

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Should you require any special assistance during the works, please call contact Council on 08 8408 0400.

Updates about the works will be made available via our Community Engagement Hub Webpage engage.ahc.sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Open Space Department
Adelaide Hills Council

APPENDIX B – Advertisements, E-Blasts and Social Media Posts

AHC Facebook post – 19 March 2025



Adelaide Hills Council

March 19 · 🌐

A series of works will soon take place in the Hamilton Hill Estate, Woodforde, starting Monday 24th of March. 🛠️ Residents are encouraged to check out the planned improvements. 👉
<https://ow.ly/nzRe50VhSAb>

We're also seeking community input on verge maintenance in the area. Have your say and help shape the future of your neighborhood via the link 👉 <https://ow.ly/nzRe50VhSAb>

Upcoming Works

Hamilton Hill Estate

WOODFORDE




👍 4

1 comment 1 share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Corflutes positioned around Hamilton Hill Estate in April 2025

What's happening in the Hamilton Hill community?



**Are you interested in finding out about
upcoming works and community engagement
opportunities for the Hamilton Hill area?**

You can visit the Rostrevor, Woodforde and
Hamilton Hill Hub on the Adelaide Hills
Engagement Hub to stay up to date with the
latest information and opportunities for
your community.

More information is available
by scanning the QR code,
online at engage.ahc.sa.gov.au
or by calling 8408 0400



