

Overgrown Properties

This factsheet provides information about overgrown properties. Both occupied and unoccupied allotments must be maintained to an appropriate standard.

What is overgrown property?

Council considers a property to be “overgrown” when there is an excess of vegetation (predominately grass or weeds) higher than 300mm covering a substantial portion of the property. It does not matter if the long grass is green or brown it may be considered overgrown.

How is Council informed of overgrown properties?

Overgrown properties may be identified from a complaint or proactively via a property survey.

What does Council do?

Council investigates concerns in relation to overgrown properties under *South Burnett Regional Council Local Law 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011*.

If an allotment is determined to be in breach, a process of investigation and enforcement (if required) is undertaken to resolve the matter. Council does not respond to requests in relation to overgrown vegetation in rural or rural residential areas.

How long does this take?

The resolution period for enforcement of overgrown properties can be lengthy due to Council's obligation to comply with statutory requirements. There are some extenuating factors which may cause delay to this process.

The stages of compliance which must be observed involve initial inspection, notification to property owner, reinspection, issuing a compliance order,

engagement of contractor (if necessary) and follow up inspection.

What factors can delay enforcement?

The factors that may delay the enforcement process include but are not limited to:

- weather conditions;
- contractor engagement / availability;
- fire bans;
- limited workforce resources;
- assessment of priority.

The time frame from initial customer request to vegetation being maintained will depend upon several variables but most significantly the property owner's willingness to respond to and manage the overgrown vegetation themselves.

How do I keep my property tidy?

There are many steps you can take to prevent your property becoming overgrown or unsightly.

Some tips include:

- mow, slash or whipper snip all vegetation on a regular basis;
- store goods out of sight in a shed or the house;
- put rubbish directly into your wheelie bin and ensure your bin is collected weekly;
- take advantage that green waste is free for disposal at Council's landfills and take lawn clippings, branch clippings and other green waste to the landfill;
- store objects towards the rear of the house, ensuring that they do not provide harbourage to vermin or mosquitoes;

- ensure anything that can hold water is turned upside down to prevent mosquito breeding;
- dispose of old vehicles or machinery.

How can I raise a concern about an overgrown property?

You can lodge a concern about an overgrown property in any of the following ways;

- ✉ South Burnett Regional Council
PO Box 336
KINGAROY QLD 4610
- ☎ (07) 4189 9100
- @ info@sbrc.qld.gov.au
- 👤 Visiting a Customer Service Centre