

# Overgrown & Unsightly Land

Overgrown properties and unsightly premises can be both a nuisance and a danger to your neighbours and the community. All residents and vacant property owners have a responsibility to keep their premises neat and tidy. This improves the appearance of our community and reduces: places for vermin and reptiles to breed and live; the risk of it becoming a fire hazard; growing conditions for invasive weeds; and the health risk to all persons.

## What is Overgrown Land?

Council considers a property to be “overgrown” when there is an excess of vegetation, primarily long grass, on a property which has become unsightly and detracts from the visual amenity of the community or attracts or harbours vermin.

## What is Unsightly Land?

Unsightly land is an allotment that contains objects or materials that have accumulated in such a manner that it has seriously affected the visual amenity of the locality or is likely to attract or harbour vermin.



## What you can do

There are many steps you can take to prevent your land becoming overgrown or unsightly. Some tips include:

- Mow, slash or whipper snip all vegetation on a regular basis. The need to undertake these activities will increase in summer and after rain. It does not matter if the long grass is green or brown, it may be considered overgrown.
- 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.
- Lawn clippings may be placed in the general waste bin. It is not permitted to place lawn clippings around trees on footpaths or in parks.
- 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.

## What does Council do

Council investigates all concerns in relation to overgrown and unsightly land under *Rockhampton Regional Council Local Law 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011*. Council's investigations will determine if there has been a breach of the Local Law. Depending on the circumstances, a Council officer may issue infringements and/or a compliance notice requiring the property to be mowed and/or cleaned up within a specified timeframe. If the property is not mowed or cleaned up as directed, Council may organise contractors to undertake the work and pass the costs on to the person in charge of maintaining the property.

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