

## 1 PURPOSE

This Policy establishes the framework for Council's footpath and shared path pathways network. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the provision and care of footpaths and shared paths throughout the municipality. Council seeks to maintain and provide a network of footpaths and shared paths for the community that is safe, provides equal access, and is fit for purpose to encourage cycling and walking.

## 2 SCOPE

Council provides and maintains footpaths and shared paths to ensure safety, accessibility and connectivity of spaces and to improve access for people of all ages and abilities.

## 3 POLICY STATEMENT

Council will construct and maintain a footpath and shared path network throughout the municipality to provide and improve connectivity to properties and public and private facilities in accordance with the following principle:

1. Council will provide;
  - a. at least one footpath per local road
  - b. two footpaths on sub arterial roads, primary collector roads, adjacent schools, bus routes and other areas of special need, with one path being a shared path
  - c. footpaths and shared paths of suitable widths to meet access and requirements and be fit for purpose (i.e. schools, recreation, high usage)
  - d. footpaths and shared paths through parks to provide pedestrian and cyclist networks
  - e. connections to walkways
2. Council will develop annual and ongoing programs for the maintenance (including overhanging vegetation), construction, reconstruction and removal of footpaths and shared paths.
3. New footpath and shared path construction will be determined within budgetary constraints and prioritised according to special need, demand, road hierarchy, connection and linkages, town planning zones, and area plans.
4. Council may remove obsolete footpaths and replace with an appropriate verge material when the path has reached the end of its useful life.
5. Where a footpath is not provided, a pedestrian corridor must be provided and maintained within the verge.
6. Commercial property owners must not compromise the Council's verge and footpath in providing compliant access to their building.

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7. In locations where a footpath or shared path is not provided, access to properties is provided via the driveway.

#### 4 DEFINITIONS

**Construction** means construction of a new footpath where one previously did not exist.

**Footpath** refers to any formalised and constructed pedestrian access within a road reserve, or Council land such as parks. All footpaths within Darwin’s municipality are able to be used by pedestrians and cyclists.

**Obsolete Footpath** means footpaths that have reached the end of their useful life, are no longer serviceable through standard maintenance and are not programmed for future replacement. A serviceable footpath will exist on the other side of the road.

**Pedestrian** means within this Policy, pedestrians include all legal footpath users.

**Reconstruction** means replacement of an existing footpath with a new footpath, which may also be an upgrade to a different material.

**Removal** means removal of an existing footpath.

**Shared Path** means includes any path designed with the intention to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists.

**Special Need** means includes any location where pedestrian traffic would be considered to be significant or the users to have limited mobility or require clear guidance.

**Verge** means the area from the road surface/kerb to the adjoining property boundary.

#### 5 LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

Disability Discrimination Act 1992  
 Relevant Australian Standards

#### 6 PROCEDURES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Alfresco Dining Policy  
 Verge Policy  
 Awnings, Balconies and Verandahs Policy  
 City of Darwin Subdivision Guidelines  
 City of Darwin Standard Drawings  
 City of Darwin Community Access Plan  
 City of Darwin Bike Plan  
 Darwin City Centre Master Plan

#### 7 RESPONSIBILITY AND APPLICATION

This policy is the responsibility of the General Manager Engineering and City Services.

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