

# OVERGROWN AND UNSIGHTLY PROPERTIES

Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011

All residents are responsible for keeping their properties neat and tidy. Properties allowed to become overgrown and unsightly can be both a nuisance and a danger to neighbours and the community.

Problems with overgrown and unsightly properties include:

- » tall grass and collected materials is likely to attract or harbor reptiles or vermin
- » collected materials can become potential missiles in a cyclone or high wind event
- » overgrown vegetation and collected materials can become a fire hazard and be an obstacle for fire fighters
- » the property affects the visual amenity of the area.

## WHAT IS AN OVERGROWN PROPERTY?

Council will consider the property to be overgrown if:

- » plants, weeds, or grass interfere with the public's use of the footpath or road
- » the property has become unsightly due to the lack of yard maintenance
- » the property is likely to form a breeding place for reptiles or vermin, or is considered to be a fire hazard.

## WHAT IS AN UNSIGHTLY PROPERTY?

An unsightly property is a property that seriously affects the visual amenity of the area, or one that has a collection of materials likely to attract or breed reptiles or vermin.

Properties can quickly become unsightly with materials such as:

- » old appliances
- » building materials
- » household furniture and goods
- » loose garbage
- » bottles, cans, boxes or packaging materials
- » discarded or disused machinery/vehicle or parts
- » severely rusted vehicles and machinery
- » dead vegetation such as Palm fronds, etc.

## WHAT THE RESIDENT SHOULD DO

In order to keep a tidy property, residents should:

- » store objects and materials out of sight in a shed or garage, or rack and stack and tie down items 30cm off the ground
- » put your rubbish out for collection each week
- » dispose of old vehicles or machinery – some metal recyclers will purchase scrap metals
- » mow the lawn regularly and take advantage of Council's FREE green waste disposal at the dumps
- » organise for someone to maintain the garden if you will be away for a period of time.

## REPORTING AN OVERGROWN OR UNSIGHTLY PROPERTY

If you would like to report an overgrown or unsightly property, you can do this by:

- » using one of the smart phone apps for reporting problems (see Council's website for details)
- » using the online "Report a problem" form on Council's website
- » emailing Council at [enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au) (you can include a photo with this method)
- » calling Council's Customer Service Centre on 13 48 10.

## WHAT COUNCIL WILL DO

Council will always investigate any complaints made. If the Council Officer forms the opinion that the property is overgrown or unsightly, then the property owner will be asked to tidy the property to an acceptable level.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please visit Council's website at [townsville.qld.gov.au](http://townsville.qld.gov.au), or call Council's Customer Service Centre on 13 48 10.