

FACT SHEET

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OVERGROWN & UNSIGHTLY ALLOTMENTS

“EDUCATE THEN REGULATE”

Does Your Property Present a Nuisance?

If your property is overgrown, it may cause a nuisance to your neighbours by providing a haven for vermin, which may in turn attract reptiles.

In dry conditions your property may also be a fire hazard.

If your property has objects or materials that have been allowed to accumulate and that seriously detract from the visual amenity of the land.

What Does Council Mean by Overgrown?

A number of factors are to be considered:

- Height and density of vegetation.
- Weather conditions—Dry or hot conditions quickly cause overgrown allotments to become fire hazards. Hot and wet conditions cause rapid growth of vegetation, quickly creating overgrown properties.

What Does Council Mean by Unsightly?

Examples of objects that may seriously detract from the visual amenity of land:-

- Discarded or disused machinery or machinery parts;
- Broken-down or severely rusted motor vehicles;
- Discarded bottles, containers or packaging;
- Refuse or scrap material

The Law

Council's Local Law No. 18 (Control of Nuisances) states ...

- ...if land is overgrown with vegetation so the vegetation becomes unsightly or likely to attract reptiles or vermin, the occupier of the land commits a nuisance...;
- ...An occupier on whose land, objects or materials are brought or allowed to accumulate, that seriously detract from the visual amenity of the land, commits a nuisance...

Be a Good Neighbour

Take the time to regularly check your property. If you are not in a position to do this yourself, ask a neighbour or friend to keep you informed on the condition of your property.

Regular maintenance is being considerate towards existing and future neighbours.

