



# Overgrown or Unsightly Premises

## Fact Sheet

[www.logan.qld.gov.au](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au)

### Overgrown or unsightly premises

Logan City Council encourage the owners or occupiers of premises to:

- keep their premises free of long grass and weeds, which may be a fire hazard or harbour vermin; and
- keep their premises tidy so there is no aggregation or accumulation of objects or materials that make it unsightly when viewed from outside of the premises.

This fact sheet is intended to help you manage the risks, meet legal requirements and improve local amenity.

### Fire hazards

A *fire hazard* means anything because of its flammable or combustible nature, its position, or its quantity, exposes premises or other property (such as plant or equipment) to significant risk of damage or destruction by fire. Premises may also be considered to be overgrown and a fire hazard where the grass or weeds is higher than 450 millimetres.

A fire hazard also includes a substantial amount of grass clippings, mulch or compost easily capable of spontaneous combustion, or a substantial amount of vegetation that is easily capable of ignition. *Substantial* means that the height, width or length of the material is more than two metres.

### Vermin

Premises may also constitute a nuisance where the grass or weeds are long and thick enough for rats, mice and other vermin to live and breed.

Snakes and cane toads are not classified as vermin.

### Unsightliness

Common unsightly objects or materials include discarded or disused machinery, second-hand material and similar objects or material. They also include derelict vehicles, old white goods, building materials, household waste and the like.

### Prevention

- Take pride in the appearance of your home and land.
- Store goods out of sight in your garage or shed.
- Put your rubbish out weekly and take advantage of Council's kerbside collection service for hard waste and green waste.
- Store objects or materials out of view but ensure they do not harbour vermin.
- Dispose of old vehicles and machinery - some metal recyclers may collect and remove them free of charge.
- Cut or slash overgrown vegetation (whether dead or alive) and dispose of it responsibly, such as composting in an appropriate compost bin.

### How Council deal with overgrown or unsightly premises

Fire hazards, vermin and unsightly premises are all nuisances under Council's *Local Law No. 10 (Public Health) 1999*.

Where premises are found to be overgrown, Council may issue the owner with a compliance notice under the local law requiring the excess grass to be cut and removed. In rural areas, Council may require a fire break along the property boundary to prevent the risk of fire to neighbouring premises.

For unsightly premises, Council may issue the owner with a compliance notice requiring the unsightly objects, materials or accumulations be removed by a set date.

If no action is taken to cut long grass or weeds or to tidy up an unsightly property, Council will arrange for contractors to carry out the work and charge the land owner for the cost of the work.

#### For more information

Phone **3412 3412**

Visit [www.logan.qld.gov.au](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au)

Email [council@logan.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@logan.qld.gov.au)

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