



What you **need** to **know** about...

Planting in the Road Margin

maintaining our roads

There are approximately 5000 km of roads within the Southland District Council network: 2000 km sealed, 3000 km unsealed, including over 960 bridges, with 27 townships & a growing population (28,440 as per 2006 Census) who use these roads.

With an annual Roading Budget of over \$23M it is our aim to keep the roads maintained to an acceptable standard and are always looking at ways to improve the network as an asset for the community while keeping to an ever tightening budget.

Southland is renown for its beautiful 'green' landscape and as the District Council we support this image and encourage ways to maintain and develop this for residents and visitors alike. And it is for this reason road margin planting is allowable, but only within the guidelines of the Roading Policy.

To Permit or not to Permit?

The Road Margin Planting Policy sets out the guidelines and requirements for an activity that can often be taken for granted or assumed as a right. Often unrealised is the fact that all Road Margin Planting requires a permit from the Council.

Bigger the Better?

The problem faced by Council arises when seedlings and saplings, inevitably, grow into something quite different and not so beautiful, getting out of control and oversized.

Problems we try to avoid or minimise include; shading during winter causing ice, shading causing deterioration to road due to a continuously wet surface, visibility blocked by overgrown vegetation, plants and roots blocking waterways and no clear zone for motorists.

Responsibilities

Existing planting are allowed to remain provided they comply with the Policy. All responsibility & maintenance



of the roadside planting shall lie with the adjoining landowner & transfers with the ownership of the land.

Where any planting becomes a hazard, nuisance or unforeseen circumstances mean that the planting is no longer appropriate you may be asked to remove it.

Any costs involved in the remedy of any failures to meet the required responsibilities or maintenance of road margin planting will be met by the individual landowner rather than the ratepayers in general.

**Contact our Customer Services
on 0800 732 732 if you have a concern about the
state of any of our roads, sealed or unsealed,
or if you come across a mess.**

top tips

Three simple rules when Planting in the Road Margin:

1. Get a Permit & get all the information you need.
2. Consider thoroughly what it is you want to plant, how big does it get, is it easy to maintain, etc?
3. If in doubt - ask, we are here to help in any way we can.



If you would like to learn more about Roadings other "Need to Know" sheets you can find them on our website: www.southlanddc.govt.nz



Planting in the Road Margin...

Three empty rounded rectangular boxes arranged vertically, intended for notes or observations related to the topic of planting in the road margin.