

25 August 2017

«Company»
«Address1»
«Address2»
«Suburb»

Dear Sir/Madam

LANDSCAPE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH LAND DEVELOPMENT WORKS

I write in relation to landscape services Council provide to the land development industry.

In the past Council has chosen not to charge a fee to assess landscape plans and provide supervision of landscape works during the construction phase and two year maintenance period. However, with the significant growth being experienced, Council can no longer absorb the cost to provide a service that will continue to meet the needs of the land development industry. The ability to charge the above fees came in with the *Subdivision Act 1988*.

In order to ensure that our service remains at a high level, Council will be applying a fee for the checking of landscape plans and supervision of landscape works. To assist in determining what the fee rates would be, Melton Council bench-marked against other Melbourne Metropolitan growth area Councils to ensure Melton City Council are consistent with other Councils who charge fees for these services.

At its Ordinary Meeting of 26 June 2017 Melton Council resolved to;

Authorise the General Manager, Planning & Development to notify known and potentially affected land owners and developers that Council will be levying a Landscape Assessment and Supervision fee from 1 July 2017 should the 2017/18 Annual budget be endorsed by Council.

Given this is a new fee we have considered it appropriate to transition to the new fee structure, Council will not apply the new landscape fees until 22 September 2017. From that date onwards all landscape works not approved and commenced will incur a total landscape fee equating to 3.25% of the works estimate to be paid before the issue of the statement of compliance for the stage of development.

In recognition of the important role landscape design plays in the development of new communities, and to ensure consistency in the design services Council offers, the Landscape Development Supervision function is being moved from the Infrastructure Planning team to the City Design team effective 1 September 2017. As part of this structural realignment we have appointed an additional Landscape Development Supervisor, Ella Wright.

If you have any queries related to this matter, please feel free to contact the undersigned or Marshall Kelaher, Coordinator City Design on 03 9747 7200.

Yours sincerely

Laura-Jo Mellan
Manager City Design, Strategy & Environment