

Policy Goals

The purpose of the Latrobe City Council Half Cost Fencing Policy is to set out clear responsibilities for the construction, maintenance or replacement of boundary fencing abutting Council owned property, and to comply with the requirements of the Fences Act 1968.

Relationship to Latrobe 2026 & Council Plan

This policy relates to the following Strategic Objectives contained within Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Council Plan:-

Built Environment

Latrobe 2026:

In 2026, Latrobe Valley benefits from a well planned built environment that is complementary to its surroundings and which provides for a connected and inclusive community.

Council Plan:

- Ensure Latrobe City Council's infrastructure is managed through a long term strategic approach to asset management.
- Ensure that all proposed Latrobe City Council developments include whole of life maintenance analysis.
- Ensure public infrastructure is maintained in accordance with community aspirations.

Recreation

Latrobe 2026:

In 2026, Latrobe Valley encourages a healthy and vibrant lifestyle, with diversity in passive and active recreational opportunities and facilities that connect people with their community.

Council Plan:

- Align open space requirements of the community with useable public open space.

Regulation and Accountability

Latrobe 2026:

In 2026, Latrobe Valley demonstrates respect for the importance of rules and laws to protect people's rights, outline obligations and support community values and cohesion.

Council Plan:

- Ensure that Latrobe City Council meets all relevant legislative obligations and is positioned to respond to legislative change in a manner which inspires community confidence.

Policy Implementation

The Council's Responsibility

Latrobe City will contribute half of the cost of the construction, replacement or maintenance of a standard fence abutting a Council owned property. Latrobe City will contribute half of the cost of a standard fence where a property owner wishes to construct an approved non standard fence of greater value.

The Council is not responsible for contributing to the cost of the construction, maintenance or replacement of a fence abutting a "road" as defined by the Road Management Act, Clause 9 of the Latrobe City Council Local Law No. 2 or as shown on a Plan of Subdivision.

Fencing Standards

Latrobe City Council has defined the following as standard fences for urban and rural areas:

Urban Standard Fence:-

1650mm High paling fence with concrete posts at 2700mm centres; hardwood rails at the top and bottom and a 75mm x 38mm hardwood rails at the centre; a 150mm x 38mm concrete plinth; and 12mm thick by 1500mm long hardwood palings with tops sawn to line.

Rural Standard Fence:-

1200mm high post and wire fence with 5 no barbed wires and fence 100mm diameter treated pine posts at 3000mm centres.

The Property Owner's Responsibility

The property owner must obtain and submit to Latrobe City three (3) written quotations from reputable and recognised fencing contractors or builders along with a Notice to Fence pursuant to the Fences Act 1968. In addition it is the property owners responsibility:-

- To obtain approval from Latrobe City to construct a non standard fence abutting a Council owned property prior to construction.
- To obtain prior approval from Latrobe City to construct a gate at a boundary fence to access a Council Reserve and to pay all costs associated with the construction, maintenance or replacement of the gate.
- To pay all costs associated with the repair or replacement of any damaged section of a boundary fence abutting a Council owned property where damage has occurred through the action or neglect of the property owner or occupier.
- To comply with the procedures developed and implemented by Latrobe City in respect of fencing construction requirements.

Gates at Recreation Reserves

Latrobe City will not grant approval to any property owner to construct a pedestrian or vehicle access gate at a boundary fence to access a Council recreation reserve.

Property owners will remove an existing pedestrian or vehicle access gate at a boundary fence that accesses a Council recreation reserve when the boundary fence is being replaced.

This policy has been reviewed after giving proper consideration to all the rights contained within the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*; and any reasonable limitation to human rights can be demonstrably justified.

Signed : _____
Chief Executive Officer

Date : 08/02/2011.