

Fencing Local Law 2026

Proposed Changes and Why They Matter

The City of Cockburn has been reviewing its local laws, with the aim of renewing and aligning with best practice.

The purpose of a fencing local law is to help make sure fences are safe and don't cause hazards for the community. It does this by outlining rules including requiring approval for barbed wire, razor wire or electric fences, as well as for certain dangerous fencing materials.

The fencing local law also explains what is considered a 'sufficient fence' in the district. This is relevant if you want to erect or repair a dividing fence. You can only recover costs for a 'sufficient fence'. You may have to foot the bill for any difference between that and any higher quality fence.

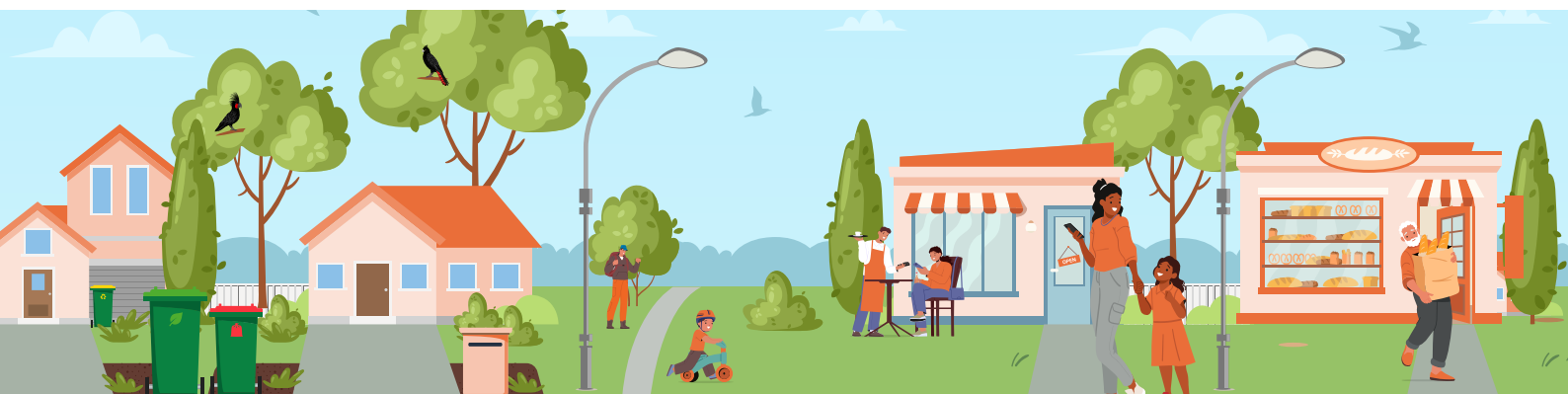
The proposed new Fencing Local Law 2026 is a revision and update of the current City of Cockburn Fencing Local Law 2012. Due to the changes proposed, an amendment local law is not recommended, and instead it is proposed that the current fencing local law is repealed and replaced with the City of Cockburn Fencing Local Law 2026.

The key changes are:

Amendment	Reason
Simplifying fence requirements for a 'sufficient fence' to just height and materials.	The current detailed rules are too complex and confusing for the community.
Removing City approval for non-standard dividing fences.	This makes things simpler and avoids unnecessary steps. If there is disagreement, the landowners can use the dispute process in the Dividing Fences Act 1961.
Excluding boundary fences from these specifications.	A planning policy is more appropriate to regulate boundary fences.
Adding more prohibited materials, including banning asbestos and any material likely to collapse or fall.	To help keep our community safe.
City approval needed for gates opening onto thoroughfares.	To make sure gates don't block public access or create hazards.

Amendment	Reason
Standardising the permit process.	To improve clarity, consistency, and provide greater transparency on the process.
Standardising enforcement rules.	To improve clarity, consistency, and provide greater transparency.
Adding a permit template for barbed wire fences.	To make applications straightforward.
Including a schedule for modified penalties. An increased 'subsequent penalty' for all offences has also been added.	To ensure the modified penalties better reflect the seriousness of the offence, and to also create the ability for the City to issue larger infringements for repeat offenders.

Please visit the [Proposed Fencing Local Law 2026 'Comment on Cockburn' page](#) for a copy of the complete [proposed new City of Cockburn Fencing Local Law 2026](#).



While local governments have the ability to make local laws under the Local Government Act 1995, there are limits to this power. Any local law must be fair, reasonable, and proportionate. It should be necessary for the good government of the district. Local laws cannot conflict with State legislation, and they shouldn't introduce major new policies or big changes to existing policies. That is the role of State Government.