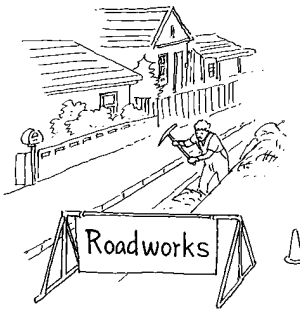


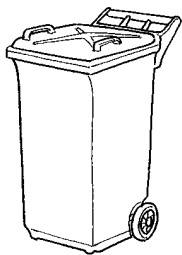
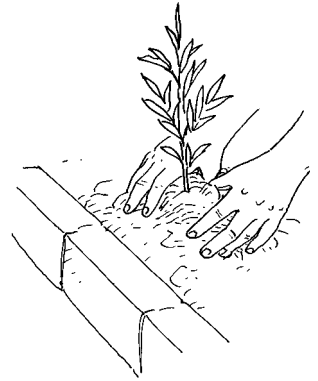
## Local council's services



The local council helps the community in many ways. In particular they:

### Look after the environment

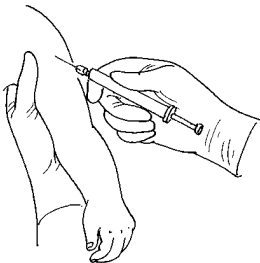
The council looks after the parts of the community that are public property, such as roads and parks. The council builds and repairs roads and car parks.



Councils decide where new roads, houses and shops should go and which natural areas to protect. Plans for all new buildings are approved by the council. Councils also look after historic places. The council arranges for garbage to be collected and for waste to be recycled.

### Look after people

Some councils run libraries, art galleries and theatres. They may provide public halls in the community. Councils usually have areas for parks, swimming pools and tennis courts. They provide services for elderly and disabled people, such as Meals on Wheels and activities for citizens.



Councils ensure their area is healthy, for example by running health centres, destroying rats, checking that restaurants and shops are clean, registering dogs and immunising people against diseases. Councils also help emergency services.



Not all councils do all of these things. Each council does the things that are most important to its citizens.



Adapted from Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW 1994, *Councils at Work: An Education Kit for Local Government Studies*, sheets 3 & 4