

## 1 Policy History

Revision No.	Council Meeting Date	Minute No.	Adoption Date
1	Before 24 Apr 1990	-	Before 24 Apr 1990
2	14 Jan 2003	25	14 Jan 2003
3	11 May 2010	0142	11 May 2010
4	11 Nov 2014	0392	11 Nov 2014
5	12 Jun 2018	18/174	13 Jul 2018
6	09 Jul 2024	24/182	08 Aug 2024

## 2 Policy Objective

To establish standards and practices for the maintenance and upgrading of Council's unsealed roads.

To provide a fair option for property owners to upgrade a gravel road to a seal and reduce problems caused by dust to residential properties.

## 3 Policy Statement

- 3.1 Council shall maintain at least one all-weather gravelled access road to any property that has a residence occupied by the owner or their tenants.
- 3.2 The all-weather access provided will be via the most convenient and economical route taking into account other users and financial implications to Griffith City Council and will not necessarily be the most direct route.
- 3.3 Roads to unoccupied properties not covered in 3.1 above shall be classed as limited access roads and are generally used for carrying out farming activities and are not routinely maintained.
- 3.4 Where Council has historically maintained a limited access road it will continue to be maintained. Historical proof of maintenance is provided by Council's records.
- 3.5 The width of roadsides to be cleared shall be a matter to be determined at the discretion of the Works Manager – Construction and his staff but should not extend beyond the outside extreme of the table drains or the previously disturbed area. Consultation will also be made with Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan.
- 3.6 Water carts are not to be used for dust suppression on unsealed roads unless authorised by the General Manager, Director of Infrastructure of Operations or Works Manager.
- 3.7 On sealed roads, where feasible, shoulder sealing is to be imposed as a condition of subdivision approval. The minimum width of sealed shoulder shall be 600mm or with

reference to Austroads Table 4.7 Section 4.3.3 Part 3 – Geometric Design (AGRD 03-16), whichever is greater.

3.8 Whenever a change in status of a parcel of land i.e. sale of part only, subdivision, change of ownership status etc. creates a need for an existing all weather access to be extended to serve the new parcel of land the initial cost of providing the extended all weather access shall be borne by the proponent/s creating the need.

3.9.1 When a request is received to seal a road the following selection criteria in Table 1 are to be used to determine whether there is justification for listing the roads for sealing works and consideration by Council within a proposed budget. A minimum score of 8 shall be attained for a road to be listed.

3.9.2 When a request is received for maintenance and/or upgrade of a limited access road (excluding sealing) the following selection criteria in Table 1 are to be used to determine whether there is justification for the road to be upgraded and consideration by Council within a proposed budget. A minimum score of 5 shall be attained for a road to be listed.

3.9.3 When a request is received for dust abatement the following criteria in Table 1 are to be used to determine the score to be considered for Council financial assistance.

**Table 1: Criteria for Assessing Unsealed Roads and Dust Abatement Financial Assistance**

Criteria	Points	
1. Traffic Volume	Less than 100 vpd	0
	Between 100 - 200 vpd	1
	Over 200 vpd	2
	Over 20 heavy vehicles/day	2
	Over 20 long vehicles and road trains/day	2
2. Accident History	Accident within past 3 years to be noted	-
3. Local Amenity	a) 10 houses/km or greater in urban area	1
	b) 5 houses/km or greater in non urban area	1
	c) Dust problem (horticultural areas)	1
	d) Within Urban or Village boundary	1
4. Roads Importance to Community	a) School Bus route	1
	b) Serves a major industry	2
	c) Serves an industry	1
	d) Serves a major community facility, service or attraction	2
	e) Serves as a bypass or feeder road	1



## **Dust Abatement**

Dust abatement on gravel roads is the sealing of short sections of road for the benefit of property owners with houses near the road. The purpose of dust abatement is to reduce the effects of dust caused by passing traffic.

A written request should be made to the General Manager Griffith City Council prior to 31 December to be considered for dust abatement in the following financial year budget.

The principal beneficiary of the dust abatement is the property owner. The cost of installing and maintaining sealed sections of road is higher than that for gravel roads, and a quotation will be provided for an applicant to consider after their application has been made.

The quotation will include an upgrade of the road and any necessary drainage upgrades that may be required to ensure that the dust abatement seal is completed to Council's engineering standards.

## **Council contribution**

An applicant may contribute the full cost of the dust abatement or make a request for up to 50% contribution from Council funds towards a dust abatement application. Each request for council contribution will be assessed on the merits as set out in Table 1 above. The highest score will be considered for financial assistance ahead of those requests with a lower score. Additionally consideration will be given to the length of time that a resident has **owned** and **occupied** their residence adjacent to the gravel road under consideration.

Council's contribution will be limited to budgetary allocation for dust abatement in each financial year.

## **Extent of Work and Costs**

The minimum length of a dust abatement section is 100 metres. The length of dust abatement required will depend on the applicant's budget and Council will provide consultation to any constraints associated with construction.

The minimum formation width shall be 7 meters, or the existing width of the road, whichever is greater. The minimum seal width shall be 6.5 metres unless other constraints are identified on a case by case basis.

Construction works and sealing can be completed by a contractor subject to obtaining Section 138 of Roads Act approval and complying with Council's Engineering Guidelines – Subdivision and development standards for construction. Alternately Council could be engaged to undertake the construction works at the quote provided.

The preparation work for dust abatement must comply with Austroads Standards and Council's Engineering Guidelines – Subdivision and Development Standards. If Council is engaged to undertake works this will be programmed as part of Council's resheeting or grading program. Successful applicants for dust abatement will be advised of the timing that this preparation may occur.



## Sealing specifications

The seal shall be double (14/7) seal with C170 binder. Alternative proposals will be considered.

## 4 Definitions

### Heavy Vehicle as defined by AUSTROADS

- Heavy Vehicles are Class 3 or above

### Long Vehicle and Road Trains as defined by AUSTROADS

- Long Vehicle and Road Trains are Class 10 and above.

### Industry

- Means a 'light industry' or 'rural industry' as defined in the Griffith Local Environmental Plan.

### Major Industry

- Consists of industries associated with:
  - wine and food processing
  - grain storage and handling
  - commercial extractive works

### Community facility, service or attraction

- Consists of clubs, hotels/motels, major sports facilities, transport terminals, education and hospital facilities.

### All Weather Access Road

- A road which is trafficable to 2 wheel drive vehicles under normal weather conditions.

### Limited Access Roads

- Roads that provide limited access to properties to carry out farming or other legitimate activities. These roads are generally dry weather access and may be formed or unformed and not servicing dwellings.

## 5 Exceptions

Dust abatement seal shall not be applied to a road upgrade required by condition of development consent.

## 6 Legislation

None

## 7 Related Documents

Roadside Vegetation Management Plan  
AUSTROADS Vehicle Classification System  
Griffith Local Environmental Plan (LEP)  
WO-FO-113 Road Sealing Request Assessment  
Council's Engineering Guidelines – Subdivision and Development Standards

## 8 Directorate

Infrastructure & Operations