

Bitumen Sealing of Council Roads

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Responsible Position Manager Infrastructure Delivery
Branch Infrastructure Delivery
Division Infrastructure
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POLICY

Policy Objectives

To provide clarity on the proposed extension of the bitumen sealed network within the region.

1. To define criteria for the provision of bitumen seals on urban and rural gravel roads where adjoining property owners request some action to reduce or remove the nuisance of dust, or improve conditions beyond approved service levels, adjacent to their property.

BACKGROUND AND RELATED LEGISLATION

This policy is consistent with the Roads Act 1993.

Related policies and plans

1. The Transport Plan
2. Delivery Plan

SCOPE

This policy applies to request by residents to extend the sealed road network above and beyond the adopted Road Seal Extension Program.

DEFINITIONS

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Resident contribution.	The contribution to be made by the resident/s for sealing a maintained gravel road that would not otherwise form part of the bitumen seal extension program. The minimum contribution from the resident is to be no less than 80% of the cost of the seal.
Council contribution	Council's contribution to the cost of sealing a gravel road not included in the seal extension program is the preparation of the subgrade and base course ready to apply bitumen seal and a maximum 20% of the bitumen seal cost.
Value of bitumen seal	The price of the bitumen seal is to be 'at cost' and aligned to contract prices in Councils sealing contract. A quote will be provided by Council in each case.
Width of bitumen seal	The width of the bitumen seal will be determined by the classification of the road, Council policy or relevant Aust Roads guidelines for rural roads.

POLICY

Council will review its seal extension program on an annual basis taking into account available funds and determine its forward program (if any) in conjunction with the Community Plan, Delivery Program and Transport Plan.

Only seal extension projects that have been approved by Council, and are included in the Delivery Plan within the current financial year, will have certainty of being undertaken. Those thereafter will be reviewed subject to further funding, road traffic analysis and road conditions as determined in the Delivery Program and Transport Plan.

Council will consider the sealing of a maintained gravel road when a contribution is made by resident/s or property owner/s for the cost of the seal. Council will contribute by preparing the road surface for seal and a portion of the bitumen cost. A quotation will be provided on application.

Council will not provide small isolated strips of bitumen sealing. A minimum length of 100 m is required and the full width of the road is to be sealed. Council will consider requests for bitumen sealing of unsealed roads under the following conditions:

- A contribution towards the cost of sealing an existing gravel road matches at least 80% of the estimated cost of the bitumen seal in cash. All payments are required to be paid in full before commencement of work.
- Provided that the minimum length of an isolated strip is not less than 100m and the full width of road is sealed.
- That application be made in writing.
- Council will only consider up to five applications in any one financial year.
- Access to properties are required be sealed from the edge of the bitumen seal for a minimum distance of 2m, or to the property boundary.
- Bitumen sealing projects will be programmed to be undertaken when Council resources are available.

In cases where even with residents offering to pay 80% of the seal cost, Council will consider the following when determining to proceed, or not:

- Costs that would be incurred by Council to prepare a road pavement suitable for sealing (these costs could be substantial).
- Average number of vehicles travelling on the road per day.
- Type of traffic using the road, such as the number of heavy vehicles and school bus routes.
- Costs incurred in maintaining the current unsealed road.
- Proximity of a dwelling to the road.
- It should be noted that Council will be applying a two coat bitumen seal only as a minimum. Ongoing maintenance of constructed bitumen seal will be with Council.

Maintenance activities on the sealed network will be at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer and undertaken in consideration of the entirety of the road network in conjunction with the Delivery Plan and Road Asset Management Plan.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director Infrastructure and staff with delegated authority to enact and enforce the Policy.

APPROVAL PROCESS

- Residents/ratepayers that express an interest in enacting this policy shall fill out the prescribed application form (attached).
- The Manager Infrastructure Delivery will assess the application and prepare an estimate to undertake the sealing of the nominated section of road.
- A memo will be prepared for the Director Infrastructure detailing the proposed works, cost for both Council and the applicant/s, Where Council's contribution will be funded from, if the proposal meets the requirements of the policy and any impacts on the works program for that particular year.
- If the Director Infrastructure concurs with the recommendation from the Manager Infrastructure Delivery, a final recommendation is made to the CEO for determination.
- The Applicant will then be advised of the determination.