



Dubbo Regional Council Technical Services

Road Opening Policy

The Road Opening Policy adopted by Council in May 2011 aims to protect the interests of the community, and assist Council in meeting its legal responsibilities with regard to construction within Council road reserves.

The Road Act requires that all parties - apart from authorised utility service providers - wishing to undertake construction work within, or adjacent to a Council road reserve to first make application for that Council's permission.

The Policy deals with the requirements and standards in relation to such activities and outlines the approval procedures, fees and securities as well as the approval criteria for Council permission to undertake a planned activity on Council Road Reserves.

Under the new Policy, Council now requires all construction activities, apart from footpath landscaping activities to be undertaken by contractors accredited by Council.

Construction activities within a Council road reserve which can only be undertaken by accredited contractors include the following:

- Rural road vehicular accesses
- Private irrigation/water supply pipelines
- Footpath driveways with concrete, asphalt or segmental pavers
- Concrete crossover slabs

- Footpath resurfacing with asphalt, concrete or segmental pavers
- Groundwater monitoring bores

Council may permit a footpath "landscaping" activity to be undertaken by an individual (or their subcontractor) if the individual owns the adjacent property or with the adjacent property owners approval.

Footpath landscaping activities (which Council may permit to be undertaken by an individual or their subcontractor) include the following:

- Installing (and maintaining) house stormwater pipes
- Footpath resurfacing with garden beds, mulch and gravel
- Installing popup sprinkler irrigation systems
- Planting street trees (in consultation with and under the direction of Council's Manager Horticultural Services - phone 6801 4000)

All construction work (including footpath landscaping) within Council's road reserves may only be carried out with the approval of Council, through the issue of a Consent To Work Permit, and in accordance with all permit conditions. The additional approval of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is required with respect to State classified roads.

Road Opening Policy

Approval procedure for construction activities

not including footpath landscaping activities within a Council Road Reserve

- Road Opening Application lodged **two weeks** prior to the planned commencement date together with the appropriate application fee. Applications must include evidence of subcontractor accreditation, traffic control plan and engineering plans (where applicable).
- Where the temporary closure of a road to traffic is planned, a separate Road Closure Application must be lodged **six weeks** prior to the planned commencement date together with the appropriate application fee (where applicable).
- Payment of Road Restoration Fee and/or securities bond prior to works commencing on site (where applicable).

Approval procedure for footpath landscaping activities

Footpath Landscaping Application lodged prior to the planned commencement date together with the appropriate application fee. Applications must include a sketch of the proposed works (with dimensions and preferably to scale showing front property boundary, driveways, kerb and gutter, existing power poles, street lights, utility service pits, etc as well as the proposed landscaping) and evidence of Dial Before You Dig enquiry.

Contractors are able to apply for accreditation at any time. Contractors wishing to be accredited must apply to Council - using the appropriate application form - and should the application be approved, then sign an agreement to comply with a list of standard conditions. Nominating the use of accredited, prequalified contractors will simplify the Road Opening approval process.

Conditions that an accredited contractor would agree to comply with include the following:

- Performing the work in tradesmen like manner in accordance with Council's specifications, guidelines, standard drawings, etc.
- Accepting the liability for defects in road restoration work that may occur for a period for 6 months from when the work was completed. Council may issue "Requests for Corrective Action" notices during this time and where a response is unsatisfactory undertake reinstatement works itself and recover the cost from the contractor.
- Accepting responsibility for reinstatement costs for damage done to anyone's property as a direct result of the work carried out.
- Protecting existing street trees from damage.
- Having suitable public liability insurance in place.

For further information contact Technical Services at Council.

General Enquiries:

Telephone (02) 6801 4000

Postal Address

PO Box 81
DUBBO NSW 2830

Email

drc@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Website

www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au

