
Policy Title: **Upgrading of Unsealed Rural Roads to Sealed Standards**

Policy No: 221
Policy Subject: Technical Services

Directorate: Technical Services
Department: Engineering

Responsible Officer: Director Technical Services
Authorised by: North Burnett Regional Council

Adopted Date: Policy & Strategy Meeting 6/04/2010
Review Date: 7/04/2015

Authorities: *Aust Roads, IPWEA Standards*
 RRG Project Prioritisation Standards
 Transport and Main Roads Standards

INTRODUCTION:

1. Scope

The “Unsealed Roads Manual – Guidelines to Good Practice” published by Australian Road Research Board states that it may be difficult to justify sealing a road carrying less than 100 vehicles per day unless there are special circumstances. The North Burnett Regional Council (NBRC) has adopted the general principle of this philosophy but will initially concentrate resources on roads which have counts exceeding 80 vehicles per day, or on roads that have exceptional maintenance or safety issues.

This Policy provides a systematic method of prioritising the sealing of the unsealed roads using a measurable and transparent assessment framework.

2. Purpose

From time to time Council receives requests to upgrade an unsealed rural road to a sealed standard. This Policy, and associated Procedure, provides framework for the consistent assessment of such requests and allows for a systematic approach to determining the priority listing for the upgrading of individual unsealed roads to a sealed standard.

3. Associated Documents

NBRC Procedure (To Be Developed) – Upgrading of Unsealed Rural Roads to Sealed Standard

AUSTROADS
Guide to Geometric Design of Rural Roads

AUSTROADS
Pavement Design – A Guide to the Structural Design of Road Pavements

North Burnett Regional Council

4. Definitions

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions shall apply:

Authorised Officer means the Chief Executive Officer of the Council or a person delegated by the Chief Executive Officer as being authorized.

Council means the North Burnett Regional Council.

Dedicated Road means an area of land dedicated for public use as a road; or an area that is open to or used by public and is developed for, or has as one of its main uses, the driving or riding of motor vehicles; but does not include a State-controlled road under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

Gravel Paved Road means a dedicated road that has been formed and surfaced with imported gravel paving material

Unconstructed Road includes:

Formed Road which means a dedicated road that does not have gravel paving but which is formed using a grader so that stormwater will drain off laterally.

Unformed Road which means a dedicated road that is at least partially cleared and is open to, and customarily used by, the public.

Unmade Road which means a dedicated road that has had no capital improvements including clearing, formation and gravel paving. Notwithstanding, an unmade road may be trafficable or untrafficable in all weathers.

Dwelling means a building or structure which has been approved for use as a habitable building or structure.

Rural Road means a road servicing allotments in a rural area, for which the majority of allotments have a road frontage in excess of 50 meters.

5. Context

Unsealed rural roads will be considered for sealing on a priority basis in accordance with the assessment framework within this Policy and the associated Procedure. The priority will be determined by an evaluation system based on traffic volume, percentage of commercial vehicles, school bus routes, strategic significance of the road, public safety, traffic flows, road geometry and any other relevant issue that the Director of Technical Services may consider relevant. The priority listing will be reviewed annually on the basis of the latest data available. Generally priority will be given to roads with higher vehicle numbers or sections of roads with abnormal values of the above mentioned characteristics and documented high maintenance costs.

5.1 Exemptions

This Policy does not apply to driveway accesses from the road to the property boundary. Responsibility for the construction of a driveway access is the full responsibility of the property owner.

This Policy does not apply to new road reserves created by the re-configuration of a lot.

This Policy does not apply to the sealing of an existing unsealed road, required as a result of an application under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.

This Policy does not apply to intermittent seals adjacent to habitable dwellings.

6. Evaluation Process

This Policy is reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related or reference material is amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the Council.

OBJECTIVES:

To create Council wide Technical Standards

PRINCIPLES:

Principles based on industry accepted standards