

INTERMITTENT SEALING OF UNSEALED RURAL ROADS PROCEDURE

1. Scope

The Intermittent Sealing of Unsealed Rural Roads Procedure (this ‘Procedure’) applies to all unsealed rural roads under Council’s jurisdiction.

This Procedure does not apply to:

- Driveway accesses from the road to the property boundary; and
- Sealing of an unsealed road required as a result of an approval under the *Planning Act 2016*.

2. Purpose

This Procedure relates to requests to seal a short section of an unsealed rural road adjacent to dwellings and establishes guidelines and scoring criteria to ensure consistent assessment of requests.

3. Related Documents

Primary

Management of Unsealed and Unconstructed Roads Policy

Legislative reference

Local Government Act 2009 s 60

Related documents

ARRB Group - Unsealed roads manual – Guidelines to good practice (3rd ed March 2009)
Austroads - Guide to Road Design Part 3: Geometric Design

4. Definitions

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions shall apply:

AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic.
Application for Operational Works	DA Form 1 – Development application details.
Council	Livingstone Shire Council
Dwelling	A building or structure approved for use as a habitable building or structure.
Gravel Paved Road	A road that has been formed and surfaced with imported gravel paving material.
Road	As defined in the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .
Rural Road	A road servicing allotments in a rural area, for which the majority of allotments have a road frontage in excess of 40m.

5. Procedure

Intermittent sealing of unsealed rural roads is concerned with minimising the effects of dust on dwellings that are in close proximity to an unsealed road.

While Council does not commit to the provision of intermittent seals on its unsealed road network, it may authorise an applicant to undertake such work at their own cost, subject to the requirements of this Procedure.

5.1 Assessment

Infrastructure will assess applications using the scoring criteria defined in Table 1 to determine if an intermittent seal is warranted.

5.2 Procedure

5.2.1 The decision to approve the sealing of a short section of gravel paved road for the purpose of dust suppression will be assessed by the Manager Construction & Maintenance against the following factors:

- a) Current and projected traffic volumes (AADT);
- b) Costs incurred in maintaining the sealed road;
- c) Type of traffic that uses the road;
- d) Speed environment of the road;
- e) Proximity of a dwelling to the road frontage;
- f) Geometric standard of the unsealed road; and
- g) Road pavement and drainage system of the unsealed road.

5.2.2 If the assessment determines that a section of a gravel paved road is suitable for an intermittent seal the applicant will be:

- a) Provided with a quote to undertake the works and informed that Council is prepared to undertake the works subject to payment at least four weeks prior to commencement of the works; or
- b) Informed they may lodge an Application for Operational Works if they wish to engage a contractor to undertake the works.

5.3 Design Standards of Intermittent Seal of an Unsealed Road

5.3.1 Roads deemed suitable for the application of an intermittent seal as a dust suppressant are to receive a two coat bitumen seal (for a maximum length of 200 metres and minimum width of 4 metres), adjacent to the affected property.

5.3.2 The applicant is responsible for meeting the cost of:

- a) Any required formation widening;
- b) Supply and installation of gravel to ensure a minimum 150mm thick layer of minimum CBR 40 pavement layer;
- c) Sealing the road; and
- d) Installation of any required road furniture.

5.3.3 To qualify for an intermittent seal, the road must meet the following evaluation criteria:

- a) Traffic volumes

A road will not be considered for an intermittent seal if there is less than 30 AADT unless there are significant issues shown in the assessment score. A road that has an AADT greater than 150 may require a minimum standard seal along its entire length.

- b) Proximity of a dwelling
The dwelling must be within 100m of the road frontage.
- c) Minimum width
The road can be easily upgraded to the appropriate formation and seal width of six metres.
- d) Reasonable alignment
The road must have reasonable vertical and horizontal alignment and sight distance that will not compromise safety if sealed.
- e) Solid base
The road must have a solid, well compacted road base that is able to support the proposed overlay for the expected traffic loads. Having a solid road base will minimise future pavement failures if the road is sealed.
- f) Drainage system
If the unsealed road has a poor longitudinal drainage system every effort should be made to provide adequate longitudinal drainage to minimise future pavement failures.

5.3.4 If a road meets the criteria identified above, it is evaluated using the scoring points and weighting method displayed in Table 1. Scores less than 150 do not justify approval of an intermittent seal.

Table 1: Scoring and Assessment Method

Criteria	Points	Weighting
Traffic volumes	0 – AADT 0-30. 20 – AADT 31-49. 40 – AADT 50-74. 70 – AADT 75-99. AADT ≥100, 1 point for every vehicle. Additional 1 point for every commercial vehicle (max of 20% of AADT).	1
Proximity of a dwelling to the road and prevailing winds	10 – Dwelling 0-15m from road frontage. 9 – Dwelling 16-30m from road frontage. 6 – Dwelling 31-50m from road frontage. 3 – Dwelling 51-69m from road frontage. 1 – Dwelling 70-100m from road frontage. 0 – Dwelling >100m from road frontage. Additional 5 points if dwelling is downwind of prevailing breezes.	10
Geometric design	Take into account the standard of the current geometric design of the unsealed road. This includes vertical/horizontal alignment, sight distance, etc. 0 – Width <6.0m. 6 – Poor horizontal, vertical alignment and width ≥6.0m. 8 – Good horizontal, vertical alignment and width ≥6.0m.	5
Speed environment	4 – Operating speed ≥100km/h. 3 – Operating speed 51-99km/h. 1 – Operating speed ≤50km/h.	10

6. Changes to this Procedure

This Procedure is to remain in force until otherwise amended/replaced by the Executive Director Infrastructure.

7. Repeals/Amendments

Version	Date	Action
1.0	21/12/2021	New Procedure – content derived from former/repealed policy of same name. Approved by Executive Director and endorsed by Council.

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