



Policy No. 2014-31

INSTALLATION AND USAGE OF CATTLE GRIDS

Responsible Officers: **General Manager/ Works & Services Manager**

For Review by: **General Manager/ Works & Services Manager**

Due Date for Review: **31/12/2016**

Approved by: /...../.....

Mayor

Date

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General Manager

..... /...../.....

Date

Adopted at Council Meeting:

8/12/2014

Date

POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to providing a safe and reliable road network for all users. Cattle grids are constructed on Council managed roads to effectively control stock using the road reserve where the road reserve is not completely fenced.

As a preferred option, Council discourages the use of cattle grids where possible. It is however recognised that cattle grids may be required under certain circumstances and Council may consent to their installation or retention provided they are installed, managed and maintained in compliance with this policy.

Scope

This policy applies to the installation and retention of all new cattle grids on Council owned roads within the Central Highlands Council municipal area.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that cattle grids are only installed for genuine farming purposes and to an appropriate and consistent standard which minimises safety risk to all road users.

The basic premise of this policy is that the landowner is fully responsible for the construction, ongoing maintenance, eventual decommissioning or removal of the cattle grid and having appropriate insurance that also covers Council's interests.

Criteria for Installation of Cattle Grids

1. A cattle grid can only be constructed if the following criteria are met:
 - The cattle grid must be used for genuine farming purposes only;
 - The owner must make written application to Council with all information Council may require, and Council may, after considering the application, give its consent to construct or retain the cattle grid.
 - Prior to making the application to Council, the owner must consult with the owners of all properties having access to the road on which the cattle grid is to be located. Any comments or feedback must be considered during the consideration of the application.

- The cattle grid must be located at a suitable location which will allow for current road usage patterns to continue and ensure that the future traffic requirements of the road will not be impeded
 - The cattle grid must be constructed in accordance with any cattle grid specification developed by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Tasmania and any other conditions required by Council.
2. Before any construction commences, the owner and Council must sign an agreement that the owner accepts full responsibility for all costs associated with the construction, ongoing maintenance and repair, and removal of the cattle grid. This agreement may set out any other condition to which Council's consent is subject.
 3. All cattle grids constructed under this policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are still required. If cattle grids are no longer required, the owner will be requested to remove the grid and reinstate the road, or Council will undertake the works and the owner will pay Council's costs of doing so.
 4. The owner constructing the cattle grid is required to extend their public liability insurance to cover any claims for liability occurring as a result of or in connection with the maintenance or use of the cattle grid. Public Liability Insurance shall have an individual event limit of \$10 million, and must be kept current while the cattle grid remains in place.

Consent and Ownership

1. Council consent to construct the cattle grid is to be given in writing.
2. Prior to construction commencing, the owner must advise Council's Works and Services Manager who shall undertake an inspection during construction and after completion to ensure the cattle grid complies with Council's requirements.
3. All cattle grids once constructed under this policy become the property of Council, notwithstanding the owner's responsibility to maintain them.
4. The landowner will be required to provide a Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance with a combined single limit of \$10 million prior to constructing the cattle grid and keep current for the life of the grid.

Location

A cattle grid must be installed at a location approved by Council. Consideration shall be given to issues including existing road traffic safety requirements such as existing road

alignment; safe sight distances etc. in evaluating the appropriateness of a proposed location.

Trafficable Width

The trafficable width of any cattle grids must be the greater of the minimum standard trafficable width for the road classification and the existing formation width. Where an existing cattle grid has been constructed with a width less than this, the signage provided must include a 'No Overtaking or Passing' warning sign on each approach.

A Grid Warning sign on either side of the grid, must be erected between 50 metres and 200 metres from the cattle grid or as determined in conjunction with the Councils Works Manager (it is not practical for example in some cases to have a sign because the grid is at immediate right angles to the road it comes off).

By-Pass Gate

Each cattle grid should have a by-pass gate made of resilient material comprising of two by 2.4 metre gates and should be arranged to be free swinging . This by-pass gate must remain unlocked and fully functional to allow unimpeded access. By -pass gates must be constructed at right angles to the road centreline.

Failure to Maintain

Failure to undertake maintenance on the cattle grid and associated signage may result in Council revoking its approval and removing the cattle grid structure from the road. Council will give notice to the owner to conduct repair work prior to taking any such action. If the owner fails to conduct the repair work in the repair notice, Council's approval will be revoked and the cattle grid and ancillary infrastructure will be removed.

All costs associated with the removal of the cattle grid must be paid by the owner and all materials salvaged remain the property of Council.

Inspection

The owner is responsible for undertaking regular inspections to ensure that the cattle grid complies with this policy and any other Council specified standards. Council staff will inspect the cattle grids as part of scheduled road inspections. Any identified defects will be advised to the owner for attention.