



# Abandoned Vehicles

Council is regularly called upon to investigate apparently abandoned vehicles on road reserves. Abandoned vehicles are unsightly and dangerous, creating an eyesore which can encourage vandalism, endangering lives, property and the environment.

Abandoned vehicles are a problem in our community and there is an expectation that roads should be free of discarded, unsightly and potentially dangerous vehicles which may impede traffic flow. These vehicles can be the subject of undesirable activity including vandalism, theft and habitation.

Any unregistered vehicle, caravan, trailer or similar that is parked on any roadway or public place under the control of Council can be removed if abandoned.

## What is meant by abandoned?

A vehicle is abandoned if:

- The vehicle has been there for an unusual length of time
- The vehicle has a derelict appearance and appears inoperable
- The owner cannot be located
- The vehicle is not currently registered or has no registration plates.

## How is the vehicle removed?

Once Council have received a report of an abandoned vehicle, an Officer will inspect the vehicle to determine if it is abandoned, and reasonable attempts are made to contact the owner and have the vehicle removed to private property.

Should the vehicle have some form of identification such as number plates, Council will perform the required searches in an attempt to determine the last known owner of the vehicle.

A notice to remove the vehicle is placed on the windscreen of the vehicle and, if an owner is identified, a notice is also posted to their last known address.

To assist in identifying vehicles already under investigation the Officer will place an orange 'Vehicle has been Reported' sticker on the windscreen of the vehicle with contact details and a date the vehicle is to be removed by.

A follow up inspection is conducted to determine if the vehicle has been removed. If the vehicle has not been removed Council will arrange for the vehicle to be relocated to secure storage. A public notice will be placed in the newspaper advising of the vehicle impoundment, and where able a notice is posted to the person responsible for the vehicle. The Police are also provided details of the impounded vehicle to determine whether or not they have an interest in the vehicle.

## After Impoundment

All abandoned vehicles impounded by Council are stored in a secure facility for a period of one month. After this time if the vehicle remains unclaimed it will be auctioned, all proceeds from the sale of the vehicle are used to pay Council costs.

If the vehicle is claimed the applicant must supply proof of ownership or right to possession of the vehicle, or if acting on behalf of the vehicle owner, proof of their identity and authority to act on behalf of the owner. The applicant must pay all expenses incurred by Council in connection with the removal and detention of the vehicle before the vehicle will be released.

