

## UPGRADING OF UNSEALED RURAL ROADS TO SEALED STANDARD POLICY (COMMUNITY POLICY)

### 1. Scope:

This policy applies to unsealed rural road within Rockhampton Regional Council excluding:

- Driveway accesses from the road to the property boundary;
- New road reserves created by the re-configuration of a lot;
- The sealing of an existing unsealed road, required as a result of an application under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*; and
- Intermittent seals adjacent to habitable dwellings, generally less than 200 metres in length.

The “Unsealed Roads Manual - Guidelines to Good Practice” published by the 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 Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) has adopted the general principles of this philosophy and will initially concentrate resources on roads, which have traffic counts exceeding 150 vehicles per day, or on roads that have exceptional maintenance or safety issues.

### 2. Purpose:

To provide a measurable and transparent assessment framework for the consistent assessment of requests to upgrade an unsealed rural road to a sealed standard, and allows for a systematic approach to determining the priority listing for the upgrading of individual unsealed roads to a sealed standard.

### 3. Related Documents:

#### Primary

Nil

#### Secondary

*Sustainable Planning Act 2009*

ARRB – Unsealed Roads Manual – Guidelines to Good Practice (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition March 2009)

Upgrading of Unsealed Rural Roads to Sealed Standard Procedure

### 4. Definitions:

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply:

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Council</b> | Rockhampton Regional Council |
|----------------|------------------------------|

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|                          |                           |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Adopted/Approved:</b> | Adopted, 10 November 2009 | <b>Department:</b> | Regional Services |
| <b>Version:</b>          | 1                         | <b>Section:</b>    | Civil Operations  |
| <b>Reviewed Date:</b>    | Approved, 5 February 2015 | <b>Page No.:</b>   | Page 1 of 3       |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Dwelling</b>      | A building or structure which has been approved for use as a habitable building or structure.                                 |
| <b>Rural</b>         | Geographic area that is located outside of an urban area being cities and towns.  |
| <b>Rural Road</b>    | A road servicing allotments in a rural area, for which the majority of allotments have a road frontage in excess of 40metres. |
| <b>Unsealed Road</b> | A rough road that has no hard surface.  |

**5. Policy Statement:**

Unsealed rural roads will be considered for sealing on a priority basis in accordance with the assessment framework within this policy and the Upgrading of Unsealed Rural Roads to Sealed Standard procedure.

**5.1 Priority Listing**

Priority for sealing rural roads will be determined by an evaluation system based on:

- Traffic volume;
- Percentage of commercial vehicles;
- Bus routes;
- Public safety;
- Traffic flows; and
- Road geometry.

The priority listing will be reviewed annually on the basis of the latest data available. Generally, priority will be given to roads with higher than 150 vehicles per day and/or roads or sections of roads with abnormal values of the abovementioned characteristics and documented high maintenance costs.

Roads subject to this policy will be assessed in accordance with one of the following categories:

- Low cost minimum standard seals; or
- Full construction.

**5.2 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;
- New road reserves created by the re-configuration of a lot;
- The sealing of an existing unsealed road, required as a result of an application under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*;and
- Intermittent seals adjacent to habitable dwellings, generally less than 200 metres in length.

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**6. Review Timelines:**

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

- 6.1. The related information is amended or replaced; or
- 6.2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the Council

**7. Responsibilities:**

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sponsor                | Chief Executive Officer            |
| Business Owner         | General Manager Regional Services  |
| Policy Owner           | Manager Civil Operations           |
| Policy Quality Control | Corporate Improvement and Strategy |

**EVAN PARDON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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