



## Roads policy

<b>Classification</b>	Policy
<b>Strategic reference</b>	Goal 4 Organisational : Effective governance and organisational efficiencies
<b>Relevant legislation</b>	Local Government Act 1999
<b>Relevant documents</b>	Service range policy
<b>Responsible officer</b>	Manager Infrastructure Services
<b>Date adopted</b>	December 2020
<b>Next review date</b>	December 2023

### Introduction

This is a service level policy.

Council provides a comprehensive public road network and maintains a publicly accessible public road register.

The roads provide a service to motorists and other road users. Council is committed to maintaining these services, at levels which meet community expectations and technical measures of performance.

This policy's intentions are to provide guidance to Council staff and the community on the level of service that Council will provide in managing road assets. The service levels take into account targets established for Council's financial performance and other competing demands for Council's financial resources.

### Legislative context

The *Local Government Act 1999* provides that:

- "All public roads in the area of a council are vested in the council" (Section 208(1))
- "A council may carry out roadwork in its area" (Section 212(1)).

As public roads are vested in a Council, the legislation confers a power on a Council to maintain these assets. Maintenance permits the roads to continue providing a service to road users.

### Policy objectives

This policy aims to provide a systematic method of identification, evaluation and prioritisation of maintenance works on Council's road network. This policy will assist Council's decision making process and support procedures that provide a simple, systematic and risk management approach to the maintenance of public roads.

The implementation of this policy aims to minimise public liability exposure and provides a best value service to the community in relation to provision of road infrastructure services.

As a general rule Council will seek to undertake maintenance works on a priority basis as identified during inspection and reporting utilising Council's Infrastructure Asset Management Plan and established patrol grading frequencies. Road maintenance levels are directly dependant on funding levels made available each financial year.

### **Means of delivery of this service**

Council will deliver its road service standards by employing road maintenance staff, and engaging contractors as required.

### **How the service is funded**

Operating expenses associated with Council's road services are funded by general rates revenue, and grants received. Council determines the annual budget for its sealed and unsealed road maintenance annually as part of its annual business plan and budget process. Council considers the appropriate allocation of funding necessary to achieve the best possible long term overall condition of the road network while balancing the competing needs within Council for the limited funds available.

### **Service levels**

Road maintenance activities applicable to both sealed and unsealed roads include:

- Open and piped drainage maintenance
- Guidepost maintenance
- Guardrail maintenance
- Sign maintenance
- Weed and vegetation control (including roadside slashing and tree maintenance).

Council has an established and documented roads hierarchy of five categories:

1. Major connecting road (major route in and out of district or to significant internal site)
2. Major Internal road (major route for distribution of traffic throughout the district)
3. Secondary internal road (generally a local road however maybe part of a secondary through route for internal and external traffic)
4. Local road (primary use by local traffic for access to rural properties or route to connecting road)
5. Minor road (limited local use, no through road, private tracks)

Service levels are responsive to this hierarchy.

The levels of service for sealed and unsealed roads are described in the following two tables.

Sealed roads		
Category	Service measure	Attribute
Community levels of service	Quality	Provide a smooth ride
	Function	Meets user requirements for accessibility
	Safety	Reduce hazards and increase safety
Technical levels of service	Condition	Provide a smooth ride
		Maintain seal
	Cost effectiveness	Proactive Maintenance
	Safety	Provide a safe road network
<p><b>Council service level</b></p> <p>The condition of sealed roads varies significantly and is impacted by a number of factors including method and age of construction, road geometry and topography as well as previous maintenance regimes</p> <p>Inspections will be undertaken as required and where concerns are raised with Council over the condition of a sealed road. The sealed road maintenance schedule will be reviewed annually based on recent inspections, history, risk assessment, asset management and available funding.</p> <p>Maintenance activities on the sealed road network include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pothole patching and edge break repair</li> <li>• Minor heavy patching of failures</li> <li>• Shoulder grading</li> <li>• Kerb and gutter maintenance</li> <li>• Street sweeping, and</li> <li>• Pavement marking</li> </ul> <p>The maintenance frequency for roads will be based on the requirements specific to the road. Sometimes roads will receive targeted action rather than full maintenance. This will be determined following inspection.</p>		

Un-sealed roads		
Category	Service measure	Attribute
Community levels of service	Quality	Provide a smooth ride
	Function	Meets user requirements for accessibility
	Safety	Reduce hazards and increase safety
Technical levels of service	Condition	Provide a smooth ride
	Cost effectiveness	Proactive Maintenance
	Safety	Provide a safe road network
<p><b>Council service level</b></p> <p>The condition of unsealed roads varies greatly due to traffic type and usage, topography, construction material, maintenance materials and climate variations.</p> <p>Maintenance activities on the unsealed road network include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrol (maintenance) grading</li> <li>• Forming</li> <li>• Sand hole patching</li> <li>• Shoulder grading</li> </ul> <p>Inspections will be undertaken as required or in accordance with the grading frequency where the frequency is greater than twice per year. Inspections will also be undertaken where concerns are raised with Council over the condition of an unsealed road. The unsealed road maintenance schedule will be reviewed annually based on recent inspections, history, risk assessment, asset management and available funding.</p> <p>Maintenance will be based on road classification, risk and maintenance requirements. This means that very low volume roads receive relatively limited targeted maintenance.</p> <p>In periods of severe weather conditions Council may cease or alter maintenance activities. This could include during drought periods due to lack of available water, due to fire risk or during periods of extended rainfall.</p> <p>The maintenance frequency for unsealed roads will be based on the requirements specific to the road. Sometimes roads will receive targeted action rather than full maintenance. This will be determined following inspection. The established maintenance frequency is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Category 1 and 2 roads - four grades per year</li> <li>• Category 3 and 4 roads – two grades per year</li> <li>• Category 5 – one grade per year</li> </ul> <p>Grading work undertaken is based on inspection and targeted response.</p>		

## **Policy statements**

The service levels expressed in this policy:

- are based on community consultation;
- recognise the importance of Council's long term financial sustainability;
- take into account the limited resources available to Council;
- provide the direction for other relevant plans developed by Council; and
- are subject to review as circumstances change.

Council's performance in meeting the specified levels will be reported on an annual basis

## **Policy review**

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed every three years, or as necessary.

## **Further information**

This document is available on Council's website [www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au](http://www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au) and at the principal office of the Southern Mallee District Council at Day Street, Pinnaroo SA 5304.

A copy of this document may be purchased from Council.