



## ***Road Network Extension and Upgrade Policy***

<b>Policy Classification</b>	Council Policy
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<b>Applicable Legislation:</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1999</i> <i>Road Traffic Act 1961</i> <i>Australian Road Rules</i>
<b>Related Policies or Documents:</b>	Kangaroo Island Bushfire Management Area Plan (2017) Kangaroo Island Council Infrastructure Asset Management Plan Kangaroo Island Council Strategic Plan Council's Road Hierarchy South Australian Firebreaks, Fire Access Track and Sign Standards Guidelines 2015
<b>Associated Forms:</b>	NA
<b>Responsible Manager:</b>	Director Works & Infrastructure
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## Road Network Extension & Upgrade Policy

### 1. Preamble

- 1.1. Council recognises that the care and management of its existing road infrastructure assets is an essential element in achieving the organisation's stated mission and to meet the present and future needs of the community.
- 1.2. Council will not develop and construct a new road nor upgrade an existing road unless:
  - 1.2.1. the associated construction or upgrade costs are fully borne by the Applicant/s, or
  - 1.2.2. the construction or upgrade is undertaken with the assistance of a significant financial co-contribution provided by the Applicant/s, they having proven the construction or upgrade is warranted within Kangaroo Island Council's Strategic Management Plans and, subsequently, having any related costs included in the current budget, or
  - 1.2.3. Council receives grant funding to construct or upgrade a road and the construction or upgrade is warranted within Kangaroo Island Council's Strategic Management Plans and any related costs are included in the current budget.

### 2. Purpose

- 2.1. This Policy provides a basis for Kangaroo Island Council [Council] to determine the merit of applications to extend or upgrade the Kangaroo Island Council road network. This policy applies to those roads, existing or proposed, that are or will become part of the Kangaroo Island road network for which Council has due responsibility and, as such, excludes private roads and roads that fall under the responsibility of other governmental custodians, whether state or federal.

### 3. Scope

- 3.1. This Policy applies when Council considers any request to upgrade (develop, upgrade, extend, widen, redirect) roads on Kangaroo Island including those raised internally.

### 4. Definitions

- 4.1. **Asset Management** means the combination of management, financial, economic, engineering and other practices applied to physical assets with the objective of providing the required level of service in the most cost effective manner.
- 4.2. **CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Kangaroo Island Council.
- 4.3. **Council** means the Kangaroo Island Council and covers both the Elected Body and Administration.
- 4.4. **Council Administration** means the staff of Kangaroo Island Council.
- 4.5. **DEW** means Department of Environment and Water.
- 4.6. **Elected Body** means the Elected Members of Kangaroo Island Council.

- 4.7. **GAFMWG** means Government Agencies Fire Management Working Group.
- 4.8. **IAMP** means Infrastructure Asset Management Plan.
- 4.9. **New works** means works that create a new asset that did not previously exist.
- 4.10. **TPA** means Threatened Plant Species.
- 4.11. **Renewal works** means major work which does not increase the asset's design capacity but restores, rehabilitates, replaces or renews an existing asset to its original service potential.
- 4.12. **Upgrade works** means works which upgrade or improve an existing asset beyond its existing capacity.
- 4.13. **Whole of Life Cost** means the total cost of an asset throughout its life including planning, design, construction, acquisition, operation, maintenance, rehabilitation and disposal costs.

## 5. Policy Statement

### 5.1. Funding for road works

- 5.1.1. Council's current road development rate-revenue funded budgets are supplemented by state and federal government funding streams for the maintenance of roads and associated infrastructure assets. However, those combined funding streams cannot support all of Kangaroo Island's road infrastructure needs and, with no guarantee that the funding will continue indefinitely, Council must prioritise its road development and maintenance based upon volume/rate-of-use and community' socio-economic needs.
- 5.1.2. Therefore, Council's opportunities to fund road extensions or upgrades are limited and such works should be funded under the guiding principles of this Policy. In expressed terms; Council's funding for applications (external and internal) to extend or upgrade the road network is dependant upon;
  - a. the funds being available in the Council's annual budget for such purposes;
  - b. those funds only being utilized for planned, priority community road network programmes – unless -
    - i. additional funds are gained via State and/or Federal funding streams,
    - ii. evidentiary need being established. That being that a case for priority development be made based upon community socio-economic need; or
    - iii. negotiated individual or group need [connecting private property/ies to the established road network]. In which case the Applicant/s would pay in full or, where appropriate, a co-contribution funding agreement would be undertaken between Council and the Applicant/s.

- 5.1.3. Regardless of a case for road development being made and proven; point 2.1 shall stand as first-point-of-reference in all discussions and considerations.

## 5.2. Principles for allocation of funding

- 5.2.1. Council is committed to directing available resources to the most cost-effective outcomes and/or essential services for the community, based on sound and robust Asset Management Principles.

- 5.2.2. Council will achieve this objective by:

- a. giving priority to funding the maintenance and renewal of existing road infrastructure ahead of extending or upgrading the road network;
- b. requiring applicant/s to pay for any requested extension or upgrade to the road network where the applicant/s is/are the primary beneficiary/ies;
- c. only considering applications for extension or upgrade to the road network where no other all-weather access (gravel road) or road frontage is available.
- d. the applicant/s agreeing to meet the cost of works to establish the road surface, fencing, stormwater, traffic control measures and any other condition to the satisfaction of Council.
- e. the applicant/s agreeing to meet the full cost of any application, clearance and Significant Environmental Benefit Offset, in accordance with the Native Vegetation Act. [ See below]
- f. subject to the applicant/s meeting certain criteria for the development of a new road and funds being allocated within the Council budget; Council may consider an offer of co-contribution towards the cost of constructing the road surface where the applicant/s can demonstrate that the extension or upgrade will provide benefit to the wider community.

## 5.3. Council's priorities for expenditure on its road network are as follows:

- 5.3.1. Maintenance and renewal of the existing road network.
- 5.3.2. Funding improvements for identified priorities based on Council's adopted Road Hierarchy and IAMP.
- 5.3.3. Works which reduce the future maintenance costs of Council and/or significantly extend the useful life of existing assets.
- 5.3.4. Works that provide a demonstrable, sustainable socio-economic benefit to the wider community.

## 5.4. Minimum standards for the development and maintenance of a Public Road.

- 5.4.1. Kangaroo Island Council is bound by legislated Standards that determine the level of service with regard to road types, construction, geometry and ongoing maintenance. These Standards must comply with Australian Standard 1742:

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Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and/or Austroads' Guidelines for Rural Road Design / Urban Road Design.

5.4.2. Public roads constructed by Council, or those constructed by land developers with Council's approval, are classified within the IAMP of Council and are listed as follows:

- a. Township Roads
  - i. High Use
  - ii. Medium Use
  - iii. Low Use
- b. Rural Roads
  - i. High Use
  - ii. Medium Use
  - iii. Low Use
  - iv. Very Low Use
- c. GAFMWG (not currently in the IAMP):
  - i. Major Fire Track
  - ii. Standard Fire Track
  - iii. Minor Fire Track
  - iv. Service Track

5.4.3. All other private access tracks, trails, pathways and driveways (not listed as maintained by Council in Council's IAMP) are the responsibility of the landowner and only require Council Development approval if they are situated within the coastal belt [100 meters from the high-tide line], are on a listed heritage site or exceed the property boundary. That said; the GAFMWG South Australian Firebreaks, Fire Access Track and Sign Standards Guidelines [2015] state: In reviewing firebreaks and access tracks a number of issues need to be considered:

- a. Environmental - Firebreaks and access tracks should be located where they will have the least impact on the environment, unless there are no acceptable alternatives. Environmental considerations include - significant flora and fauna, reduced scenic values, erosion (related to soil type/steepness and rainfall). Asset protection may require environmental compromises. Seek expert advice regarding environmental implications of firebreaks and access tracks.

- b. Safety - Implicit in the planning process is the clear understanding of why a firebreak or access track is in a certain location and how it will perform. Included in this consideration are the limitations of a firebreak or access track and the fire conditions when it will not be safe. This information must be known by users of a firebreak or access track to maximise both personal safety and performance of the firebreak or access track.  
Note: In addition, consideration should be given to the Kangaroo Island Bushfire Management Area Plan (2017) and association Risk and Treatment register.
- c. Effectiveness - Like safety, effectiveness should be considered at the planning stage and is clearly a component of fire suppression planning. The effectiveness of firebreaks and access tracks will be increased by locating them in vegetation of lowest fuel load.

5.5. Approval and Ongoing Maintenance of New Roads or Road Upgrades where applicant meets full cost

5.5.1. Providing that the following conditions are met and the Applicant meets the full cost of upgrading the road, Council will approve:

- a. Creation of a new public road (generally by way of land division), providing:
  - i. All relevant Development Approvals are given
  - ii. The full cost including all legal costs of opening the public road and in-full of works to establish fencing, stormwater, traffic control measures and any other condition to the satisfaction of Council.
  - iii. The applicant providing a road surface commensurate with Council's Engineering Guidelines for Development, Development Conditions and Road Hierarchy.
- b. Opening a road reserve to traffic, providing
  - i. All relevant Development Approvals are given
  - ii. There are no other all-weather access (gravel road) or road frontage is available
  - iii. The applicant providing an earth road formation.
- c. Upgrading a Formed Road to an Unsealed Road
  - i. There are no other all-weather access (gravel road) or road frontage is available.
  - ii. The applicant providing a gravel road formation to the standard applicable under the Engineering Guidelines for Development and Council's adopted Road Hierarchy.

- iii. Subject to condition 5.5.1 (c) (i), and subject to there being sufficient funds available and in consideration of the additional benefits to the Community in excess of those to be received by the Applicant, Council will consider co-contributing to the cost towards the provision of all-weather access (gravel road) to the subject property boundary by the shortest approved route from the existing road network.

d. Upgrading an Unsealed Road to a Sealed Road

- i. The applicant providing a sealed road pavement to the standard applicable under the Engineering Guidelines for Development and Council's adopted Road Hierarchy.
- ii. Subject to there being sufficient funds available and in consideration of the additional benefits to the Community in excess of those to be received by the Applicant, Council will consider co-contributing to the cost towards the provision of a sealed road access based on the public/private benefit and where the whole of life cost to provide a sealed road is less than the whole of life cost to provide a gravel road.

5.5.2. Unless otherwise required by a Condition of Development or Agreement, Council will maintain the road after it is constructed and after any applicable defects liability periods, at Council's cost, in accordance with the applicable category within Council's adopted Road Hierarchy.

5.6. Access to property

5.6.1. Construction and maintenance of an access point from edge of travelled way to property boundary shall be the responsibility of the landowner and shall be constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Asset Services Department and in accordance with the Kangaroo Island Council Infrastructure Guidelines. (refer section 218 of the *Local Government Act 1999*).

5.6.2. Council will offer final approval to those applicants who have undertaken complying processes with regard to the clearance of Native Vegetation on the alignment of a road proposed to be upgraded. Actions required may be (but not limited to):

- a. application to the Native Vegetation Council for approval to clear vegetation;
- b. application to Kangaroo Island Council seeking approval to clear native vegetation;
- c. confirmation by the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) of the existence of any Threatened Plant Species (TPS) and any measures required to protect these species;
- d. other as directed.

**6. Availability & Grievances**



- 6.1. This Procedure will be available for inspection at the Council offices at 43 Dauncey Street, Kingscote during ordinary business hours and available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's internet site: [www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au](http://www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au)
- 6.2. Copies will be provided to interested parties upon request. Email [kicouncil@kicouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:kicouncil@kicouncil.sa.gov.au)
- 6.3. Any grievances in relation to this Procedure or its application should be forwarded in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Kangaroo Island Council, PO Box 121, Kingscote SA, 5223.

SIGNED:



Chief Executive Officer

Date: 14 September 2021

## HISTORY

Date Reviewed:	Version:	Reason for Amendment:
	Version 1	Adopted by Council on 12 / March / 2014. Minute Reference Item 10.7
11 August 2015	Version 2	Mandatory review post Local Government Election and new logo update.
13 February 2018	Version 3	Periodic Review. Minute C57:2018
14 September 2021	Version 4	Combination of Policy & Procedure and Template update.