

Installation of Cattle Underpass Policy



Policy Objective

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a uniform and acceptable standard of construction for cattle underpasses that allow for the daily movement of cattle across Council (local) roads without affecting other users of the carriageway.

It also establishes responsibility for on-going maintenance of the facility.

Corporate Plan

The Physical Services Section of Council's approved Corporate Plan, section 3.1, states that Council "will provide appropriate infrastructure and other facilities to the community".

Construction of cattle underpasses is fully compliant with and supports this Corporate objective.

General

The Wellington Shire Council supports the construction of cattle underpasses as a means of improving road safety and limiting damage to local roads and verges resulting from the regular movement of cattle across roadways. The Common Law rights of landowners to move stock along roadways, is recognised by Council.

All cattle underpasses must have a concrete floor, or other approved impervious material, and provision for drainage. Council will not accept responsibility for inconvenience, damage and/or stock loss owing to flooding, except in the case where such damage or loss is a direct result of negligence on behalf of Council, its employees or contractors.

The location, design and construction of underpasses, must be approved by Council. In addition, crossings shall comply with relevant VicRoads highway loadings and recommended structure widths for the particular road under question.

The property owner(s) requesting the underpass will be responsible for all costs associated with the construction of the structure including road pavement, surfacing (seal), guard rail, signage and line marking. In the event that additional road safety facilities are installed other than those required for the underpass then Council shall bear the cost of such additional installations.

Except for the road surface (seal), pavement, guard rail, signage and line marking, on-going maintenance and repair of the underpass will be the responsibility of the property owner(s) served by the underpass.

Application

This policy applies to all Council controlled roads throughout Wellington Shire. It does not apply to roads under the control of Australian Paper Plantations, Victorian Plantations Corp and the VicRoads declared road system i.e. Highways, Main Roads, Forest Roads and Tourist Roads.

A \$500 deposit will be required to be paid at the time of application. This deposit will be fully refundable upon final approval of the underpass.

Council Contribution - Construction

Council will assume responsibility for the construction of all or part of the guard rail, signage, pavement and seal components associated with the construction of all approved underpasses located on Council (Local) Roads throughout the Wellington Shire. The value of the construction works for which Council will be responsible shall not exceed \$3000. Council will not consider any retrospective payments or contributions for works carried out prior to the adoption of this policy.

Approval Authority

Where an underpass is to be constructed under a local road, approval is to be obtained from the Wellington Shire Council.

Design Requirements

All underpasses are to be constructed in accordance with an approved engineer's design and shall include all necessary guardrail, signage, line marking and other roadside furniture. Unless proprietary brand culverts are being used, structural computations on the adequacy of the culverts will be required. In either case, a statement as to the load capacity of the culverts shall be provided either by the culvert manufacturer or structural engineer.

When seeking approval to construct a cattle underpass, plans must be provided that show a detailed locality plan together with all design details (specification) necessary for construction of the underpass. Information and design necessary to provide appropriate drainage must also be submitted.

Approvals will not be granted where:

- There is less than 1.8 metre clear height in the underpass
- Guardrails are not specified in accordance with relevant VicRoads standards and there is insufficient clear width between the traffic lanes and the ends of the culverts.

General Conditions

Upon approval of plans, the applicant shall enter into a formal agreement which shall be registered on title pursuant to Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by the owner and at the owner's cost, which formalises the following arrangements:

Construction

- (i) The crossing is to be constructed in accordance with the approved design,
- (ii) The underpass must be connected to a drainage system approved by the Environment Protection Authority,
- (iii) Appropriate service authorities such as Telstra, Southern Rural Water and Eastern Energy are to be advised of the proposed works,
- (iv) Council is to be advised at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of works to enable Council to inspect the works,
- (v) Traffic control signs and other traffic control measures are to be erected in accordance with Worksite Traffic Management (Roadworks Signing) Code of Practice and maintained for the duration of the works,
- (viii) Except for the road surface (seal), pavement, line marking, signage and guardrail, the landowner must indemnify, and keep indemnified, Council against any claims for damages resulting from any losses or injury associated with the cattle underpass,
- (ix) In the event that ground water is encountered during the course of construction then approval to the method of disposal of such water must be obtained from Southern Rural Water.
- (x) "As constructed" drawings are to be supplied to the Wellington Shire Council, including the floor levels of the crossing, within 4 weeks of completion of work.

Maintenance

- (i) The landowner is required to maintain in good condition, at all times, the underpass, drainage, and stock approaches to the satisfaction of Council,
- (ii) Subject to final approval to the construction of the underpass, Council will assume responsibility for the on going maintenance and repair of the road surface (seal), pavement, line marking, signage and guard rail.