

Cattle Grids and Gates on Council Roads

Policy type	Council
Function	Infrastructure Services
Policy Owner	Asset Engineering
Effective date	25 July 2024

1. Purpose

To establish the framework for Council's management of new and existing cattle grids (grids) across local government-controlled roads to ensure adverse impacts on vehicles and pedestrians are minimised.

To ensure a consistent standard of construction and maintenance for approved grids on Council roads.

This Policy constitutes best practice management for the purposes of Council's Local Laws.

2. Background

It is desirable to have a considered and consistent approach to the installation, maintenance and removal of grids and gates on Council roads. Historically, an approval process was not enforced for grids, resulting in grids of varied and unsatisfactory standards.

Local Laws allow for a permit approval process for grids and provide conditions to the approval. An approval will also provide for ongoing monitoring and compliance. Together this provides best practice management for the activity.

3. Scope

The *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) specifies Council has control of all roads in its local government area. Council can make local law "to regulate the construction, maintenance and use of ancillary works and encroachments along, in, over or under roads" (s.60(2)(f)(ii)).

Council needs to allow for the safe and unimpeded movement of all traffic. The installation of a new grid is considered a prescribed activity under Council's local laws and must be approved by Council prior to construction. Any cost involved in the construction of a new grid or maintenance of an existing grid will be the responsibility of the Permit Holder.

Council will apply this policy to existing, old or legacy grids to the extent possible. This includes for the purposes of maintenance, safety and public liability.

4. Definitions

CCRC or **Council** – means Cassowary Coast Regional Council

Approval – means an approval issues by Council prior to the installation of a grid on a local government-controlled road.

Engineer's report – means a report by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland Certification showing how the grid meets the Council specifications.

Local Government controlled road – means all roads in Council's local government area is it is responsible for controlling. This excludes State controlled roads.

Permit holder – means the person named in the permit who is constructing or installing the cattle grid and associated works. Or otherwise the adjacent land holder, or the person benefitting from the cattle grid.

5. Principles

Where a person wishes to construct a cattle grid on Council owned land, or on a property access crossover on Council owned land, the grid needs to be approved by Council. Council will only approve the grid subject to the demonstrated need for the grid and subject to the conditions of a permit.

Maintenance of any grid is the responsibility of the Permit Holder. The Permit Holder must have appropriate insurance during the construction stage, and ongoing public liability insurance valued at \$20 million with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council noted as an interested party.

Any grid on Council roads must meet Council's requirements. Appropriate signage is required.

6. Policy

6.1 Cattle grids – general

It is undesirable for grids, gates or fences on public roads as they restrict or impede movement of traffic and pose potential safety risks including by allowing livestock on roads. Grids and livestock on roads add to Council's maintenance burden and damage road surfaces.

Where there is a demonstrated need for a grid, safe public access should be provided.

Further, construction, maintenance and removal costs rest with the person applying for or benefiting from the grid.

6.1.1 Grids and related works – construction and installation


A person seeking to install a grid across a local government-controlled road will be required to apply to Council on the approved Form, pay the required fee and provide all the required information and supporting documentation requested.

An engineer's report is required to confirm the structural adequacy of the design to accommodate anticipated vehicle loadings.

The person seeking approval is solely responsible for payment of the Required Fee.

The installation of signs associated with the grid will be to the required standard and at the cost of the Permit Holder.

Upon completion, the new grid must have Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland Certification.



The permit holder has responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the grid, including repair and where necessary removal.

6.1.2 Grids – maintenance requirements

Council will inspect grids from time to time, and where necessary a condition assessment report will be provided to the Permit Holder.

Where removal of a grid or gate is required, removal and reinstatement of the road is the responsibility of the Permit Holder.

6.1.3 Grids where the owner cannot be identified

Where Council cannot determine the owner, the person who constructed or benefits from an existing grid, Council will assess the grid, associated gates and fencing against the requirements of this policy and necessary remediation will be identified.

Council may also remove the grid.

6.1.4 Defective grids – compliance

If a grid or related works are found to be defective, Council will:

- (i) Notify the Permit Holder to take remedial action
- (ii) Manage any non-compliance in accordance with Council's procedures
- (iii) If there is no permit for the grid, Council may remove the grid and recoup costs from the person who installed the grid, or otherwise the adjacent land holder, or the person benefitting from the cattle grid.

6.1.5 Grids – construction standards

The standards and specifications will be set out in the approval to undertake works. These will reflect the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, or otherwise as specified by the Director of Infrastructure Services. See **Attachment A**.


6.1.6 Grids – specifications and engineering

The permit will provide that the construction or installation will need to meet certain requirements. These may include:

- (i) engineering specifications
- (ii) alignment with the road
- (iii) approach and departure levels
- (iv) managing width
- (v) frangible zones
- (vi) drainage
- (vii) bypass gates
- (viii) fencing
- (ix) drawings
- (x) any other relevant matter.

6.2 Gates and fences

Gates and fences are prohibited on Council roads per local laws. To avoid doubt, gates are only appropriate to address specific safety or security issues and Council will not approve gates and fences, proposed by others, on the maintained road network.



Related forms, policies and procedures	Property Access Crossover Policy and Guidelines		
Relevant legislation	<i>Local Government Act 2009 (Qld), section 60(1) and (2)(f)(ii)</i> Cassowary Coast Regional Council Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2022 Cassowary Coast Regional Council Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads) 2022		
Reference and resources	Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads standard drawings		
Policy Number	19615		
Approved by	Council Resolution LG1779	Approval date	25 July 2024
Review date	25 July 2027		

ATTACHMENT A

STANDARD DRAWINGS FOR CATTLE GRIDS

For the purpose of this policy, the following standard drawings from the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads as varied from time to time, will apply.

Drawing No.	Name	Version
SD1353	Road Furniture – Vermin and Dog Fencing at Motor Grid	C
SD1354	Road Furniture – Standard Bicycle Safe Fitting to Existing Motor Grid	D
SD1355	Road Furniture – Alternative Bicycle Safe Fitting to Existing Motor Grid	B
SD1561	Road Furniture - Motor Grid - General Arrangement (Drawing 1 and 2)	C
SD1562	Road Furniture - Motor Grid - Cast Insitu Abutment	C
SD1563	Road Furniture - Motor Grid - Cast Insitu Base Slab (Drawing 1 and 2)	C
SD1564	Road Furniture - Motor Grid - Precast Base Slab (Drawing 1 and 2)	C
SD1565	Road Furniture - Motor Grid - Steelworks	B