

Footpath Construction Policy

Reference Number:	Section 8 No. 8
Responsible Department:	Infrastructure & Environment
Related Policy/Procedure:	
Date of Adoption:	25 September 2012
Current Review Date:	27 April 2021
Minute Reference:	IC10.4.3/2021
Version Number:	Amendment No. 3
Applicable Legislation:	
Next Review Date:	April 2024
Review Frequency:	Triennially

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the standards, priorities and funding sources for the installation of footpaths across the Light Regional Council.

2. Aim

This policy aims to provide some rationale for the prioritisation of footpaths throughout the area with the main aim of developing a network of footpaths that provide accessibility to those areas where people are most likely to be walking.

3. Background

Traditionally Council has considered the rubbled verges within towns to be footpaths. These were recorded in its IAMP up until mid-2012 and were depreciated. A policy shift occurred and these assets are no longer recorded or valued as footpaths. A reduction in the depreciation attributed to these assets eventuated however in accordance with the IAMP, an amount of approximately 5% of the annual Capital Works Budget will be directed towards capital upgrade of footpaths.

This policy addresses the guidelines for prioritising footpath upgrades and how Council will deal with managing roadside verges (previously referred to as footpaths within townships) prior to having a sealed footpath constructed.

4. Definitions

Capital Works Budget	The budget allocation aimed at renewal of assets under the various chapters of the IAMP
Council	Light Regional Council
IAMP	Means the Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan and/or any other draft document thereof.
Sealed Footpath	A footpath, walking trail or bike path with an all-weather surface such as block paving, concrete, asphalt, spray seal bitumen or the like
Rubbled Footpath	A purpose built footpath, walking trail or bike path that is not a sealed footpath.

5. Footpath Priority Criteria

The intent of the proposed program is to provide sealed footpaths in high foot traffic areas such as near schools, doctors' surgeries, playgrounds or aged care facilities. These areas tend to have a higher proportion of people using wheelchairs, walking frames or prams and quite often people whose mobility is restricted. It is these people who will benefit from having a smooth level surface to walk on.

As such the following criteria shall be the priority order for paving footpaths:

1. Township main streets that have service facilities;
2. Primary schools;
3. Areas where public may have limited mobility such as doctors surgeries, aged care facilities etc;
4. Secondary schools and public facilities such as toilets, halls etc;
5. Linking of footpaths that have been paved previously
6. Heavily trafficked footpaths to schools.

The above criteria will only apply where the street is sealed and has kerb and guttering

6. New Construction

All upgrades of unsealed roads within townships shall have a sealed footpath included as part of the works and shall be funded as part of the road upgrade program. The Footpath Upgrade Program shall be separate to this.

7. Construction Standards

All new construction shall be in accordance with Council's construction standards that apply from time to time.

8. Existing Township Verges

While the above criteria sets out a plan of implementing a sealed footpath network a clear plan needs to be developed for those roads that do not fit into the criteria or that are lower on the priority list. As such it is proposed to undertake works on these areas from the Maintenance budget only rather than the Capital program. This work will be of a basic nature and will either install a new rubbled verge or will reinstate an existing rubbled verge to enable pedestrian movements to occur away from the road carriageway.

This philosophy will enable Council to respond to requests from the community for footpaths in areas that have not previously had them.

9. Review and Re-evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be continuously evaluated in conjunction with organisational daily works, so as to ensure its effectiveness.

The Council will formerly review this policy triennially as a part of its Policy Review Program

10. History of Policy Amendments:

Policy Adopted at Council Meeting held 25 September 2012 at Item I&RS9.5.1/2012. Page 2012/232

1. *Policy Amendment No. 1 reviewed at Council Meeting held 26 May 2015 at Item IC9.5.6/2015, Page 2015/168.*
2. *Policy Amendment No. 2 reviewed at Council meeting held Tuesday 27 March 2018 at Item 12.4.3 Page 2018/119.*
3. *Amendment No. 3 adopted by Council on 27 April 2021, Minute Reference IC10.4.3/2021, Page Reference 82*