



UNSEALED COUNCIL ROAD POLICY

FAQs

What is a Public Road?

A Public Road in NSW is generally a land corridor (road reserve) where the public have right of passageway. They may be a formed or constructed infrastructure (what most people think of as a road, suitable for vehicle traffic), or they may be reserves through virgin bushland, so-called paper roads with no improvements whatsoever. Under the NSW Roads Act 1993, these are all Public Roads.

What is a Council Road?

Some of the Public Roads in NSW are conferred to Council as the roads authority having jurisdiction under the NSW Roads Act 1993. These are Council Roads, and exclude other Public Roads such as State Highways, Crown Roads and Fire Trails etc.

How big is the Council Maintained Road network?

Due to the large quantity of road reserves throughout our region without formed or constructed infrastructure, the full extent of Council's road network is not exactly measured. However, it is estimated to be over 3,600km. Of this total, Council currently maintains 1,000km of sealed roads and 700km of unsealed roads. We have good attribute data for these roads through our routine condition assessments and asset management plans.

How big is the Council Unmaintained Road network?

Since all our sealed roads are maintained, the Unmaintained Road network is all unsealed. Noting we maintain 700km of unsealed roads, this means we can estimate the total of Unmaintained Roads as $(3,600 - 1,000 - 700) = 1,900\text{km}$. We can further break this down as follows:

- Known named Unmaintained Roads = 220km (96 roads) *listed on QPRC website at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Services/Roads-and-Footpaths#section-4
- Known unnamed Unmaintained Roads = 80km (105 roads)
- Unknown unnamed Unmaintained Roads $(1,900 - 220 - 80) = 1,600\text{km}$

Can a road that is currently an Unmaintained Road be added to the maintained road network?

Yes, the policy allows discretion for Council to review roads and consider the implications of adding a road that is currently unmaintained to the maintained network.

The policy notes that Council will not generally add a road to the maintained network unless it has construction works undertaken to ensure it meets the minimum construction standards. This work would be required to be funded and approved by Council.

Would adding a road to the maintained road network impact rates?

Yes. The local road work is budgeted from the General Fund and the corresponding rates are based on the currently maintained network. Adding additional roads (unless others are removed) would increase operational costs. If capital works is also required to upgrade the road up to a minimum standard, that will also impact the General Fund and rates accordingly.

Does this policy allow for any work on Unmaintained Roads?

Yes, Council always has discretion to undertake road work. The draft revised policy allows for work on unmaintained roads noting that these may be carried out in response to verified damages, hazards, or impediments to safe passageway. The current existing policy is silent on this issue and essentially states that Council does not undertake any works on Unmaintained Roads.

The policy notes that Council has discretion in how it will investigate, verify and determine whether to carry out work on unmaintained roads, and this is outlined in Section 7 of the policy.

Does this policy allow for others to do work on roads that are not maintained by Council?

Yes. The policy allows Council to authorise work on any unsealed council road under Section 139 of the Roads Act 1993.

Why did you get rid of Category 10 roads?

The previous policy referred to Category 10 roads, which were roads that Council did not maintain. To remove confusion, we have removed Category 10 roads from the policy as they are now included as Unmaintained Roads, alongside unformed, unimproved or paper roads. The known, named Unmaintained Roads are listed on Council's website, noting that the list is not comprehensive and, in some instances, road names and/or lengths may be incorrect or inaccurate at this time. This list is available on our website at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Services/Roads-and-Footpaths#section-4

Why are there any Unmaintained Roads, shouldn't Council maintain all roads in the LGA?

Council, like all other rural and regional councils, has constrained resources to oversee an extensive road network.

Council has increased funding and resources for road maintenance. For unsealed roads our target this financial year is 750km of road grading and 15km of road re-sheeting. Since the increase in resources, we have been achieving our targets. Acknowledging that Council has constrained resources, this policy helps to guide the use of these resources to the highest priorities.

Is the policy legally sound?

Yes. Council has received legal advice to ensure that this policy is sound.

Why are the minimum construction standards included in the policy?

This ensures that any new roads added to the maintained network are constructed to engineering best practice to achieve enduring performance and useful life and therefore reducing the ongoing maintenance costs for Council.

Why don't all the unsealed roads that Council already maintains meet the minimum construction standards in the policy?

The minimum construction standards only apply for future additions to the maintained network. It is not applied retrospectively. Council will continue to maintain roads that we currently maintain, even if they may not comply with this standard.

How can I provide feedback?

Go to yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au to read the policy and provide feedback.

You can also:

- email submissions to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with the subject title Unsealed Council Road Policy 2025
- Hand writing your submission and delivering it to Council's Customer Service Centres
- Posting your submission to
PO Box 90,
Queanbeyan NSW
2620

