

## Voluntary Contribution for Dust Sealing of Unsealed (Gravel) Roads

<b>Policy, procedure, protocol</b>	Policy
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<b>Linkage to Our Community Plan</b>	2 Infrastructure
<b>Objective</b>	2.1 We will have communities that are well serviced with appropriate infrastructure
<b>Strategy</b>	2.1.5 Provide safe and effective vehicular and pedestrian networks that balance asset conditions with available resources

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## 1. Purpose

This policy allows Council to accept voluntary monetary contributions from residents to allow the self-funding of dust sealing of unsealed (gravel) roads, subject to the rules and conditions contained within this policy.

## 2. Definitions

**Council** means Clarence Valley Council.

**Dust seal** is a technique which consists of a single coat seal applied to a road formation that has been prepared to a minimum standard as determined by Council (including pavement and drainage works).

**Unsealed (Gravel) Road** is a dedicated road that has been formed and surfaced with imported gravel material.

## 3. Background/legislative requirements

Council currently has 1,017 km of unsealed roads (2018) within the Council area.

Council recognizes that residents living in houses located along unsealed roads within the Council area may desire the section of roadway immediate adjacent to their house to be sealed to reduce dust blowing onto their property and particularly their house.

Currently Council's emphasis on asset management is the maintenance and renewal of Council's existing asset base. This generally does not include the sealing of currently unsealed roads .

On this basis Council is willing to consider voluntary contributions towards the dust sealing of currently unsealed (gravel) roads within certain parameters.

## 4. Policy, protocol or procedure statement

This *Voluntary Contribution for Dust Sealing of Unsealed (Gravel) Roads Policy* details the procedures and conditions under which Council would accept a voluntary contribution to dust seal an unsealed section of public road.

This policy applies to all Council maintained unsealed roads within the Clarence Valley Council and is available to all community members.

## 5. Procedures

The following procedures will be followed in the implementation of this Policy.

### 1. Road Condition and Restrictions

- a. Council will assess the suitability of unsealed road segments on a merit basis for suitability of the application of a dust seal.
- b. Dust sealing will need to include formation reconstruction, pavement reconstruction and drainage reconstruction where necessary.
- c. Dust sealing of isolated segments of gravel road (ie; not being continuous with the existing sealed road network) is not permitted by this policy as it results in the ad hoc sealing of Council's road network. Dust sealing of longer lengths of roads may be achieved by a group of residents cooperatively working together. For example, this may apply to residents living on a gravel lane (however, the gravel lane will need to link to a sealed road).
- d. Council will manage the works. A contractor working directly for the property owner is not permitted.
- e. Council may accept in-kind contributions of materials for the works. The materials must meet a suitable specification as determined by Council officers. In-kind contribution other than materials is not permitted.

### 2. Costs

- a. The voluntary self-funded dust seal cost will include the dust seal as well as formation reconstruction, pavement reconstruction and drainage reconstruction, where considered necessary.
- b. Council will provide a cost estimate for the works prior to commencement detailing the maximum cost.
- c. Council's cost estimate will be calculated using all appropriate overhead costs (i.e. on-costs) however Council will not seek a profit from the delivery of the dust seal.
- d. Council will not make any contribution to the works, nor will it accept any offer that is conditional on Council making a contribution.
- e. The priority decisions of Council's works program will be made without regard to the potential or otherwise of a contribution under this policy.
- f. Where a group of residents are working together, the apportionment of costs must be negotiated between the residents. Council staff will not coordinate the negotiations.

### 3. Schedule

- a. A proposed schedule for the works will be provided with the cost estimate.
- b. The voluntary self funded dust seal, if approved, will be included in Council's works program to suit Council's resourcing and programming.
- c. The voluntary self-funded dust seal will not take priority over existing public works programs, but will be completed as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- d. Sealing works are generally undertaken during the summer periods, when warmer weather is experienced.

**4. Conditions and Obligations**

- a. Council accepts the voluntary self-funded dust seal contribution without any preferential maintenance commitment, or obligation, in favour of the completed dust seal works.
- b. Council will take ownership of the completed dust seal works and manage the improved road asset in accordance with Council's existing programs and practices.
- c. The voluntary self-funded contributor will not have any authority or exercise any rights over the works by Council during or after construction.
- d. Payment for cost of the works will be made prior to commencement of works and will be based on the cost estimate provided. Final costs shall be reconciled at completion of the works. As necessary, Council will adjust payment within 30 days of notification of final costs.
- e. Prior to Council undertaking the work, it will be necessary for the landholder(s) to sign and execute an agreement prepared by Council confirming the conditions and obligations of this policy.
- f. Acceptance of a contribution does not imply acceptance by Council of the work as satisfying any existing or future condition of development consent.

**6. Appeal/objections process**

Determination of appeals or objections shall be at the sole discretion of the General Manager or Director Works and Civil.

**7. Attachments**

Nil.