



Rural Fencing

1. Intent of Policy

To facilitate quality development through suitable stock proofing of rural subdivisions by requiring a minimum construction standard for boundary fences.

2. Scope of Policy

All Development Application determinations for rural subdivisions will include a condition that requires certification that the boundary fencing is sufficient and meets the following minimum standards.

*Oberon Council planning instruments relevant to this policy:
Oberon Council Development Control Plan 2001*

3. Guidelines

Prior to commencement of rural subdivisions applicants will be required to provide details regarding the standard of fencing construction and to certify that the new rural fencing has been installed in accordance with that standard in a tradesman like manner and that any existing fencing that has been retained as a boundary fence as part of the subdivision has been inspected and is stock proof.

The standard described should meet the below minimum standards.

Development assessment staff may inspect fencing construction to ascertain if the boundary fence appears to be suitable for stock proofing. If it is assessed that the fence does not meet minimum standards and/or is not stock proof the applicant will be required to rectify this before the subdivision can be finalised.

Minimum Standard

Strainers and stays

The functions of strainer posts are to provide:

- ⌚ An immovable anchorage.
- ⌚ A structure for straining the fence wire.
- ⌚ The start and finish of the fence.
- ⌚ A point at which major changes of direction and/or topography occur.
- ⌚ A structure from which to swing gates.

Engineering principles must be considered for the type of fence being constructed and strainers should be strong enough and rammed or driven to a sufficient depth to prevent vertical movement of the strainer post which is the most frequent type of failure.

Stays are required in each boundary direction.

If metal strainers are used they are to have a suitable anchor fixed to them to prevent uplift.

Posts

Generally there should be one substantial post to every 5 star pickets. Additional posts may be required to prevent steel posts springing out in areas such as gullies.

Steel pickets should be 1.7 metres long with recommended 4 metre spacing. The maximum spacing is 5 metres.

Wires

Boundary fences should have the equivalent of two top barbed wires and 3 plain "tie easy" or high tensile wires with rabbit netting, hinge joint or ring lock of "sheep and lamb" pattern that provides a sufficient stock proof barrier.

Gates

Steel gates should have a minimum opening width of 3.66 metres. Location of gates and setback is to be to Council requirements for gateways and accesses as contained in Development Control Plan, 2001, Part B 11.10 & Part B 14.12.6.

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