



Public Gates and Grids

1. Intent of Policy

To establish procedures for the management of public gates and grids on Council roads as part of Council's Risk Management Program.

2. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all gates and grids on public roads in the Oberon Council area which are under Council's control. It does not apply to classified roads except with the concurrence of the Roads and Traffic Authority. It does not apply to crown roads or Forests NSW roads.

Relevant statutory requirements specific to this policy:

Where Council grants a permit to erect a gate or grid on a public road, such permission shall be in accordance with Part 9, Division 2 of the Roads Act 1993. The permit holder must also observe the conditions set out in this policy, where not inconsistent with the Roads Act 1993.

3. Guidelines

1. Permits

- a) No new public gates will be permitted except as part of a grid/gate combination.
- b) Any existing public gates along the line of the road may remain in place for the time being, however owners are encouraged to remove them and either fence out the road reserve, or replace them with a grid/gate combination.
- c) Council may at any time require a public gate to be removed.
- d) The construction of a new grid/gate combination requires prior Council approval. As a first preference, Council encourages applicants to fence out the road reserve.
- e) An application to install a grid/gate combination must be in writing and must specify the applicant's details and the location of the proposed grid/gate combination. Where the applicant owns land on one side only of the road across which the proposed grid/gate combination is to be erected, the application must be accompanied by the written consent of the land owner on the other side of the road.

- f) An application to install a grid/gate combination will only be considered on an unfenced public road, at a place at which the road intersects a boundary fence.
- g) Before determining an application to install a grid/gate combination, Council will advertise the proposal in the local newspaper, allow at least 28 days for written submissions, and have due regard to any written submissions before resolving whether to issue the permit.
- h) All costs incurred by Council in dealing with an application must be paid by the applicant within seven days of the receipt of a claim from Council.
- i) Where Council issues a permit for a grid/gate combination to be installed, it will publish a notice in the local newspaper.
- j) Where Council is aware of a grid or gate on a public road which has not been approved by Council, it will write to all adjoining landowners to establish its ownership. Where one or more adjoining landowners confirm their ownership of the grid or gate, they will be advised they are singly or jointly responsible for its maintenance to Council's standards.

2. Standards

(Note – references to gates include existing gates, or gates installed as part of a gate/grid combination)

- a) Where Council permits the construction of a grid/gate combination, the grid must be located along the line of the road, with the gate located beside the grid.

Gates

- b) The gate must be firmly supported, of a minimum width of 4.3 metres, and be capable of swinging freely in either direction. However, where a 3.6 metre gate has been erected in accordance with a permit granted by Council prior to 20 July 1970, the 3.6 m gate may remain in position until replacement of the gate becomes necessary, or until Council directs it is to be replaced with a 4.3 m gate.
- c) The gate must be aluminium or painted white. Reflectors must be provided on both sides of the gate, on both approaches.
- d) A notice must be attached to both sides of the gate bearing the words "PUBLIC GATE" in letters at least 75mm high.
- e) Where there is a public gate along the line of the road not as part of a grid/gate combination, an advance warning sign must be erected on both approaches, approx 100m in advance of the gate bearing the word "GATE" (sign W5 – 14B).
- f) The road must be constructed and gravelled at least 6 m in width for at least 20 m on both approaches to the gate.

Grids

- g) The grid must be at least 3.85 m wide with a carrying capacity of a 42 tonne truck. Council may require a grid of greater width where considered necessary, and may require an existing grid to be widened.
- h) A grid must be constructed by way of a pit dug in the road and covered with an open grille so as to enable motor vehicles to pass over it, but to be an obstacle to the passage of animals.
- i) Reflectors or width markers (sign D4-3A) must be provided on both sides of the grid, on both approaches.
- j) An advance warning sign must be erected on both approaches, approx 100m in advance of the grid, bearing the word “GRID” (sign W5-16B).
- k) The road must be constructed and gravelled at least 6m in width for at least 20m on both approaches to both the grid and the adjacent gate.

3. Maintenance

- a) The adjoining owner(s) of the grid or gate is responsible for maintaining the grid or gate to Council’s standards. Maintenance includes the grid, gate, reflectors or width markers, advance warning signs, and road approaches. The owner(s) may need to engage a suitable qualified contractor to carry out maintenance works.
- b) Council will write to each owner at regular intervals seeking written confirmation that the grid or gate has been inspected, and is being maintained to Council’s standards.
- c) Council may instruct the owner(s) to repair any grid, gate, reflectors, width markers, advance warning signs or road approaches.
- d) Where no adjoining landowner accepts ownership and maintenance responsibility for a grid or gate, Council will give notice that the grid or gate will be removed. After one month, Council will remove the grid or gate.
- e) Where Council is not satisfied that a grid or gate is being maintained to its standards, or where a notice to an owner is not acted on, Council will give notice that the grid or gate will be removed. After one month, Council will remove the grid or gate.

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| Approving Authority | Oberon Council |
| Contact | Works Manager |
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