

BERRIGAN SHIRE COUNCIL PROVIDING HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY VEHICLE ACCESS

“Consistent with our priorities, Council appreciates the importance of providing access to a range of more efficient heavy vehicle combinations on approved routes under strict conditions.”



AT A GLANCE

- Berrigan Shire Council is located in the southern Riverina district of New South Wales
- Council's comprehensive road network of approved roads, contributes to its growth plans
- “The IAP has given us the opportunity to allow HML 26m B-doubles at up to 68.5 tonnes GVM, HML B-triples at up to 91.0 tonnes GVM as well as HML AB-triples with a GVM of 113.5 tonnes on some local roads,” said Fred Exton, Director, Technical Services at Berrigan Shire Council.

ABOUT BERRIGAN SHIRE COUNCIL

Located in the southern Riverina district of New South Wales adjacent to the Victorian border, Berrigan Shire Council occupies an area of 2,000sq/km with an estimated population of 8,400.

Berrigan is located 270km north of Melbourne and 670km south-west of Sydney. Berrigan Shire bucks the trend of most Australian rural centres in that it has a population growth projection of approximately 15% over the next 16 years.

Major towns within the Shire including Tocumwal, Finley, Barooga and Berrigan, account for approximately 85% of the population. Tocumwal and Barooga, both of which are situated on the Murray River and underpin a growing tourism industry, are attracting the bulk of new residents.

The economy of Berrigan Shire Council has traditionally been based on irrigated and dry land agriculture, including beef cattle, dairying, wool and grains industries. These industries along with a favourable location close to the Murray River present an attractive rural alternative for tourists and families looking to relocate.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

Melbourne and Geelong (including the ports of Melbourne and Geelong) are important destinations for the distribution of produce from Berrigan Shire. Several towns including Berrigan, Finley and Tocumwal have direct access via the Riverina and Newell Highways.

While Barooga is not located on a major highway, it has a direct connection to the Murray Valley Highway at Cobram, its twin town on the Victorian side of the Murray River, 4km to the west.

THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK

Berrigan Shire Council has 1260km of local roads, 507km of which are sealed and 753km of which are unsealed.

“Council is responsible for managing all local roads and nine concrete bridges,” said Mr Exton.

“Management of the local road network is set out in Council's policy and planning framework.”

“Council uses a hierarchical approach to road classification which takes into account a range of factors, including heavy and light vehicle traffic volumes. This in turn determines priorities for network construction and maintenance,” said Mr Exton.

IAP What's In It For Me?

MANAGING ACCESS REQUESTS

Berrigan Shire Council welcomes access requests for all types of heavy vehicles which operate under restricted access conditions.

“We work with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to ensure route assessments are technically robust. We also take into consideration broader community needs and Council’s responsibilities as an asset owner and manager,” said Mr Exton.

“We have a good understanding of the critical role played by the trucking industry in supporting farmers and other local business.”

“Efficient, reliable market access at competitive prices is necessary for ongoing viability of the regional economy,” said Mr Exton.

Council has approved:

- 23 routes for Modular B-triples operating at General Mass Limits (GML) and Concessional Mass Limits (CML)
- 10 routes for 26 Metre B-doubles operating at Higher Mass Limits (HML)
- 23 routes for AB-triples operating at GML and CML
- 6 routes for AB-triples operating at HML
- 36 routes for B-triples and AB-triples operating under the New South Wales Livestock Loading Scheme at HML equivalent masses.

PRODUCTIVITY, EFFICIENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The IAP has been critical to facilitating access for B-triples and AB-triples within the Berrigan Shire Council.

“Consistent with our priorities, Council appreciates the importance of providing access to a range of more efficient heavy vehicle combinations on approved routes under strict conditions.”

“The IAP has given us the opportunity to allow HML 26m B-doubles at up to 68.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM), HML B-triples at up to 91.0 tonnes GVM as well as HML AB-triples with a GVM of 113.5 tonnes on some local roads”.

“This means that leading edge transport operators are well placed to provide a safer, more efficient and more environmentally responsible service to local businesses and in particular local farmers who underpin the local economy,” said Mr Exton.

HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY VEHICLE ACCESS ON THE NATIONAL AND STATE ROAD NETWORK

OVERVIEW OF ACCESS CONDITIONS

“Transport operators wishing to access routes within Berrigan Shire need to apply to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), which will seek consent from the responsible road owner

either RMS for state classified roads or the Council for local and regional classified roads,” said Mr Exton.

The NHVR has issued access permits for B-triples and AB-triples up to 36.5m in length on approved routes, including those located on and east of the Newell Highway.



“In New South Wales, Type 1 A-double road trains fitted with either a tandem axle dolly or a tri-axle dolly must be enrolled in the Intelligent Access Program (IAP) as a condition of access if they operate at HML.”

“All B-triple and AB-triple combinations operating in New South Wales must be enrolled in the IAP, and any vehicle operating on New South Wales roads at HML must also be enrolled in the IAP,” said Mr Exton.

B-TRIPLES AND AB-TRIPLES

From Finley and Tocumwal, access is possible for B-triples and AB-triples at HML:

- North on the Newell Highway to Colombo Creek at Morundah
- West along the Riverina Highway to the Cobb Highway at Deniliquin and then north to the Sturt Highway junction at South Hay (a restricted bridge on the Cobb Highway over the Murrumbidgee River between South Hay and Hay prevents access north of this bridge)
- Via the Cobb Highway from the Sturt Highway at South Hay:
 - West to Adams Avenue Mildura
 - East to the Sturt Highway intersection with Kidman Way at Darlington Point
- On the Kidman Way from the Newell Highway intersection north of Jerilderie to the Sturt Highway intersection at Darlington Point
- From the Sturt Highway at Buronga to the bridge over the Darling River on the Silver City Highway at Wentworth.

Access is also possible for HML B-triples to the bridge over the Mulwala Canal, 6km east of Finley.



HML B-DOUBLES

FROM BERRIGAN

From Berrigan, access is possible for 26 metre B-doubles operating at HML east via Walbundrie and Culcairn to the Hume Highway, and onto major markets to the north such as Sydney, the Newell Highway via Finley and to Urana, Henty, The Rock, Wagga Wagga and Corowa.

The Newell Highway provides direct access to Melbourne and Brisbane, and to HML networks for central and western New South Wales and much of Queensland. Access is also possible to western Queensland and parts of the Northern Territory via the Kidman Way or the Silver City Highway.

Access to Adelaide and much of South Australia for 26 metre B-doubles operating at HML is via the Goulburn Valley Highway from Victoria, the Murray Valley Highway to Piangil and the Mallee Highway to Pinnaroo and then onto the South Australian road network. Bridge restrictions prevent 26 metre B-Doubles at HML over the Murray River between Moama and Echuca, at Barham and at Robinvale.

FROM FINLEY AND TOCUMWAL

Finley and Tocumwal both have very good access for B-doubles operating at HML, due to their location on the Newell Highway and their proximity to both the New South Wales and Victorian HML road network.

The most viable route to Sydney for 26 metre B-Doubles at HML is via the Goulburn Valley Highway from Victoria, the Murray Valley Highway to Barnawartha North and the Hume Highway via Albury.

MODULAR B-TRIPLES

Enrolment in the IAP is a condition of access for transport operators operating Modular B-triples at HML on approved routes in New South Wales.

Enrolment in the IAP is also a condition of access for transport operators with Modular B-triples operating at GML and CML on approved sections of the Newell Highway or on approved routes east of the Newell Highway.

Access is possible under the IAP for Modular B-triples operating at GML or CML on or east of the Newell Highway from Berrigan, Finley and Tocumwal:

- North on the Newell Highway from the Corowa-Tocumwal Road at Tocumwal to Barellan Road at Narrandera
- East on the Sturt Highway from the Newell Highway intersection at Narrandera to the intersection of Olympic Way at Wagga Wagga.

Access is also possible under the IAP for Modular B-triples operating at GML or CML on the Riverina Highway from the Newell Highway intersection at Finley to Osborne Street Berrigan.

Access is possible for Modular B-triples operating at GML or CML west of the Newell Highway on the following routes¹:

- The Sturt Highway from the Newell Highway at Narrandera to the Victorian border at Mildura
- The Riverina Highway from the Newell Highway at Finley to the Cobb Highway at Deniliquin
- Kidman Way from the intersection on the Newell Highway north of Jerilderie to Willandra Road Griffith.

These routes also provide an opportunity for Modular B-triples operating at GML or CML to access other approved routes in western and north-western New South Wales.

HML AB-TRIPLES AND B-TRIPLES UNDER THE NEW SOUTH WALES LIVESTOCK LOADING SCHEME

B-TRIPLES

Access is possible for B-triples from Berrigan to the Newell Highway via approved local roads (Berrigan-Jerilderie Road, then Pyles Road, then Sullivans Road, then Bushfield Road, then Edgcombe Road, then Mills Road to the Newell Highway intersection).

¹ The IAP is not a condition of access for Modular B-triples operating at GML or CML on approved routes west of the Newell Highway

From the Newell Highway access is possible:

- North on the Newell Highway to the intersection of Urana-Morundah Road at Morundah
- South on the Newell Highway to the bridge over the Murray River at Tocumwal
- North-west on the Riverina and Cobb Highways
- Onto the Sturt Highway west of the Newell Highway at Darlington Point
- On the Mid-Western Highway west of the Newell Highway intersection
- On the Silver City Highway and the approved livestock loading scheme routes in other jurisdictions
- On Kidman Way north of the Mid-Western Highway and approved livestock loading scheme routes in other jurisdictions
- On the Mitchell Highway west of Minore Road Dubbo.

AB-TRIPLES

Access is possible for AB-triples to the Newell Highway via Mills Road. Access is possible to properties located either side of the bridge over the Mulwala Canal, 6km east of Finley however access is prohibited over this bridge.

Access conditions that apply to B-triples on the Newell Highway, the Sturt Highway, the Mid-Western Highway, the Barrier Highway and Kidman Way north of the Mid-Western Highway also apply to AB-triples.

Access on the Silver City Highway is prohibited beyond the bridge over the Darling River at Wentworth. The rest of the AB-triple network which is available to livestock transport operators operating under the New South Wales Livestock Loading Scheme in north-western and south-western New South Wales is more restricted than for B-triples.

HML AB-TRIPLES AND B-TRIPLES UNDER THE GRAIN HARVEST MANAGEMENT SCHEME

The New South Wales Government has approved a Grain Harvest Management Scheme which runs from 15 October 2014 to 30 June 2016.

The scheme applies to the delivery of a range of cereals, oilseeds and pulses, including wheat, barley, rice, oats and canola within New South Wales to participating grain receivers. B-Triples and AB-Triples are eligible to operate under this scheme, however transport operators must comply with B-Triple and AB-Triple operating conditions, including enrolment in the IAP.

Under the scheme, 12 axle B-Triples can operate up to 86.63 tonnes GVM. AB-Triples with a tandem dolly (14 axles) can operate at 104 tonnes GVM while AB-Triples with a tandem dolly (15 axles) can operate at 107.63 tonnes GVM. Separate axle and axle group mass limits apply to all vehicle combinations.

SUMMARY OF RMS ACCESS RESTRICTIONS IN BERRIGAN SHIRE

- No HML access through Urana along MR59 – Regional road managed by Jerilderie Shire Council & Urana Shire Council. All roads are area approved for B-doubles
- No HML access along the Riverina Highway from Berrigan to Finley – State road with irrigation structure constraints along the route
- No HML access on Kapooka Bridge – State Bridge, currently being replaced
- No HML access on Barham Bridge – State Bridge which is a timber bridge that is being restored.

The information contained in this case study is intended to convey the experiences of the transport operator/s concerned. The benefits of IAP mentioned in this case study may not be true for all transport operators. Transport operators should consider the appropriateness of IAP to their business operations, objectives and circumstances before enrolling in IAP.

Information in this case study has been provided by Berrigan Shire Council.