

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

Walgett Shire Council adopts a policy of supporting access for Higher Mass Limits (HML) vehicles on local roads.

ABOUT WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

Walgett Shire is situated in north western New South Wales and serves as an important regional hub for the local community. Agriculture is the major sector and accounts for over 25% of all employment creating job opportunities within Walgett as well as surrounding areas.

Walgett Shire occupies approximately 22,000 km² of prime farming and grazing country and has a population of approximately 8,300 people. Other main population centres within the Shire are Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge.

WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

Walgett Shire recognises the importance of the transport industry in servicing the needs of local businesses and the Shire works closely with transport operators to identify and where appropriate approve safer, more efficient road access.

Key freight routes in the Shire include the Castlereagh Highway, which runs from near Lithgow to St George in Queensland and the Kamalaroi Highway, which runs from Gunnedah to Bourke. Access to HML vehicles is allowed on both routes. Walgett also is strategically located on the most direct routes between Sydney and Cairns, and between Brisbane and Adelaide.

THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK

Walgett Shire has approximately 2,500 km of local and regional roads, including 62 bridges and major culverts. Most local roads are formed and only consist of highly reactive clays. The Shire adopts a hierarchical approach to each local road having regards to traffic volumes, as well as the importance of the road.

This means some roads receive priority in terms of maintenance over others based on the road's social and economic significance to the region.

As a matter of principle Walgett Shire adopts a policy of supporting access for HML vehicles on local roads which does not involve travel over a bridge or other structure.



Above – Opal Mining at Lightning Ridge

WORKING WITH TRANSPORT OPERATORS

A transport operator applied for access to GrainCorp's silo on Bugilbone Road, which is located approximately 300 metres from the Kamalaroi Highway in Burren Junction.

The Shire was further advised that the transport operator had signed up with the Intelligent Access Program (IAP), supported by an IAP Service Provider.

In order that they could make informed decisions in response to applications to access the local road network, Walgett Shire officers assessed the applications made by the transport operators and developed a further understanding of the IAP.

With the IAP, the Shire was additionally assured that the required level of compliance is at hand. Consequently they supported the request to access the GrainCorp silo at Burren Junction. This means IAP fitted HML vehicles will be allowed to access the Burren Junction site.

BRIDGE ASSESSMENT ISSUES

Like most Shires in NSW, Walgett would like to be in a position to assess bridges on routes where HML access is sought. The Shire is willing to work with others with a stake in extending the HML road network to develop the means to provide a funded bridge assessment program.

IAP What's In It For Me?

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, visit the TCA website at www.tca.gov.au

AT A GLANCE

- Agriculture is the major sector and accounts for over 25% of all employment in Walgett
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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.