

COWRA SHIRE COUNCIL

Local transport operators work with Cowra Shire Council to get big efficiency gains thanks to the Intelligent Access Program (IAP).

ABOUT COWRA SHIRE COUNCIL

Cowra Shire Council is situated in central western New South Wales. Agriculture is the major sector which generates jobs in Cowra Shire and surrounding areas.

Cowra Shire occupies approximately 2,800 km² and has a population of approximately 13,100 people. Aside from Cowra, the main population centres within the Shire are Woodstock, Wattamondara and Gooloogong.

WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

Cowra Shire recognises the importance of the transport industry in providing service to the needs of locally based businesses and Cowra Shire works closely with operators to identify and where appropriate approve safer, more efficient road access.

Cowra is strategically located at the junction of the Great Western Highway, which links Sydney and Adelaide, and the Olympic Highway, which runs from Cowra to Table Top near Albury. Access to Higher Mass Limits (HML) vehicles is allowed on both routes.

THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK

Cowra Shire has approximately 1,300 km of local roads, including 90 bridges and major culverts. It adopts a hierarchical approach to each local road having regard 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 Cowra Shire adopts a policy of supporting access for HML vehicles on local roads which do not involve travel over a bridge or other structure.



WORKING WITH TRANSPORT OPERATORS

A transport operator applied for access to GrainCorp's silo on Noonbinna Road, Noonbinna, which is located 550 metres from the Olympic Highway.

Cowra Shire was further advised that the transport operator had signed up with the IAP supported by an IAP Service Provider.

In order to make an informed decision in response to applications to access the local road network, Cowra Shire officers assessed applications and developed an understanding of the IAP.

The IAP provided Cowra Shire with a high level of assurance that the transport operator would comply with conditions to access the route. Consequently Cowra Shire approved the request for HML access to the GrainCorp silo at Noonbinna. This means IAP fitted HML vehicles will be allowed to access the Noonbinna site.

ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND OPERATIONAL BENEFITS

Cowra Shire's decision will mean transport operators transporting grain to GrainCorp's Noonbinna site should be able to achieve reduced fuel consumption and environmental emissions in the order of 10% per tonne kilometre. This is because payload increases of about 12% can be achieved for trucking companies operating under IAP. A reduction in the number of truck trips in the order of 12% is also achievable for a given transport task.

BRIDGE ASSESSMENT ISSUES

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



AT A GLANCE

- Transport operators may get better access to the Noonbinna GrainCorp silo if they are enrolled in the IAP
- Transport operators may achieve reduced fuel consumption and environmental emissions in the order of 10% per tonne kilometre
- Payload increases of 12% can be achieved for trucking companies operating under IAP
- The IAP provides Cowra Shire Council with assurance that transport operators are using the correct route

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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.

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