

CARATHOOL SHIRE COUNCIL

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ABOUT CARATHOOL SHIRE COUNCIL

Carathool Shire is situated in south western New South Wales. Agriculture is the major sector which generates job opportunities within Carathool Shire.

The Shire occupies approximately 19,000 km² and has a population of approximately 3,100 people. Major industries include horticulture, cotton, livestock, wool, grapes and tourism. The main population centres within Carathool Shire are Goolgowi, Hillston, Carathool, Rankins Springs and Merriwagga.

WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

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

Key freight routes in the Shire include Mid-Western Highway, which runs from Bathurst to Hay, Kidman Way, which runs from Jerilderie to Bourke and Lachlan Valley Way, which runs from Yass to Booligal via Cowra and Lake Cargellico. All of these freight routes permit access to Higher Mass Limits (HML) vehicles.

THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK

Carathool Shire has approximately 3,000 km of local roads, including 21 bridges, irrigation channels and culverts. The Shire adopts a hierarchical approach to each local road having regards to traffic volumes as well as its importance.

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, the 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 – Black Stump Hotel in Merriwagga

WORKING WITH TRANSPORT OPERATORS

In order for the Shire to make an informed decision in response to applications to access the local road network, Carathool Shire officers assessed applications and developed an understanding of the features of the Intelligent Access Program (IAP).

The Shire was additionally assured that the required level of compliance is at hand to enable them to give favourable consideration to an application which would address any other concerns regarding route access.

APPLICATION TO ACCESS LOCAL ROADS IN TABBITA

A transport operator applied for access to the GrainCorp facility on Tysons Road at Tabbita. Carathool Shire was further advised that they had signed up with the IAP supported by an IAP Service Provider.

The Shire supported the request to access the GrainCorp silo which is located 40 metres along Tysons Road from the intersection of the Kidman Way.

APPLICATION TO ACCESS LOCAL ROADS IN LAKE CARGELICO, LACHLAN SHIRE

Another transport operator sought access to MR321, (Rankins Springs to Griffith Road, which is gazetted as a B-double route) and MR371, (Rankins Springs to Lake Cargelico Road, which is gazetted as both a road train route and a B-double route). Both routes intersect with the Mid-Western Highway.

The Shire approved HML access using IAP for semi-trailers and B-doubles enabling the operator to access the desired destination on Lachlan Road, Lake Cargelico in the neighbouring Lachlan Shire Council.

AT A GLANCE

- Agriculture is the major sector which generates jobs in Carathool Shire
- The Shire works closely with operators to identify and where appropriate approve safer, more efficient road access
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BRIDGE ASSESSMENT ISSUES

Like most local councils in NSW, Carathool 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.

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.