

COOTAMUNDRA SHIRE COUNCIL

Cootamundra Council works closely with operators to approve safer, more efficient road access.

ABOUT COOTAMUNDRA SHIRE COUNCIL

Cootamundra Shire Council is situated in south-western New South Wales. Major industries in the Shire include beef cattle, grains, fat lambs, wool and tourism. Agriculture is the major sector which generates jobs in Cootamundra Shire and surrounding areas.

Cootamundra Shire occupies approximately 1,523 km² and has a population of approximately 7,600 people. Aside from Cootamundra, the main population centres within the Shire are Stockingbingal and Wallendbeen.

WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

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

Cootamundra is strategically located on the Olympic Highway, which runs from Cowra to Table Top near Albury and on the Sydney-Melbourne rail line. Burley-Griffin Way, which runs from Bowning to Griffith, is also an important freight route linking Sydney with the northern Riverina and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Access to Higher Mass Limits (HML) vehicles is allowed on the Olympic Highway and on sections of Burley-Griffin Way.

THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK

Cootamundra Shire had approximately 570 km of local roads, including 55 bridges and major culverts. A total of 256 km of local roads are unsealed. Most local roads are gravel, however some roads are paved to varying degrees of quality. The Shire adopts a hierarchical approach to each local road having regard to traffic volumes as well as the importance of the road.



Cootamundra Shire does not have a formal policy in assessment of requests to grant HML access to local roads. However, it adopts a risk management approach to applications for HML access and will consider applications on a case by case basis.

Cootamundra Shire is concerned about safety and incremental road maintenance costs with HML access and reviews each application based on the “whole of route” implications of improving access, including the implications for other local councils.

WORKING WITH TRANSPORT OPERATORS

The Shire received a HML application from a transport operator in 2009 to access a local road using the Intelligent Access Program (IAP).

In order for them to make an informed decision in response to an application to access the local road network, Cootamundra Shire officers developed an understanding of the features of the IAP.

The IAP provided the required level of compliance assurance to enable Cootamundra Shire Officers to give favourable consideration to the application.

Consequently, the Shire approved this application to access the Australian Wheat Board silo, which is located off Burley-Griffin Way on Lewins Lane, Stockingbingal, on the basis that the impact in terms of route costs would be relatively minor.

BRIDGE ASSESSMENT ISSUES

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

AT A GLANCE

- Agriculture is the major sector which generates jobs in Cootamundra Shire and surrounding areas
- Cootamundra Shire works closely with operators to identify and where appropriate approve safer, more efficient road access
- Transport Operators are able to access the Australian Wheat Board silo, situated off Burley-Griffin Way if they are part of the IAP

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.