

Murray River Council

VEHICLE CROSSINGS POLICY

POL301.V1

INTRODUCTION

The Roads Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 1993, requires that a person shall not carry out any activity or works on a public road or place without the approval of Council.

Also, a property owner/s is liable for all costs associated with the construction, maintenance and repair of a vehicle access between the road pavement and their property boundary line.

OBJECTIVES

1. To require the provision of vehicle crossings and authorise the Director Engineering to set an appropriate standard for construction and maintenance of crossings.
2. To ensure the construction and maintenance of vehicle and access crossings is to Council's specifications.
3. To allow for temporary crossings to be provided for short term access.
4. To limit Council's liability when construction and maintenance work is carried out by the property owner/contractor in the road reserve.
5. To remove unauthorised vehicle and access crossings.

REQUIREMENTS

The construction of all vehicle crossings shall require a Vehicle Crossing Application to be made to Murray River Council ('Council'). The application shall be lodged with Council with the prescribed fee (as per Council's current Fees & Charges Schedule).

Standard requirements may vary depending on the proposed use of the vehicle crossing and a desire to avoid conflict with existing trees, utility services, drainage system and water and sewer reticulation pipes and fittings.

Where a proposed vehicle crossing will impact on an existing water, sewerage or drainage asset, all costs associated with the construction of any new pits, pipes, grates and lintels required to resolve the conflict shall be at the applicant's expense.

Where a vehicle crossing will impact on an existing power pole, Telstra pit or any other utility, the applicant shall liaise directly with the service providers and shall be responsible for all costs associated with the adjustment of these utilities.

Vehicle crossings shall be constructed perpendicular to the kerb and gutter or road centreline. In special circumstances, including the need to avoid trees, this angle may be varied but any variation will be shown on the vehicle crossing design for that site. A splay can be incorporated into a design for improving access to or from busy roads or other situations where assessed as appropriate by Council.

Where existing laybacks or crossings are made redundant by the construction of a new layback or crossing in an alternate location the following must occur:

- (a) the layback shall be removed and the kerb and gutter restored to the profile of the adjacent kerb and gutter at no cost to Council; or
- (b) the old crossing shall be removed, with any damaged sections of footpath reconstructed and the area re-grassed to the satisfaction of Council at no cost to Council.

An approved crossing must be provided at all accesses from private property to the public road system.

1. Number of Driveways

- ▶ Council policy is that **two (2) vehicle crossings** to each dwelling lot is to be permitted.

2. Specification for Vehicular Crossing

- ▶ A vehicular crossing must be constructed and maintained in accordance with drawings and specifications as determined by the Director Engineering.

3. Non-Standard Applications

- ▶ In cases where Council's standard vehicular crossing specification is not appropriate (eg crossings over watercourses or large drains), the applicant will be required to submit a specific design for the crossing certified by a registered engineer.

4. Temporary Crossings

- ▶ A temporary crossing may be provided for short term access (eg during construction work). Temporary crossings are to be removed upon completion of the use for which the installation was approved and the road reserve reinstated.
- ▶ The standard of construction and duration of the temporary crossing are to be as approved by the Director Engineering. Approval is to be obtained prior to installation.

5. Cost of Construction and Maintaining Vehicle Crossings

- ▶ The full cost of constructing and maintaining a vehicle crossing shall be borne by the owner of the property to which the crossing provides access. The only exceptions will be that Council will replace an approved crossing, including any necessary piped culvert, to an existing dwelling when drains are altered and entrances are affected during the course of road and/or drainage construction. Ongoing maintenance of the crossing remains the responsibility of the property owner. Council will not accept responsibility for restoration of any unauthorised crossing.
- ▶ Where it comes to Council's notice that driveway maintenance is required, including temporary crossings and access pipe culverts, which remain outstanding after notification to the landholder, such maintenance will be undertaken by Council and the costs charged to the landholder (Refer *Roads Act* - Section 138 and Section 218).
- ▶ Where it becomes necessary for Council to cut through a driveway, there is no guarantee implied or otherwise that driveways installed in other than plain concrete will be matched with existing paving.

6. Authorised Contractors

- ▶ Vehicle crossings shall be constructed by Council or suitably licensed and authorised contractors. In order to gain acceptance by Council, contractors shall make written application and provide documentary evidence of their workers compensation certificate and public liability insurance, to an amount as determined from time to time by Council.

- ▶ Only those contractors on Council's current Authorised Supplier/Contractor list are permitted to undertake these works.
- ▶ Council makes no representation as to the quality or workmanship of any of the Authorised Suppliers/Contractors. It is the responsibility of the person engaging any supplier/contractor to undertake their own reference checks to determine if the supplier/contractor is suitable for the works to be completed.
- ▶ Any works in the road reserve carried out by an unauthorised contractor may be deemed illegal and subject to further action, including rectification and/or removal of the unauthorised work at the applicants/owners cost.

7. Inspections

- ▶ All works on the road reserve are subject to inspection by Council to ensure compliance with specifications. Any works found to be non-compliant will be required to be rectified prior to final approval. Council will remove a contractor from its Authorised Supplier/Contractor list for failure to meet specification or failure to rectify non-compliant works.

8. Unauthorised Crossings

- ▶ Council does not tolerate the obstruction of drains or gutters with any objects used by the occupier to obtain access. Any structure of this nature is considered unauthorised. Unauthorised crossings will be removed by Council officers after the occupier of the property is given notice in writing.
- ▶ Where the occupier takes no action to install an authorised crossing following proper notice being given, and subsequently gains access to their property with an unauthorised crossing, Council officers may remove the obstruction without any further notice to the landowner.
- ▶ Unauthorised crossings are those that have been constructed without prior permission, or have not been constructed in accordance with Council's levels and specifications, or are creating an obstruction to a road or stormwater drain.

9. Materials and Surface Treatments

- ▶ As the driveway must also accommodate the needs of pedestrians walking along the verge of the road, it will be required to meet the relevant Australian Standards and AUSTROADS' Guidelines in terms of skid resistance. Accordingly, broom finished concrete or segmental pavers provide a good textured finish and are preferred. Pavers are to be laid on a mass concrete base.
- ▶ Loose surfaces will not be permitted in urban areas, as loose material can be washed into gutters or stormwater drains and tracked onto the road causing a hazard and polluting water ways. Un-even surfaces such as stamped concrete will not be approved as they may create a tripping hazard, particularly for elderly persons.
- ▶ Slick coatings or finishes with low skid resistance in wet weather will not be approved. This may include rounded pebbles in exposed aggregate driveways, silicone sealant paint (used to lift the colours of oxides), glossy ceramic tiles or any other surface that is slippery when wet.
- ▶ Alternate finishes and colours may be applied for but Council will not be responsible for matching the finish or colours in the event that works necessitate removal of all or part of the crossing.
- ▶ Driveways to commercial or industrial development are to be constructed from concrete with a broomed or wood float finish.
- ▶ Laybacks are not to be coloured or patterned in any way.

10. Location

- ▶ In all cases, vehicle crossings shall be designed to maximise vehicle and pedestrian safety. The location of driveways on corner allotments is to comply with the provisions of Australian Standard AS 2890.

11. Application and Fees

- ▶ No construction work in the road reserve is to commence until an application for the work is approved by Council.
- ▶ Applications are to be accompanied by the prescribed fee (as per Council's current Fees and Charges Schedule).

12. Planning the Driveway

- ▶ Access to the garage or vehicle parking area is to be considered with any proposed development in conjunction with the requirements of this Policy.
- ▶ The driveway level at the property boundary will be provided by the Council's Engineering Department following submission of a driveway application.
- ▶ The proposed garage floor level is to be determined and indicated in relation to the property boundary level.
- ▶ For properties serviced by a right-of-way or battle axe access, sufficient turning space shall be provided on site to allow a three (3) point turn so that vehicles can exit the property in a forward direction.

13. Provision for Traffic and Safety of the Public

- ▶ During the course of the works, the contractor shall be adequately insured for public liability and shall indemnify Council against any claims arising from these works.
- ▶ The contractor shall, for the duration of the works provide proper fencing, barricades, lighting, signs and such temporary roadways, footways as necessary for the accommodation and protection of pedestrians, motorists and public, in accordance with AS 1742 (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Works on Roads) and other relevant Australian Standards or documents advised by Council.
- ▶ The contractor shall fulfil all obligations and responsibilities under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

14. Utility Services

- ▶ Consideration should be given to electricity, water, sewerage, drainage, gas and phone and the requirements of each of the service providers.
- ▶ The relocation or adjustment of any utility pipes, pits, poles etc must be arranged with the responsible authority by the contractor. Any reduction of a standard clearance or adjustment of a condition negotiated between any resident and an authority shall be verified in writing and forwarded to Council.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version No.	Details	Date	Resolution No.
1	Initial Issue – <i>On 12 May 2016, the Premier of NSW, The Hon Mike Baird MP, made the Local Government (Council Amalgamations) Proclamation 2016 under the Local Government Act 1993, whereby Murray Shire Council and Wakool Shire Council were amalgamated to constitute the new area to be known as Murray River Council, effective immediately.</i>	13 Dec 2016	261216

*Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy at any time
This Policy is scheduled for review in December 2018*