

## **POLICY No: I/R/17**

### **ROADS – HEAVY VEHICLE ACCESS**

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>BUSINESS UNIT</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY AREA</b>
Works and Services	Infrastructure	Roads

#### **‘OBJECTIVE**

To provide clear guidelines to the Council, its staff and heavy vehicle transport operators for Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Network requests and access to roads under the care, control and management of the Shire of Plantagenet.

The Council wishes to balance road safety, transport efficiency for Shire economic benefits, community amenity and preservation of the road asset.

The Policy supports ‘as of right’ vehicles as defined by Main Roads WA (MRWA) or approved RAV routes, except where roads are closed for safety or operational reasons.

#### **POLICY**

##### **1. Scope**

This Policy applies to any heavy vehicle transport operator using RAV on roads managed by the Council.

##### **2. Legislation**

The Road Traffic Act 1974 and the Road Traffic (Vehicle) Regulations 2014 govern the use of heavy vehicles on roads within Western Australia and define items such as compliance notices, exemptions, permits and notices for RAV. These regulations also contain provisions for mass and loading, load restraints, vehicle modifications and vehicle maintenance.

The Land Administration Act 1997 Section 55 and Local Government Act 1995 Section 3.53(2) gives the Shire of Plantagenet management responsibility for roads within its boundaries.

##### **3. Definitions**

###### **3.1 Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Network**

The RAV Network is a list of roads which have been assessed and classified by MRWA according to the type and size of heavy vehicle that may access them. It is administered by the Heavy Vehicles Section (HVS) of MRWA.

###### **3.2 Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) Network**

The AMMS scheme allows for three (3) concessional mass tiers that are available to approved heavy vehicle transport operators with appropriate loading control methods. This scheme uses a network approach similar to the existing RAV Network.

Both the RAV and AMMS Networks are published in the form of road tables and a visual Mapping Tool is available on the MRWA website.

##### **4. Request for Access to the Existing RAV Network**

- 4.1 If a heavy vehicle transport operator wishes to access a RAV Network Road, they may apply to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) if a condition of RAV access is Shire approval.
- 4.2 The Executive Manager Works and Services (EMWS) will assess the route to ascertain if any deficiencies are apparent and conditionally approve the use of the road with regard to timing of freight tasks, maintenance requirements for high volume requests or other reasonable conditions as deemed appropriate.
- 4.3 If access is refused then the applicant will be notified in writing as to the reasons.

## 5. Unclassified Roads

If the road is not classified on the RAV Network then the applicant will first need to apply to MRWA (HVS). Upon receipt from MRWA (HVS) the Shire of Plantagenet will assess the request noting that the Shire will not undertake a physical assessment of slopes, sightlines or similar as MRWA undertakes this independently. The Shire response will be aimed at providing local knowledge of any particular route, changing land use practices and the suitability of an addition to the network in general.

## 6. AMMS Network

- 6.1 The Shire is primarily concerned with the potential for damage of its network with increased axle loadings. Assessment of applications will be on the basis of general suitability criteria such as pavement thickness, width and drainage infrastructure.
- 6.2 Heavy vehicle transport operators may apply for a road already classified on the RAV Network to be approved for an AMMS Network level by applying to MRWA (HVS). Upon receipt from MRWA (HVS) the Shire of Plantagenet will assess the request in accordance with 6.1
- 6.3 Depending on the need for access, an AMMS access request may be supported if the applicant accepts the responsibility to carry out any road upgrades or vegetation pruning necessary to qualify the road for the AMMS network level requested.
- 6.4 Should the road access be declined, the Shire of Plantagenet will inform MRWA (HVS) who will in turn, advise the applicant.

## 7. RAV/AMMS Road Reclassification

The Shire may withdraw support for an approved route at any time if:

- a) The route is deemed unsafe for RAV/AMMS use.
- b) The route is deemed unsuitable for RAV/AMMS use.
- c) The heavy vehicle transport operator has breached approval conditions.

## 8. The Shire of Plantagenet may close a road on a temporary basis to all heavy vehicles should deteriorating road conditions be present.

Closures can be enforced for deteriorating excessively wet conditions or excessively hot conditions on new bitumen seals amongst other conditions that may affect the asset or safety of road users.

**ADOPTED: 28 FEBRUARY 2017**

**LAST REVIEWED: 22 FEBRUARY 2022**