

ROADS – LOG HAUL REQUIREMENTS

DIVISION	BUSINESS UNIT	RESPONSIBILITY AREA
Works and Services	Infrastructure	Roads

OBJECTIVE

To provide clear guidelines to the Council, its staff, and plantation companies regarding log/woodchip haulage on roads within the Shire of Plantagenet.

POLICY

1. Scope

This policy applies to plantation companies who wish to use roads under the care, control and management of the Shire of Plantagenet for the purposes of transporting logs/woodchips from plantations.

2. Legislation

Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012

Road Traffic Code 2000

3. Application of Policy

Plantation companies may request use of a classified road on the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Network by applying to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for approval. If the desired route includes an unclassified road, an application must be made by the plantation company to Main Roads WA (Heavy Vehicles Section). For further information on heavy vehicle access to roads within the Shire, refer to Policy I/R/17 Roads – Heavy Vehicle Access.

Approvals will be for a duration of six months and may be extended upon request by the plantation company. The Executive Manager Works and Services must be satisfied with the proposed haulage route(s) and the following conditions are to be adhered to by the plantation company:

- a) School bus operators are to be notified of the commencement date and the anticipated duration, at least one week prior to the commencement of harvest.
 - b) If no maximum speed is specified as a condition of use of the applicable road, speeds are to be limited to a maximum of:
 - 100km/hr (as per the Road Traffic Code 2000), or
 - The posted speed limit,whichever is the lesser.
 - c) Suitable sign posting for traffic in accordance with Australian Standard AS1742.3-2009, with signs identifying truck movements is to be placed at the entrance and exit of the property.
 - d) All vehicles must adhere to any road closure prescribed by the Council due to inclement or persistent wet weather.
 - e) All gravel roads covered under the letter of approval are to be graded by the relevant plantation company during haulage when requested by the Council.
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- f) The Council is to be advised of any seal failures on bitumen roads within 24 hours so that repairs can be carried out.
 - g) Cartage must cease on Good Friday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
 - h) Post haulage inspections of roads listed in the letter of approval will be carried out by Shire of Plantagenet staff. If required, works to reinstate roads to pre-haulage condition are to be undertaken by the plantation company.
4. Temporary crossovers to access timber plantations may be installed by plantation companies provided that approval is obtained from the Shire of Plantagenet as per Council Policy I/R/13 – Vehicle Crossovers. The following conditions would apply to the temporary crossover construction:
- a) Installation to be for a maximum of 12 months and infrastructure must be removed within 30 days of harvest completion. Road shoulders to be returned to the pre-existing state.
 - b) Stone or concrete headwalls are not required. However, sandbags and rock walls may be used to protect any Council infrastructure as determined by the Executive Manager Works and Services.
 - c) The position of the crossover should comply with Main Roads WA (MRWA) requirements for sightlines and gradients for approved RAV or Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) access. The Council may require a formal traffic management plan be implemented by the plantation company if compliance to sightline guidelines cannot be met, provided the position of the crossover is such that it is in the best interests of public safety to do so. ie the existing access or entry from side roads is worse than the proposed access.

Applications that have a definite commercial gain (ie being able to access a section of road with a higher RAV/AMMS category) may also be considered provided all improvements and safety requirements are met by the plantation company.
 - d) Any damage to the road surface (sealed and un-sealed) caused as a result of the temporary crossover is to be made good within 30 days of harvest completion to the satisfaction of the Executive Manager Works and Services.

The Council reserves the right to revoke support if any of the above conditions are not adhered to, or road condition/user safety is in question.

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 2007

LAST REVIEWED: 22 MARCH 2022
