

12.4 Harvest and Road Works Coordination

Introduction The Shire of Trayning acknowledges the critical importance of the harvest season to the farming community and the economic wellbeing of the region. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for balancing the Shire's essential road maintenance and construction program with the needs of local farmers during the harvest period.

Objective

- A) To recognize the critical nature of the harvest period for the farming community.
- B) To ensure that road safety and maintenance works continue in a manner that does not unduly disrupt harvesting operations.
- C) To use best endeavours to ensure that the Shire's road program and grant-funded projects are delivered within agreed timeframes and without compromising the quality of construction works.

History

Policy Statement

1. Acknowledgment of Harvest Operations

The Shire recognises that during the harvest period, increased agricultural traffic on rural roads is necessary and that road accessibility and safety are key concerns for the farming community. Where possible, the Shire will work with local farmers and stakeholders to coordinate road maintenance and construction activities in a way that minimises disruption to harvest operations.

2. Shire Road Program Delivery

The Shire is committed to delivering its road maintenance and construction program in accordance with its adopted schedule, including projects funded by external grants. However, the Shire will seek to exercise flexibility where possible to adjust the timing of non-urgent works on roads heavily used during harvest without compromising overall project delivery timelines, grant requirements, or road safety.

3. Best Endeavours Approach

The Shire's administration will use best endeavours to coordinate road maintenance and construction activities in a manner that:

- Ensures critical harvest routes remain accessible and safe.
- Respects the needs of the farming community during peak harvest periods.
- Ensures that road safety is not compromised for either agricultural traffic or the wider community.
- Prioritizes works that are essential for safety or that align with optimal road construction seasons, taking into consideration factors such as weather and road conditions.

4. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

The Shire will engage in regular communication with the farming community and key stakeholders to ensure that upcoming roadworks are communicated in advance. This will allow for better planning and minimize disruptions during the harvest period.

5. Exemptions and Urgent Works

Notwithstanding this policy, the Shire reserves the right to carry out urgent or emergency roadworks where the safety of road users is at risk, or where works are necessary to meet critical deadlines for grant-funded projects. Such works will be communicated to the community as soon as possible.

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it continues to meet the needs of both the farming community and the Shire's road maintenance and construction program.

- End of Policy