

STOCK DROVING

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to set minimum safety standards for the droving of stock on local roads

1.2 This Policy does not apply to State Highways.

1.3 This Policy shall apply to all stock droving carried out on local roads from the date of its adoption by Council

2. Law

2.1 Local Government Act 1974. Section 353 - General safety provisions as to roads -

The council shall take all sufficient precautions for the general safety of the public and traffic and workmen employed on or near any road - - -

3. Council Approval

3.1 Any person wishing to drive stock on a local road need not apply to the Council for permission provided all of the requirements of this Policy are complied with.

3.2 General Droving Requirements

a Indemnity

The livestock owner shall at all times indemnify the Council in respect of any loss, damage or expense suffered or incurred by the Council as a direct or indirect consequence of any act, error or omission by the livestock owner and for which the livestock owner is legally liable. Any costs incurred by the Council shall be recoverable by the Council as a debt.

b Insurance

The livestock owner shall take out and maintain at his own cost, Public Liability insurance for an amount of not less than \$2,000,000. All such insurance shall be for such terms and with such insurers as the Council may reasonably require. The livestock owner shall, if reasonably requested by the Council, provide evidence that the insurance required is in force and current premiums are paid.

c Livestock to be Under Control

(i) The drover in charge shall determine the number of drovers and dogs necessary to maintain complete and continuous control of the livestock, taking into account unforeseen events that may occur on route.

(ii) Droving along the road verge shall be done in preference to using the carriageway.

(iv) The livestock shall be kept moving continuously.

(v) Droving along the road shall not be done for the purpose of grazing the road verges.

(v) No tired, injured or dead animal shall be left on the carriageway.

d Motorists shall have Sufficient Warning

(i) Stock shall not be droved during the hours of darkness or when visibility is less than 250m (except for the purposes of returning any livestock that have escaped to the nearest secure area, or in an emergency e.g. flooding)

(ii) Stock must be clearly visible to motorists for a distance of 250m in each approach direction

(iii) Where the above visibility is not achievable "Stock Ahead" warning signs shall be used. Signs shall be conspicuous and clearly legible to passing motorists. For droves of 1km or less fixed signs shall be placed 120m beyond the start and finish gateways of the drove. For droves of greater than 1 km the signs shall be fixed to vehicles, which shall lead and trail the driven livestock by a distance of 120m.

e Drover shall Take Care

(i) All necessary measures shall be taken to prevent livestock from leaving the road reserve and / or causing damage to public or private property.

(ii) Livestock shall not be driven in urban areas without the prior written permission of the Council.

(iii) As far as is practicable the roadway shall be kept clear of debris and other matter that may cause danger, inconvenience or nuisance to other road users.

(iv) Motorists shall not be unreasonably inconvenienced by the droving of livestock and shall be permitted to move through the herd when practical to do so. Time delays should not exceed 5 minutes.

3.3 Additional Requirements for Regular Dairy Herd Movements

The following requirements are in addition to, or modify, the General Droving Requirements.

f Miscellaneous Requirements

- (i) Regular droving routes shall be established on private property wherever possible
- (ii) Permission to drive regularly on or across the road reserve will be granted by way of a licence and shall be subject to conditions set by the Council

g Droving in Limited Visibility

- (i) Dairy herds requiring milking may be driven in limited visibility conditions provided drovers (wearing high visibility vests) are positioned in each vehicle approach direction to wave down approaching vehicles using hand held torches. At permanent road crossing points permanently mounted amber flashing lights may be attached to the warning signs required in item h (g) below.

h Dairy Herd Crossing Design

- (i) The following are standard requirements for dairy herd crossing construction, they may be modified for specific sites requirements.
 - a) The crossing shall be aligned perpendicular to the road centreline.
 - b) The crossing shall be sited so that there is 250m sight distance in each vehicle approach direction. This distance may be reduced at the Council's discretion in low environmental speed locations.
 - c) The road surface shall be cleansed of debris and matter that may cause inconvenience to road users immediately after the movement of stock. All debris must be removed from the road reserve.
 - d) The use of wires or tapes across the road is not permitted.
 - e) All permanent structures shall be kept at least 5m back from the edge of the carriageway.
 - f) SWC culverts may be required under approach races.
 - g) (TW-32 "Cattle") 750mm x 750mm signs with a "Crossing" supplementary sign shall be erected 160m from the crossing in each vehicle approach direction. The signs must be visible from a further distance of 120m. The signs shall be displayed only when the crossing is in use and shall be folded closed or covered when not required.
 - h) An underpass may be required on any Principal road with a traffic volume greater than 300 VPD.