



Grids POLICY

Policy Version 3.0

Category: Management

Adopted: December 2024



Grids Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this Winton Shire Council Grids Policy is to outline Council's approach to the installation, management, and maintenance of grids on public roads. This policy provides clear delineation of Winton Shire Council and Landholder responsibilities and describes Council's systematic approach to the upgrading of substandard grids.

This policy supersedes all previous arrangements in relation to grids made between Council and the Landholder.

Scope

This policy applies to the installation, maintenance and management of grids located on public roads throughout the Shire.

There are approximately 250 grids within the Shire. Many grids are manufactured from railway iron, pipe, or light box steel.

Council is committed to improving the safety standard of grids and reducing maintenance costs associated with these grids.

Definitions

Term	What it means / refers to
Damaged Grid	Damage that is structural in nature or significantly impairs the safety or usability of the grid. Examples of damage are cracked welds / rails, cracked or broken abutments but does not include cleanliness or signage.
Grid	Refers to a structure designed to permit the movement of pedestrian or vehicular traffic along a road but to prevent the passage of livestock.
Periodic Inspections	Inspections (serviceable) carried out by Winton Shire Council (or a contractor) every two to three years.
Qualified Tradesman (Welding)	A tradesman having sufficient skills and experience, particularly in regard to the Welding Processes Code of Practice 2013.
Routine Inspection	Inspections (serviceable) carried out by a road inspector whilst carrying out day to day duties. Routine inspection of all roads can be expected two to three times per year.
Traffic Management Plan (TMP)	A traffic management plan as prescribed by the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) – specifically site-specific traffic diagrams.
Traffic Control	The use of appropriately trained and licenced traffic control officers to direct the flow of traffic.

Policy statement

Winton Shire Landowners, are required to purchase the grid and for all intents and purposes own the asset.

Council does not own the grids, but are responsible for maintaining roads in a safe, trafficable state. Winton Shire Council is then responsible for:



- Specifying a safe standard of grid.
- Installing grids.
- Carrying out periodic and routine inspections.
- Keeping a register of grids (including a defect register).
- Devising a replacement and cleaning program.
- Maintenance and cleaning of grids.

Operational matters

Inspections

Council will inspect all grids as part of routine road inspections. Routine inspections will include the cleanliness of the grid (how full of dirt and debris) as well as signage.

Grids with damaged rails or abutments may be inspected by the Director of Works (or delegated Engineer) for assessment. Condition assessments will be carried out periodically in association with other asset assessments.

Landowners may request information pertaining to grid condition and inspections (that is, last inspection date, results of inspection, etc.). Landowner requested inspections shall be at the discretion of the Director of Works.

Replacement / renewal of substandard grids

Winton Shire Council's intent is to systematically replace substandard grids, that do not meet the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Standard for Grids – AS4100 Steel Structures – Highway Duty Standard.

Additional stress is placed on the grids due to the high volume of vehicular movements across the road network throughout the Shire.

Based on a 5-year prioritisation cycle Winton Shire Council will provide Landowners with written direction to upgrade non-standard grids. Landowners will be responsible for the purchase of grids and delivering grids to the site

Winton Shire Council will require proof that the grid meets the required specification, and the grid may be subject to inspection prior to installation.

Winton Shire Council will remove the old grid (which will be left on site), carry out subgrade preparations and install the new grid with suitable road geometry (particularly vertical curves – as per Austroads Design guidelines).

Winton Shire Council will carry out works on the approaches to the grid to ensure smooth transition.

Winton Shire Council will provide all necessary plant, materials, signage, and traffic control. The Landholder will be responsible for the construction of wing fencing and bypass gates.



Prioritisation of grids will be:

- By road classification (class 1 roads, then 2 then 3)
- By condition (grids in the worst condition will be done first)
- By equity (landowners with multiple substandard grids will only be required to replace two grids per 5-year cycle)

Replacement Process

Winton Shire Council will inspect and condition rate all grids in the Winton Shire and prioritise based on the criteria listed above.

It is expected that between 10-20 grids will be chosen each year and a five-year schedule will be published so that Landholders can observe when their grids are due for replacement.

This 5-year cycle will then repeat several times to progressively standardise grids throughout the Winton Shire over the next 10-20 years.

Timeframes

Landholders will be advised of the prioritisation program in May / June for the start of the financial year. Grids will be acquired as soon as possible to allow the Works department time to program and then install the grids.

Where the Landowner does not acquire a grid within reasonable time, Winton Shire Council may procure the grid at the cost to the Landholder.

Grid specifications

Grids will be required to meet the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads standards for grids and have a concrete base for ease of cleaning.

- Sealed Road Grids (Double width) – 6 metres wide by 2.7 metres long (minimum)
- Unsealed Roads – 4 metres wide by 2 metres long (minimum)

Repair of damaged grids

The repair of damaged grids typically applies to relatively new grids that meet the required specification. Grids that are considered substandard or unsafe are subject to replacement.

Where a grid is damaged but cannot be replaced temporary repair may be considered. As part of routine (or other) inspections Winton Shire Council will identify and keep a register of damaged grids.

Winton Shire Council will prioritise and repair grids according to risk, class of road and availability of tradespersons or staff for traffic control and associated road works.

Repair of damaged grids will be at Winton Shire Council's expense as part of road maintenance.

Timeframes

Where the damaged grid constitutes significant risk to the travelling public, every endeavour will be made to repair the grid as soon as possible. For all other repairs a timeframe of 60 days will be adopted.

Grids beyond repair

Grids that are beyond repair but are not scheduled for the current year's replacement pose significant risk to the public. This occurs when the grid becomes damaged or suddenly degrades in condition faster than expected and cannot be repaired.



In these instances, Winton Shire Council will notify the Landholder that the grid cannot be repaired and will need to be removed and possibly replaced.

The landowner/s may give consent for Winton Shire Council to remove the grid (either permanently or temporarily) to make the road safe. Failing the above Winton Shire Council will supply and install a grid at the landowner/s expense and re-establish the running surface of the road.

Cleaning of grids

Grid inspections carried out by Winton Shire Council will monitor serviceability and cleanliness (presence of dirt and debris). Details of the inspections will be recorded in a register. As grids become full, Winton Shire Council will clean (or arrange to be cleaned) grids at Winton Shire Council expense as part of road maintenance.

Winton Shire Council will endeavour to advise Landholders which grids are to be cleaned and when. If Landholders request additional grids to be cleaned, then they may be done at cost to the Landowner.

Where a Landholder presents Council with evidence that a grid requires cleaning, that is, photographs, the grid will be cleaned as soon as practicable at the discretion of the Director of Works.

Associated works

Works associated with grids includes:

- Grading or gravelling the approach.
- Constructing pre-mix approaches.
- Placing concrete approaches as well as signage (width markers, guideposts, and advanced warning signs).

Winton Shire Council will identify associated works by routine inspection or during condition assessment. All associated works will be carried out by Council with appropriate safe work method statements, traffic management and traffic control at Winton Shire Council's expense.

Communication

Winton Shire Council's management team will ensure that:

- Councillors, Council employees and members of the public have access to this policy.
- Councillors and Council employees be provided with the opportunity to be involved in the review of this policy.
- Changes and / or amendments made to this policy will be communicated to Councillors, Council employees and members of the public.

Related Council documentation

- Complaints Management Policy WSC-GOV-POL-003
- *Winton Shire Council Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011*
- *Winton Shire Council Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2024*
- *Winton Shire Council Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas Facilities and Roads) 2011*
- *Winton Shire Council Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas Facilities and Roads) 2024*



- Grids Procedure and Levels of Service documentation

Legislation, Recognised Authorities, and Other Sources

- *Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act 2011*
- *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*
- Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) – Department of Transport and Main Roads [Link](#)
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*

Review of Policy

This document will be reviewed every three years and when associated legislation or standards change and remains in force until amended or repealed by resolution of Council.

Record of Amendments and Adoptions

Date	Version	Reason for amendment	Date adopted by Council.
October 2019	1.0	Drafted for Council adoption	25 October 2022
August 2022	2.0	Review of policy	15 September 2022
December 2024	3.0	Review of policy (including amendments)	19 December 2024

