

7 Driveways (Vehicle Crossings and Accessways)

7.1 Overview

Subject to specific approval, Council allows property owners to establish driveways (vehicle crossings and accessways) to their properties for both private and commercial use.

7.2 Purpose

This policy is intended to:

- Ensure accessways are sited in a safe location to provide maximum Safe Sight Distances;
- That any safety issues are mitigated by for example additional seal widening, signage or vegetation control etc;
- Ensure they are constructed to a suitable standard;
- Prevent damage to the road infrastructure.

7.3 Legislation

- Tasman Resource Management Plan requirements
- Council's Engineering Standards & Policies
- Sections 321 and 335 of Local Government Act 1974

7.4 Policy

- Every person wishing to construct a new driveway (vehicle crossing or accessway) or utilise an existing one shall comply with this policy.
- The maintenance of all existing and proposed driveways (vehicle crossings and accessways) are the responsibility of the benefiting property owner/s.

7.4.1 Process – New and Upgraded Driveways (Crossings & Accessways)

All new driveways (crossings and accessways) including those proposed to be upgraded for a different class of vehicle ie commercial or as part of a resource consent shall be subject to permit from Council (See attached Permit Application at the back of this policy).

The proposed new or upgraded driveway (crossing or accessway) shall fully comply with those conditions set out in both the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) and Council's Engineering Standards & Policies.

Under special circumstances Council's Engineering Manager or Council's Environment and Planning Manager in the case of resource consents, may permit a variation to the requirements set out in either Council's Engineering Standards & Policies or TRMP documents respectively.

7.4.2 Private Urban Driveways (Crossings) (See Council's Engineering Standards & Policies for detail)

Further conditions are:

- All driveways (crossings) shall be finished with a permanent surface of either, Concrete or Asphalt Concrete. Where there is an adjacent footpath to the new driveway then the finished surface in the road shall generally be the same of either concrete or Asphaltic Concrete but not chip seal.
- No silt gravel or debris of any kind shall be able to runoff or migrate from the premises on to the roadway or associated drains.

Comment

Driveways should be constructed properly ensuring they do not create maintenance issues and drivers are able to use them safely. Silt, gravel or debris runoff or migration on to the roadway from the premises or driveway can also create a nuisance and safety hazard for road users.

7.4.3 Commercial & Industrial Urban Crossings (See Council's Engineering Standards & Policies for detail)

Commercial driveways (access crossings) shall be those which service businesses or cater for heavy trucks/vehicles on a regular basis.

All commercial driveways (access crossings) shall be subject to a permit from Council and be designed to the appropriate standard relative to the type of vehicles using the crossing.

Further conditions are:

- Where kerb and channel exists then this will be reconstructed to comply with the requirements of Council's Engineering Standards & Policies;
- All crossings (accessways) shall be finished with a permanent surface of either, Concrete, or Asphalt Concrete and ideally matching the surrounding footpath material.
- No silt gravel or debris of any kind shall be able to runoff or migrate from the premises on to the roadway or into drains.

Comment

Driveways (Crossings) should be able to withstand the type of traffic using them without sustaining damage affecting the footpath or roadway.

7.4.4 Private Rural Driveways (Accessways) (See Council's Engineering Standards & Policies for detail)

Private Rural Driveways (Accessways) shall require a permit.

Further conditions are:

- The driveway (accessway) shall be constructed of an appropriate depth of hard-fill and sealed;
- Adequate provision shall be made to ensure there is no impedance to the water channel or drainage paths, pipes under the driveway (accessway);
- The driveway (accessway) shall be laid out including sealed as shown in Schedule 16.2C of the TRMP, for Diagram 1 “Private Access”;
- Visibility of approaching traffic shall meet the minimum sight distances set out in the TRMP see Fig 16.2C to allow safe entry and exit;
- Intersection with the main roadway shall be no greater than 15 degrees to the perpendicular;
- Available off roadway standing area of relatively flat grade shall be provided to allow safe entry and exit, enabling drivers to stop and clearly see with adequate visibility approaching traffic. See the TRMP Clause 16.2.2 “Vehicle Crossings” (ga);
- No silt gravel or debris of any kind shall be able to run from the property on to the roadway or into drains.

Comment

These conditions allow road users to safely turn into and out of the driveway/accessway.

7.4.5 Commercial Rural Driveways (Accessways) (See Council’s Engineering Standards & Policies for detail)

Commercial rural driveways (accessways) shall be those that service businesses or cater for heavy trucks/vehicles including access to dairy sheds, woolsheds, grain stores, silage pits and stockyards.

All commercial driveways (accessways) shall be subject to a permit from Council and be designed to the appropriate standard, relevant to the type of vehicle using it.

Further conditions are:

- Adequate provision shall be made to ensure there is no impedance to the water channel or drainage paths, pipes under the driveway (accessway);
- Intersection with the roadway shall be no greater than 15 degrees from the perpendicular;
- The driveway (accessway) shall be laid out including sealed as shown in Schedule 16.2C of the TRMP, for either Diagram 2 “Private Access – Frequent Use by Heavy Vehicles” or Diagram 3 “Commercial Access – Localised Road Widening” whichever is appropriate;
- Visibility of approaching traffic shall meet the minimum sight distances set out in the TRMP see Fig 16.2C to allow safe entry and exit;
- Available off roadway standing area of relatively flat grade shall be provided to allow safe entry and exit, enabling drivers to stop and clearly see with adequate visibility approaching traffic. See the TRMP Clause 16.2.2 “Vehicle Crossings” (ga);
- No silt gravel or debris of any kind shall be able to run from the property on to the roadway or into drains.

Comment

These conditions allow vehicles to safely turn into and out of the accessway without causing excessive damage.

7.4.6 Process - Temporary Commercial Driveways (Accessways)

Temporary commercial driveways (accessways) are used for operations such as establishing dairy lands, harvesting trees and field crops, relocating houses, etc.

All temporary commercial driveways (accessways) shall require a permit from Council.

Any application shall include the following:

- Location of temporary driveway (accessway) which shall ensure that visibility of approaching traffic is adequate to allow safe entry and exit.
- Time period of usage.
- Vehicle numbers.
- Establishment works designed to ensure no damage or inconvenience is caused to the road or road user respectively, including ensuring that debris shall not be left on the road and drainage paths are not inhibited.

Comment

Driveways (accessways) should allow vehicles to turn into and out of the driveway (accessway) safely without causing damage to the road.

Where debris is left on the road, it shall be removed in accordance Council's Roading Policy 'Debris on the Road'.