

Unsealed Road Grading Maintenance Charter

Maintaining Unsealed Roads in Golden Plains Shire

The Golden Plains Shire has a network of 716 km of unsealed roads on our road register which are maintained by the Council Asset Services Department.

Council acknowledges that our unsealed road network is being used more frequently as a result of the growth of residential development.

The unsealed Council roads on our Road Register include the following assets that are maintained:

- Road surface
- Bridges and culverts
- Drainage
- Road shoulders

This charter explains how the Golden Plains Shire Council will schedule the maintenance of unsealed roads on our Road Register and explains what customers can expect from council in terms of unsealed road grading.

Road Grading Program

We have created a road grading program to allow for each unsealed road on our Road Register to be graded throughout the year. The aim of the Grading Program is to answer the most common question we hear “when will our road be graded”. The program will provide our customers with that answer and assurance of when each road will be graded.

The Golden Plains Shire Grading Program has been developed to obtain the following efficiencies:

- The grading program has been split into four grading areas (One area for each grader)
- The grading program has been designed for a consistent workflow allowing each road in the network to be graded once per financial year
- Grader operators have been assigned to each grader area to encourage familiarization of the intricacies of each road within their grading area and to maximise efficiency.
- The grading program has been designed to allow a 4 month period in the year where the graders are available to maintain all of the gravel shoulders on our sealed road network; and perform drainage and road construction projects.

Grading Program Details

The following are the terms and conditions of the road grading program:

- **Important:** Unsealed roads are subject to constant change and we stress the importance of a drivers duty to drive to the conditions of the road (Road Safety Act 127/86, 17A(1)).
- The Shire's grading program is subject to change.
- If grading falls behind schedule due to weather/operational issues, additional grader(s) may be contracted to return the program to schedule.
- Different sections of the same road can be on different cycles
- Unsealed road grading is subject to weather – and as such dates may vary. Grading may not necessarily occur exactly on the specified date in the program.
- Grading may not occur during dry seasonal periods where there is insufficient moisture content within the pavement materials.
- Additional (intervention) grading will only occur once intervention levels are exceeded (see intervention levels below).
- The intervention levels have been set after comparison with other municipalities and budgetary constraints.

- Council does not undertake watering of roads to suppress dust as it is impossible to service all our unsealed roads with a water truck nor is it environmentally sustainable to use potable water to suppress dust.
- A number of our unsealed roads have a posted or advisory speed limits to slow vehicles down for safety purposes.

Grading Intervention Levels

The intervention levels for unsealed roads in terms of corrugations and potholes:

- Corrugations: > 65mm depth for more than 30% of 1km of road length
- Pot Holes: >100mm depth and > 400mm diameter

If a complaint is received that a road requires maintenance due to perceived poor conditions an inspection will be conducted on the road within 5 business days to assess the condition in line with intervention levels. If intervention levels have been exceeded maintenance will be undertaken in accordance with the Intervention Standards set out in our Road Management Plan.

Unsealed Roads	Response Times		
	Link Road	Collector Road	Access Road
Corrugations	1 month	3 months	6 months
Potholes	6 weeks	6 weeks	3 months

Customer Enquiries

Enquiries concerning the condition of the road including requests for grading and repair of potholes can be addressed by contacting Councils Customer Service on 5220 7111 where a request for road maintenance will be submitted to respond to the concerns. Please refer to our service level agreements to understand the timeframes in which action can be expected.

Service Level Agreements

All unsealed roads on our Road Register will be scheduled to be graded ONCE (1) over each financial year.

We will inspect reported defects in unsealed roads within 5 business days. Any defect found to exceed intervention levels will be actioned in accordance with the Road Management Plan intervention standards.

We will not schedule any road grading between the months of December and February due to the usually dry conditions and high additional cost for water supply.

Every unsealed road on the Golden Plains Shire Road Register will have an annual road hazard assessment completed by a council officer.

Following this hazard assessment, we may increase the number of grades on a particular road per year. Factors taken in account include: the frequency of use; the number of intervention grades required. If the condition of a road is very good, then the road may not need to be graded.

Every unsealed road on the Golden Plains Shire Road Register will have a 4 yearly condition assessment completed by an independent external consultant.

Re-sheeting

If the road has poor structural condition, it may require re-sheeting.

Gravel re-sheeting is when new gravel is added to the road. This is due to the severe deterioration of the road surface as determined by the condition assessments.

Roads requiring re-sheeting will be scheduled on an annual program and will be completed in accordance with available budget.