

Final Community Engagement Report

Road Management Plan and Register of Public Roads



Mansfield Shire

Background

Consultation was undertaken regarding changes to Council's Asset Plan, Road Management Plan (RMP), and Register of Public Roads in late 2023 and early 2024.

Two deliberative panel sessions were held with members of the public and Council staff, on 29 November and 30 November. A public online survey regarding the RMP and Register of Public Roads was held from 20 November 22 December.

A final community workshop was held on 14 February online and in person with members of the public and Council staff on 14 February. The RMP was exhibited over the Engage platform from 6 February to 14 March to participate in the online survey and provide feedback.

This report records feedback from the sessions and surveys.

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For more information, please contact Sujita Sharma, Asset Management Officer on (03) 5775 8555 or at council@mansfield.vic.gov.au.

Deliberative panel and Community workshop feedback

The deliberative panel gave feedback on the RMP and Register of Public Roads during the community workshop held in the Council Chambers.

Road Management Plan & Register of Public Roads

Challenges

- ▶ Increasing damage from weather events.
- ▶ Rising contractor and material costs.
- ▶ Insufficient funding for road maintenance.
- ▶ Community understanding of the roads managed by Council and which one are managed by other authorities.
- ▶ Maintenance of major tourist routes.
- ▶ Maintenance of roadside drainage.
- ▶ Community expectations regarding the maintenance of all components of the road, not just the carriageway.

Opportunities

- ▶ Greater resident education, including information on Council's website about which roads are managed by Council, Department of Transport and Planning and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Possibility for a road search function. Help residents know who to contact for roads in poor condition.
- ▶ To upgrade all unsealed roads.

Online survey

The details of engage Mansfield online survey feedback and responses are provided below. Overall, we received 4 responses.

Online Survey	Feedback Summary	Response
Are there any unsealed roads managed by Council that you think should be upgraded?	4 Yes	No response required, as issues noted are addressed below.
Please list the unsealed roads you think should be upgraded.	Monkey Gully Road, Howes Creek Rd	Council recently resheeted both roads as part of our annual resheeting program.
Why do you think these roads should be upgraded?	<p>These roads are school bus roads which were promised to be sealed more than 10 years ago. Monkey Gully Rd in particular has become increasingly busy with more houses being built</p>	Council seeks funding opportunities to seal unsealed roads, as sealing a road has a significant initial cost and an ongoing maintenance cost.
	Kidston Parade South Side	Kidston Parade is expected to be sealed as part of the development along the road at developers cost.
	<p>Old Howqua Track – starts at Howqua Track goes to the back SW corner of GGS Timbertop. Approx. 1300m unsealed, limited Access/Fire Access Road. School says it's a council road. Council irregularly grades it. It's not visible on the Road Register. It may have a different name. Its due for grading again</p> <p>Because they are used heavily and are both a safety and health hazard.</p> <p>1. Rear exit from GGS Timbertop Campus 2. Firebreak between State Forest & Rural Residential properties 3. Firebreak between STATE Forest & GGS School campus 4. Property access for Fire Season Property preparation and maintenance</p>	<p>This is an Unnamed track that goes off Howqua track providing rear access to the properties along Wild Dog Road. The track is not listed on the Register of Public Roads as it has never been maintained by the Council in the past. The Register of Public Roads was established in 2004; however, the track appears to be older than that.</p> <p>Council officers are currently conducting further investigation on the track following a meeting with residents on site.</p>
	<p>Walshs Road, Goughs Bay.</p> <p>This road leads to The Pines which is a large camping area. During the summer months and long weekends hundreds of cars, caravans and motorbikes use this road. This dust is horrendous and also creates bad driving conditions.</p>	Noted, as part of Township Sealing Program, Council has started upgrading township roads, with priority to residential streets, from unsealed to sealed. Goughs Crescent and Katherine Street were sealed this financial year 2023-2024 and other roads are budgeted for next financial year. For Walshs Road, Council is actively seeking federal funding and is aware of the

		need and multiple requests from the community to seal this road.
Are there any sealed roads managed by Council that you think should be upgraded?	4 No	
Please list the sealed roads you think should be upgraded.	No responses	
Why do you think these roads should be upgraded?	No responses	
Do you have any comments on the requirements for inspection and maintenance of roads in the Road Management Plan?	Monkey Gully Rd & Howes Creek Rd, I believe are graded every 6 months but due to the increased traffic it isn't enough. As one of the main school bus routes Council should have a duty of care for the safety of residents. The proximity of trees to the road also needs to be looked at as many trees are leaning over the road and I believe pose a danger to users. On previous gradings of Monkey Gully Rd deep gutters have been created which are incredibly dangerous especially when there are two cars, trucks or buses passing each other.	Submission noted, Council grades Monkey Gully Road and Howes Creek Road twice annually with increased emphasis on maintaining bus routes. Howes Creek Road was resheeted in the financial year 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 and Monkey Gully Road in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 as part of our annual resheeting program. Routine inspections are completed including tree condition which guides weight reduction and removals where required. Council will continue to consider safety improvements along these roads in our forward capital works planning.
To give us any further feedback on our Road Management Plan or Road Register, please add your comment in the box below or contact Council's Asset Management team on 5775 8555 or council@mansfield.vic.gov.au.	Thanks for great work you do on the Howqua Track grading especially before the long weekend and holiday periods.	Noted and thank you for your response.

Responses

Question 1: Are there any unsealed roads managed by Council that you think should be upgraded?

Yes: 4

No: 0

Question 2: Please list the unsealed roads you think should be upgraded.

- ▶ Monkey Gully Rd, Howes Creek Rd
- ▶ Kidston Parade south side
- ▶ "OLD Howqua Track" - starts at Howqua Track goes to the back SW corner of GGS Timbertop. Approx. 1300 m . Unsealed, Limited Access /Fire Access Road . The school says its a council road. Council irregularly grade it. It's not visible on the Road Register. It may have a different name. Its due for grading again.

- ▶ Walshs Road, Goughs Bay

Question 3: Why do you think these roads should be upgraded?

- ▶ These roads are school bus roads which were promised to be sealed more than 10 years ago. Monkey Gully Rd in particular has become increasingly busy with more houses being built.
- ▶ Because they are used heavily and are both a safety and health hazard,
- ▶ 1) rear exit from GGS Timbertop Campus 2) firebreak between State Forest & Rural Residential properties 3) firebreak between State Forest & GGS School campus 4) property access for Fire Season Property preparation and maintenance
- ▶ This road leads to The Pines which is a large camping area. During the summer months and long weekends hundreds of cars, caravans and motorbikes use this road. The dust is horrendous and also creates bad driving conditions.

Question 4: Are there any sealed roads managed by Council that you think should be upgraded?

Yes: 0

No: 4

Question 5: Please list the sealed roads you think should be upgraded.

No responses. Only respondents who answered "Yes" to Question 5 were asked this question.

Question 6: Why do you think these roads should be upgraded?

No responses. Only respondents who answered "Yes" to Question 5 were asked this question.

Question 7: Do you have any comments on the requirements for inspection and maintenance of roads in the Road Management Plan?

- ▶ Monkey Gully Rd & Howes Creek Rd, I believe, are graded every 6 months but due to the increased traffic it isn't enough. As one of the main school bus routes council should have a duty of care for the safety of students. The proximity of trees to the road also needs to be looked at as many trees are leaning over the road and I believe pose a danger to users. On previous gradings of Monkey Gully Rd deep gutters have been created which are incredibly dangerous especially when there are two cars, trucks or buses passing each other.

Question 8: To give us any further feedback on our Road Management Plan or Road Register, please add your comment in the box below or contact Council's Asset Management team on 5775 8555 or council@mansfield.vic.gov.au.

- ▶ Thanks for great work you do on the Howqua Track grading especially before the long Weekends and Holiday periods.