

<b>TITLE:</b>	Footpath Policy		
<b>DIVISION:</b>	Corporate Policy		
<b>ADOPTED BY:</b>	Council		
<b>DATE OF ADOPTION:</b>	21 April 2016	<b>DATE OF REVIEW:</b>	21 April 2020
<b>MOTION NUMBER:</b>	OC 87/16		
<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>	CP000012		
<b>AUTHORISED:</b>	Chief Executive Officer		

## THIS POLICY APPLIES TO:

All employees of the Barkly Regional Council and Elected Members

## PREAMBLE

The aim of all policy is for Councillors to provide strategic input into the effective operational framework of the organisation under S.11 of the Local Government Act

## SUMMARY

This Policy outlines the Council's priorities in regard to the provision and reconstruction of footpaths, identifies where footpaths are to be constructed and establishes design standards.

## OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to Government, developers and residents on the Council's priorities and requirements in relation to the provision of footpaths within the Council area.

## BACKGROUND

The Council provides and maintains footpaths in areas of need. Due to financial constraints the Council has to adopt priorities for the construction (and replacement) of footpaths and generally limits the provision of footpaths to one side only in local roads. Footpaths on roads with high traffic volumes are usually provided on both sides.

When new development is proposed the Council can require the developer to provide footpaths to a standard approved by the Council. Generally Australian standards apply to the construction of footpaths.

## POLICY STATEMENT

### General Principles

Council will construct and maintain a footpath network throughout the Council area to provide appropriate pedestrian linkages to properties and public and private facilities in accordance with the following principles:

- New footpath construction will be determined according to the road hierarchy, town planning zones and special needs;

- Reconstruction will be prioritised within budgetary constraints and according to the road hierarchy, town planning zones, special needs and existing footpath condition; and
- Where a footpath is not being provided, a pedestrian corridor must be provided and maintained in accordance with Council's *Verge Policy*;
- In the provision of footpaths the Council will have regard for the needs of people with a disability;

## **Footpath Standards**

Footpaths shall be designed and constructed in accordance with Austroads Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice, Part 13 and Council's Standard Drawings and Specifications. Council's Standard Drawings and Specifications will take precedence over the Austroads Guide where they differ.

Generally the footpath in a residential or industrial area will be constructed from concrete, be 1.2m wide and offset 300mm from the property boundary with a 1.5% cross-fall, however, the footpath may be located anywhere within the verge width to meet specific local requirements. In a commercial area the footpath will generally be full verge width, except in new developments or redevelopments where substantial softening of those areas with appropriate landscaping is required. Ramps and crossings will generally exceed the minimum requirements of AS1428 Part 1.

Polished and smooth, sealed surfaces, e.g. ceramic tiles are not approved.

Root barriers will be installed on both sides and along the full length of all new footpaths in new subdivisions and developments. In established road reserves root barriers shall be installed where required during new constructions and reconstructions.

## **Visual Aids**

Council is still considering the appropriate use of tactile tiles and other forms of grade definition to assist pedestrians with a visual impairment. Developers should approach Council staff to determine requirements on a case by case basis until a position is finalised.

## **Lighting**

Generally footpaths will be lit from the street lighting system in accordance with AS/NZS 1158.3.1. Where there is no street lighting the footpaths will not be separately lit.

## **New Developments and Subdivisions**

In new developments and subdivisions a footpath will be provided:

- On one side of the road for local roads
- On both sides of the road for collector roads and above on the road hierarchy
- On the roadside adjacent to any medium to high density residential housing (Zones R2 and above)
- On the roadside adjacent to any commercial, special use, industrial or community purpose zones
- Where the Council has identified a special need.

Where a footpath is not provided, access to all properties must be provided via the driveway in accordance with AS1428 Part 1.

### Footpath Construction and Reconstruction for Existing Roads

Within financial constraints and priorities based on condition and need, Council will provide a footpath:

- On one side of the road for local roads;
- On both sides of the road for collector roads and above on the road hierarchy;
- On the roadside adjacent to medium to high density residential housing (Zones SD, MD, MR, HR, CV or CL);
- On the road side adjacent to commercial, special use, industrial and community purpose zonings. C, SC, TC, CB, LI or GI);
- To meet a special need.

Where a footpath is not provided, access to all properties must be provided via the driveway in accordance with AS1428 Part 1, subject to physical constraints.

Footpaths will generally not be constructed adjacent to vacant or undeveloped lots due to potential damage caused during subsequent development. If however the footpath is a high usage linkage, or there is a special need mobility issue or there are considerable delays expected in the development of the land, a footpath may be provided.

### Reconstruction Priorities

Council's priority is to provide at least one fully compliant footpath in good condition generally throughout the whole of the Council area before commencing construction or reconstruction of footpaths on the opposite side of the road. Exceptions to this will be based on need and merit, e.g. special mobility needs.

Issues to be considered when determining which roads and which sides of the road have highest priority may include but are not limited to the following:

- Pedestrian and vehicular traffic volumes and potential for conflict,
- Access to community, public and commercial facilities,
- Pedestrian behaviour/preferences e.g. shortest distance walked,
- Linkages to other paths or links identified in Council's long term plans,
- Verge vegetation,
- Location of services,
- Special needs,
- Any site specific issues.

### Removal of Obsolete Footpaths

On local roads (where only one footpath is to be provided on one side of the street) an existing footpath on the opposite non preferred side will be classified as an obsolete footpath. On these roads where a serviceable footpath has been provided on one side of the road and an existing footpath on the opposite side of the road has deteriorated to such an extent that it is no longer practical to maintain (the *obsolete*) footpath, Council may remove the footpath and replace it with either gravel or soil and seed depending on the circumstances within that street. If soil and seed is provided, Council will rely on the resident to propagate and maintain the verge.

Council may leave an obsolete footpath in place if it does not pose any significant safety concern to the public. Construction and reconstruction of new footpaths will generally be considered a higher priority than removal of obsolete footpaths unless safety is an issue.

Council will provide only minimum maintenance to obsolete footpaths.

If an owner or resident wishes to upgrade their verge, they may seek approval for removal of the obsolete footpath at their expense and upgrade the verge in accordance with Council's *Verge Policy*.

## **Wheelchair Access to Commercial Properties and Institutions and Other Buildings to be accessed by the Community**

Property owners are required to provide wheelchair access to the building within the property boundaries. Generally ramps will not be approved in the public space. However, where only minor changes of grade are required and there is no adverse impact within the road reserve, minor adjustments **may** be approved at the owners expense and subject to Council's approval.

### **Exclusions**

This policy does not cover:

- paths through parks and other public land that are not road reserve
- walkways or laneways
- footpaths used for alfresco dining and other commercial activities
- footpath maintenance
- pedestrian requirements along verges
- Cycle paths and combined pedestrian/cycle paths.

## **LEGISLATION, TERMINOLOGY AND REFERENCES**

Relevant Australian Standards  
NT Local Government Act  
Verge Policy

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND DELEGATION**

The CEO has delegated authority to implement this policy

## **EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

This Policy is to be reviewed every four (4) years, and may be reviewed at other times at the discretion of Chief Executive Officer.