



**CUMBERLAND  
CITY COUNCIL**

## **New Footpath Construction Policy**

### **AUTHORISATION & VERSION CONTROL**

<b>Policy Number</b>	POL-059
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Director City Services
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## BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

Footpaths play an important role within the Cumberland City Council, providing a means of access to community facilities, services, public transport and open spaces. The provision of footpaths make communities more liveable and better connected and people healthier and physically active. Footpaths also have a considerable visual impact on the streetscape of Council area and contributes to the attractiveness of the streets and public spaces.

The Council provides and maintains footpaths in the areas of need wherever appropriate and practical to install. Due to financial constraints the Council must adopt priorities for the construction of new footpaths. There are currently about 300km of streets/road network that either missing or no paved footpath lengths within the Cumberland City Council LGA.

## PURPOSE

Cumberland City Council is giving notification of the exhibition of the proposed New Footpath Construction Policy & Procedure. The purpose of this policy is to outline Cumberland City Council's commitment and responsibilities in providing safe and accessible footpath network throughout the Council's local government area. The Policy provides guidelines for the standards, priorities and source of funding for the installation of new paved footpaths.

This policy is supported by the New Footpath Construction Procedure that outlines the criteria for prioritisation of new paved footpath constructions.

## SCOPE

This Policy and related procedure apply to the entirety of Cumberland City Council Local Government Area. This policy applies to all new footpath requests and construction of footpaths within public road reserves.

It can also serve as a guide for cycle ways and parks within open space area, these areas are however subject to their own strategies and /or Plan of Management.

## DEFINITIONS

Word	Definition
Road Reserve	The area from the property boundary to property boundary
Road Pavement	The sealed area between the two kerb lines intended for the movement of vehicles
Footpath	The improved area of the verge for pedestrians to use
Verge	The area from the property boundary to the kerb or edge of the pavement
Paved Footpath	A path constructed using segmental block pavers, concrete, asphalt or sprayed bituminous surfacing
LGA	Local Government Area
CBD	Central Business District is the commercial and business centres of the Local Government Area
Road Hierarchy	Categories of roads according to their functions and capabilities

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Cumberland City Council is committed to provide safe pedestrian access throughout the LGA to make local roads more pedestrian friendly and improve pedestrian connectivity.

Council support active transport to benefit the health and wellbeing of our residents and to minimise the impact of monitored transportation on the environment.

## **PRINCIPLES**

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

- Council will provide a new fit for purpose paved footpaths where requested, identified, appropriate and practical to install and supported by the local community and considered viable.
- New footpath requests will be prioritised giving consideration to the road hierarchy, pedestrian usage volume, importance of access, safety improvements, availability of existing footpath in streets, missing links within the existing path, access to public transport, planning zones and special needs.
- In the provision of footpaths, the Council will have regard for the needs of people with a disability.
- New footpath construction program will be prepared giving considerations to prioritised requests and based on Assets Management Principles to ensure equitable distribution of an improved network.
- Footpaths will be constructed to the relevant current Australian Standards using quality materials and fit for purpose. Materials and construction techniques used will be suitable and appropriate for the location and selected with consideration of the lifecycle costs of the footpath. As a general principle, footpaths are constructed with Concrete, Asphalt, Segmental Pavers, and have a minimum width of 1.2 metres.
- Footpaths are constructed within the standard longitudinal grade and cross falls to comply with Australian standards for pedestrian and disability access where practically allows.
- Appropriate pedestrian kerb ramps will be installed at intersections when new footpath construction is being undertaken.
- Where new footpaths are required to be constructed as a result of development, full costs of construction of the footpaths are to be borne by the developer subject to council's planning and development guidelines as a condition of the development approval.

Where Council undertakes a program of constructing footpaths in residential areas, costs will be funded from Council's resources.

- Driveways –
  - a) Council will reconstruct driveways only where the new path level necessitates this to eliminate trip hazards.
  - b) Where no driveway exists or where a driveway has not been constructed to Council standards then Council shall not be liable to construct a new driveway. The property owners can construct a driveway at their cost by engaging Council's contractors and Council will waive the inspection fees.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

All new footpath construction must have a budget provision to allow expenditure.

Any new footpath provision in a street without footpaths will require consultation with all residents in that street, because of the impact on verges and crossovers. This must be balanced against the aim to ensure equal access capacity for elderly and people with disabilities in the community to any property within Cumberland Council area.

Council staff are required to investigate all new footpath requests to scope, cost estimate and prioritise to determine if it is to be included in the footpath requests list. All works will be included in construction program subject to annual budget allocation for construction of new footpaths.

## **RELATED LEGISLATION**

Roads Act 1993  
Local Government Act 1993  
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005  
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979  
Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000  
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997  
Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulations 2009  
Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulations 2014  
NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011  
NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS AND COUNCIL POLICY**

Community Strategic Plan  
Delivery Plan  
Development Control Plan  
Council Standard Drawings  
Council construction standards and specifications  
New Footpath Construction Procedure  
Road and Transport Assets Management Plan  
Long term Financial Plan  
Australian Standards