



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

Draft Stock Underpass Policy

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of the Stock Underpass Policy (the Policy) is to provide a mechanism for the consideration of stock underpass applications and set appropriate rights and responsibilities.

The Stock Underpass Policy ensures that Council has guidance for the construction, approval, maintenance and ongoing responsibilities of stock underpasses.

The Policy will act as a default set of responsibilities for all Stock underpasses which exist within the Warrnambool City Council including existing underpasses. Council currently has several underpasses, some of which have historical agreements in place and others which do not. The implementation of the Policy will designate the responsibilities of the Council and the users ensuring that both parties understand their respective responsibilities.

1.2. Scope

The Policy is applicable to the current and/or proposed stock underpasses on Council owned or leased roads within the Warrnambool City Council Local Government Area.

1.3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Asset	An item that has a value to an organisation, for a life greater than 12 months. This Policy only refers to physical assets (plant, infrastructure, land).
Asset Management (AM)	The systematic and coordinated activities and practices of an organisation to optimally and sustainably deliver through the cost-effective lifecycle management of assets.
Council	Warrnambool City Council.
Council Plan	The Council Plan is the document, required by law, which sets out the direction and priorities for Council over a four-year period.
The City	The Municipality of Warrnambool.
The Policy	Council's adopted Stock Underpass Policy (Policy).
The User	The adjoining landowner or landowners who are currently directly serviced by the stock underpass and/or who are the applicant for the construction of a new stock underpass.

1. POLICY

1.1. Council Plan

The Council Plan requires assets to be suitably assigned to the appropriate owners which will assist in the below objective.

“Our sustainable city will be financially secure... have well maintained assets... balanced with financial viability”

1.2. Policy Objectives

- Provide a standard for the continued provision of stock underpasses.
- Define legal responsibilities for stock underpasses.
- Ensure existing underpasses are appropriately managed.
- Provide an approval process for stock underpasses.
- Ensure existing underpasses have assigned responsibilities.

1.3. Approvals

In addition to any required approvals set out by the Planning Scheme, the location, design and construction of a stock underpass must be approved by the Manager Infrastructure Services.

Any underpass to be constructed under a Council owned or leased road will require landowners to produce site specific plans completed by a qualified engineer for approval which include:

- Structural computations for the construction and design suitability of the underpass.
- A detailed locality plan, construction methodology, traffic management plan and all design details necessary for the construction of the underpass.
- Information and design necessary to provide appropriate drainage.
- Plans which comply with current VicRoads standards for stock underpasses.
- Guardrails specified to current VicRoads standards (where applicable)

Where an underpass is to be constructed under a solely VicRoads managed road reserve, approval may not be required from Council, In this case approval will need to be obtained from VicRoads.

1.4. Ownership and Maintenance

The construction of all aspects of the stock underpass including the road surfacing and guard rails shall be undertaken by the user at the user's expense. Once construction has been completed and the works have been approved by Council the user will be responsible for the maintenance upkeep and renewal of the underpass.

Council will then assume responsibility for the maintenance, upkeep and renewal of the road surface and guard rail, excluding the physical structure of the stock underpass and any associated infrastructure.

In the event that the underpass causes deterioration to any infrastructure within the road reserve then the property owner shall be liable to repair both the stock underpass and the infrastructure which has been damaged.

1.5. Existing underpasses or underpasses without a current Deed of Agreement

If there is an existing stock underpass or one which does not have a current Deed of Agreement then the responsibilities shall default to the responsibilities outlined within the Stock Underpass Policy.

1.6. Deed of Agreement

A deed of agreement shall be entered into by the relevant user and Council prior to commencement of construction. The agreement will stipulate the responsibilities of all parties and the standards for the stock underpasses construction. The agreement shall be binding to the current and future users ensuring that the responsibility of the stock underpass is maintained.

1.7. Redundant Underpasses

Stock underpasses which are no longer in use or which fall into a state of disrepair are to be removed by the user at the users expense, the user is to reinstate all infrastructure within the road reserve to a Council approved condition.

2. GOVERNANCE

2.1. Owner

The owner of this policy is the Manager Infrastructure Services

2.2. Review

This document will be reviewed every 5 years.

2.3. Charter of Human Rights Compliance

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights Act (2007).

Warrnambool City Council is committed to consultation and cooperation between management and employees. The Council will formally involve elected employee health and safety representatives in any workplace change that may affect the health and safety of any of its employees.