

POLICY NAME: FOOTPATHS & CYCLEWAYS – INSPECTION,
EVALUATION & MAINTENANCE

POLICY REF: F01

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OBJECTIVE

This policy introduces a prioritisation system in order to rank the severity of footpath/cycleway hazards. This provides a prioritised action plan for the repair works which is limited by budgetary constraints.

POLICY

Council aims to provide a managed network of footpaths and cycleways for pedestrians and cyclists to utilise.

The policy, together with the procedures, provides the guidelines for managing the footpaths and cycleways.

In accordance with the Civil Liability Amendment (Personal Responsibility) Act 2002, Council acknowledges the presence of risks associated with footpaths and cycleways and commits to minimising these risks. It is recognised that Council is unable to eliminate all risks due to the unreasonable financial burden.

The procedures that have been developed provide an inspection and maintenance management system for establishing works to be undertaken within budgetary constraints.

Procedures

- *Footpath & Cycleway Inspections Procedure*

This procedure details the process for undertaking inspections of Council's paved pathways. It covers programming of inspections, recording of defects, prioritising defects, and generating programs for remedial action.

- *Footpath Repair Procedure*

This procedure details the process for repairing defects identified under this inspection procedure. It covers the work practices involved in undertaking the repairs and recording the completed work.

Principles

To provide a managed level of public safety for users of the footpath and cycleway networks.

To extend the life of the footpath and cycleway assets by timely maintenance and rehabilitation.

BACKGROUND

In order to minimise the potential for 'slip, trip and fall' injuries to occur, Council has developed a risk management approach to the maintenance of Council's footpath and cycleway networks.

Council has recognised that ‘slips, trips and falls’ associated with footpath and cycleway networks form a significant percentage of public liability claims received by Councils within NSW.

The procedures developed for this purpose are derived from industry best practice as documented in the “Statewide Mutual Best Practice Manual – Footpaths (Nature Strips, Medians and Shared Paths)”. These procedures define a hierarchy inspection schedule, systematic method of inspecting and set defect intervention levels. They specify a process of receiving customer request, capturing electronic data through inspections and accomplishing pathway defect information. The related procedures also provide a control for repairs to be built to construction standards and to have a final inspection to check compliance.

This policy applies to footpaths and cycleways surfaced with concrete, asphaltic concrete, bitumen seal or pavers.

This policy does not apply to turfed, gravel surfaced or unformed footpaths, boardwalks, walkways or walking trails.

DEFINITIONS

Risk Management: The culture, processes and structures that are directed towards managing adverse effects and realising potential opportunities.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to:

- Council employees
- Consultants/Contractors

RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Related documents, policies and legislation:

- Civil Liability Amendment (Personal Responsibility) Act 2002
- Footpath & Cycleway Inspections Procedure
- Footpath Repair Procedure
- Pathways Intervention Guidelines
- Statewide Mutual Best Practice Manual – Footpaths (Nature Strips, Medians and Shared Paths)

REVIEW

The above Policy is to be reviewed every four years.