



SHIRE COUNCIL
Blayney

Pathway Hierarchy, Standard and Maintenance Policy

Policy	25H
Officer Responsible	Senior Assets Officer
Last Review Date	16/12/2025

Strategic Policy

OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure that pathways are maintained in compliance with relevant legislative requirements.
2. To ensure new pathways, or major renewal works consider current access standards, and meet them wherever practicable.
3. To ensure that the maintenance of pathways is undertaken within the financial constraints and competing interests placed on Council, and in accordance with the limit of funds available as determined in Council's Strategic Plans and Long Term Financial Plan.
4. To provide clear information on the level of service that Council will provide to maintain pathways defined within the pathway hierarchy.
5. To establish procedures that provide a simple, systematic and readily usable risk management approach to the maintenance of pathways to minimise potential hazards to pathway users resulting in public liability claims or injuries.
6. Other objectives consistent with this policy include:
 - a. Supporting movement and place initiatives.
 - b. Treating ratepayers equitably in the allocation of new capital projects and maintenance services.
 - c. Management of road opening permits (for pathway assets).
 - d. Minimising any environmental impacts of pathway construction, or maintenance.

DEFINITIONS

“pathway” a footpath, shared path, or cycleway surfaced with concrete, asphaltic concrete, bitumen seal or pavers, that are:

- Adjacent to the road network,
- Within Blayney Shire Council parks and recreational areas, or
- Within or adjacent to Blayney Shire Council community facilities

“footpath” a formed (1.5m min. width) path set aside for pedestrian traffic. Some older paths may be narrower than 1.5m in width.

“footway” an unobstructed strip (1.5m min. width) along the verge set aside for pedestrian access which has not been formed. Its width is dependent on whether a footpath, bicycle path or shared path is proposed for the street and it generally begins 1.2m from the back of the kerb or edge of carriageway.

“cycleway” a path or road for the exclusive use of cyclists, or cyclists and pedestrians.

“shared path” A formed mixed use (2.5m min. width) path set aside for pedestrian and bicycle access.

“verge” the area between the property boundary and the kerb (or edge of the roadway).

“other pathway assets” covered in this policy, include:

- bridges on pathways.
- kerb / pram ramps.
- tactile indicators and line markings on pathways, and
- barriers, bollards and railings installed on pathways.

SCOPE

The Policy outlines Council's level of service for pathway maintenance activities and details procedures for the management of the pathway network and related infrastructure. In particular, the Policy covers the following areas:

- Pathway hierarchy,
- Pathway renewal and maintenance,
- Construction standards, and
- Selection of new Capital Works

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

PATHWAY HIERARCHY

Council uses a 3 level hierarchy based on the level and nature of usage of the pathway network within each urban area. The hierarchy is used to determine the inspection frequency and the response time for identified defects. Inspections are used to determine the overall condition of a pathway segment (generally from block to block, or where there is a change in width or material) and also identify individual defects.

The three Hierarchy categories are:

Pathway Hierarchy	Pedestrian Usage	Inspection Frequency	Description
1	High	6 Monthly	Footpaths located in the CBD of each town, where there is significant business and pedestrian activity
2	Medium	Annually	Around schools, childcare facilities, nursing homes and aged care facilities
3	Low	Annually	General local residential streets

Construction and Renewal Standards:

Wherever practicable, subject to physical and budgetary constraints Council applies the following standards to the construction of new pathways and the renewal of significant sections of existing pathways.

The target New / Renewal Standards are:

Pathway Type	Pathway Width (m)	Grade (Steepness) ¹	Cross fall (Slope)
Shared Path	2.5	5%	2.5%
Footpath	1.5		
Paved	As required		
Kerb / Pram Ramp	As per pathway	12.5% ²	As per road grade

¹ This is only a target, as a grade of 5% or less on pathways within the Blayney Shire is rarely achievable.

² For a maximum length of 1520mm.

Renewal works generally relate to the replacement of significant lengths of an existing pathway, or the replacement of an entire segment. Renewals are generally identified from the condition of the entire segment, based on a 1 (excellent – normal maintenance only) to 5 (very poor – requires major repair / replacement) scale. Replacement, upgrading, or construction of ‘missing’ pram / kerb ramps are also considered within the Renewals program.

Construction of additions to the pathway network are detailed in Council’s Delivery Program and Long Term Financial Plan. These are informed by:

- The Blayney Shire Council *Active Movement Strategy, 2016*.
- The Blayney Shire Council *Town and Village Community Plans*, and
- Developments resulting in changed usage patterns, such as a new Child Care facility.

In some instances, the construction of new pathways can be made possible, as a result of Council successfully applying for grant funding from the Australian or NSW governments. In most instances this will involve ‘bringing forward’ projects that have already been identified in existing Council plans, particularly the Active Movement Strategy / Long Term Financial Plan.

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

In order to prioritise maintenance activities on the pathway network, Council has adopted a Response Priority Matrix, which has been developed in line with Council’s Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Plan and the Statewide Mutual Best Practice Manual. The Response Priority Matrix uses a similar approach to a risk matrix, but in this instance only refers to the priority that Council assigns to the response to an identified maintenance defect.

The actual response time will be determined by the severity of the defect, the hierarchy of the pathway, and the availability of resources. A response may range from spraying with paint to highlight the issue, to replacement of a section of pathway. Multiple defects within a section of pathway would be managed through the renewals program.

For maintenance activities the Priority Response Matrix is shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Priority Response Matrix

Defect Severity	High	High	Medium	Medium	
	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	
	Low	Low	Low	Low	
	Hierarchy 1	Pathway Hierarchy			
		Hierarchy 3			

The level and nature of usage (the hierarchy), combined with the severity determine the response time for addressing any defects. The types and severity of defects are

shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Severity Response Matrix

Defect Type	Severity Measure	Hierarchy – Response Priority		
		1	2	3
Trip	>30mm	H	M	M
	20–30mm	M	M	L
	<20mm	L	L	L
Crack	>20mm	M	M	L
	10-20mm	L	L	L
	<10mm	L	L	L
Heaved Joint	>30mm	H	M	M
	20–30mm	M	M	L
	<20mm	L	L	L
Slipperiness	Severe	H	M	M
	Moderate	M	M	L
	Minor	M	M	L
Vegetation Encroachment	>50%	H	M	M
	25-50%	M	M	L
	<25%	L	L	L
Edge Drop-off	>50mm	H	M	M
	25-50mm	M	M	L
	<25mm	L	L	L
Utilities	Lid failed	M	M	M
	Lid missing	H	H	H

Response times, as determined by the Response Priority Matrix are set out in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Priority Response Times

Priority Response Rating	Council Response Timing
H	Repair within 24hours, or make safe within 24 hours and program repairs.
M	Program repair works and monitor through regular inspection program.
L	Monitor through regular inspection program.

Identification of maintenance issues is predominantly through regular inspections (As outlined above) by Council's Asset staff, although they can also be identified by:

- Customer Requests System which is reported to the Council's Risk Officer and Assets Officer. An assessment of the defect is undertaken and action is prioritised under the Defect Priority Response Matrix.
- Service requests from staff, which are reported through Supervisors to Assets staff and treated as per a Customer Request from the public, and
- Road Opening Permits are required to be submitted to Council by public utility authorities and trades people. The application requires details on how pedestrians will be managed during the works, through to details on the permanent restoration works.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

There a number of Council and Guideline documents that impact on Council's role in constructing, renewing, and maintaining pathways, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- *Statewide Mutual Best. Practice Manual – Footpaths (Nature Strips, Medians and Shared Paths)* Version 6, August 2019.
- Australian Standard, *AS1428 – Design for Access and Mobility*.
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA), NSW, Roads & Transport Directorate, *Guide for the Design of Accessible Outdoor Spaces*, 2018.
- *Blayney Shire Council, Community Strategic Plan*.
- AssetFinda Asset register of footpath, shared path and cycleways.
- *Blayney Shire Council, Long Term Financial Plan* (various years).
- *Blayney Shire Council, Delivery Plan* (various Years).
- *Blayney Cabonne Orange Disability Inclusion Plan*.
- *Blayney Shire Council, Active Movement Strategy, and*
- *Various Town and Village Community Plans*.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY LINKS

This Policy complies with various provisions of the Civil Liability Act 2002 [NSW] including sections 42, 43 and 45 by ensuring resources allocated to an asset and its maintenance are utilised to meet Council's commitments and in accordance with other relevant Legislation and associated Regulations.

These include, but are not limited to:

- NSW Roads Act 1993,
- Local Government Act 1993,
- Disability Inclusion Act 2014,
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979,
- Crown Lands Act 1989,
- Civil Liability Act 2002,
- Blayney Shire Council Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Plan,
- Blayney Shire Council Complaints Management Policy,
- Blayney Shire Council Legislative Compliance Policy,
- Blayney Shire Council Work Health and Safety Policy, and
- Blayney Shire Council Asset Management Policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

Appeals to the Policy or its application can only be made by submission to a Council meeting.

End of Policy

	Date	Minute
Adopted:	26/06/2021	2106/011
	21/11/2022	2211/010
	16/12/2025	2512/010
Next Review:	19/12/2029	