



16 April 2025


Roads Act 1993 Submission

To whom it may concern,

ROADS ACT 1993 – REVIEW

This letter responds to the request for feedback on the review of the Roads Act 1993 - Issues Paper. Council Officers have reviewed Issues Paper and have the following comments/questions that should be considered and addressed as part of the review of the Roads Act 1993:

1. **Roads are to be used to meet community demands for events and open space** how would the balance between various community demands for a road be considered/measured
2. **Considerations for biodiversity habitat and exercise, wildlife movement, to encourage social interaction and physical exercise** – In built-up urban areas where tree canopies are lacking, where the verges may be small or restricted, where overhead electrical wires may exist what considerations for biodiversity habitat would be required or expected for road maintenance.
3. **Western Sydney Street Design Guidelines** – For western Sydney the review should consider the hierarchy of streets identified within the Western Sydney Street Design Guidelines adopted by the Western Sydney Planning Partnership. Western Sydney Councils are starting to incorporate the requirements identified for new local and industrial estate roads as part of development approvals at local and state level.
4. **Green Grid and Blue Grid Policy** – Any wildlife or biodiversity provisions in the Act should align with the principles identified in the Green and Blue Grid strategies.
5. **Enforcement and Administration** – The review should look at enforcement of rules and administration of responsibilities by different government agencies as defined by the Act to create less of a financial burden on local councils for road maintenance and infrastructure?
6. **How will the review clarify the multi modal intent of the Act?** - The review should formalise references to active and green transport in the Act including public transport.
7. **Road Freight** - The review should look at the impact of road freight and how this should be managed especially as it is expected to increase on Western Sydney roads due the planned freight line and the proposed intermodal terminals at Moorebank and potentially at Mamre Road. In addition, the review should look at how heavy vehicle access can be increased across the road network in line with the TfNSW Heavy Vehicle Access Policy 2024.

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8. **Public Transport** - The review should look at provisions for public transport on regional and state classified roads and how they can be located near strategic centres and recreation areas.
 9. **Planning and Development** – concurrences, integrated development and driveway crossing approvals, this is currently confusing and complex for Councils, will this process be streamlined or better aligned with the NSW Planning Framework.
 10. **Aligning with the planning framework more broadly** – Road network planning should align more broadly with district planning and areas where development uplift is expected over the coming 25 years inline with the NSW strategic planning framework particularly areas where housing and industrial supply will increase.
 11. **Greater clarity around roles and responsibilities between State, and local government**, especially when it comes to maintenance and funding.
 12. **Streamlined processes for road openings, closures, and reclassifications**. Currently these can be quite drawn out and cumbersome.
 13. **Updating or modernising the language used especially in the sections regularly used by us and the public**. Words or phrases like ‘notice’, ‘carriageway’, ‘highway authority’ etc updating the language to reflect the modern vernacular using simple words like ‘publish’ ‘road’, ‘road manager/authority’. Updating or broadening references to modes of transport. This would be to cover off on the non-traditional modes of transport that have become common occupiers of the road reserve i.e. mobility scooters, e-bikes etc. In a local government context this may broaden the planning opportunities or probably more importantly give clarity to the regulation of these transport modes especially within the road reserves we manage.
 14. **References to consultation via notice in a local newspaper need to be updated to reflect fact that some councils have little to no remaining local newspapers**. This might mean notice/consultation is undertaken via the councils website. Also the time period of 28 days in some cases need a review considering the mode in which people communicate has shifted away from post to electronic.
 15. Should the **Safe Systems Approach** be incorporated into the Act then how would this be measured/ considered so that it is easy to understand and apply and does not delay decision making for all parties involved whether it be in development or local government.
 16. Please consider workshops to consult with interested parties (at the roundabout phase) regarding the review of Roads Act 1993 and then at implementation of the new Roads Act.

Conclusion - Council Officers would like for above matters to be considered as part of the Issues Paper Review of the Roads Act 1993. Should you have any further questions you wish to raise in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact me on 9725 0161.

