KING ISLAND COUNCIL

Policy

FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE POLICY

Responsible Officer: Works and Services Manager

Date: 18 February 2025

Review Date: 18 February 2029

1. Purpose

King Island Council is committed to providing equitable and accessible infrastructure through the construction and maintenance of pedestrian footpaths within recognised urban areas across the municipality.

2. Scope

This policy applies to the King Island Council and all persons who contribute to this program.

3. Policy

3.1. Footpath Planning Criteria

King Island Council prioritizes footpath construction based on pedestrian movements, community accessibility needs, and safety considerations. The planning and prioritization of footpaths will focus on:

- **Shopping Centres:** Enhancing access to retail and commercial areas to support local businesses and improve pedestrian safety.
- **Schools:** Ensuring safe and direct routes for students and staff, reducing road hazards and promoting active travel.
- **Parks and Reserves (Open Space Areas):** Providing better access to recreational spaces, encouraging outdoor activities and community engagement.
- **Community Centres/Facilities:** Improving connectivity to libraries, aged care centres, and civic buildings to enhance accessibility for all members of the community, including seniors and individuals with mobility impairments.
- **Residential Connectivity:** Linking homes to key precincts, with a focus on high-density areas and potential users, ensuring all neighborhoods have safe pedestrian access.
- **High-Risk Road Sections**: Identifying and prioritizing areas where pedestrian movement is unsafe due to the absence of designated footpath spaces, ensuring pedestrian-friendly solutions are developed for such locations.
- **Popular Walking and Recreational Routes:** Recognizing areas frequently used by pedestrians for leisure and outdoor activities, such as waterfronts, scenic routes, and community-favored

paths, and incorporating them into the footpath development plan.

3.2. Footpath Construction Locations

To ensure responsible and strategic development, footpaths will primarily be constructed within road reserves of Council-owned roads or State Growth-owned roads. This ensures that footpath infrastructure remains within publicly owned land and avoids encroachment on private properties, nature reserves, or beach fronts not owned by the Council.
Requests for footpaths on private land, including nature reserves or beachfronts, will not be considered unless formal agreements and legal easements are established. Any such proposals must be assessed on a case-by-case basis in alignment with local and state planning regulations.

Additionally, it should be noted that the majority of grant bodies do not allocate funding to footpath projects on private land, nature reserves, or beach fronts. Grant funding is typically reserved for infrastructure on publicly owned land where accessibility and public benefit can be ensured.

The Council will also incorporate future demand assessments, traffic data analysis, and evolving community needs when determining footpath locations to ensure optimal accessibility and safety.

3.3. Construction Standards

All footpath construction shall comply with the IPWEA / LGAT Tasmanian Standard Drawings. Construction must be carried out professionally, with due attention to all aspects of the process, including excavation, bedding material, compaction, finished profile, and final assessment, to the satisfaction of the Council's Works Manager.

Before commencing work:

- **Utility Locations:** All cable and infrastructure locations must be identified via Dial Before You Dig.

- **Traffic Management:** A traffic management plan, designed by a qualified professional, must be implemented, including pedestrian management and appropriate signage for the duration of the work.

3.4. Construction Materials

While standard construction materials are preferred, alternative materials such as gravel may be used, provided safety is not compromised. Dimensions may also be adjusted for aesthetic purposes or to integrate with existing surroundings.

Any variation in materials or dimensions must be approved by the Manager of Infrastructure and Development Services or their delegate prior to construction.

3.5. Scheduling Works

All footpath construction or major reconstruction projects will align with the capital works program as adopted in the Council's budget. The Works and Services Manager will be accountable for the scheduling of footpath works in accord with the annual budget.

3.6. Additional Footpath Requests

Requests for footpath construction outside the capital works program will be recorded and considered for inclusion in future capital works planning.

3.7. Classifications and Intervention Levels

Footpaths within the municipality are classified based on usage, construction standards, and location. This classification system supports maintenance planning and compliance with risk management requirements.

Intervention levels define the degree of unserviceability that warrants remedial action, recognizing that perfect conditions cannot always be maintained.

Classifications and Intervention Levels

Class 1: High-use urban shopping zones (hard surface)

- Maximum joint deflection: 15mm
- Maximum edge drop-off: 50mm
- Pothole width: 200mm
- Pothole depth: 20mm

Class 2: Feeder paths to shops/schools (low-medium use, hard surface)

- Maximum joint deflection: 20mm
- Maximum edge drop-off: 50mm
- Pothole width: 200mm
- Pothole depth: 30mm

Class 3: General urban paths (moderate use, hard surface)

- Maximum joint deflection: 30mm
- Maximum edge drop-off: 75mm
- Pothole width: 300mm
- Pothole depth: 30mm

Class 4: Gravel paths (low use)

- Maximum surface irregularity: 50mm
- Pothole width: 400mm
- Pothole depth: 75mm
- Edge drop: 100mm
- Surface washout: 75mm

Class 5: Natural surface paths (low use)

- Unevenness/roots: 100mm rise
- Depression width: 500mm
- Depression depth: 150mm

Corrective actions will be based on these intervention levels.

3.8. Inspections

Footpaths will be inspected regularly according to their classification to ensure compliance with safety and maintenance standards:

- Class 1: Every 4 months
- Class 2: Every 6 months
- Class 3: Every 12 months
- Class 4: Every 6 months
- Class 5: Every 12 months

Inspection Criteria:

During inspections, all footpaths will be assessed for:

- Raised sections
- Broken areas or missing pieces
- Potholes
- Loose materials or pavement
- Loose surfaces (gravel paths)
- Edge washouts
- Grass encroachment reducing width
- Weeds
- Overhanging branches
- Slippery surfaces
- Other trip hazards
- Service openings/lids
- Any other issues impacting safety or accessibility

3.9. Amendment

The council retains the sole discretion to vary, terminate or replace this Policy from time to time. The council will consult before amendments are made and will notify and train those the amendments apply to.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

Applicable legislation:

Local Government Act 1993
Local Government Highways Act 1982

Definitions	
Term	**Meaning**
Council	King Island Council
Councillor	An elected member of Council known as a Councillor or Alderman or otherwise meeting the definition of a 'councillor' as defined under section 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (TAS)
Employee	A person who carries out work for Council as an employee of Council.
General Manager	The general manager of Council as appointed under section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (TAS).
IPWEA	Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia
Manager/Supervisor	A person at the Workplace who is appointed to a position that has management/supervisory responsibilities for others or their appropriately nominated or authorised delegate.
Policy	Footpath Construction and Maintenance Policy
Workplace	A place where work is carried out by Council employees

POLICY VERSION AND REVISION INFORMATION

Title: Footpath Construction and Maintenance

Maintained by: Works and Services Manager

Policy Commencement: 18/02/2025

Policy Review: 18/02/2030

Version No	Date	Resolution No	Responsible Officer
1.0	18/02/2025	40/25	Works and Services Manager