

(TE REO TITLE) UNSEALED ROADING DUST MITIGATION POLICY

CATEGORY:	Community Assets and Services	STATUS:	FINAL
DATE POLICY ADOPTED:	26 November 2019	APPROVAL BY:	Council
REVIEW PERIOD:	5 years	NEXT REVIEW DUE BY:	2024
DATE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:	N/A	REVISION NUMBER:	0

PURPOSE

To recognise that dust is a serious issue in the community and to offer a prompt alternative solution for the rate payer.

SCOPE

The policy comprises the following elements: application, assessment framework, extent of treatment, funding of dust mitigation treatments, construction and future maintenance.

BACKGROUND

A number of adverse effects can occur from dust arising from unsealed roads including nuisance, health and environmental impacts and road safety.

Up to ten requests for dust mitigation is received on an annual basis by Council but it varies from year to year.

Historically, the dust complaints are put onto the “Dust Matrix” held by Council. There are currently 56 sites on the matrix. This is not always a suitable response and the priority for action is variable due to the multiple factors taken into account.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for dust mitigation treatments are to be made in writing to the Council’s Transport Asset Manager.

ASSESSMENT

Applications received will be assessed using the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) dust assessment framework.

The framework pragmatically assesses the level of health risk associated with individual unsealed roads. Criteria includes the number of vehicles and heavy vehicles using the road, the number of receptors within 80m of the roadway and general site characteristics. Receptors include (dwellings, schools, hospitals, marae, ecologically sensitive areas (wetlands, or rare species habitats) and horticultural sensitive areas such as fruit orchards).

Undertaking an assessment using these criteria produces a numerical output which determines the risk of harm to receptors categorised as high, medium or low.

Assessments submitted to NZTA that are rated as high will probably be funded while medium rated assessments may possibly be funded. Low rated assessments will not be funded. Any NZTA investment in dust mitigation will be at the current approved organisations financial assistance rate. Approval will also be based on budget constraints.

EXTENT

The extent of treatment is limited to modest preparation of the road pavement to bring it up to sealing standard and for a length not exceeding 100m either side of the gate or nominated point on the road.

Lower cost/alternative treatments may be considered such as OTTA seal, or dust suppressant. Process outlined in this policy will be the same for alternative treatments.

FUNDING

Successful applications will be part-funded by NZTA at the approved organisations funding assistance rate (FAR). The remaining local share contribution will be funded by the applicant. For example, at current rates it is approximately \$30,000 per 200m length and 5m width for sealing. The respective amounts to be funded by each party would be NZTA \$21,000 and the applicant \$9,000.

Should applications be unsuccessful using the NZTA assessment framework, the Council's Community Assets and Services department may still decide to approve the application. Council will fund the project at the Council's NZTA FAR rate, and the remaining share will be funded by the applicant. For example, 70% (\$21,000) will be funded by Council while the applicant is responsible for 30% (\$9,000) of the cost for sealing.

Construction will not commence until NZTA or Council funding has been approved and the applicant's contribution has been paid in full. Payment to be made to Wairoa District Council.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the dust mitigation seal will be undertaken by one of Council's maintenance contractors. The timing of construction will be agreed by the applicant and the Community Assets and Services department.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE

Any future maintenance obligations will be undertaken by Council under the relevant maintenance contract.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

NZTA dust assessment framework

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/general-circulars/docs/16-04.pdf>

NZTA research report 590 summary

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/reports/590/>