



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

HEAVY VEHICLES USING COUNCIL BRIDGES

Originated Date: Adopted 23 September 2002 Min. No. 373/02 (as Policy 31)

Amended Date/s: Revised 28 June 2021 – Min. No. 219/21

Applicable Legislation: Section 44 of the *Local Government (Highway) Act 1982*

Objective To protect Council bridges from damage caused by heavy vehicle loads.

Administration: Works & Infrastructure

Review Cycle/Date: Next review 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Council, at its 26 August 2002 meeting, considered a background report (Data Works No 74574) on the effect of B-Double, Quad Dog and Heavy vehicles on Council bridges.

BRIDGE INSPECTIONS

All Council bridges are inspected by a consultant on an annual basis and any required repairs or damage to the bridge structure are identified.

In 2016 – 2017 the department of state growth carried out an inspection of all bridges on the council network and rated the risk level of each bridge for different heavy vehicle configurations. prior to granting approval for a heavy vehicle to use a bridge the works manager or their delegated officer must consider this information in conjunction with council’s annual bridge inspections. in a case where damage or deterioration of the bridge structure is identified during the inspection process council may request more regular inspections to ensure that the bridge remains suitable for heavy vehicles.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND ENTITLEMENTS FOR B-DOUBLE AND QUAD DOG VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON PUBLIC ROADS

Heavy vehicles require a permit through the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) to operate on Council roads.

The Department of State Growth has carried out load analysis on all Council bridges and developed a Load Carrying Vehicle Network Map which allows certain classes of heavy vehicle to operate on approved Council and State Government roads <https://data.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/Networks/templates/help.html>

All vehicle classes not covered on this map must apply to the NHVR for a permit. As part of the approval process the NHVR seeks permission from Council for vehicles to use these roads.

TABLE 1	B-Double Vehicles Types			
	1	2	3	3 (Higher Mass)
Length	< 19m	< 21m	< 25m	< 25m
Weight	42.5t	50t	62.5t	68 tonne
Special Requirements				Fitted with air-ride suspension
Restricted Roads	None	None	All *1	All *1
NHVR Permit Required	No	No	Yes *1	Yes *1
Council Approval on ‘Local’ Roads	No	No	Yes	Yes
Note *1 Must obtain NHVR permit to travel any road				



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TABLE 2	Quad Dog Vehicles Types			
	1	2	3	4
Length	< 19m	< 21m	< 21m	< 25m
Weight	42.5t	49t	54t	62t
Special Requirements	No	Fitted with air-ride suspension	Fitted with air-ride suspension	Fitted with air-ride suspension
Restricted Roads	None	None	All *1	All *1
NHVR Permit Required	No	No	Yes *1	Yes *1
Council Approval on 'Local' Roads	No	No.	Yes	Yes
Note: *1 Full air-bags *2 Must obtain NHVR permit to travel any road				

RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON VEHICLES USING COUNCIL BRIDGES

- Concrete or Steel Bridges (simple span) – no restrictions shall be imposed on B-double, Quad Dog or Heavy vehicles if their total weight is less than the maximum permitted weight and either the bridge is a single span or, if it is multi-span, then each individual span is simply supported.
- Concrete or Steel Bridge (continuous span) –the majority of continuous span bridges in the municipality are constructed to the SM1600 load standard which is suitable for all vehicles currently on Australian roads. Older bridges that were constructed prior to the introduction of the SM1600 were constructed to the T44 standard which is also suitable for vehicle up to 68 tonne.
- Occasionally vehicles with a gross weight over 68 tonne may be required to use a bridge rated to the T44 standard in order to bring construction machinery to a site. The Works Manager or a delegated officer may give approval through the NHVR approval process on a “one off” basis for heavier loads to access a bridge constructed to T44 standard based on the Department of State Growth bridge analysis and the results of annual bridge inspections. Such approval should only be granted for the duration of the works for which the vehicle is required.
- The Works Manager, shall apply load and/or vehicle-class restrictions on Council bridges where, in their opinion, the bridge structural components have deteriorated or are damaged to the point that the maximum permitted weight for B-Double (68t), Quad Dog (62t) or Standard Heavy (42.5t) vehicles could cause an accelerated rate of deterioration or possible collapse. The restrictions shall be applied immediately if the Works Manager considers the situation to be critical, otherwise the matter shall be reported to the Council for endorsement before application.

DESIGN LOADS USED BY COUNCIL FOR NEW BRIDGES

All new bridges on Council roads shall be designed to cope with the loads applied by the SM1600 Load Standard..

REVIEW

The Council will review this policy at least every four years.