

RURAL ROADS UPDATE FOR RESIDENTS

Dear Resident,

May 2020

Following the heavy rainfall events from February through to April, Gilgandra Local Government Area has seen in excess of 350mm of widespread rain across the Shire and isn't it great to see paddocks full of grass and the cropping season commencing with vigour. The downside is the impacts to our local road network which is estimated to have caused millions of dollars' worth of damage.

Council applied to the NSW Office of Emergency Management to have these storm events be declared a Natural Disaster and such declaration has been forthcoming. This declaration provides an opportunity for Natural Disaster funding which is essential to help Council restore the local road network to pre-disaster condition.

In 2016/17 Council received Natural Disaster funding of \$4.5m which enabled restoration works to be carried out across Council's 970kms of unsealed road network. Whilst Council received many enquiries regarding conditions of the roads before restoration, we received just as many positive responses from ratepayers upon completion of the works. The quality of restoration works to our roads could not have been achieved without this additional funding.

The cost in restoring the damage to floodways, bridges, culverts, road surfaces, road formations and table drains, some of which you can see on the images on the following page, is greater than Council's own financial capacity.

Natural Disaster Declarations permit emergency works to be undertaken. Emergency works are necessary to facilitate passage for emergency services vehicles. The work our road crews are currently undertaking is emergency works, and not restoration works. Crews are progressively working their way around the local road network to complete these emergency works.

Restoration works can only commence once a claim has been approved by the NSW Government. The following page shows the process to attain Natural Disaster funding. Currently Council is undertaking the Detailed Assessment of Damage; this assessment is 50% complete and will be completed by the end of May 2020. Whilst this is ongoing, works have commenced to qualify and quantify the extent of the restoration works required.

The NSW Government approval timeframe is not known at this point in time, however it is expected to take many months. In the meantime, Council's road crews will continue with standard road maintenance activities mainly to the road network not impacted by flood damage.

We greatly appreciate your patience through this process and will continue to keep you updated as our claim progresses to the approval and restoration phase.

Yours sincerely

Doug Batten
Mayor



Please continue to report road concerns to Council by submitting a customer request at www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au or by calling 6817 8800.



NATURAL DISASTER FUNDING PROCESS



NATURAL DISASTER OCCURS

EMERGENCY WORKS COMMENCE

APPLICATION TO OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT FOR A DECLARATION

DECLARATION DETERMINED BY OFFICE

DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE BY ASSESSOR

CLAIMS LODGED TO NSW GOVERNMENT

CLAIMS APPROVED BY NSW GOVERNMENT

RESTORATION WORKS COMMENCE BY COUNCIL

Actual rural road
restoration & maintenance
expenditure in 2016/17-17/18
following 2016 flood event

\$8.52m

Budgeted rural road
maintenance
expenditure in 2019/20

\$2.49m