Bass Coast Shire Council

Review of the 2017 Road Management Plan

Report of Findings and Conclusions of Review

Statutory requirement for review

The Bass Coast Shire Council Road Management Plan (**RMP**) has been reviewed in accordance with section 54(5) of the *Road Management Act 2004* (**RMA**) and regulations 8 and 9 of the *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016* (**Regulations**).

Under section 54(5) of the RMA, Council (as a road authority) must, in accordance with the Regulations, conduct a review of the RMP at prescribed intervals.

This report confirms that the review has been conducted and completed (**Review** and **Review Report** respectively).

Council is invited to adopt the Review Report in accordance with officer recommendation to this effect as set out in the accompanying Council report (**Council Report**).

In conducting the Review of the RMP, Council is required to ensure that the standards in relation to, and the priorities to be given to, the inspection, maintenance and repair of the roads and the classes of road to which the RMP applies are appropriate. The term 'roads' extends to and includes footpaths (pathways).

Furthermore, after Council has completed the Review, it must produce a written report summarising the findings and conclusions of the Review and make the report available for public copying or inspection.

This requirement extends to and includes the place where the RMP may ordinarily be inspected or obtained by any member of the public in accordance with section 55(1)(b) of the RMA and on the Internet website maintained by Council.

What has been done in relation to the Review

Internally, through Council's relevant departments, teams and officers were invited to analyse the existing 2017 RMP and provide input towards any areas which were considered to require

update or improvement. All observations, comments and recommendations were compiled, and discussed, where appropriate.

The framework for the Review, within the overall policy and budgetary context of Council, was to focus on –

- the minimisation of road safety hazards;
- the avoidance or minimisation of damage or disruption to roads under the administration of Council and infrastructure on roads;
- the avoidance or minimisation of disruption to plans for the development of road infrastructure and non-road infrastructure;
- the avoidance or minimisation of disruption to traffic; and
- the efficient use of resources of Council and the minimisation of cost to the community of infrastructure and services.

The Review team has considered –

- the character of the roads covered by the RMP;
- the type of traffic that could reasonably be expected to use the roads covered by the RMP;
- the standard of maintenance and repair appropriate for roads of the character used by traffic of that type;
- the state of repair in which a reasonable person would have expected to find roads or infrastructure of that character; and
- other relevant matters.

What feedback Council has had

As a result of (and otherwise) informing the Review process, Council has engaged and consulted with its community and the wider public.

The results of this engagement and consultation are set out in the document attached to the Council report, being the document titled ‘Road Management Review Submissions and Community Feedback’.

The Review has identified minor improvements which can be made to existing RMP (**minor improvements**).

The minor improvements primarily relate to administrative matters such as minor editorial corrections, clarifications made to ensure accuracy and improve readability and understanding.

It is also proposed that there be a minor administrative update to (and a corresponding clarification in relation to) the levels of service to be applied in connection with footpath (pathway) undulations.

This minor clarification is considered by the Review team to be one which –

- enhances service delivery and results in footpath (pathway) hazards being more easily identified in the future;
- does not result in the determination under section 41 of the RMA of a standard that is lower than a relevant standard previously determined by Council under section 41 of the RMA in relation to footpaths (pathways);
- otherwise deals with changes to the administrative procedures or responsibilities of Council as the road authority which are of a fundamentally declaratory or machinery nature; and
- having regard to (and taking into account) the budget, the resources and the benchmarking of comparable Councils, and other economic, budgetary, social, environmental or policy factors, objectives or constraints which apply to Council, are improvements to the RMP which essentially relate to minor housekeeping and administrative changes only with no lowering of the standards in respect of the response times to or the intervention levels for the safe and proper inspection, maintenance or repair of footpaths (pathways).

Findings and Conclusions

In conclusion and in conducting the Review, the Review team is satisfied that the standards in relation to, and the priorities to be given to, the inspection, maintenance and repair of the roads and classes of road, including footpaths (pathways) to which the RMP applies are appropriate.

Dated 2022