



**Results of Public Consultation Process
Gates and Grids Subordinate Local Law
1 November 2023**

Summary of matters raised in written public submissions:

1. It was suggested that if Council is seeking the fencing of roads, where the road is constructed off-survey (outside the road reserve on private property), that Council contribute to the cost of that fencing.
2. Concerns were expressed on the processes involved in assessing whether grids have reached the end of useful life and must be replaced – it was suggested that in some cases, grids can be repaired rather than replaced.
3. Two of the submitters considered that the landholder is better placed to maintain and/or repair grids and they will be seeking approvals/permits for their grids.
4. One submitter advised that grids are very important for stock management and the submitter will be seeking an approval/permit.
5. One submitter suggested that since 2020 when Council took responsibility for some grid structures, they have been damaged by Council road maintenance activity and have not been repaired or maintained. Therefore, if the responsibility is to be returned to the landholder, then Council should repair any damage prior to the transfer of responsibility.
6. High volume traffic roads should be treated differently to low volume traffic roads in terms of the standard of grid.
7. Landholders that need to replace grids should be given options on the types of grids that can be installed and not just offered one type.
8. A statement of reasons should be provided by Council when an assessment has been made that a grid needs to be replaced, so that the landholder can assess the reasons for the decision and participate in the consideration of whether the structure can be repaired or whether it should be replaced.
9. Where landholders opt to relinquish responsibility for gates and grids, the landholders should still be able to carry out the replacement of grids at the end of useful life as they can do the work more economically than Council.
10. Some submitters objected to having to obtain public liability insurance.
11. One submitter considered it unreasonable for stock owners to be responsible for grids in the public road – they were happy to keep the grids 'stock proof' with Council to undertake all other responsibilities.
12. There was a submission from a Rural Fire Brigade advising that they support stock grazing the road reserve as it reduces the potential for fires, reduces the intensity of fires when there are reduced fuel loads, overcomes the need to cut fences to access fire areas and simplifies the controlled burn process.

Summary of Survey Results (17 respondents):

1. All respondents live in the region, with 16 managing rural property, and 15 of those having a gate or grid in a maintained public road
2. The responses on why gates or grids are required were: Other (11), Stock Movement (10), cost of fencing (7), watering points (6), cost of maintaining road fencing (5), road is not constructed on alignment (4). The feedback where 'Other' was selected included the following additional reasons: fire control, safety, boundary, Lease in place to graze reserve.
3. The majority of respondents are inspecting grids monthly with only 2 respondents indicating something other than weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly
4. The majority of respondents (11) consider they are capable of maintaining the structures and approaches/surrounds to the standards proposed in the Subordinate Local Law
5. The majority of respondents considered that permits should be granted for the life of the grid/gate
6. 80% of respondents do not consider the permit conditions reasonable
7. The majority of respondents (10) indicated that they would be seeking an approval under the Subordinate Local Law.

Additional comments provided by Survey Participants:

1. The present arrangements seem to be working satisfactorily to me. If a gate or grid needs replacing let the landowners do it themselves but it must be done to Council's rules and safety regulations. I believe if Council orders the removal of a grid or gate then Council should have to contribute to half of any fence work. To be necessarily done on each side of the existing surveyed road.
2. We believe that it is unreasonable for individuals/landowners to be responsible for grids on public roads. We cannot be expected to be responsible for how the public drive on the roads, even if they are through our land. Also don't know why we would need a permit system for a permanent, fixed structure that has been approved.
3. Landowners are not approved to work on Council controlled road and do not have appropriate traffic control certificate.
4. The way it should work is Council to install the grid & maintain at no cost to the landholder. Landholder to supply the grid. This is how most Councils operate in the management of gates & grids.
5. Agree with all parts except undertake annual compliance inspection and submit report/photos because I am not a qualified engineer to inspect grids and their compliance with the Australian standard required by GRC. Plus keeping 25m either side of the grid/gate clear because it is a GRC maintained road and that is GRC responsibility.
6. GRC has not been cleaning out grids whilst they have been under their care. Grid inspections must have been carried out by GRC while under their control but no work has been undertaken. For example: refer to CSR726578 reported on 19 October 2023 - this grid has not been cleaned out.
7. The Permit Fee should be zero or \$1 because the Landholder is being required to carry out all work and administration activity and bear the insurance costs.
8. It is reasonable for the Landholder to manage weeds and sapling growth in and around the Grid/Gate but it is unreasonable to expect the Landholder to clear fallen trees from storms/fires etc. 25m each side of the Grid/Gate. The Landholder is not employed by GRC to do their work. They are just requiring a permit to install or maintain a Grid/Gate.
9. GRC has not been proactively undertaking maintenance on Grids since ownership was transferred back to them. There are Grids that have been damaged or filled in with dirt by GRC Road Maintenance Crews and these damages and maintenance have not been undertaken even when

the Grid holder has reported it to GRC. It is only reasonable that the damages are fixed and grids are cleaned out before implementing this Subordinate Law.

10. I believe that landholders should be able to maintain any grid on their property with a public road traversing through it without obtaining public liability. We have no control over who crosses the grid and whether they are driving safely or not. It is a public road.
11. Standard of council maintenance on existing roads, frequency and type of traffic, prospective users of road and existing standard of council signage, should all be taken into consideration when grids are assessed.
12. Grids should always be preferred to gates. Unable to understand that gates only are even still considered on public roads especially in view of emergency services like fire brigade, police, ambulance, SES etc have to use the road when a fast response is required.
13. One of the permit conditions should be that the structures should be out of flooding area as well and it will stop 3 properties livestock from getting in if we get a flood.
14. Maintenance of roads are the responsibility of the council. That is what we pay rates for.
15. Council is charging landholders to have grids. This is extortion as the council are not providing a service. Council has a responsibility to maintain roads regardless of whether there is a grid on the road or not. Council's goal to have no grids on roads should not be forced onto landholders. We require these grids as it is not feasible to fence the road.
16. We are currently maintaining our grid/gates ourselves, as Council has never shown any maintenance interest in our grid/gates since this proposed change came into being.
17. We believe gates and grids are required within rural regions of the Gladstone Regional Council for safety of stock handling, fire control and biosecurity control. Gladstone Regional Council does not consider the basic agriculture needs of their rural areas within their borders. Gladstone Regional Council is for urban, tourism and industrial development only.
18. Do not have a huge fee for the permit. There should be no fee at all because we, as landowners maintain them.
19. Grid/gate at our expense. Council has no expense under the permit option therefore the permit should be for the life of gate/grid not a revenue raising annual fee.
20. Be kind. Drought makes farming difficult enough. Stop gouging farmers. They are not all rich.

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