

**Friday 8 October 2021**

## Introduction

The Road Management Act 2004 was developed to provide a more efficient and safer Victorian road network, and is based on the following key principles:

- Clear allocation of road asset ownership and management;
- Establishing processes and accountabilities for policy decisions and performance standards;
- Provision of operational powers to achieve targets and performance standards; and
- Clarification of civil liability laws for the management of roads.

In accordance with the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016 Part 3 – Road Management Plans, section 8(3), Indigo Shire Council *must conduct and complete a review of its road management plan within the period referred to in section 125 (1) of the Local Government Act 1989 or, if that period is extended in accordance with section 125 (4) of that act, within that extended period.*

Section 9 (2) states that after a road authority has completed a review of its road management plan, it must produce a written report summarising the findings and conclusions of the review. This report satisfies that requirement for Indigo Shire Council for its 2021 review.

## Review of the Road Management Plan (RMP)

A review of the current Road Management Plan – Version 5.0 (dated June 2017) has been conducted within the Infrastructure Services Directorate, including input from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Council's Risk Advisor and benchmarking data.

## Performance and Compliance

In reviewing the Road Management Plan, an assessment of the current compliance with the existing plan was carried out. In particular, the following two measures were investigated:

1. Scheduled inspections due and actual inspection date
2. Identification of defects outside of nominated thresholds and rectification of defects

From these results, ISC determined that the settings within the Road Management Plan are generally appropriate, and generally ISC is able to meet the current and proposed requirements of the Road Management Plan with its current resources.

Customer satisfaction with Council's Roads has decreased marginally over the last 12 months, but is still above small rural Council's average in Victoria. Results are shown below:

## *Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey Levels and Comparison of Overall Result*

Performance Measure	Indigo Shire Satisfaction Score (Indexed mean)			Median Result for Small Rural Council Group (Vic.)	Median Result for All Councils (Vic.)
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2021
Condition of Local Roads in your area	57	56	60	56	56
Overall Performance	60	57	61	61	60

As part of this review, it was identified all pro-active pathway inspections were carried out within the required time-frame.

Road inspections were generally carried out in a timely way, although completion within due dates were slightly lower than previous years. A new Asset Management System is being implemented in November 2021 which will improve the inspection processes and reporting.

Reactive requests have also been audited, and through this analysis of the defect types, and Council's response times to specific work order request types indicates that Indigo Shire is compliant with the reactive response times in the Road Management Plan. Again, the new Asset Management System will more clearly identify RMP type defects and allow Council to report more accurately on compliance in this area.

## Risk Management Input

Input was sought from Council's Risk Advisor regarding the Road Management plan, and no changes were proposed to the plan. It is noted that the classification of a number of road segments is proposed to be changed in Council's Road Register, with a number of roads being downgraded, some upgraded or lengths corrected, and some being removed from the register. Where roads have been downgraded, consultation via direct mail to neighbouring landowners and public notice via Council's website and Weekly Update has been carried out, and submissions considered as part of this review.

As the Road Register is not part of the Road Management Plan, but is a separate document, it will be approved along a different time-line to the Road Management Plan, allowing for appropriate consideration of submissions.

## Recommendations

As detailed in Table 1, it is asserted that the changes determined by this Road Management Plan Review are considered to be either an increase in the level of service, or be of a minor or administrative nature. As such there is no requirement under Section 10 of the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016 to give public notice in relation to the Road Management Plan review. It is proposed that the new RMP be reviewed for approval by Council at its meeting on 26 October 2021. Changes to the Road Register will be submitted for approval by Council at a future meeting.

Following this review of the Road Management Plan (Version 5.0 – 2017), it is recommended that:

1. The Road Management Plan be amended as detailed in Table 1 to become Version 6.0 - 2021.
2. The process of amendment be pursuant to the Road Management (General) Regulations (2016) and the Road Management Act (2004).
3. This process does not require a public consultation phase and should be finalised and adopted by Council prior to 31 October 2021.

## Changes made to Version 6.0 of Indigo Shire Council's RMP

Table 1 below details the changes made to the Indigo Shire Council's Road Management Plan as part of this review.

**Table 1 – Changes to Road Management Plan as a Result of the 2021 Review.**

Section	Description	Proposed Change	Nature of change (minor, administrative, or a higher level of service)
1.4	Reference to the Road Fire Management Strategy	Change reference to the Municipal Fire Management Plan as the strategy has been superseded.	Administrative
	Reference to VicRoads requires updating	VicRoads References have been changed to Regional Roads Victoria	Administrative
2.3.2	Reference to Inspection Frequency accuracy in scheduling and delivery	Additional Comment: "With inspections with a frequency of 6 or more months, in order to efficiently program inspections and to cater for scheduling, some inspections may be early or late from the due date by up to 2 weeks."	Administrative
	Road Register Review	<p>A review of the road register has identified 31 Road Segments that need to be reviewed. Consultation with land-owners adjacent to each road segment, as well as public notices on the Council Website have been used to allow submissions from the public on these changes.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This <b>Road Register Review</b> does not impact on the Road Management Plan, but merely identifies road segments that are incorrectly classified, require changes to lengths to correct mapping errors, or require road length changes due to gates and fences within the road reserve.</p>	Minor – requires notification