

# Stock Gates and Grids on Council Roads

## FACT SHEET

*This fact sheet provides detail relating to Council's arrangements for managing privately owned assets such as stockproof gates, grids, fences etc. located on public road reserves.*

### **What are Stock Gates and Grids?**

Stock grids are a type of infrastructure used to prevent livestock, such as sheep, cattle or horses from passing along a road or railway which penetrates the fencing surrounding an enclosed piece of land or border. It consists of a depression in the road covered by a transverse grid of bars or tubes, normally made of metal and firmly fixed to the ground on either side of the depression. The gaps between the bars are wide enough for animals' feet not to enter but sufficiently narrow not to impede a wheeled vehicle or human foot. This provides an effective barrier to livestock without impeding vehicles.

Stockproof gates and fencing are required to ensure livestock movement is controlled. The gate allows for the safe diversion of road traffic when the grid is impassable, while fencing provides a secure connection to the nearest property owner's boundary fence.

All stock gates must be either single or double swing, strong enough to contain livestock and be a minimum of 3600mm wide.

### **Why are Stock Gates and Grids controlled by Council?**

As the road is a Council asset and where privately owned gates and grids are required to safely manage livestock, Council can apply conditions relating to stock gates and grids' location, construction, and maintenance standards. Additionally, to comply with its local laws, the Council requires stock gate and grid owners to have appropriate levels of public liability insurance.

Council has a duty of care to road users and is responsible for the control, care and management of all public roads within the local government area, including all rural roads. This includes the overseeing of stock gate or grid installation and maintenance to Council standards to ensure the safety of road users.

Once approval of the application for the installation of a stock gate or grid on Council's rural road network has been granted, the grid owner is responsible for the installation and ongoing maintenance.

### **What are the Laws that allow Council to preside over Stock Gates and Grids?**

Privately owned stock gates and grids located on Council roads are a prescribed activity and to remain in-situ require approval under Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2019 (Subordinate Local Law No.1).

## Criteria considered for the granting of approval

The criteria considered for approval of a prescribed activity include:

- (a) the works or interference with the road will:
  - (i) reduce the capacity of the road to provide vehicular thoroughfare, and where relevant, pedestrian thoroughfare
  - (ii) constitute a nuisance
  - (iii) constitute a danger to any person or property
  - (iv) obstruct access from a footpath to kerbside parking
  - (v) have an adverse effect on the amenity of the area
  - (vi) have an adverse effect on the existing services located in, on or over a road
- (b) the agents or employees of the applicant who will be carrying out the works have received appropriate training in safety procedure; and
- (c) in the case of an approval for a stock gate or grid, the applicant has taken out a standard public liability insurance policy.

## Conditions that will ordinarily be imposed on approvals

Conditions that will ordinarily be included in approvals for installing or operating stock gates or grids on a road are that the approval holder must:

- (a) ensure that the number for the stock gate or grid as per the approval is prominently displayed on the gate or grid
- (b) maintain the stock gate or grid in good order to ensure its safe use
- (c) reimburse Council for all costs incurred by Council should it deem it necessary to conduct urgent maintenance for safety purposes to either the stock gate or grid and the road approaches up to 5 metres from the gate or grid

- (d) remove and destroy all declared noxious weeds and plants growing in the road reserve enclosed by a grid and up to a distance of five (5) metres either side of the grid; and
- (e) in the case of stock gates and grids located on public maintained roads, apply for a renewal of the approval not less than 30 days prior to the expiry date of the existing approval.

## Approval Renewals

Stock gate and grid owners wanting to retain their gate or grid from 1 July 2025, are required to apply to renew their licence as soon as possible.

Owners that previously shared a stock gate or grid can submit a joint renewal application.

Council will require each interested party sharing the gate or grid to provide their details as a combined renewal application.

The payment of the shared gate or grid application must be paid in full as a single gate or grid fee when submitted to Council for processing.

Council relies on the interested parties wishing to share a gate or grid to collaborate with each other to ensure all application details and cost sharing arrangements are resolved prior to making a joint licence renewal application.

If you have any questions, please contact Council's Customer Service Centre, Ph 1300 794 929

Documentation required to accompany the application are:

- a) copy of a Public Liability Insurance Policy (from each owner if the gate or grid is shared), and
- b) recent photographs of the gate or grid.

## Insurance

Applications for renewals and installation of new stock gates and grids must be accompanied by a copy of a Public Liability Insurance Policy that is:

- a) for the duration of the approval period
- b) has minimum cover of \$20 million indemnity
- c) references each gate or grid included under the policy, and
- d) notes the Fraser Coast Regional Council as an interested party.

## Frequently Asked Questions – Change of Management Arrangements

### What are the Fees and Charges for new Stock Gates or Grids

The 2024-25 fees for new stock gates or grids are:

1. Application for Registration (new installation) - \$717.00.
2. Annual Licence Fee - \$210.00.

Fees for annual licence renewals and application fees for new grids will be available once adopted by Council as part of its budget deliberations. Council may change the application and licence renewal fees with the adoption of the annual budget.

### Will I be charged for applying for renewal of an existing Stock Gate or Grid?

Current approvals for licenced stock gates and grids expire on 30 June 2025. Licence renewals applied for 30 days prior to 30 June 2025 will not incur a licence fee.

Fees will apply for applications and licence renewals received after 1 July 2025.

### How do I apply for permission to install a new Stock Gate or Grid?

The application form is available on Council's website: [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au), or

by email: [enquiries@frasercoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@frasercoast.qld.gov.au)

or by contacting Council's Customer Service Centre:  
Ph 1300 794 929.

Once the form has been lodged and payment has been receipted, Council investigation staff will inspect the site and talk to you about the materials to be used.

### Do I need to have insurance?

Yes. Council Local Laws require operators of stock gates or grids to have Public Liability Insurance.

### I am the owner of a Stock Gate or Grid with others on a share-ownership basis, can this continue under the new management arrangements?

Council's preferred solution is for a single owner to be the approval holder.

Council will accept applications from multiple landowners on the basis that they will be 'equal' owners. A single application will be accepted where multiple owners wish to share a grid. Council will accept payment for a single licence renewal fee, with owners to make their own arrangements regarding cost sharing. Each owner of that stock gate or grid will be required to satisfy the conditions of the shared licence "approval holder"

This will simplify condition compliance, such as being the holder of public liability insurance policy, responsibility for maintenance, etc.

### How do I apply for a Stock Gate or Grid Licence renewal?

Owners that have already applied for a renewal during the 2024-2025 financial year will be issued with a licence once all documents and materials have been assessed and approved.

The documents required for renewal applications to be completed are:

- a) A certificate of currency for a standard public liability insurance policy; and
- b) A recent photograph of the stock gate or grid.

For owners that have yet to submit any documentation, the following is required:

- a) Application for stock gate or grid Licence Renewal;
- b) A certificate of currency for a standard public liability insurance policy; and
- c) A recent photograph of the stock gate or grid.

The application form is available on Council's website: [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au),

by email: [enquiries@frasercoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@frasercoast.qld.gov.au)

or by contacting Council's Customer Service Centre,  
Ph 1300 794 929.

## Will I be required to undertake any works as part of the new management arrangements?

Initially no works are required to existing stock gates or grids under the new management arrangements. Once a new licence has been issued the conditions of approval apply.

## If I no longer require the Stock Gate/Grid for stock control purposes, what should I do?

If stock gates or grids are no longer required, owners are requested to notify Council in writing so that arrangements can be made to schedule removal.

Should the owner of these stock gates or grids require the materials from the gate or grid to be salvaged, Council will dismantle the stock gate or grid and place the materials on the owner's adjacent property.

If the materials are not required, Council will demolish the stock gate or grid, dispose of the materials appropriately and reinstate the road.

## Will I be given any notice of Stock Gate or Grid removals in my area?

Stock gates or grids scheduled for removal from the public road network will fall into the following categories:

- a) assessed as unsafe by Council and not required by the owner;
- b) unregistered and not required by owners in the area;
- c) owners have notified Council in writing that the gate or grid is "not required"; or
- d) approval not granted, suspended or cancelled by Council.

The procedure for suspending or cancelling of an approval under Local Law No. 1 entitles Council to remove the stock gate or grid at its expense as part of its normal repair and maintenance program.

Timing of the removal will be subject to Council's capacity to fund the works and will be coordinated within Council's rural road maintenance program.

Council will place signs at each stock gate or grid listed for removal no later than one (1) month prior to the scheduled works.