

# 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 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 approved licence holder 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 licence holder 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 whether:

- (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 of approval

The approved licence holder must:

1. Ensure that the gate or grid complies with the requirements of the Local Laws of Fraser Coast Regional Council (Council).
2. Ensure that the number for the gate or grid is prominently displayed on the grid.
3. Maintain the grid, including all associated gates, fences, signs and surrounds in good order to ensure its safe use.
4. Take out and maintain, for the duration of the term of the approval, a public liability insurance policy consistent with the standard public liability insurance condition, as that expression is defined in Subordinate Local Law No. 1, (Administration) 2019, section 6(c), and provide Council with a certificate of currency for the public liability insurance policy.
5. Reimburse Council for all costs incurred should Council deem it necessary to conduct urgent maintenance for safety purposes to the grid or the road approaches up to 5 metres from the grid.
6. Indemnify and keep indemnified Council its officers, employees, contractors, representatives and agents, for any cost, expense, damages, loss or liability borne out of any claim, suit, action, demand or proceedings made or brought against Council for which Council will or may be or become liable directly or indirectly arising from any loss or damage to property of, or injury including death or illness to, any person caused or contributed to by:

- a) any wilful or negligent act or omission;
- b) any non-compliance with any condition of the approval;
- c) the undertaking of the prescribed activity, that is, carrying out works on a road or interfering with a road or its operation, and in particular, the operation of a grid on a road;
- d) the use of the area on which the grid is situated or any area outside the area on which the grid is situated.

by or on behalf of the approved licence holder or any individual acting through the approved licence holder, except to the extent that such loss, damage or injury was caused by Council or its employees, contractors, representatives, and agents.

7. Remove and destroy all declared noxious weeds and plants growing in the road reserve enclosed by the grid and up to a distance of 5 metres either side of the grid.

In relation to Condition 5, Council will take reasonable measures to contact an approved licence holder when it is aware that a grid is unsafe. The approved licence holder will be given the opportunity to undertake immediate repairs to rectify the gate or grid to a safe state.

Should the approval holder not acknowledge or reach agreement to undertake urgent works to Council's satisfaction, Council will exercise its rights as the Roads Manager to action urgent works. Council will endeavour to reach agreement with the approved licence holder regarding the undertaking of the works by Council at the cost of the approval holder, and when the works are to be undertaken.

## Approval Renewals

Approved licence holders seeking a licence renewal for a single gate or grid from 1 July 2025 onwards, are required to apply to renew their licence.

Council will require each approved licence holder for a shared gate or grid to provide their details in their renewal application.

Approved licence holders for a shared gate or grid will each be charged 50% of the annual licence fee.

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

## Support Documentation

Documentation required to accompany the application are:

- a) copy of a Public Liability Insurance Policy (from each approved licence holder 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) note each gate or grid included under the policy, and
- d) note the Fraser Coast Regional Council as an interested party.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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

The 2025-26 fees for stock gates or grids are:

1. Application for Registration (new installation) - \$746.00.
2. Annual Licence Fee - \$218.00.

Council may change the application and licence renewal fees with the adoption of the annual budget.

## 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.

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

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

Should the approved licence holder of these stock gates or grids require the materials from the gate or grid to be salvaged, Council will dismantle and place the materials on the 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 approved licence holders;
- b) unregistered and not required by approved licence holders in the area;
- c) approved licence holders 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.