



Private Lanes Policy

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To clarify Council’s position in relation to private lanes.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Nil

POLICY STATEMENT

Nature and History of Private Lanes

Private Lanes are access lanes which are usually located at the rear of properties known in the older parts of Goulburn, many having been created prior to 1920. They are private rights-of-way created by Deed at the time of registration of subdivisions. The attached maps indicate the private lanes in Goulburn.

At the time, the land was Old System Title and often the subdivider retained ownership and granted rights-of-way to those parties who were purchasing parcels of land from that subdivider. Many of the parcels of land have been re-subdivided and some have been fenced into private property. Some parts of the private lanes have been in the possession of other owners and the precise definition of those lanes might be the subject of dispute.

Due to the above, it is difficult to identify the owner of the land. Searches to establish ownership are expensive and time-consuming and often do not provide conclusive results. Further, records of land ownership are the responsibility of the Land & Property Information (LPI), not Council.

Council Responsibility

Council is liable to maintain those public roads which are under its control. Council does not own the private lanes and cannot unilaterally decide to maintain the lanes without the consent of those persons who might be affected. Council has no legal obligation or power to carry out work on private land which it does not own. This is the case whether traffic or other safety issues arise or not.

Requests for Work in Private Lanes

It is Council’s policy not to carry out work in private lanes because of difficulties arising from the matters set out above.

Version	Council Meeting Date	Resolution	Adoption Date	Effective From
1	15 May 2007	07/230	15 May 2007	15 May 2007
2	19 May 2009	09/264	6 July 2009	6 July 2009
3	15 March 2011	11/73		
4	16 April 2013	13/136	7 June 2013	7 June 2013
5	6 June 2017	17/189	6 June 2017	7 July 2017
6	21 June 2022	2022/229	21 June 2022	19 July 2022
All policies can be reviewed or revoked by resolution of Council at anytime.				

DIRECTORATE: Operations

BUSINESS UNIT: Design & Asset Management

GOULBURN
STREET
MAP



