

Kempsey to Armidale Road Recovery

FACT SHEET - Load limits



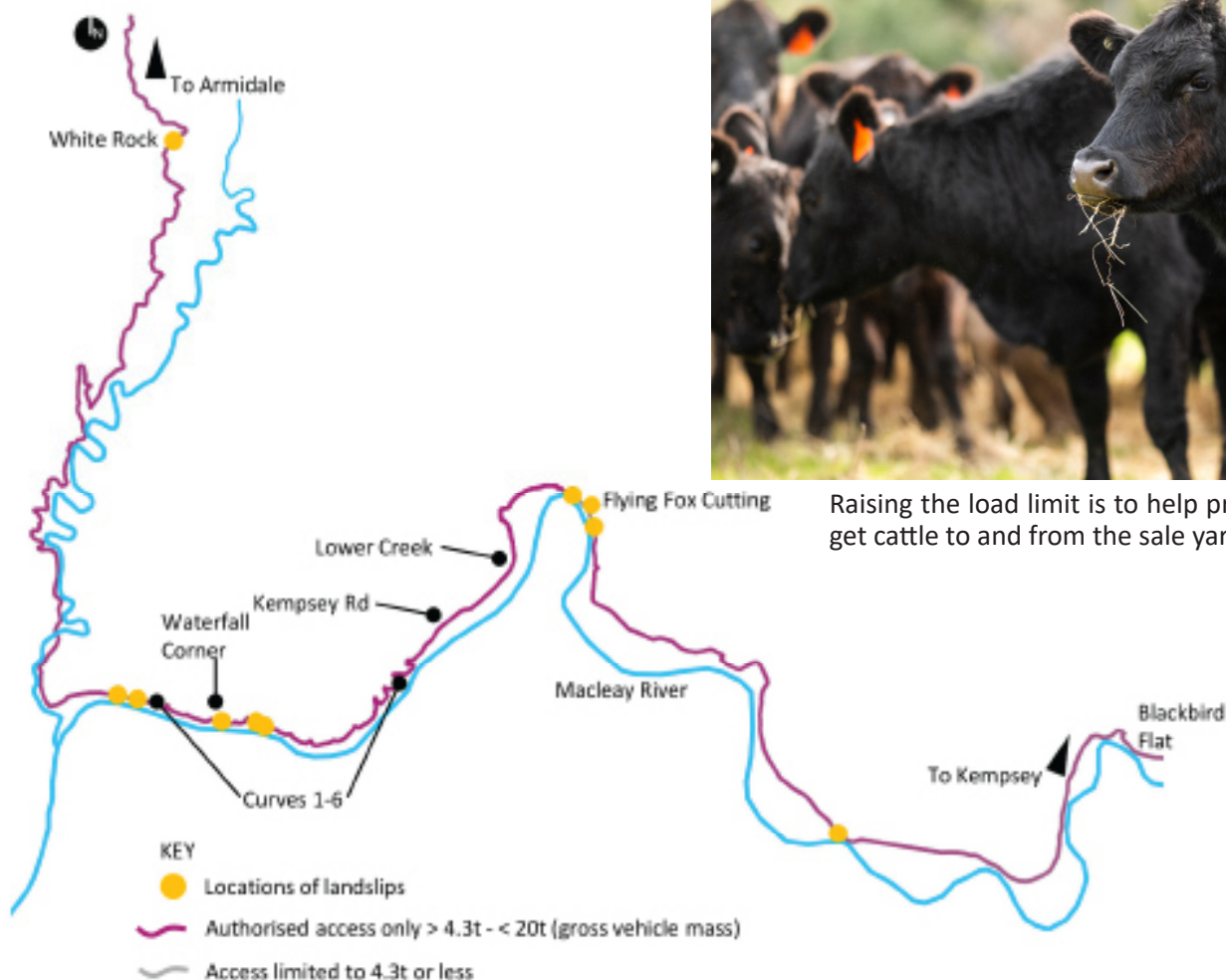
What are we doing?

We are working to provide access for loads greater than 4.3 tonne gross vehicle mass (GVM) – but less than 20 tonne GVM – on a section of the Kempsey to Armidale Road, three days a fortnight, following feedback from the community. The access would be provided on a Friday and then Wednesdays and Thursdays within the following fortnight to not greatly affect the recovery works being undertaken. It is proposed the first date would be Friday 5 August 2022. The next dates would be Wednesday 17 August 2022 and Thursday 18 August 2022.

This involves consideration of a wide range of contributing factors including:

- geotechnical advice in terms of keeping residents safe
- monitoring weather including forecast rainfall and rainfall received
- coordination of contractor works to ensure the recovery works are not greatly affected
- daily inspections of the condition of the road by Council and contractors
- the near completion of initial recovery works at Waterfall Corner
- access to sale yards for primary producers.

Note: There will continue to be a load limit restriction of 4.3 tonne GVM at Flying Fox Cutting.



Raising the load limit is to help primary producers get cattle to and from the sale yards.

Vehicles greater than 4.3 tonne GVM mass are not permitted through Flying Fox Cutting due to safety and road structure concerns at either side of the current construction sites. Flagging has been put in place here to keep vehicles 4.3 tonne GVM or less away from the steep edges and close to the hillside. We are working to complete stabilisation in that location.

Only inducted and authorised people will be able to drive on the section of road shown on the map with vehicles and loads greater than 4.3 tonnes GVM and less than 20 tonnes GVM. Vehicles (including their trailers) with a length greater than 12.5m will not be able to traverse the road. The access will be provided between 7am and 4.30pm.

This process will include careful review of road conditions during the week on a regular basis to enable residents to then carefully travel with the increased load limits when conditions are acceptable. When conditions are poor, the road will not be suitable for residents to use it with the higher load limit.

Vehicles and loads greater than 4.3 tonnes GVM and less than 20 tonne GVM will only be permitted on days when travel is permitted and controls are in place.

Currently contractors travel on the road with loads greater than 4.3 tonne GVM. These contractors have in place a safety management plan, safe work method statements and have been inducted. The road is inspected by Council and contractors each work day and any risks and mitigations are discussed at worker meetings (toolboxes) before works starts.

Residents wanting to take advantage of the proposed access need to be inducted and authorised and regularly complete a registration form detailing GVM and proposed number of trips. **The registration form needs to be completed 48 hours' prior to each date that access is being considered for approval.**

What do you need to do?

- Know what your gross vehicle mass will be. It's the weight of the vehicle, trailer, people and contents – if you can't weigh it before using the road, make a careful estimate. The load of the vehicle and trailer is listed on the compliance plate and you can estimate the loads you are carrying. Add these up to work out the GVM. It is the responsibility of the vehicle operator to ensure compliance with the GVM limit.
- When travelling on the road when access is granted, ensure you have a UHF radio turned on and tuned to Channel 17. Hand-held radios will be accepted. This is to listen out for oncoming vehicles and to announce your presence on the road and what direction you are travelling in. All signage needs to be followed.

How do I get inducted and authorised?

An online induction and registration form will be set up on Council's website. **This only needs to be completed once.**

The registration form needs to be completed 48 hours' prior to your proposed trips on each allowed date. Safety inspections of the road will be carried out on the days prior to the proposed access to enable us to advise you if travel is permitted

Once you hit submit, your feedback will be provided to the road recovery team. Updates about permission to access the road with loads greater than 4.3 tonne GVM but less than 20 tonne GVM will be provided in regular email or SMS updates to residents.

Information for the community

A meeting (toolbox) will be held the Lower Creek Rest Area on Wednesday 3 August 2022 from 10am to provide information for residents about the controls that need to be in place. Induction forms will be available to be filled out.

Regular updates are being provided to the community, the Wollomombi General Store and the Bellbrook Hotel.

Contact us:

All inquiries should be directed to **1300 136 833** (press menu option 1) or email: **council@armidale.nsw.gov.au**