

# Armidale

Regional Council

## ENGINEERING DESIGN CODE SPECIFICATION D4

## **SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE DESIGN**



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## DESIGN SPECIFICATION D4 SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE DESIGN

### GENERAL

#### D4.01 SCOPE

1. The work to be executed under this Specification consists of the design of the subsurface drainage system for the road pavement and/or subgrade.
2. This specification contains procedures for the design of subsurface drainage, including:
  - (a) Subsoil and Foundation Drains
  - (b) Sub-Pavement Drains
  - (c) Drainage Mats, including Type A and Type B Mats. (Refer D4.09)
3. Reference guidelines for the application and design of subsurface drainage include ARRB Special Reports 35 and 41, and the AUSTRROADS publication - Guide to the Control of Moisture in Roads. The full titles of these guidelines are given in Clause D4.04.

#### D4.02 OBJECTIVES

1. The objective in the design of the subsurface drainage system is to control moisture content fluctuations in the pavement and/or subgrade to within the limits adopted in the pavement design. *Control of Moisture Content*
2. In areas with a history of salinity problems, subsurface drainage may be prescribed to keep the groundwater table lower in the strata to avoid progressive deterioration of the health of topsoil and upper layers due to increased salinity levels as a result of rising and/or fluctuating groundwater tables. *Salinity Prevention*

#### D4.03 TERMINOLOGY

1. Subsoil drains are intended for the drainage of ground water or seepage from the subgrade and/or the subbase in cuttings and fill areas. *Subsoil Drains*
2. Foundation drains are intended for the drainage of seepage, springs and wet areas within and adjacent to the foundations of the road formation. *Foundation Drains*
3. Sub-pavement drains are intended for the drainage of the base and subbase pavement layers in flexible pavements. They may also function to drain seepage or groundwater from the subgrade. *Sub-pavement Drains*
4. Type A drainage mats are intended to ensure continuity of a sheet flow of water under fills, to collect seepage from a wet seepage area, or for protection of vegetation or habitat downstream of the road reserve where a fill would otherwise cut off the flow of water. (Refer D4.09.1) *Type A Drainage Mats*
5. Type B drainage mats are constructed to intercept water which would otherwise enter pavements by capillary action or by other means on fills and to intercept and control seepage water and springs in the floors of cuttings. (Refer D4.09.2) *Type B Drainage Mats*

#### D4.04 REFERENCE AND SOURCE DOCUMENTS

##### (a) Council Specification

C230	-	Subsurface Drainage - General
C231	-	Subsoil and Foundation Drains
C232	-	Pavement Drains
C233	-	Drainage Mats

##### (b) Australian Standards

AS2439.1	-	Perforated plastics drainage and effluent pipe and fittings - Perforated drainage pipe and associated fittings
AS/NZS 1477	-	PVC pipes and fittings for pressure applications.

##### (c) Other

AUSTROADS	-	Guide to Pavement Technology
ARRB-SR35	-	Australian Road Research Board, Special Report No. 35 - Subsurface Drainage of Road Structures, Gerke R.J., 1987.
ARRB-SR41	-	Australian Road Research Board, Special Report No. 41 - A structural Design Guide for Flexible Residential Street Pavements, Mulholland P.J., 1989..

### SUBSOIL AND SUB-PAVEMENT DRAINS

#### D4.05 WARRANTS FOR USE

1. Subsoil drains are designed to drain groundwater or seepage from the subgrade and/or subbase in cuttings and fill areas.

*Subsoil Drains*

2. Sub-pavement drains are designed to drain water from base and subbase pavement layers in flexible pavements, and to drain seepage or groundwater from the subgrade.

*Sub-pavement  
Drains*

3. Subsoil or sub-pavement drains shall be provided on both sides of the formation in the locations listed below. Subsoil drains may also be omitted where the pavement has been specifically designed to allow for likely variations in subgrade and pavement moisture contents. Subsoil drains should generally be provided at:

- a) Cut formations where the depth to finished subgrade level is equal to or greater than 400mm below the natural surface level.
- b) Locations of known hillside seepage, high water table, isolated springs or salt affected areas. Irrigated, flood-prone or other poorly drained areas.
- c) Highly moisture susceptible subgrades, i.e. commonly displaying high plasticity or low soaked CBRs.
- d) Pavements constructed from moisture susceptible pavement materials such as granitic sand or weathered basalt.
- e) Existing pavements with similar subgrade conditions displaying distress due to excess subsurface moisture.
- f) Cut to fill transitions.
- g) Traffic islands and roundabouts

*Locations*

Where only one side of the formation is in cut, and the other side is in fill, it may be sufficient to provide subsoil or sub-pavement drains only along the edge of the formation in cut.

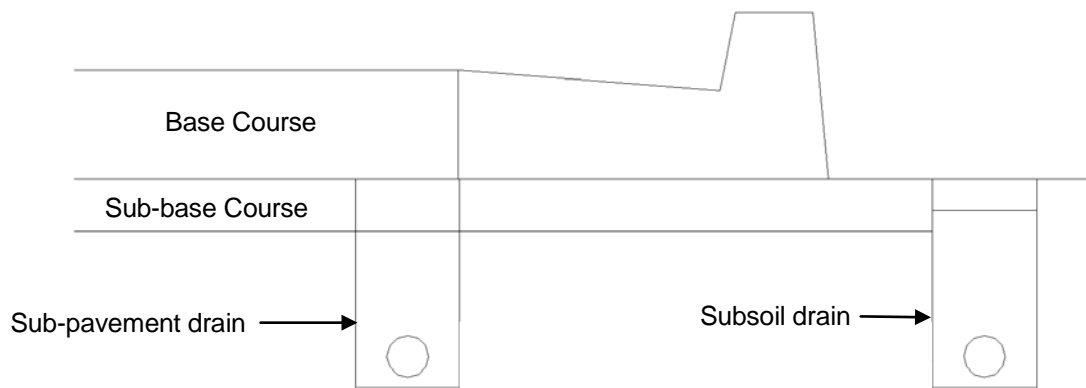
4. The need for subsoil and sub-pavement drains may otherwise become apparent during the construction process, due to changes in site moisture conditions or to areas of poorer subgrade being uncovered that were not identified in the geotechnical investigation. The Design Drawings shall be suitably annotated to the potential need for subsoil or sub-pavement drains in addition to those shown on the drawings.

*During Construction*

**D4.06 LAYOUT, ALIGNMENT AND GRADE**

1. Typical cross sections of subsoil and sub-pavement drains are shown in Figure D4.1. As indicated in the figures, subsoil drain trenches are excavated to below subgrade level, while sub-pavement drains extend into or adjacent to the pavement layers to facilitate drainage of the pavement layers in addition to the subgrade.

*Typical Cross Sections*



**Figure D4.1 - Typical Sub-pavement Drain**

2. In kerbed roads, there are two acceptable alternative locations for the line of the trench, one directly behind the kerb line which is preferred and the other in front of the line of the kerb. Pavement layers must extend to at least the line of the rear of the trench.

*Kerbed Roads*

3. In unkerbed roads, subsoil and sub-pavement drains shall be located within the shoulder, preferably at the edge of the pavement layers as shown in Figure D4.2.

*Unkerbed Roads*

4. The minimum desirable longitudinal design grade shall be:

*Grade*

- Ribbed HDPE pipe 1.5%,
- slotted UPVC 1%,
- 450mm strip drain 0.5%.

5. Trench widths shall be a minimum of 300mm, with a minimum depth below finished subgrade level of 600mm in earth and 450mm in rock, and below the invert level of any service crossings.

*Trench Dimensions*

6. Outlets shall be spaced at maximum intervals of 150m into gully pits or outlet headwalls and in existing built areas, outlet locations should be determined based on an assessment of the available outlet opportunities to connect direct to stormwater drainage systems. As a salinity prevention measure and where practical, discharge shall be on the downhill side of the embankment or in the cut-fill area so as to reduce the risk of recharge to the subsurface water table. Unless otherwise authorised, where subsurface drains outlet through fill batters, un-slotted plastic pipe of the same diameter as the main run shall be specified. A small precast concrete headwall shall be installed at the drain outlet with a marker post to assist maintenance and protect the end of the pipe

*Outlets*

*Salinity Prevention*

7. Cleanouts are to be provided at the commencement of each run of drain, and at

*Cleanouts*

intervals not exceeding 75 metres. Cleanouts shall generally be located directly at the rear of kerb or at the edge of shoulder, as applicable. For existing built areas, clean out locations should be determined based on the length of subsoil drains and the likely groundwater movement but have a maximum spacing of no more than 75m.

8. In salinity affected areas, the Designer should consider providing a separate drainage system for subsurface drains to discharge to a basin where controlled release, or desiccation treatment and removal can be facilitated as a maintenance operation. Saline subsurface drainage should not be routinely discharged directly into natural watercourses. Reference to water quality targets for downstream watercourses is essential and the Designer shall provide advice on discharge operations and maintenance compatible with water quality targets and the requirements of the relevant land and water resource authority.

**Salinity Prevention**

## FOUNDATION DRAINS

### D4.07 WARRANTS FOR USE

1. Foundation drains are designed to drain excessive ground water areas within the foundation of an embankment or the base of a cutting, or to intercept water from entering these areas.

**Foundation Drains**

2. The need to provide foundation drains may be apparent from the results of a geotechnical survey along the proposed road formation alignment, and in this case the location shall be shown on the plans. However, more commonly the need to provide foundation drains is determined during construction, and hence in this situation requirements and locations cannot be ascertained at the design stage.

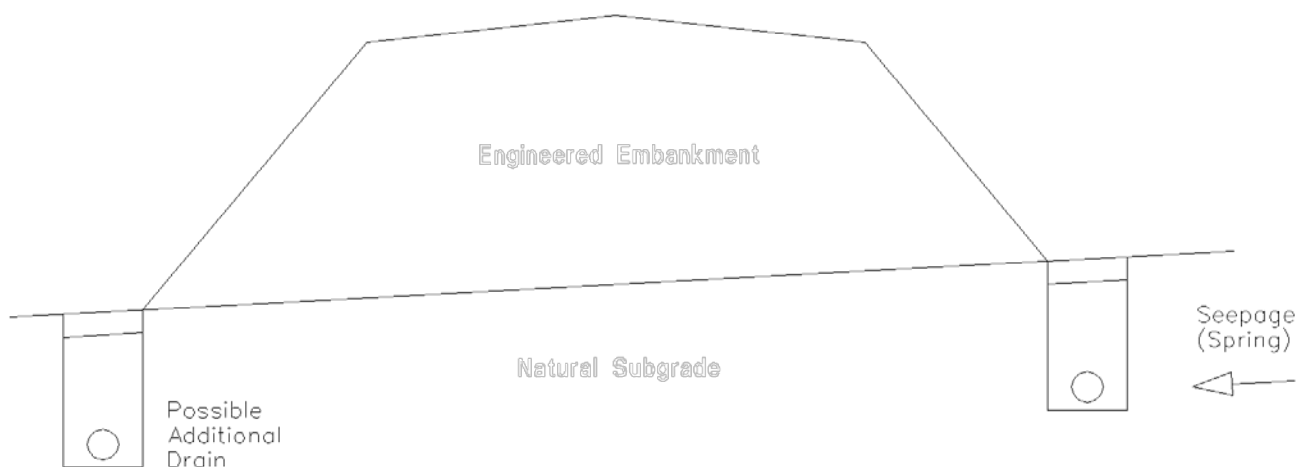
**Geotechnical Survey During Construction**

3. Where the road formation traverses known swampy, flood-prone, salt affected areas or water charged strata, the design Drawings shall be suitably annotated to advise of the potential need for foundation drains at various locations, in addition to those shown on the Drawings.

### D4.08 LAYOUT, ALIGNMENT AND GRADE

1. A typical cross section of a foundation drain arrangement is shown in Figure D4.2.

**Typical Cross Section**



**Figure D4.2 - Foundation Drains**

2. The minimum desirable longitudinal design grade shall be:
  - Ribbed HDPE pipe 1.5%, *Grade*
  - slotted UPVC 1%,
  - 450mm strip drain 0.5%.
3. Foundation drains shall be a minimum trench width of 300mm, with a variable trench depth to suit the application and ground conditions on site. *Trench Dimensions*
4. Outlets shall be spaced at maximum intervals of 150 metres. *Outlets*
5. Where practicable, cleanouts are to be provided at the commencement of each run of foundation drain and at intervals not exceeding 75 metres. Where not practicable to provide intermediate cleanouts, outlets shall be spaced at maximum intervals of 150 metres. *Cleanouts*

## DRAINAGE MATS (BLANKETS)

### D4.09 WARRANTS FOR USE

1. Type A drainage mats are designed for situations where there is a need to ensure continuity of a sheet flow of water under fills, to collect surface seepage from a wet seepage area, or for protection of vegetation or habitat downstream of the road reserve where a fill would otherwise cut the flow of water. Type A drainage mats are constructed after the site has been cleared and grubbed and before commencement of embankment construction. *Type A Mats*
2. Type B drainage mats are designed for situations where there is a need to intercept water which would otherwise enter pavements by capillary action or by other means on fills and to intercept and control seepage water and springs in the floors of cuttings. Type B drainage mats shall be constructed after completion of the subgrade construction and before construction of the pavement. *Type B Mats*
3. The need to design for the provision of drainage mats should be apparent from the result of the geotechnical survey along the proposed road formation alignment. *Geotechnical Survey*

## MATERIALS

### D4.10 SUBSOIL AND SUB-PAVEMENT DRAIN PIPE

1. Pipes designated for subsoil, foundation and sub-pavement drains shall be 100mm diameter slotted pipe.
2. Corrugated plastic pipe shall conform with the requirements of AS2439.1. The appropriate class of pipe shall be selected on the basis of expected live loading at the surface. Joints, couplings, elbows, tees and caps shall also comply with AS2439.1.
3. Slotted rigid UPVC pipe shall be of a type and class approved by Council.
4. All pipes shall be slotted, and fitted with a suitable geotextile filter tube except for cleanouts and outlets through fill batters which shall be un-slotted pipe. *Filter Tube*

### D4.11 INTRA PAVEMENT DRAIN PIPE

1. Pipes designated for intra pavement drains with crushed rock subbases having layer thicknesses between 150mm and 200mm shall be slotted thick walled UPVC pressure pipe complying with AS/NZS1477. *Slotted Pipe*



2. Pipes designated for intra pavement drains with crushed rock subbases having layer thicknesses exceeding 200mm shall be slotted pipe of a type and class approved by Council.
3. Pipes for use in Type B drainage mats shall be slotted thick walled UPVC pressure pipe complying with AS/NZS1477.

#### **D4.12 FILTER MATERIAL**

1. The types of filter material covered by this Specification shall include:
  - a) Type A filter material for use in subsoil, foundation, and sub-pavement (trench) drains and for Type B drainage mats.
  - b) Type B filter material for use in subsoil, foundation and sub-pavement (trench) drains.
  - c) Type C filter material comprising crushed rock for use in Type A drainage mats.
  - d) Type D filter material comprising uncrushed river gravel for use in Type A drainage mats.
2. Material requirements and gradings for each type of filter material are included in the Construction Specification **C230 SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE GENERAL**.

**Grading  
C230**

3. The type of filter material specified to backfill sub-surface drainage trenches (subsoil, foundation and sub-pavement drains) shall depend on the permeability of the pavement layers and/or subgrade and the expected flow rate. Generally, Type A filter material is used for the drainage of highly permeable subgrade or pavement layers such as crushed rock or coarse sands, while Type B filter material is used for the drainage of subgrade and pavement layers of lower permeability such as clays, silts or dense graded gravels. Further guidance to the selection of appropriate filter material is contained in ARRB Special Report 35.

**Permeability**

#### **D4.13 GEOTEXTILE**

1. To provide separation (i.e. prevent infiltration of fines) between the filter material in the trench and the subgrade or pavement material, geotextile shall be designated to encapsulate the filter material. The geotextile shall comply with the requirements included in the Construction Specification **C230 SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE GENERAL**.
2. Geotextile shall also be designated for both Type A and Type B Drainage Mats.

**Prevent Fines  
Infiltration**

### **DOCUMENTATION**

#### **D4.14 DESIGN DRAWINGS AND CALCULATIONS**

1. The proposed location of all subsurface drains shall be clearly indicated on the Design Drawings, including the nominal depth and width of the trench, and the location with respect to the line of the kerb/gutter or edge of pavement. The location of outlets and cleanouts shall also be indicated on the Drawings.
2. Assumptions and/or calculations made in the determination of the need or otherwise for subsurface drainage in special circumstances or as a variation to the requirements of this specification shall be submitted to Council for approval with the Design Drawings.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

### D4.15 ROOT BARRIERS

Where sub-soil drainage systems are placed within close proximity to street plantings root barrier material shall be placed in accordance with construction specification **C273 LANDSCAPING**.

D4.16 RESERVED

D4.17 RESERVED

D4.18 RESERVED