

ENGINEERING DESIGN CODE

Supplement to D1

HANDBOOK FOR DRIVEWAY ACCESS TO PROPERTY

AMENDMENT RECORD FOR THIS SPECIFICATION PART

This Specification is Council's edition of the AUS-SPEC generic specification part and includes Council's primary amendments.

Details are provided below outlining the clauses amended from the Council edition of this AUS-SPEC Specification Part. The clause numbering and context of each clause are preserved. New clauses are added towards the rear of the specification part as special requirements clauses. Project specific additional script is shown in the specification as italic font.

The amendment code indicated below is 'A' for additional script 'M' for modification to script and 'O' for omission of script. An additional code 'P' is included when the amendment is project specific.

Amendment Sequence No.	Key Topic addressed in amendment	Clause No.	Amendment Code	Author Initials	Amendment Date
1	Major Revision of specifications for adoption by Armidale Regional Council	All	AMO	SPM	25/06/16

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1. This document forms guidelines for any person wishing to undertake driveway construction works within the public road reserve. The referenced documents for this handbook are clause D1.37 Internal Driveways and clause D1.38 Private Access ways within Specification D1.
- A formal application being a ,Street Opening Permit or Driveway Application, must be made to Council under Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993 and should be made on the appropriate Council form. The applicable fees must be paid and incomplete applications will not be considered until all requested information is provided
- 3. Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993 requires consent of the road authority Armidale Regional Council) for works on road reserves. This includes construction activities or alterations to driveways, footpaths, retaining walls, signs, garden beds, street trees and plantings.
- 4. Section 142 of the Roads Act 1993 states a person who has the right to the control, use or benefit of a structure or work in, on or over a public road must maintain the structure
- 5. Driveways may be approved as part of a Construction Certificate issued by Council
- 6. Where multiple driveways are to be constructed in one development, a single driveway application can be made for all proposed driveways. Each separate driveway proposal shall be supported by a site specific design.
- 7. Where multiple driveways are proposed at several different locations i.e. not within the same development, a separate driveway application for each driveway crossing proposed is to be submitted to Council for approval.
- 8. The design of driveways must comply with the requirements of AS 2890 Parking Facilities, Armidale Regional Council Standard Drawings 030-070 to 030/073/2 inclusive, relevant authorities such as the NSW Transport Roads and Maritime Services, RMS, Australian Road Rules Part 18-Division 1-289, Austroads documentation and Council.
- 9. Driveways shall provide long term all-weather property access
- 10. Driveways may be constructed by Council or Private Contractor. All construction must comply with Council standards.
- 11. The provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act and AS1428 Design for Access and Mobility, must also be considered in the provision of driveways.
- 12. Standard drawings and associated documentation available for downloading (free-of-charge) may be accessed via the Armidale Regional Council web-site: www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/engcode
- 13. Existing driveway accesses shall be required to comply with this specification and to Armidale Regional Council Policy No 035.
- 14. Driveway access from the New England Highway shall require concurrence from RMS. In this case the RMS standard conditions and design shall apply.

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15. Driveway access from Classified (Main) Roads shall require concurrence from RMS and RMS standard conditions and design shall apply.

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1. One driveway is generally permitted for each property adjoining a public road
- A second driveway may be approved by Council officer subject to consideration of site specific factors including development type, road hierarchy, street parking considerations and other Council policies
- 3. Driveways within public road reserve are on Council land and under the control of Council, however, they are the property owners' responsibility to construct and maintain.
- 4. Damage caused by Council or other public authorities undertaking works will be reinstated by the Authority causing the damage, however, matching renewed concrete with coloured or stenciled concrete finishes will not be undertaken. If specific matching works are required, the property owner shall be responsible for the cost of such reinstatement.
- 5. Council accepts no legal responsibility for claims arising from accidents to the public caused by badly constructed or unauthorised driveways.
- 6. Road regulations prohibit the parking of a vehicle on the footpath area or verge outside the road carriageway. Vehicles parked in driveways, between the property boundary and the road carriageway, are in breach of the regulations and may be subject to compliance enforcement action by Council. Subject to Council planning controls, driveway designs should allow for standing of vehicles between the property boundary and the setback to an approved building alignment
- 7. Open carports may be approved between the property boundary and the garage door, subject to Council planning controls
- 8. Historically, some properties have been allowed access via unformed Crown Roads or Crown Reserves when they were under the care and control of Council. The Roads Act 1993 now vests control of all Crown Roads in the Crown. Persons wishing to gain access via an unformed Crown Road must first obtain and submit written approval from the appropriate State Government authority. Council will not under any circumstances approve access to a property via a Public Reserve.
- 9. In some instances applications will require referral to authorities, such as the RMS. If driveways or other works are adjacent to a highway or classified road, RMS should be consulted to provide the classification of the road and subsequent approval for the proposed works.
- 10. Council will not approve driveways with cattle grids (ramps) extending into the road reserve footpath zone unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 11. All areas that are disturbed by the construction operations are to be restored to original condition which shall include, but shall not be limited to, levelling to eliminate trip hazards, compaction to prevent future consolidation, top soiling and seeding with a compatible grass seed mixture.
- 12. Suitable erosion and sediment control measures shall be implemented prior to work commencing and shall be maintained throughout the operations and shall be removed when disturbed areas have been restored.
- 13. Council shall be indemnified from any claims arising from the works including any damage to public utilities caused by the works.
- 14. The Applicant shall carry out the Work at the full cost of the Applicant in conformity with any Plans and Specifications approved by the Council for the Works and to the satisfaction of Council's Roads Engineer.
- 15. The Applicant shall make good any damage caused to the property of any person or any property of the Council by reason of the carrying out of any work by the Applicant under the conditions of this approval (Section 138 and Development Consent).
- 16. The location of any public utilities (water, sewer, telecommunications, etc.) shall be determined prior to work commencing using Dial Before You Dig (1100).

3. DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

3.01 GENERAL

All driveways urban and rural shall be constructed to Armidale Regional Council standard drawings. Where site conditions warrant a site specific design this shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified person and shall be submitted to Council with the driveway application form. Standard drawings shall be selected from the suite of approved standard designs available free of charge from Council or from Council's web site.

- 1. Council's designated Roads Engineer shall be notified before construction commences for any vehicular crossing.
- Design hydraulic calculations, by a qualified engineer, for driveway table drain crossings may be required where culverts are to be constructed. Driveways are to be constructed in accordance with the standard drawings available from the Armidale Regional Council website.
- 3. Where floor height of a car port or garage exceeds 1m above or below the road centerline a driveway longitudinal section must be submitted prior to the release of a Construction Certificate.

3.02 LOCATION, ARRANGEMENT & SIGHT DISTANCE

- 1. Driveways near intersections and adjacent medians or divided roads must be located in accordance with the requirements of AS2890, relevant authorities such as the RMS and Council.
- 2. Site specific sight distance diagrams may be necessary in accordance with the requirements of AS2890, Austroads Guide to Traffic Management and Guide to Road Design, relevant authorities such as the RMS and Council. These are required to ensure adequate entering sight distance to traffic on the frontage road and adequate sight distance to pedestrians using the footpath or verge on the frontage road
- 3. Driveways are to be located clear of existing infrastructure such as stormwater gully pits, light poles and Telstra pits. If any existing facilities are affected by a driveway the owner/applicant will need to meet the requirements of the relevant authorities and any associated costs for relocation and/or reconstruction of the affected assets.
- 4. Council must be consulted regarding sewer manholes and water supply fixtures. These may be located in driveways subject to the requirements of the relevant authority and Council.
- 5. Driveways are to be square to the road carriageway and not encroach on neighbouring frontages. In some instances, such as due to steep topography, Council may consider a variation to this requirement.
- 6. Abutting driveways are not desirable. A minimum gap of 6.5 metres between driveways should be provided where possible to facilitate on street parking. A minimum offset of 0.5m from common property boundaries is required.
- 7. Concrete driveways may be extended from the property boundary to the kerb line or edge of bitumen subject to approval by Council's Development Engineer.
- 8. In commercial areas and where a second driveway access has been approved, driveways must be at least 6.5 metres apart or multiples thereof so as to preserve on street car parking (refer AS2890).

3.03 KERB, GUTTER & OBSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Driveways in streets with 'mountable' kerb and gutter may be designed to match the top of the kerb subject to approval by Council.
- 2. Driveways in streets with 'mountable' kerb and gutter may need to provide a layback driveway section subject to approval by Council. Installation of laybacks in mountable kerb for low vehicles is permitted subject to Council approval.
- 3. Approval will not be given for concrete nibs, timber sections, steel plates or similar to be access ramps in the gutter as an alternative to the standard access requirement due to their potential as traffic and pedestrian hazards and the impediment of stormwater flow.
- 4. Driveways in streets with 'upright' kerb and gutter will require the removal of the kerb and replacement with a Council standard kerb crossing (refer standard drawing Nos 030-065 and 030-069).
- 5. Where kerb and guttering has not been provided but levels for the future kerb and guttering are available the proposed access must accommodate the future design. Alternatively concrete dish crossings may be permitted subject to council approval.
- 6. Edge 'coving', 'mini-kerbs' and other obstructions are a pedestrian 'trip' hazard and are not permitted on any trafficable footpath.

3.04 EXISTING FOOTPATHS

- Where a driveway crosses an existing paved footpath a saw cut must be provided at the extremities of the driveway, paving removed and the footpath reconstructed to Council's standard. The grade and crossfall of the pre-existing footpath must be maintained and in some cases additional footpath may need to be removed to accommodate this requirement. Footpath grading for pedestrian and disabled access must be considered for the reconstructed section.
- Where no paved footpath exists and driveways are planned to be cut into the verge to obtain grades, the nature strip on each side of the driveway shall be battered smoothly at a grade no steeper than 1 in 14 to maintain acceptable standards for pedestrians and enable future provision of paved footpaths. It is acknowledged however, that in some cases the natural landform will not allow for provision of a 1 in 14 grade, in which case as flat a grade as possible shall be provided with a desirable maximum grade of 1 in 8.
- 3. Where the paved footpath is immediately behind a vertical face kerb, the footpath will usually need to be deviated toward the property boundary to allow cutting in of the driveway access. The maximum deviation of the footpath in this instance should not exceed 30 degrees.

3.05 DRIVEWAY GATES

- Driveway gates or doors used to access parking areas or garages are to be installed to prevent the need for drivers to leave a vehicle standing in a trafficable part of the adjacent roadway or footpath whilst they open or close the gate or door to access the property. Where existing structures within the property do not allow sufficient clearances, it may be permitted to leave a vehicle standing in the driveway across a footpath, subject to individual assessment and approval.
- 2. Solid or opaque structures associated with gates or doors must be kept clear of sight distance lines as defined in AS2890.1 to prevent obstruction to the vision of the driver of the vehicle entering or leaving the property, or prevent drivers of oncoming vehicles from seeing the vehicle entering or leaving the property.

- Gates and doors should be installed to provide a minimum distance between the trafficable roadway and the swung path of the gate or door to accommodate the design vehicle for the development on the property being accessed. For residential developments this is 6m.
- 4. Gates or doors should generally open inwards towards the property, and not outwards into the road reserve. Outward opening gates or doors may be permitted where the distance from the swung path of the open gate or door to the trafficable roadway exceeds the minimum length for the design vehicle. Gates or doors must not open across any constructed footpath.
- 5. Where these specifications cannot be met, the use of automatic and/or remote control gates or doors may be permitted, subject to individual assessment and approval.
- 6. Rural driveway gates may need to consider the service vehicle (semi-trailer/ B-Double) accessing the property and the requirements of NSW Roads & Maritime Services.

3.06 RURAL ROADS, ROADS WITHOUT KERB & GUTTER AND ROADS WITH TABLE DRAIN CROSSINGS

- Where a piped crossing of a table drain is required, it is to be constructed to Council's requirements. It is advised that keeping the culvert in good repair, clear of debris and repairing erosion scouring is the responsibility of the property owner serviced by the driveway
- 2. Dish or Swale crossings are to be in accordance with the standard drawings. Variation requires approval of Council's Roads Engineer.
- RMS crash compliant headwalls shall be required on all ends of culverts on Council controlled roads.
- 4. Minimum culvert diameter shall be advised by Council on the issue of a driveway approval or as per an approved design (nominal 375mm diameter). A delegated officer from Council may approve smaller diameter culverts due to existing constraints, historical/heritage requirements or other site specific reasons, but justification for the reduction in standard must be compelling and technically feasible.
- 5. Driveway and culvert crossings are not to be graded to create an impact/wash-out effect on the road shoulder through surcharge flows from the table drain
- 6. The requirement for installation of guide posts and reflectors may be determined by a delegated Council Officer with consideration of factors such as locality (urban/rural), vandalism risk and personal/property risk

3.07 GEOMETRY

Vertical and horizontal geometry is to be in accordance with the standard drawings. Variations must be approved by Council's Roads Engineer

3.08 GRADES AND CROSSFALLS

- The transverse grade on the driveway must be the same as the kerb and gutter (or road if no kerb and gutter) and must be carried over to the property boundary, although it may be necessary to rotate slightly to match existing footpath levels. Once inside the property transverse levels can be 'rotated' to match with internal constraints such as garage ramps.
- 2. The maximum longitudinal grade on a driveway across the footpath area is 2.5% (1 in 40) (refer standard drawings).

- 3. For residential driveways, from the property boundary to the garage or car space, the maximum grade is 25% (1 in 4). The desirable maximum grade is 16.7% (1 in 6). If the driveway is to be used for car parking the desirable maximum grade is 10.0% (1 in 10).
- 4. Where the driveway crosses paved or grassed footpath, the existing grade of the footpath must be maintained through the driveway with no drainage slots, kerb or steps, which may create a pedestrian hazard.
- Existing subdivisions may have steep footpath crossfalls that prevent compliance with this handbook. Proposals should be discussed with Council staff before detailed design is undertaken.
- 6. Transition grades are required between steep and flat grades to enable vehicles to maintain underbody clearances. These shorten the potential length of maximum gradient available. Designers should check clearances with an approved vehicle template to be in accordance with the current standard drawings and AS2890.

3.09 SURFACE FINISHES

- 1. Surfaces accepted by Council are:
 - Plain concrete (wood floated) and broom finish;
 - · Asphaltic concrete (AC) or bitumen seal; and
 - Other surface types such as segmental pavers are subject to Council approval.
- 2. Uneven concrete and pavers, polished/slippery surfaces, dirt and gravel are not acceptable in urban residential locations. Properly constructed gravel pavements are acceptable in rural locations, sealing may be required by Council.
- 3. In rural locations where the property is serviced by a sealed road, driveways shall be constructed with a sealed surface from the sealed edge of the Council road to a point 3m inside the property boundary or 10m from the edge of seal of the Council road, which ever is shorter.
- 4. Council accepts no responsibility to match any existing surface finish following works undertaken by Council.
- 5. Rural driveways which exceed 16% longitudinal grade shall be sealed.
- 6. Failure to observe approved surface finish/construction requirements of Council or failure to properly maintain the driveway surface resulting in slippery conditions or trip hazard will render the property owner legally liable for injury to pedestrians

4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4.01 DRAWINGS

The applicant is to prepare and submit information which may include the following details (subject to the site specific requirements of Council/relevant authority):

- 1. A site plan of the subject property and adjacent section of public road, drawn to a scale acceptable to Council (1 : 200 or 1 : 250), showing;
 - The location and widths of the proposed driveway or modifications from the garage/car park to the kerb and gutter/edge of bitumen
 - Proposed restoration of existing surfaces or services that are likely to be damaged
 - Proposed construction or modification, including levels, of kerb and gutter or footpath paving on a public road

- 2. A longitudinal section from the garage/carport/parking area to the road centerline, showing the natural surface levels and the proposed finished driveway levels drawn to a scale acceptable to Council (1:50)
- 3. Cross sections, showing natural surface and finished levels plus any proposed retaining walls, to a scale acceptable to Council (1 : 100 or 1 : 50) at natural scale
- 4. Sight distance diagrams
- 5. Engineer's plans including certification of structural details and sight distance diagrams may be required

4.02 WORK SAFETY TRAFFIC & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MANAGEMENT

- Occupation Health & Safety, WorkCover and Australian Standards require that all work sites be made safe for pedestrians and work staff
- The contractor or person/s constructing the driveway must provide proper fencing, lighting and care of all works and temporary footways, guards and fences as required for the accommodation and protection of pedestrians, motorists and the public. The signs, lights, barriers and fences are to be in accordance with RMS, AS 1742 (Traffic Control Devices) or Council requirements
- 3. The contractor or property owner shall be adequately insured against Public Risk Liability and shall be responsible for any claims arising from these works. Council must be provided copies of public liability insurances in the sum of \$20 million.
- 4. A Traffic Control Plan (TCP) must be prepared and submitted to Council showing how vehicle and pedestrian traffic will be safely managed within the road reserve. The TCP must be prepared by a person authorised by the RMS to prepare Traffic Control Plans and the TCP must be approved by Council prior to the occupation of the road reserve

4.03 STANDARD DRAWINGS

Standard Drawings may be accessed via the Armidale Regional Council website and are contained within the Roads Infrastructure series with prefix 030.

5. INTERNAL DRIVEWAYS

Internal (private property) driveways or private roads may require assessment and approval by a suitably accredited Building Professionals Board Certifier. Council may require the submission of detailed engineering longitudinal and cross-sectional designs, utility service locations and details including stormwater drainage analysis, plans and designs. Works on natural gullies and watercourses may require the approval of NSW Fisheries and Water NSW subject to Stream Order Classification.

APPENDIX A - CROWN ROAD ADVICE (FOR COUNCIL OFFICERS ONLY)

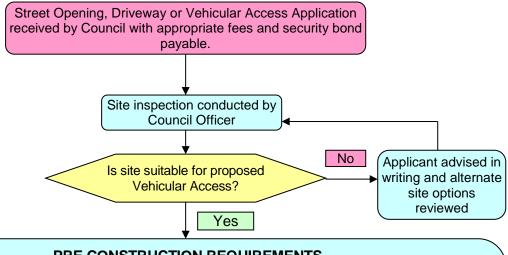
For Crown Road reserve development Council officers shall consider the following Department of Primary Industries – Lands (DPI Lands) advice:

The following procedures are the current preferred approach when dealing with applications for the construction or formation of Crown public roads:

- Wherever possible, the first option to investigate when dealing with an application for construction
 or formation of Crown public roads is to close and dispose of the road either to the applicant or
 other adjoining landholders with an easement for access.
- If disposal is not possible, the Authority is able to deal with applications for minor repairs to an existing track or road over natural terrain e.g. placing gravel in potholes, but not for any works forming a new road. Any proposed works on an existing or new track/road involving the alteration of natural terrain through cut, fill or drainage is not accepted.
- An applicant wishing to undertake works on a Crown public road that are not of a minor repair
 nature is required to obtain the local Council's concurrence to the ownership of the road being
 transferred to the Council, in terms of section 151 of the Roads Act, 1993. (Where a Crown Road
 is proposed to be used for the purpose of providing legal access to a Council approved
 subdivision the Authority expects that it will be transferred into Council's jurisdiction).
- Where a Council provides concurrence to transfer of ownership and the Lands Department does not object Council giving approval to the construction of the road, action is then to be taken in terms of section 151 of the Roads Act, 1993, to transfer the ownership of the road to Council. The Council will then deal with the matter, setting standards for road construction and any other requirements on the basis that the Council is to become the Roads Authority under the Roads Act in respect of that road.
- Where the applicant cannot obtain the concurrence of the Council to the transfer of ownership, the application for road construction is not accepted. The intending applicant is advised to recontact the Council for possible further consideration of the matter in terms of impact on property access.
- In extreme cases where no other resolution is possible, it may be necessary to investigate the option of transferring the road to the Council without concurrence in terms of section 151 of the Roads Act, 1993. Any proposal to transfer a Crown Road to a Council. where the Council has not consented to the transfer, must be referred to the Director-General for approval.

In the event that no road construction takes place on a Crown Road transferred to a Council, DPI Lands will accept the transfer of the road back to the Authority. This should afford the relevant Council a degree of comfort that any roads so transferred, that remain "undeveloped", may be returned rather than become a liability to the Council.

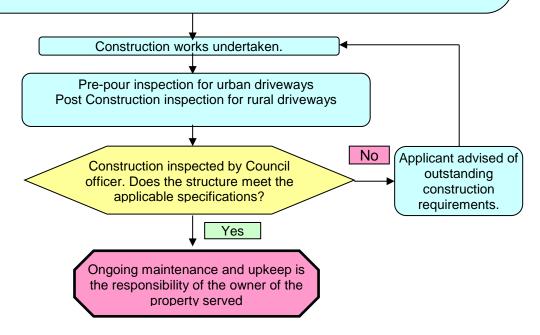
APPENDIX B – FLOWCHART FOR APPLICATIONS FOR A VEHICULAR ACCESS



PRE CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

The contractor who wishes to construct the structure must make application to Council for permission to conduct works. This is to be done in accordance with Council's Policy POL035 'Vehicular driveway upgrading and maintenance' and Policy POL097 'Management of road reserves'. In general as a minimum the following will be required:

- 1. Submission of structure design and layout (refer standard drawings)
- 2. Submission of construction contractors insurance details, OH&S and Environmental management systems
- 3. Submission and approval of Traffic Management Plan



APPENDIX C - DRIVEWAY CHECKLIST

The checklists provided are for guidance and may not be limited to the listed items. The Applicant/Contractor shall apply engineering 'best practice' construction techniques and request all necessary inspections as required by this handbook. Plans/calculations may need to be certified by Specialist Consultant, Engineer or Surveyor, to the satisfaction of a delegated officer from Council's Engineering Section.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION - Lot and DP No:	
COUNCIL DRIVEWAY APPROVAL No:	
CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE No:	
PROPERTY ADDRESS:	
CONTRACTOR:	

A. GENERAL

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMPLY √ x	N/A √
1	Street Opening, Driveway or Vehicular Access Application obtained from Road Authority (Council)		
2	Driveway approved by Construction Certificate		
3	Does Driveway construction comply with the requirements of :		
4	Does driveway provide long term all-weather property access		
5	Driveway construction by Private Contractor		
6	Has confirmation of current public liability insurance been provided		
7	Driveway construction by Council		
8	Council engineer / Inspector approval to place concrete or road-base obtained		
9	Driveway located clear of existing infrastructure such as stormwater gully pits, light poles and Telstra pits		
10	Relevant authority (Power, telecommunications, public utility) advised of proposed works and requirements obtained		
11	Driveway square to the road carriageway		
12	Minimum offset of 0.5m from common property boundaries		
13	Driveway does not encroach on neighbouring frontages		
14	Driveway does not create obstruction or 'trip' hazard		
15	Driveway does not impede stormwater flow		
16	Vertical / horizontal geometry and grading is in accordance with the approved or standard drawings		
17	Approved Traffic Control Plan (TCP) implemented		
18	Other authority (eg RMS) conditions complied with		
19	Rural Driveway set-back complies (Std Drgs 030-073/1 and 030/073/2)		
20	Rural Driveway sealing complies (Std Drgs 030-073/1 and 030/073/2)		
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B. EXISTING FOOTPATHS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION √ x	N/A√
1	Has saw cut been provided at the extremities of the driveway, paving removed and footpath reconstructed to Council's satisfaction		
2	Does re-constructed footpath comply with AS1428 and the disability discrimination act		
3	Existing nature strip re-established and graded to satisfaction of Council		
4	Deviation of footpath to allow for existing footpath immediately behind upright kerb has not exceeded 30 degrees		
5			
6			
7			

C. DRIVEWAY GATES

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION √ x	N/A√
1	Solid or opaque gates are clear of sight distance lines		
2	Gates swing into private property		
3	Vehicles do not stand on the roadway whilst gates are opened		
4			
5			
6			
7			

D. RURAL ROADS, NO KERB & GUTTER AND TABLE DRAIN CROSSINGS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION \sqrt{x}	N/A√
1	Dish or Swale crossings are to be in accordance with the standard drawings or other Council approved drawings		
2	Approved culvert design provided		
3	RMS crash compliant headwalls installed		
4	Standard headwalls installed		
5	Driveway guide posts and reflectors installed (if required)		
6	Rural Driveway set-back complies (Std Drgs 030-073/1 and 030/073/2)		
7	Rural Driveway sealing complies (Std Drgs 030-073/1 and 030/073/2)		

E. SURFACE FINISH

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION √ x	N/A√
1	Surfaces finish as approved by and acceptable to Council: Plain concrete (wood floated) Asphaltic concrete (AC) or bitumen seal Other Council approved surface		
2			
3			

