



Our Roads

Why are some roads in poor condition?

Like most structures, road pavements have a defined life and eventually need to be replaced. Due to the load from traffic, over time, the pavement materials weaken and can no longer support the traffic. Water infiltrating the pavement can also cause it to lose strength. This weakening causes the road surface to deform (no longer a flat, even surface). Cracks appear in the surface and potholes start to form.

The cost to rebuild all the pavements that have reached this point is more than is available in Council's annual budget, so it will take many years to fix all the roads.

Council regularly undertakes condition assessments of the roads and data collected is used to determine which roads are programmed for repair.



The "worst" road is not always selected for replacement.

Often intervening on a road nearing failure, but not the worse road, can be more economic to repair, as the existing pavement materials can be salvaged, strengthened and reused. This is much more cost effective than fixing a road where the pavement material cannot be salvaged and needs to be entirely replaced. Higher volume roads are given priority over local residential roads.



How are roads rebuilt?

Road pavements are made up of three main elements:

A common method to rebuild roads is to incorporate additives to the pavement to strengthen the material. This is called stabilisation. New aggregates for pavements are expensive, so strengthening the existing material in this way, not only saves money from not having to buy new materials, there is also reduced waste disposal costs.

New aggregates will be used for the top layer of the new road. The road is then sealed with bitumen or Asphaltic Concrete.

If using bitumen, it is common practice to place a first coat, known as a prime

1. wearing surface or bitumen layer;
2. pavement materials and;
3. subgrade or underlying soils.

These three elements act together to create a structure that supports the traffic. Engineers consider a number of factors when designing a road pavement including the traffic volume, the type of traffic, available materials and strength of the natural soils to support the weight of the traffic.

seal when the works are first completed. A second coat is then applied six to 12 months later.

Rebuilding roads does take a number of weeks. All effort is made to minimise the disruption, but unfortunately motorists will be inconvenienced.



Why are pothole repairs and other patching necessary?

To keep the road network trafficable, Council crews undertake reactive maintenance repairs to fix defects in the pavement, like potholes. Potholes form when water infiltrates the road surface and the bitumen seal lifts under the action of vehicles driving over. That is why they commonly appear during wet weather. The repeated wheel movements remove more and more gravel from making the hole deeper and dangerous.

To remove this hazard, the hole is filled with 'cold mix', which is a bitumen based product specifically designed for this purpose. Pothole repairs are necessary to remove the hazard until a more permanent repair can be arranged. With many roads require rebuilding, ongoing pothole repairs are sometimes the only viable repair method and the process may need to be repeated numerous times to keep the road trafficable until the pavement is replaced.

Another repair method is called a 'heavy patch'. This is where a small section (say 5m x 5m or larger) of the road is rebuilt to remove a localised defect. This repair method is used when surround pavement is in otherwise good condition. Heavy patching does require more resources and planning than a pothole repair. So, the pothole repair many be implemented



Heavy patching does require more resources and planning than a pothole repair. So, the pothole repair many be implemented initially to manage the hazard, while the heavy patch can be designed and programmed.

Heavy patching is a long term repair method than pothole repairs and is appropriate when the road is in otherwise good condition. It is more expensive than pot hole repairs, so work crews need to be selective on where and how this type of patching is done.

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Road Resealing Program

Each year Council undertakes a resurfacing program to rejuvenate the bitumen before it starts to fail.

Council's preventive maintenance program helps roads reach their intended life span. The bitumen surface becomes brittle over time, which can lead to cracking. Cracks allow water to penetrate the pavement gravel and soils below.

For the latest information on road works visit Council's Road Works [page](#)

This is why it may look like Council is resurfacing a road that appears to be in otherwise good condition.

Better Boating Ramps

The Sanctuary Point Boat Launching Ramp has been upgraded.

The upgrade totalled \$746,000 and has transformed the existing single lane boat launching ramp into a two lane boat launching ramp. Partly funded by the NSW Government's Better Boating Now program with a grant of \$620,000 and with additional funds from Council,

Works also involved the provision of a new upgraded car and trailer parking area as well as a new user friendly jetty which is proving popular with fishermen.

The Sussex Inlet Lions Park new car and trailer parking has been finished thanks to some funding from the NSW Government's Better Boating Now program with a grant of \$150,000.

\$255,000 was spent on improving drainage and providing a new car park with Council funding the extra \$105,000 to increase parking at the most popular boat launching facility in Sussex Inlet.





Flinders Road Upgrades

The first sod has been turned on a series of crucial road safety upgrades for Flinders Road, South Nowra.

The upgrades will take place between the Nowra Creek Bridge and Albatross Road and will include a major reconfiguration of the Albatross Road intersection, as well as further safety improvements between Norfolk Avenue and the Princes Highway.

The upgrade will dramatically improve road safety and heavy vehicle access to the adjoining Flinders Industrial Estate, which is a major manufacturing and logistics distribution centre for local, national and international companies. Read more [here](#)

An Extra Ordinary Meeting has been scheduled at the conclusion of the Strategy & Assets Committee meeting (which commences at 5.00 pm) on Tuesday 13 June 2017 in the Council Chambers, Bridge Rd Nowra. This meeting will discuss Rates, Fees and Charges, the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery and Operational Plan and Budget.

Visit the Environmental Expo

Join Council for a day of learning and entertainment at the Shoalhaven Environmental Expo on Tuesday, 30 May 2017 from 10am to 4pm at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre.

Discover simple and cost-effective steps you can take to reduce your waste and minimise your ecological footprint. Find out about recycling, composting, resource recovery, energy reduction, water saving, effluent treatment, biodiversity and more!

The Environmental Expo is FREE to attend, however some activities require a booking. For more details, click [here](#)



Tuesday, 30 May 2017 from 10am

Smart Cities Innovation
Grant Think Tank



Council is currently investigating a grant to assist in transforming the Shoalhaven into a "Smart City". Council is inviting information technology experts, tech heads, gamers, small businesses, large businesses, entrepreneurs, artists, musicians and community members to help shape the grant application and tell us how you think the Shoalhaven could be a smart city.

Join our Grant Think Tank on Monday, 5 June 2017 at Nowra School of Arts (Berry St) from 6pm-8pm (Doors open at 5:30pm).

Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP: Lili Hutchinson at Council on Tel: 4429 3372.

Beautifying our Towns

To help beautify our towns and villages, Council is increasingly adding public art to public amenities. The artworks assist in beautifying public areas as well as reducing the likelihood of vandalism or graffiti.

Murals also allow local artist to gain recognition for their work.

View some of the areas local mural creations at Council's [webpage](#)




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