



What you **need** to **know** about...

Drainage at Roads

maintaining our roads

There are approximately 5000 km of roads within the Southland District Council network: 2000 km sealed, 3000 km unsealed, including over 960 bridges, with 27 townships & a growing population (28,440 as per 2006 Census) who use these roads.

With an annual Roothing Budget of over \$23M it is our aim to keep the roads maintained to an acceptable standard and are always looking at ways to improve the network as an asset for the community while keeping to an ever tightening budget.

Good drainage is essential to every landowner and this is true for the Council and its roads. Not only does the provision and maintenance of drainage improve the useful life of the roading asset, it also maintains the road surface providing safer road conditions for the roadusers.

When Lowering a Road Culvert

Council allows landowners to lower road culverts to assist in solving drainage problems, subject to the work being carried out safely and to the required standard, to minimise the risk of injury or damage to roadusers.

- Landowners are required to obtain a permit prior to work commencing
- Work must be carried out by an approved contractor
- Backfill and **replacement** pipes shall be supplied by Council
- In some circumstances a private culvert may be more cost effective for landowner.

Council shall inspect the site upon completion of work to check it meets the required standard to protect the integrity of the roading asset.

Drainage on Roadsides

All farm drains in the road margin are the responsibility of the adjoining property owner, who is responsible for the full cost of all cleaning and maintenance work required. The Council policy for the maintenance of drainage



ditches is intended to reduce the risk of injury or damage to roadusers from excessively deep drainage ditches adjacent to the road.

- Blocked drains or culverts due to lack of maintenance on a farm drain are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner
- New open ditches are not preferred unless there is no other practical solution and therefore require a permit
- Maximum open drain depth is 1.5m below natural surface level of any road
- To avoid increasing the risk & severity of injury or damage to roadusers it is not allowable to widen open ditches toward centre line of road

Council is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate road culverts, and in urban areas road drainage.

Contact our Customer Services on 0800 732 732 if you have a concern about the state of any of our roads, sealed or unsealed, or if you come across a mess.

top tips

Three simple tips when it comes to drainage:

1. Contact Council when considering doing any work to the culverts or roadside drains, you may need a permit.
2. Check drainage regularly and keep up the maintenance, inform Council if there is a problem.
3. If in doubt - ask.



If you would like to learn more about Roadings other "Need to Know" sheets you can find them on our website: www.southlanddc.govt.nz



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