



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

## Stock Underpasses

### *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 Roading 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.

For the mutual benefit of the Landowner, Council and the wider community we encourage the installation of stock underpasses as the preferred solution to the conflict between stock and traffic.

### Do I Have to Have an Underpass?

Not everyone has to have an underpass, they are a large capital investment and as such need to be of benefit to the landowner. At the Council we understand this, as the Road Controlling Authority we also have a vested interest as the Asset Managers of the roads used for Stock Crossings at Grade, Vehicle Accessways, Underpasses, etc. Sharing this asset we offer a subsidy of up to 25% to landowners who meet the criteria set out in the Policy and upon completion of construction and issue of Code of Compliance.

If you are crossing stock over the road, at grade, you require a permit as per section 6 of the Policy. However if the Average Annual Daily Traffic count and/or % Days Crossing exceed the threshold a Permit may not be issued and you may only be allowed a temporary permit to use the crossing - allowing the landowner time to begin the Building Consent process.

### What do I Need for an Underpass?

The construction of an underpass involves 3 main steps:

1. Road Opening Permit: process which outlines the requirements for the construction & reinstatement of the road.



2. Building Consent: this ensures all underpasses are constructed in accordance with the Building Consent process and to the Standard Technical Specification for the Construction of a Stock Underpass.
3. Deed of Grant: a legal agreement detailing ongoing responsibilities for maintenance & ownership between the landowner and Council, as the structure is constructed on the road.

Full details of requirements for construction and qualifying for subsidy can be obtained from Council.

### Benefits of Stock Underpasses

- Safer operation for farm owner and/or workers, stock & road users.
- Economic benefit of Underpass vs Stock Crossing, including signs, maintenance, drover attendance, clean up, etc.
- Less stress to stock results in increased productivity & reduced loss time.

#### 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 operating a stock underpass:

1. Maintain the Underpass correctly to ensure a full useful life from structure.
2. Do not alter, make changes to or change the use of the structure without consulting a Council Engineer or representative first.
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](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz)



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