



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

## Storage on the Road Margin

### *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.

Our community continues to grow and develop, and so do the needs and demands placed upon the Council. As such, in our role as a provider to the whole community it is initiatives, programmes and policies such as the Roading Policy that better allow us to serve not one but all with PEOPLE in mind.

### Public vs Private

Storing winter feed along the verges of roads creates a potential hazard for motorists. And tractors manoeuvring to load bales from roadsides will obstruct the road, churn up the road shoulder, spread mud onto the road and damage the water table.

The roadside is not part of the adjoining farm, but some believe it is ok to use the verge for stockpiling feed. While this may be convenient, the Southland District Council does not permit it except in exceptional circumstances, and subject to prior application.

### Clear Zone

As part of the Council's Safety Management Plan a Clear Zone standard has been adopted. The purpose of which is that, if a vehicle leaves the carriageway, the severity of the resulting crash is influenced strongly by whether or not any objects are hit and whether the vehicle overturns. Ideally the whole area that a vehicle is likely to traverse after leaving the road should be clear and free of objects. This area is called a Clear Zone.



### Clean Up

Where storage in the road margin is found, Council will endeavour to contact the owner of the items stored, who will then be given 14 calendar days to remove the items. If the owner cannot be found or the items are not removed, Council may arrange removal of the items and seek recovery of the cost from the owner.

**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 Road Margin rules:

1. Location, location, location.
2. Look at it from another's point of view, how would this effect you if it wasn't yours?
3. If in doubt - ask.



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