

POLICY

ROADS – Collection of Firewood from Council Road Reserves and Council Owned Land

Date adopted by Council	25 March 2024
Minute number	24/055
Endorsed by	Senior Management Group
CM Ref	CD-55/23
Due for review	March 2028
Related documents	Nil
Responsible officer	Executive Manager Works Delivery
Department/Section	Infrastructure Services, Works Delivery
Category	Roads
Community Strategic Plan goal	Goal 7 Enhance and improve the road network and bridges to meet the needs of current and future generations and communicate priorities and progress to the Community.
	CS27 Maintain and upgrade the road network and bridges.

Policy Statement

The removal of wood, either standing or fallen on Council road reserves is prohibited without the express written permission of Council.

Objective

To ensure the protection of roadside vegetation on Council road reserves and Council owned land within the Upper Hunter Shire Council area.

Scope

This policy applies to the collection of firewood from Council controlled road reserves and Council owned land and the management of this risk to the environment and public.

Policy Details

This policy applies to all persons intending to collect firewood from the road reserves and Council owned land including Council employees and contractors

Upper Hunter Shire Council acknowledges that standing and fallen wood are significant sources of habitat and food for many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and invertebrates as well as being an essential part of maintaining the woodland nutrient cycles. Removal of this wood from roadsides may represent a significant threat to the biodiversity of these environments.

Firewood collection by private parties is not regulated by detailed environmental assessment processes and as such poses a risk to roadside vegetation environments and their biodiversity. The collection of firewood on Council road reserves and Council owned land is prohibited unless specific approval has been given.

Road construction activities often require the removal of vegetation to improve the infrastructure or facilitate new construction. Vegetation removal is assessed at the time of preparing a Review of Environmental Factors, considering the significance of proposed works on the local environment and mitigation measures to minimise impacts of the proposed works.

Responsibilities

Councillors

Councillors will review and adopt the policy.

Senior Management Group

The Senior Management Group will support this policy and ensure their relevant areas are implementing it consistently.



Director

The Director Infrastructure Services will ensure the policy is updated and implemented consistently.

All Managers

All Managers will support this policy and ensure it is implemented when applicable to their area and works undertaken.

Manager

The Manager Works Delivery will review, update and implement the policy. The Manager will also develop and maintain any procedures or processes required to manage the policy.

Staff

The relevant officers will have responsibility to ensure the policy is implemented and all procedures are adhered to.

References and Related Legislation

- Roads Act 1993

Version History

Version No.	Date	CM Ref #	Reason for Review
1	24/02/2014	INT-2201/14	
2	09/11/2017	INT-33470/17	
3	14/12/2020	CD-189/20	
4	25/03/2024	CD-55/23	Timed review