

How much sealing does Council do?

Council provides sufficient ratepayer funding to seal approximately 10km of roads every three years.

The reason the work is undertaken in a 3 year cycle is so that we can get maximum bang for the ratepayers dollar by tendering larger quantities of work in one package rather than doing a smaller amount of work every year.

Government funding

Sometimes Council is able to get additional funding from Government through Land Transport New Zealand to subsidise the cost of sealing roads. There is specific criteria which has to be met in order to get this funding.

If we can get funding from Land Transport NZ then we are able to seal more than 10km of roads every 3 years.

How does Council decide which roads get sealed?

Council has a "Seal Extension Strategy" which identifies a system for prioritising which roads should be sealed first. This is available from our website, or from Council offices.

The following things are considered:

- ◆ How much traffic uses the road
- ◆ Are crashes occurring
- ◆ Time savings if the road is sealed
- ◆ Vehicle wear and tear
- ◆ Impacts of dust on quality of living
- ◆ House cleaning costs as a result of dust
- ◆ Numbers of residential properties
- ◆ Numbers of commercial properties
- ◆ Adjacent land use
- ◆ Impact of dust on fruit and vineyard crops
- ◆ If the road is used by pedestrians, cyclists, or horses
- ◆ If it is a through road
- ◆ Is it used by tourists
- ◆ If an activity has started on the road which has changed the number or type of vehicles using the road
- ◆ The speed of traffic on the road
- ◆ The type of traffic on the road, e.g cars, trucks
- ◆ Is the road oiled by the residents
- ◆ How often the road needs to be graded, or have gravel put down
- ◆ How much it will cost to seal the road

Of the above, the numbers of vehicles using a road, the number of houses along the road, and the effects of dust on adjoining land use are the major factors in deciding which roads will be sealed.

Is there a "list" of roads to be sealed?

Two years prior to the sealing year we finalise the list of roads to be sealed in the next round. This is based on traffic volumes and land use at that time.

The traffic volumes and land use are checked and a new list is prepared each time. This ensures that changes in land use and traffic are considered for each round of sealing.

How do I find out if a road is on the list?

The latest list, and the status of this is available from Council. This will show which roads are currently confirmed for the next sealing round. It will also show which other roads were considered and their relative ranking at that time.

The order will be reassessed next time the list of roads to be sealed is confirmed. The order will change each time due to changes in land use and traffic volumes.

Will all roads eventually be sealed?

No, there are just too many gravel roads, and the cost to seal these, and then maintain them as sealed roads is prohibitively expensive.

- ◆ There are in excess of 1400km of unsealed roads within the Central Otago District. Of these, an estimated 1000km carry less than an average of 50 vehicles per day.
- ◆ It costs around 3 times more to maintain a sealed road than a gravel road.

Traffic volumes are an important trigger point in deciding which gravel roads get sealed. When a gravel road has an average of about 150 to 200 vehicles a day on it the cost of maintaining it as a gravel road become much higher, and sealing it becomes more economic.



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So you want a gravel road sealed?

