

## 14.3 RAV Amendment Request – Various Roads

### Governance & Compliance



<b>Date:</b>	16 September 2025
<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Ben Forbes, Manager of Infrastructure and Projects
<b>Author:</b>	Ben Forbes, Manager of Infrastructure and Projects
<b>Legislation:</b>	<i>Road Traffic Act 1974; Road Traffic (Vehicle) Regulations 2014</i>
<b>Sharepoint Reference:</b>	Technical / Roads
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 14.3A - RAV Amendment Application</a>

#### Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

#### Summary

This item presents a proposal for Council to consider amendments to the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) rating for Eaton Sand Hole Road, Irvine Road and Rifle Range Road, along with amendments to the Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) for Dowerin Meckering Road, Eaton Road, Jones Street, Rifle Range Road and Ucarty South Road.

#### Background

The Shire has received a request to amend heavy vehicle access arrangements on several local roads within the district. Specifically, the request seeks Council's consideration to amend the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) rating for Eaton Sand Hole Road, Irvine Road and Rifle Range Road, and to amend the Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) conditions for Dowerin Meckering Road, Eaton Road, Jones Street, Rifle Range Road and Ucarty South Road.

The RAV Network and AMMS classifications are administered by Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) and determine the level of access permitted for heavy vehicles operating under these schemes. Local governments are required to provide input into proposed changes, with consideration given to road suitability, safety, and the potential impact on infrastructure and the community.

Under Council's Restricted Access Vehicle Policy, the CEO is authorised to permit Heavy Vehicle Services to inspect roads up to RAV 4 without a formal Council decision. Any request for RAV Network 5 and above requires Council approval.

Dimension Requirements					
Road No.	Road Name	From Location (SLK)	To Location (SLK)	Current Network	Requested Network
4070049	Eaton Sand Hole Rd (Ucarty)	0.00	3.32	4.1	7.3
4070067	Irvine Rd (Dowerin, Ucarty)	0.83	2.68	Nil	7.3
4070045	Rifle Range Rd (Ucarty)	0.00	0.155	4.3	7.3

Mass Requirements					
Road No.	Road Name	From Location (SLK)	To Location (SLK)	Current Mass Level	Requested Mass Level
4070183	Dowerin - Meckering Rd (Quelagetting, Ucarty, Dowerin)	0.00	25.64	AMMS Level 1	AMMS Level 3
4070060	Eaton Rd (Ucarty)	0.00	2.09	AMMS Level 1	AMMS Level 3
4070112	Jones St (Dowerin)	1.05	1.48	AMMS Level 1	AMMS Level 3
4070045	Rifle Range Rd (Ucarty)	0.00	0.155	AMMS Level 1	AMMS Level 3
4070007	Ucarty South Rd (Ucarty, Quelagetting)	11.20	14.08	AMMS Level 1	AMMS Level 3

Comment
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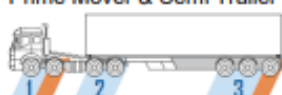


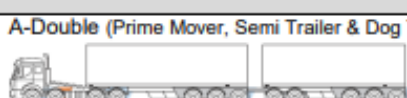
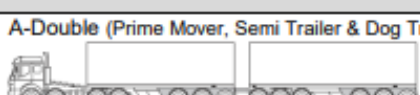
While RAV access delivers productivity benefits to the transport industry, it also provides advantages for road managers and the local community by reducing the number of heavy vehicle movements. Fewer trips translate to lower risk exposure, including reduced potential for serious crashes, decreased carbon emissions, less heavy vehicle noise, and in some cases, reduced congestion.

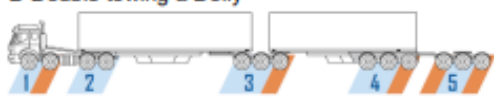




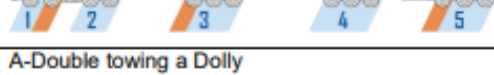


It is acknowledged that Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) limits can result in greater road wear when compared with statutory mass limits. However, AMMS requires transport operators to maintain strict loading controls, which are subject to auditing by Heavy Vehicle Services (HVS).

Despite these safeguards, the proposed increase in RAV and AMMS on Shire roads is expected to lead to additional road maintenance costs, primarily due to existing pavement thicknesses and carriageway widths. This will likely result in a greater need for repair and maintenance activities to ensure safe and sustainable road conditions, particularly along designated school bus routes. The whole-of-life estimates for these roads may also be impacted by changes to their RAV Network rating.

## 1.1 AMMS Approved Vehicles

An AMMS Prime Mover, Trailer Combinations Period Permit applies to a RAV in the following table with a Maximum Modified Mass equal to or less than the Maximum Modified Mass specified on the particular permit:

Category 1 RAVs						
Cat.	Vehicle Description	Length	AMMS Level	Max. Gross Mass	Max. Modified Mass	Approved Network
1A	<div>Prime Mover &amp; Semi Trailer</div> 	≤19.0 m	Level 1	50 t	2 t	N1.1
			Level 2	Not Approved		
			Level 3	Not Approved		
Category 2 RAVs						
Cat.	Vehicle Description	Length	AMMS Level	Max. Gross Mass	Max. Modified Mass	Approved Network
2A	<div>Prime Mover &amp; Semi Trailer</div> 	≤20 m	Level 1	50.5 t	2 t	N2.1
			Level 2	51.5 t	3 t	N2.2
			Level 3	53 t	5 t	N2.3
2B	<div>Prime Mover, Semi Trailer &amp; Pig Trailer or Dolly</div> 	≤27.5 m	Level 1	68.5 t	2 t	N2.1
			Level 2	69.5 t	3 t	N2.2
			Level 3	71 t	5 t	N2.3
2C	<div>B-Double</div> 	≤27.5 m	Level 1	72 t	4 t	N2.1
			Level 2	74 t	6 t	N2.2
			Level 3	76.5 t	8 t	N2.3
Category 3 RAVs						
Cat.	Vehicle Description	Length	AMMS Level	Max. Gross Mass	Max. Modified Mass	Approved Network
3A	<div>A-Double (Prime Mover, Semi Trailer &amp; Dog Trailer)</div> 	≤27.5 m	Level 1	89 t	4 t	N3.1
			Level 2	91 t	6 t	N3.2
			Level 3	94 t	9 t	N3.3
Category 4 RAVs						
Cat.	Vehicle Description	Length	AMMS Level	Max. Gross Mass	Max. Modified Mass	Approved Network
4A	<div>A-Double (Prime Mover, Semi Trailer &amp; Dog Trailer)</div> 	≤27.5 m	Level 1	93.5 t	5 t	N4.1
			Level 2	96.5 t	8 t	N4.2
			Level 3	100 t	12 t	N4.3

Category 5 RAVs						
Cat.	Vehicle Description	Length	AMMS Level	Max. Gross Mass	Max. Modified Mass	Approved Network
5A	B-Double towing a Dolly 	27.5 m + dolly	Level 1	72 t + dolly	4 t	N5.1
			Level 2	74 t + dolly	6 t	N5.2
			Level 3	76.5 t + dolly	8 t	N5.3
5B	A-Double (Prime Mover, Semi Trailer & Dog Trailer) 	>27.5 m ≤36.5 m	Level 1	89 t	4 t	N5.1
			Level 2	91 t	6 t	N5.2
			Level 3	94 t	9 t	N5.3
5C	A-Double towing a Dolly 	27.5 m + dolly	Level 1	89 t + dolly	4 t	N5.1
			Level 2	91 t + dolly	6 t	N5.2
			Level 3	94 t + dolly	9 t	N5.3
5D	B-Triple 	>27.5 m ≤36.5 m	Level 1	89 t	4 t	N5.1
			Level 2	91 t	6 t	N5.2
			Level 3	94 t	9 t	N5.3
Category 6 RAVs						
Cat.	Vehicle Description	Length	AMMS Level	Max. Gross Mass	Max. Modified Mass	Approved Network
6A	A-Double (Prime Mover, Semi Trailer & Dog Trailer) 	>27.5 m ≤36.5 m	Level 1	93.5 t	5 t	N6.1
			Level 2	96.5 t	8 t	N6.2
			Level 3	100 t	12 t	N6.3
6B	B-Triple 	>27.5 m ≤36.5 m	Level 1	93.5 t	5 t	N6.1
			Level 2	96.5 t	8 t	N6.2
			Level 3	100 t	12 t	N6.3
6C	A-Double towing a Dolly 	27.5 m + dolly	Level 1	93.5 t + dolly	5 t	N6.1
			Level 2	96.5 t + dolly	8 t	N6.2
			Level 3	100 t + dolly	12 t	N6.3
Category 7 RAVs						
Cat.	Vehicle Description	Length	AMMS Level	Max. Gross Mass	Max. Modified Mass	Approved Network
7A	AB-Triple (Prime Mover, Semi Trailer & B-double) 	>27.5 m ≤36.5 m	Level 1	115 t	7 t	N7.1
			Level 2	119 t	11 t	N7.2
			Level 3	123.5 t	15 t	N7.3

## Policy Implications

### Request to Access Roads

- a) RAV Classified Roads – If required, heavy vehicle transport operators may request use of a classified road on the RAV Network by applying to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for approval.
- b) Unclassified Roads - If the road is not classified on the RAV Network, then the applicant will first need to apply to MRWA (HVS). Upon receipt from MRWA (HVS), the Shire of Dowerin will assess the request in accordance with MRWA approved guidelines and if supported, a submission will be made to MRWA (HVS) for their consideration including any conditions that may apply to the use of the road.
- c) AMMS Network - Heavy Vehicle transport operators may apply for a road already classified on the RAV Network to be approved for an AMMS Network level by applying to MRWA (HVS). Upon receipt from MRWA (HVS) the Shire of Dowerin will assess the request in accordance with MRWA approved guidelines. If supported, a submission will be made to MRWA (HVS) for their consideration.
- d) Should the road access request be declined, the Shire of Dowerin will inform MRWA (HVS) who will advise the applicant.
- e) Depending on the need for access, a RAV access request may be supported if the applicant is willing to meet the costs associated for the shire to carry out any road upgrades or vegetation pruning necessary to qualify the road for the RAV network level requested.

### RAV Road Reclassification

The Shire may withdraw support for an approved route at any time if:

- i. The route is deemed unsafe for RAV use;
- ii. The route is deemed unsuitable for RAV use; or
- iii. The heavy vehicle transport operator has breached approval conditions.

The CEO may grant agreement to Main Roads to inspect roads up to N4 to without referring the matter to Council providing the road/roads comply with the Main Roads Route Assessment Guidelines at standard VSR axle mass limits.

## Statutory Implications

The Road Traffic Act 1974 and the Road Traffic (Vehicle) Regulations 2014 govern the use of heavy vehicles on roads within Western Australia and define items such as compliance notices, exemptions, permits and notices for heavy restricted access vehicles. These regulations also contain provisions for mass and loading, load restraints, vehicle modifications and vehicle maintenance.

The Land Administration Act 1997 Section 55 and Local Government Act 1995 Section 3.53(2) gives the Shire of Dowerin management responsibility for roads within its boundaries.

## Strategic Implications

### Strategic Community Plan

Community Priority:	Our Economy
Objective:	Ensure the road network is safe and capable of the freight task <i>Enhance and maintain the road transport network</i>
Outcome:	2.1
Reference:	2.1d

### Asset Management Plan

The whole of life estimates for this road may be altered by a change in the RAV Network rating.

### Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

## Risk Implications

Risk Profiling Theme	Asset Management Practices
Risk Category	Compliance
Risk Description	Significant damage requiring internal & external resources to rectify
Consequence Rating	Major (4)
Likelihood Rating	Likely (4)
Risk Matrix Rating	High (16)
Key Controls (in place)	Regular inspections by staff to ensure minimal damage
Action (Treatment)	Possible reduction or removal of RAV Rating Potential conditions on the approval
Risk Rating (after treatment)	Effective

## Financial Implications

There are no immediate financial implications, however a change in RAV Network Rating and Accredited Mass Management Scheme for all or part of the road has the potential to reduce the life of the road and increase the maintenance requirements of the road.

The whole-of-life estimates for these roads may be altered by a change in the RAV Network rating.

## Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

## Officer's Recommendation

That, by Simple Majority, in accordance with the *Road Traffic Act 1974* and the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*, Council advises Main Roads Western Australia Heavy Vehicle Services that it:

1. Supports the request to increase the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) rating to RAV 7 on the following roads:
  - Eaton Sand Hole Road
  - Irvine Road
  - Rifle Range Road

Subject to the following conditions:

- a) All operators must carry written approval from the road manager acknowledging their use of the road.
  - b) Headlights must be switched on at all times.
  - c) No operation is permitted on unsealed road segments when visibly wet unless prior approval is granted by the road owner.
  - d) The road is classified as Low Volume (LV), with a maximum speed limit of 60 km/h.
  - e) When operating at night, vehicles must not exceed 40 km/h and must display an amber flashing warning light on the prime mover.
  - f) Operation is not permitted while a school bus is operating on the road.
  - g) Operators must contact the relevant schools and obtain school bus timetables; where direct contact can be made with the school bus driver, operation is permitted once the driver confirms all drop-offs/pick-ups on the road have been completed.
  - h) Direct radio contact (UHF channel 40) must be maintained with other restricted access vehicles to coordinate positions on or near the road.
2. Does not support the request to amend the Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) from AMMS 1 to AMMS 3 on:
    - Dowerin Meckering Road
    - Eaton Road
    - Jones Street
    - Rifle Range Road
    - Ucarty South Road

On the basis that:

- The Shire's road network is not currently constructed to a standard suitable for higher mass limits.
- With the exception of Rifle Range Road, which is presently classified at RAV 4 AMMS 3, no other Shire roads are designated at this level, and maintaining the current position ensures consistency across the broader road network.
- Endorsing an increase at this time is likely to accelerate pavement deterioration and impose additional maintenance obligations that exceed the Shire's available resources.