



Activities in the road corridor: Early engagement

Early engagement plays an important role at this early stage. Engaging with the community at the outset enables Council to build awareness, gauge levels of interest, begin generating momentum and awareness ahead of any further public consultation, and most importantly, ensures decisions are informed by community knowledge.

Through early engagement, Council can develop a clearer understanding of the community's current needs, priorities and perspectives relating to the topic, while also providing an opportunity to build on staff knowledge and Council data with the lived experience and local insight of the community. This helps to test assumptions about the nature and severity of issues, validate anecdotal information and progressively refine the scope of matters requiring further investigation.

FAQs

Q. What is the “road corridor”?

A. The road corridor is more than just the sealed road. It includes the land and space:

- on, under, and above the road
- beside the road (berms, drains, culverts)
- used for access, utilities, events and other activities.

Council also has assets in this space, such as road signs, streetlights, street trees, stormwater infrastructure, and safety barriers.

Many different activities happen in the road corridor every day, some temporarily and some permanently.

Q. What is this survey about?

A. Waikato District Council (WDC) is reviewing how activities are managed on and close to our roads, which is known as the road corridor. The road corridor includes the road itself and adjoining areas such as berms, drains, culverts, and airspace above the road.

We want to hear from the community about a range of perceived problems we see happening in the road corridor, to check whether these reflect real experiences and concerns.

This feedback will help us decide whether changes to our rules and guidelines are needed, and if so, what kind of change is appropriate.

Q. Why is Council talking about this now?

A. Several existing bylaws and policies that affect the road corridor are due for review over the next few years. At the same time, Council has identified gaps and inconsistencies in how activities in the road corridor are currently managed.

Rather than reviewing individual policies separately, Council is looking at the bigger picture: how well the road corridor is being managed overall, and whether expectations, responsibilities, and enforcement are clear and fair.

We want to understand community views before deciding on solutions.

Q. Is Council proposing a new bylaw?

A. No decision has been made yet. Before we progress to making a decision, we want to know:

- Are the problems we've identified the right ones?
- Are we focusing on the correct issues?
- Do current rules and tools work well, or not?

Your feedback will help Council decide whether a new, more coordinated approach is needed (which could include a bylaw).

Q. Why is Council concerned about activities in the road corridor?

A. As the Road Controlling Authority (RCA), Waikato District Council regulates activities within the road corridor to ensure the safety of road users, to understand the location of third-party assets within road network. As the RCA, the following challenges have been identified:

- Understanding the location of utility assets within the road corridor.
- Poor quality third-party work can damage roads and assets.
- Costs falling on ratepayers when problems are not identified and fixed in a timely manner.
- Unclear responsibilities between Council, landowners, utility suppliers, and contractors.

Contact Us

0800 492 452

info@waidc.govt.nz

waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Council is also a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) and a contracting PCBU as council teams procure contracts to carry out physical work on behalf of Council. The management and quality of these works is part of the procurement process and project management. We want to know whether these concerns match what you see in your community.

Q. What are the perceived problems?

A. Construction and utility works (including traffic management)

Many construction and utility activities happen in the road corridor, such as:

- road crossings
- power and fibre installations
- maintenance works

These require approval, but Council finds:

- unauthorised works sometimes occur
- traffic management is not always followed
- reinstatement quality can vary

Damage to roads and road assets

Damage can occur from:

- vehicle accidents
- oversized loads
- vandalism or nuisance activities.

When Council can't recover costs, repairs are paid by ratepayers.

Encroachment into the road corridor

Encroachment is when private items are placed in the road corridor, such as:

- containers, rocks, gardens, bollards
- materials stored on berms
- when mud or other debris is left on roads, such as from muddy machinery or other vehicles

This can affect safety, drainage, visibility, and maintenance.

Stock underpasses

Stock underpasses reduce livestock movements on roads, improving safety. However:

- ownership and maintenance responsibilities are unclear to some owners
- inspections are needed to protect road assets and road user safety
- subsidy arrangements are not always well understood.

Contact Us

0800 492 452

info@waidc.govt.nz

waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Movement of livestock on roads

Livestock are sometimes moved along or across roads. If this isn't done safely, it can risk:

- road user safety
- animal welfare
- effluent left on roads causing damage to the road surface

Council has a Livestock Movement Bylaw and permit system, but compliance is not always consistent.

Roadside fencing

Roadside fencing helps prevent animals entering roads, but problems can arise where:

- fencing is inadequate, poorly maintained or inappropriate materials used
- it is unclear who owns or maintains a fence
- fences are damaged or removed.

There are also occasional disputes between neighbours about fence location and responsibility.

Unformed (paper) roads

Unformed roads exist on plans but are not built. Issues include:

- confusion about access rights
- neighbour disputes
- unauthorised works
- expectations that Council will maintain them.

Vehicle entranceways and driveway crossings

As the district grows, more vehicle entrances are being built. Issues can include:

- poor sightlines
- inadequate culverts causing flooding
- multiple accesses which increase the number of conflict points with pedestrians and traffic.

Community and commercial events

Events such as markets, festivals and races can affect traffic and parking. Sometimes:

- approvals are not sought
- traffic management is inadequate.

Contact Us

0800 492 452

info@waikato.govt.nz

waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Q: What kind of feedback is most helpful?

A: We're especially interested in:

- your real-world experiences
- whether these issues affect safety, fairness or cost
- where rules are unclear or impractical
- what works well and should be protected
- what doesn't work and needs improvement.

Q: What happens next?

A: This is early engagement, so your feedback will help us:

- confirm (or challenge) the perceived problems
- shape options for improvement
- decide whether a bylaw or other tools are needed.

Any future proposals would be consulted on separately.

Contact Us

0800 492 452

info@waikato.govt.nz

waikatodistrict.govt.nz