



Role of Local Councils in the NSW Cattle Underpass Scheme (CUPS)

The NSW Cattle Underpass Scheme (CUPS) will provide grants to farmers as a financial contribution towards the cost of constructing underpasses beneath public roads to allow cattle to move safely from paddock to paddock or to facilities. The CUPS will offer grants for half (50 percent) of the cost of an underpass, up to a maximum of \$70,000 plus GST.

A lower cost option to install cattle crossing warning signs with flashing lights to alert motorists, is also included as part of the Scheme. The CUPS will offer grants for half (50 percent) of the cost of signs and lights, up to a maximum of \$10,000 plus GST.

The farmer (applicant) is responsible for the remaining costs and will pay the contractor the balance of the quote. Roads and Maritime will pay the contractor the amount of the grant upon certification the works have been completed.

There are four means by which local councils can be involved in the NSW CUPS:

1. **First Point of Contact**

In the first instance the farmer will approach their local council to determine the classification of the road and which agency is the road authority.

2. **Referral to Roads and Maritime**

When the road classification indicates the location of the crossing is on a state road the council will refer the farmer (applicant) to the relevant Regional Office of the Roads and Maritime for guidance about the process to gain approval to undertake construction of the cattle underpass or signs and flashing lights. Dependent upon the council's policies and procedures it may have no further involvement after this point.

3. **Council is the Road Authority**

When council is the road authority:

- Council is requested to provide documentation to the farmer (applicant) showing they have either commenced or finalised the works approval process with council as such proof is part of their application for a grant from the CUPS.
- Upon completion of the works council is requested to inspect and certify the works have been completed to the specifications. The certification documentation is to be provided to the applicant and the contractor undertaking the work.
- Links to standard drawings for underpasses and specifications for the flashing lights sign are available from the DPI website.

4. **Council as a contractor quoting and undertaking the work**

Council may wish to contract to do the works for the farmer (applicant) on all

classifications of roads. However council needs to be pre-qualified to quote to undertake work on state controlled roads. Councils may quote for works in other local government areas.

Grant applications for cattle underpasses require two quotes unless a local council provides a quote, when only the one quote from a council is required.

The decision to ask council to quote remains with the farmer (applicant). Similarly council is not required to quote if requested by the farmer (applicant).

Upon completion of the works, council as the contractor will provide an invoice for the amount of the grant to Roads and Maritime and will be paid directly. The balance of the cost will be paid by the farmer.

The council is still required to undertake its role as the road authority and needs to examine the information sheet for contractors to ensure all requirements are met.

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