

# Dust Suppression Policy



## 1.0 Introduction

Dust consisting of fine aggregate or clay particles can be lifted from the surface of unsealed roads by passing traffic or wind. Research has revealed that road dust can be a significant health hazard to humans and animals. Environment Southland's proposed Water and Land Plan halted the use of waste oil for dust suppression on unsealed roads throughout the region. Only dust suppressants approved under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 can be used on roads, without a permit from Environment Southland.

## 2.0 Principles

On application from a ratepayer, the Council will arrange construction of a 100 metre long dust seal on the section of unsealed road adjacent to the residential house.

The Council will contribute 50% of the cost of the seal construction and will maintain the seal including cyclic resealing. The approximate cost to the Council for each section of dust seal will be \$6,000 (2020 figures).

Sites that are awaiting Council funding of dust seal construction will be encouraged to apply to Environment Southland for an approved dust suppressant agent to be applied to the affected road.

## 3.0 Criteria

For properties to be eligible for a shared cost dust seal construction, the following criteria must be met:

- House must normally be occupied.
- House to be within 100m "as the crow flies" of the road.
- The owner of the house must make a written application to the Council for a dust seal to be constructed and accept responsibility in writing for payment of 50% of the cost of the seal.
- The house must have been constructed on the site prior to 1 October 2020.
- The budget the Council has available each fiscal year may be less than required to construct all eligible dust seals applied for. A prioritisation process will be used to determine which sites will be treated in each financial year. Prioritisation of applications will be based on:
  - Traffic volume of the road as recorded in the Council RAMM database.
  - Traffic operating speed.

- Temporary treatment permit history.
- Evidence of related ill-health.
- Water supply contamination.
- Proximity to the unsealed road.
- Prevailing wind direction.
- Other relevant factors.

#### **4.0 Commencement of Policy**

This policy comes into effect on 9 September 2020.

This policy was adopted by the Gore District Council at its meeting held on 8 September 2020.

