



MEDIA RELEASE

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IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND COVERAGE OF ROAD WORKS

The Huon Valley Council is committed to keeping its roads safe and functional and has adopted new methods to improve the service of our 520 km unsealed road network.

Recent wet weather and increasing traffic has worsened the condition of many unsealed roads and Council's two grader crews have had to focus effort on resolving safety hazards on higher traffic roads. Despite this, the new program is already improving the quality and coverage of road works.

Mayor Bec Enders said we have been able to cover 30 per cent of the road network in the first half of this financial year.

"We take full accountability for the condition of its roads and our focus is on continual improvement. We have recognised the old way wasn't delivering the results expected by our community and have adopted new ways of scheduling, delivery and evaluation."

"We have a new approach and are undertaking an evidence based half year review of funding requirements to meet road service levels with the intention of delivering proactive, planned maintenance.

"In short, we recognise that unsealed roads will always deteriorate, and our aim is to adopt a program that sees roads fixed before the community have to report issues."

The road network has been divided into seven zones. Each zone is based around a population centre, and associated road and stormwater infrastructure.

"This means our extensive network becomes more manageable," Mayor Enders said.

Communications & Media Officer

Huon Valley Council

communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au



"We can use the zones to set quantifiable targets with measurable key performance indicators. Work schedules are created around the zones that allows more effective resource sharing between the various teams.

"The new approach means we can communicate to the community what the program looks like, when we will be in a particular zone, the plan for that zone and what works are being undertaken.

"This means we are getting around our network in a more effective way and maintaining the service levels that customers expect."

Mayor Enders said we are also using different techniques to repair the roads to increase the durability and increase the intervals between the servicing times.

"We are aware of the deficiencies in drainage across the network and have a renewed focus on drain maintenance. As one grader driver recently observed, 'if you don't have drains, you don't have roads'."

"I would like to thank the Infrastructure team for identifying the long term issues in their area and then making the changes necessary to get our roads and drainage network up to the standard where they need to be."

For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300

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