

Dust Suppression Policy



Approved by:	Council		
Sponsor:	Asset Group Manager		
Date approved:	23/06/2026		
Next review:	June 2029	Resolution:	2026/81

POLICY OVERVIEW

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent framework for managing dust nuisance on unsealed roads within the Waimate District.

The policy establishes:

- Approved methods of dust suppression
- Eligibility for Council assistance
- Design and maintenance standards for dust seals
- Responsibilities of Council and adjoining landowners
- Long-term management of treated road sections

Dust suppression assists in improving residential amenity.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Waimate District Council administered unsealed roads where dust suppression measures are proposed or undertaken.

Dust suppression methods covered include:

- Sealing of short road sections ("dust seals"), and
- Application of approved dust suppressant chemical treatments.

The policy applies whether works are:

- Fully privately funded, or
- Supported through Council financial assistance.

3. Policy Statement

Waimate District Council recognises that dust generated from unsealed roads may create nuisance, safety concerns, and adverse effects for adjacent residents.

Council may approve dust suppression measures where:

- A dust nuisance is demonstrated, and
- The treatment aligns with safe and sustainable road network management.

Dust suppression works must be designed to protect long-term pavement performance and road user safety.

POLICY

4. Prohibited Dust Suppression Methods

- 4.1 The application of waste oil or similar substances for dust suppression is prohibited.
- 4.2 Waste oil is classified as a hazardous substance under regional environmental regulations and its use on roads is not permitted within the Canterbury Region.

5. Dust Suppression Methods

Dust Seal Construction

- 5.1 Council may permit sealing of limited lengths of unsealed road adjacent to residential dwellings where dust nuisance has been confirmed.

Dust seals must:

- Be designed as permanent sealed road extensions
- Incorporate appropriate pavement depth
- Consider current and future traffic demand, including heavy agricultural traffic
- Maintain safe alignment and geometry

Dust seals must not terminate:

- Within curves
- Near intersections
- In a manner that results in a length of unsealed road less than 200m

6. Dust Suppressant Chemicals

- 6.1 Council may approve the application of recognised dust suppressant chemical products on unsealed roads.

Conditions include:

- Use of Regional Council-approved products only,
- Application at the applicant's cost unless otherwise agreed,
- Council approval prior to installation.

- 6.2 To maximise treatment life, Council will limit grading of treated sections unless rutting, potholing, or safety concerns arise. Normal winter maintenance may still occur.

7. Council-Assisted Dust Sealing

Eligibility

- 7.1 Council financial assistance applies only where:
- A residential dwelling existed prior to **1 January 2015**, and
 - A dust nuisance affecting residential amenity is demonstrated.
 - Residential dwelling must be within 100m (as the crow flies) of the road
 - Residential dwelling must be occupied
- 7.2 Applications must be received in writing and submitted by **1 September** for consideration in the following construction season.

Funding Contribution

- 7.3 Where approved:
- Council will contribute **50% of sealing costs**, and
 - Property owner(s) will fund the remaining balance.
 - Due to the short-term nature of dust suppressants, the application will be fully funded by the property owner.
- 7.4 Council contribution is limited to:
- A maximum sealed length of **200 metres per dwelling**, and
 - Works undertaken under competitive contract rates where practicable.

8. Prioritisation

- 8.1 Approved applications will be prioritised based on severity of effects and available funding.
- 8.2 Assessment criteria include:
- Extent of dust nuisance,
 - Road safety impacts,
 - Proximity of dwellings to the roadway,
 - Traffic volume, speed, and composition,
 - Land use and development changes,
 - Prevailing wind conditions,
 - Increase in heavy vehicle movements.

9. Maintenance Responsibilities

Council Responsibilities

- 9.1 Council will be responsible for:
- Second coat sealing,
 - Resealing,
 - Routine pavement and surface maintenance,
 - Integration into the wider sealed road maintenance programme.
- 9.2 These works will be undertaken at no cost to participating property owners.

Landowner Responsibilities

- 9.3 Participating landowners must:
- Avoid activities that damage sealed surfaces,
 - Manage farming and vehicle operations appropriately,
 - Prevent mud, material stockpiling, or machinery damage affecting the seal.
- 9.4 Landowner agreements may include provisions addressing damage arising from farming or commercial activities.

10. Design Standards

- 10.1 Dust suppression sealing must meet Council sealed road extension standards and consider:
- Traffic loading,
 - Agricultural activity,
 - Pavement longevity,
 - Network safety and consistency.
- 10.2 Transitions between sealed and unsealed surfaces must be designed to minimise maintenance requirements