

## Information sheet #1

# Transport and Main Roads policy on closing of state-controlled roads during wet weather and flooding (depth of water over road)

November 2020

This information sheet provides guidance for Transport and Main Roads' regions and contractors involved in the restriction and closing of state-controlled roads (SCRs) during wet weather and flooding. A more detailed explanation is available in the department's Engineering Policy EP147 *Road closure policy for wet weather and flooding*, available at

<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Technical-standards-publications/Engineering-policies>.

## Policy statement

Transport and Main Road's policy position on when a road should be closed is as follows:

### Still (static) water

SCRs may be closed during wet weather and flooding events when the depth of still water is 300 mm or more.

### Flowing water

If the water is flowing, regional discretion can be used to close the road at a lower depth, depending on the speed of flow. The faster the flow of water, the lower the depth for closure should occur. In some circumstances, roads may be closed at lower depths if upstream catchment rainfalls or flows are likely to cause water levels to rise to levels greater than 300 mm in the foreseeable future (and if practical to do so).

## Motorists

Motorists should always drive with due diligence and to the condition of the road. Road rules and road signage should be complied with and flood markers taken into consideration.

## Exceptions to the rule

Exceptions to the general rule can be made, following discussions between the departmental regional office and the local road steward (*Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC)* / *Road Asset Management Contract (RAMC)* contractor, RoadTek, Regional Council, private contractor or Transport and Main Roads road inspector / officer on site), and taking into consideration a number of factors.

Each situation is considered on a case-by-case basis, with road safety and protection of government infrastructure being the prime considerations.

Under Section 46(4) of the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*, access to particular locations can be managed through an approval process.

More detailed information is available in EP147 *Road closure policy for wet weather and flooding*.

## Benefits

The benefits of a clear understanding of when and why roads are closed during wet weather and flooding include:

- improved safety of road users and other people
- consistency of processes across the state, and
- clear policy in the event of a legal claim.

## Reference

- Transport and Main Roads EP147 *Road closure policy for wet weather and flooding*
- Transport and Main Roads Information Sheet Temporary restrictions on state-controlled roads during wet weather and flooding, and
- Transport and Main Roads *Road Drainage Manual* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Technical-standards-publications/Road-drainage-manual.aspx>

## Contact information

### Policy and standards

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