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C56**INTERIM TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONDUIT POLICY**

This policy applies where a permit is required for the subdivision of land.

Policy basis

The Federal Government has undertaken to provide broadband telecommunication access to 90% of the Australian population through the installation of optical fibre cables. Optical fibre provides increased data carrying capacity and will allow for faster access to multimedia services, larger data files and new telecommunication tools.

Providing underground conduit infrastructure for optical fibre cables in new subdivisions before the completion of development is efficient, cost effective and provides infrastructure ready to meet the needs of communities.

This policy is an interim measure until such time as the provision of broadband telecommunication service to new subdivisions is legislated for and implemented by the Federal Government.

Objective

To ensure the provision of a network of open access conduits for optical fibre cabling to facilitate broadband telecommunications services in a timely, efficient and cost effective manner.

Policy

It is policy that:

- New subdivisions are provided with open access underground conduits to carry optical fibre at the development stage. This may be waived if the responsible authority considers provision is unwarranted.
- All subdivision applications include a plan showing the conduit network for the subdivision, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- Conduits be provided in accordance with a plan approved by the responsible authority.
- Subdivision permits include a condition requiring the conduit and associated infrastructure to be protected from damage to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- Ownership of a conduit will vest in Council, and may be transferred to another agency or a telecommunications carrier at a later date.
- Where a conduit crosses private land, an easement may be required in favour of Council.