

Laneway Closure Policy

Council Policy



Owner	Elected Members		
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer		
Decision Number	R-69-2025		
Document Number	TS-001CP	Approval Date	2025
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1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide the Elected Members of Alice Springs Town Council (Council) and the community in the decision-making process for applications concerning Laneway Closures within the Alice Springs Municipality.

2 Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Active Transport	Relates to physical activity undertaken as a means of transport. It includes travel by foot, bicycle, motorised scooters, and non-motorised vehicles.
Anti- Social Behaviour	Relates to shouting, swearing or fighting which inflicts significant detriment to surrounding residents. Intimidation through threats or actual violence and causing damage to property or imposing risk on community safety.
Essential Services	Services including power and water, sewer, gas lines, telecommunications conduits, and fire hydrant pipelines.
Laneway	Road reserves that provide connectivity between roads and/or public open space.
Laneway Closure	Refers to the assessment and decision made by Council in terms of permanent and temporary closure or enabling permanent laneway treatment.
Overland Stormwater Flow Path	A path enabling water to run across land after rainfall. Crucial for stormwater unable to enter underground drainage systems.
Permanent Closure	The permanent and indefinite closing of a laneway resulting in the sale of land.
Permanent Laneway Treatment	A modification of a laneway intended to remain in place for greater than twelve months that may include: • Bicycle chicane/s, • Lighting.
Relevant Government Agencies	NT Police Force, Territory Housing, Territory Families, and any other Agencies that require access to a locked laneway.

Laneway Closure Policy

Council Policy



Temporary Closure	Full time closure of a laneway with locked gates or fences while an application for permanent laneway closure is being processed.
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3 Policy Statement

Through a consistent and fair approach, Alice Springs Town Council aims to support Laneway management through:

- Ensuring Council meets any legislative obligations.
- Promoting Community Safety.
- Ensuring consideration is given to accessibility and active transport where appropriate.
- Promoting financial and environmental outcomes which benefit Council and the community.

3.1 Organisational Context Applicable

3.1.1 Under section 272 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act), Council has the authority to close roads including laneways under Council's care, management and control. For the purposes of this policy, closures referred to in the Act includes temporary and permanent closures.

3.1.2 Prior to closing a road/laneway permanently Council must follow the advertising requirements set out in the *Local Government Regulations 2021*.

3.1.3 Unless authorised by delegation, where decision points are required in accordance with this policy, they are to be made through Council resolution.

3.1.4 Under section 272 of the Act the consent of the Minister for Local Government and the Minister responsible for section 272(2) of the *Control of Roads Act 1953* is required for the permanent closure of a road/laneway.

3.1.5 In accordance with section 267 of the Act and the Minister's guidelines for disposal of Council property, Council has the power to sell the land from a former road/laneway.

3.1.6 Laneway Categories

- Category A (High)– Regarded as essential laneways. Closure would impose a restriction on access and active transport with significant impact on the community; or laneways designed that provides access to essential services and other relevant government agencies, or forms part of an overland stormwater flow path.
- Category B (Medium)– – Regarded as less essential laneways. Closure may be considered for closure in supported circumstances.
- Category C (low) – Regarded as non-essential laneways. Closure is unlikely to significantly impact community access.

3.2 Laneway Closure Application Requirements

Council will only assess applications which meet the requirements outlined in clause 3.1 of the guideline.

3.2.1 Application Fees

Any fees specified in clause 3.1.1 of the guideline at the time of application have been endorsed by Council resolution. The fee must be received in full for Council to commence processing the application.

Laneway Closure Policy

Council Policy



3.3 Temporary Laneway Closure

Applicants may indicate in the application if temporary laneway closure should be considered by Council, while the application for permanent closure is being processed.

Council may approve a temporary laneway closure following community consultation in accordance with clause 3.6 of the policy. This is subject to applications meeting the eligibility requirements set out in clause 3.6.1 in the guideline.

3.4 Application Progression

Applications for laneway closures are considered on a case-by-case basis by Council. The assessment will be guided by the strategic categorisation in clause 3.1.6, community safety for improved residential or commercial amenity and value and potential benefits of the laneways retention or disposal.

Council will consider environmental and financial benefits, including improved maintenance for green spaces and reduced maintenance obligations, improved operational efficiency, and revenue from land sales.

The application process, including assessment methods and reporting steps, is outlined in clause 3.2 of the guideline.

3.5 Council Consideration

Where application requirements under clause 3.2 have been met and the application has been evaluated in accordance with clause 3.4, Council will make a preliminary decision and may:

- Decide not to proceed with laneway closure;
- Consider whether a permanent laneway treatment outlined in 3.6.2 of the guideline is appropriate and will alleviate issues indicated in the application; or
- Recommend proceeding with the process to permanently close the laneway. Council team members will then commence consultation with surrounding residents in accordance with clause 3.6. Where the applicant has applied for a temporary closure of the laneway, Council will decide whether or not to include consideration of temporary closure in the consultation process (see clause 3.6).

3.6 Consultation

Council will undertake a consultation process which meets the requirements of *the Local Government Regulations 2021* for road closures, ensuring that residents and users of the laneway are provided with adequate notice of the proposal.

The detailed approach for consultation is outlined in clause 3.4 of the guideline.

3.7 Council Consideration Post Consultation

Following completion of the consultation process. Council will consider a report prepared by officers summarising any feedback or objections received. Council may:

- Decide not to proceed with the laneway closure;
- Modify the proposal; or
- Decide to proceed with the permanent laneway closure, inclusive of temporary closure considerations.

If Council modifies the proposal, the consultation process set out in clause 3.6 must be repeated, and any objections received during the subsequent consultation must be considered under this clause.

Laneway Closure Policy

Council Policy



3.8 Consent of the Ministers

Following Council resolution to proceed with permanent laneway closure, clause 3.1.4 of the policy applies and the referral will be sent to both Ministers.

3.9 Sale of Land

Following Ministerial consent to a permanent laneway closure, Council will enter into an agreement with adjoining landowners for the purchase of the relevant sections of the laneway.

All Purchasing landowners will be required to:

- Pay a deposit of \$4000; **and**
- Complete the subdivision and consolidation of the laneway land with their adjoining property within the required timeframe.

Council may decide to sell the land for less than market value in circumstances where Council considers there to be significant benefit to the community, in transferring the land to the purchaser.

Further Information on valuation criteria, costs incurred, and payment structure is provided in clause 3.7 of the guideline.

4 Responsibilities

Director Technical Services and Manager Infrastructure are responsible for the operation of this policy.

5 Related Legislation and Documents

- *Local Government Act 2019*
- *Local Government Act (General) Regulations 2021*
- *Local Government Guideline 4: Assets*
- Laneway Closure Guideline TS-001G
- Laneway Closure Application Form

6 Communication and Training

Has this policy been communicated through consultation to teams?	Yes
Where will this policy be available?	Council Website
Will training needs arise from this policy? If yes, who will be responsible.	Yes, Technical Services