

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ROAD CONDITIONS REPORT – UNSEALED ROADS REMAIN CLOSED**

Coonamble Shire Council advises the travelling public that **ALL UNSEALED ROADS** remain **CLOSED** to all traffic. Inspections are being carried out to determine road capacity to hold up under different types of traffic.

Council acknowledges the efforts of primary producers to halt or reduce the movement of heavy vehicles on unsealed roads during this closure.

There have been instances where cars and trucks have used unsealed roads while they have been closed. This usage has caused deep ruts in road surfaces that have created hazardous conditions that will persist even when they have dried out. The more that roads are damaged in this way the greater the repair work and cost required to return them to a suitable condition for use by all vehicle types.

Some causeways and floodways throughout the Local Government Area—on both unsealed and sealed roads—remain covered by water. All drivers should approach these with care, and exercise caution in deciding whether or not to continue their journey.

Road users are reminded that:

1. They may be liable for any damage that they cause to the road that is closed to their vehicle type, and they may void their own vehicle insurance.
2. Travelling on roads covered with water is extremely dangerous and should be avoided.
3. Road conditions can change without warning and, if roads are open, drivers should travel with caution.
4. Unsealed roads damage very easily when they are wet.
5. Repairs to damaged roads are not usually possible until the roads and gravel stockpiles begin to dry out.
6. Council prioritises repairs, with higher trafficked roads usually receiving attention first.
7. Emergency vehicles are exempt from this directive, in the course of responding to legitimate emergencies.

Notice of a change in the closed status of local unsealed roads will be issued as soon as conditions allow.

Hein Basson  
General Manager