

Why We... Repair Potholes

POTHOLE REPAIR FACTSHEET



Somerset Regional Council does everything it can to be proactive in reducing potholes.

Each year Council invests millions of dollars in a strong resealing and road maintenance program designed to protect our roads, strengthen the pavement and prevent defects from forming.

Like most things in life, roads naturally weaken over time. When overlaid with environmental factors like heavy rain and wet weather, small cracks can quickly turn into potholes.

Why do potholes form on Somerset's roads?

Council is often asked why some sections of the road network are susceptible to developing potholes. A big reason is due to the type of soil we have here in Somerset.

The Somerset region is a beautiful place to live and has great farming potential because we have soil which is highly volcanic and highly reactive when it gets moisture, and the region gets its fair share of rain.

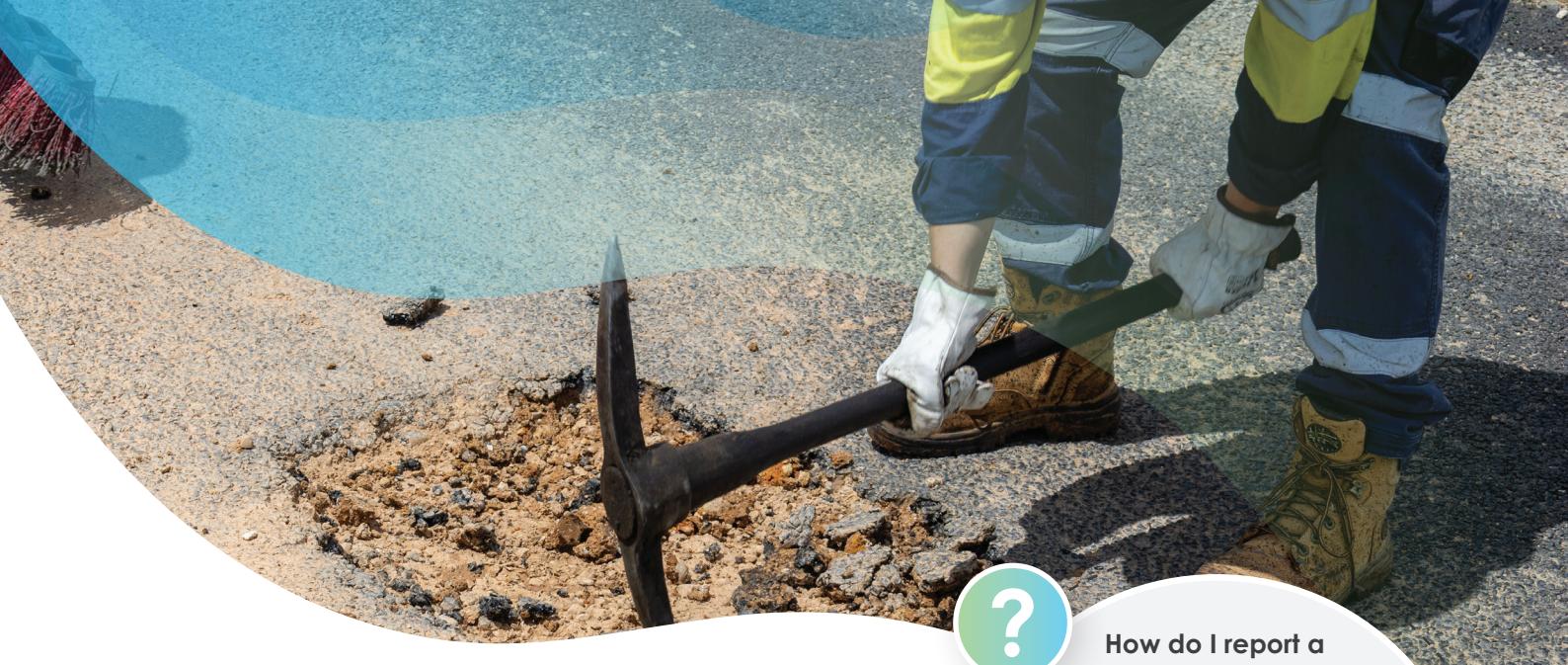
Patching potholes to keep a seal over the road is important

because once we get ingress of water into the substructure a heavy load can damage the road and lead to further failures.

The region has also grown, meaning higher volumes of traffic and heavier loads compared to 20 years ago.

Now, roads are engineered for increased traffic. Many of our older roads were just dirt roads with dust seals applied, and were never designed for the traffic we experience now.





Pothole Repairs - FAQs



How long do pothole repairs take?

It typically takes a crew a few hours to repair a pothole, but this can vary depending on the size and location, weather conditions, and availability of crews and equipment.



How does Council prioritise repairs?

We prioritise repairs based on severity and location. High-risk potholes on busy roads may be fixed first, while lower-risk potholes on quieter streets may take longer.



Which roads does Council manage?

Councils generally manage local and residential roads, while all major roads and highways are managed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. In Somerset, Council does general maintenance of TMR's network, like minor pothole repairs, under the Road Maintenance Performance Contract.

All up, we manage about 1,500 kilometres of roads, more than the distance from Brisbane to Townsville.



Which roads are repaired first after a weather event?

Priority is given to main roads, public transport routes, and emergency access roads to ensure safety and maintain essential services.



How do I report a pothole to Council?

Council's crews can't be everywhere all at once, so the community plays a vital role in keeping our roads safe. If you see a pothole on the road be sure to report it to Council through our online Customer Service Request (CSR) system. This immediately alerts Council to potholes or other road issues and means we can take action faster. To report a pothole or make any other kind of CSR, visit somerset.qld.gov.au/CSR



How does Council manage traffic when repairing potholes?

For larger repairs, Council uses traffic management systems including signage, cones, lane closures or detours. Repairs are mostly done during the day, however they may occur at night or during off-peak hours to minimise disruption.