



Why We... Control Traffic

TRAFFIC CONTROL FACTSHEET



Every day, Somerset Regional Council works to keep our roads safe and our road users moving.

Before any cones are placed or signs go up, Council assesses the site to determine whether traffic control is required to protect road users, works crews, and nearby properties.

Traffic control plays an important part in Council's everyday operations. When we are completing works for the community, we want to ensure that our workers, residents and road users are as safe as possible.

Why can't all road works be completed at night?

On some occasions, Council will complete works at night to avoid impacts on traffic. This is not a viable option for all road works due to safety, practical, and community considerations.

For our team, night work reduces visibility and increases fatigue.

For residents, works involve loud machinery, alarms, and lighting that would disturb their evenings and breach noise restrictions.

Night works are also more expensive due to penalty rates, additional lighting, and higher traffic control requirements.

Council follows strict national and state standards, including the Queensland's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Australian and Queensland Guides to Traffic Management. These guidelines help ensure that every decision is consistent and safe.

Watch our
video





Traffic control - FAQs



Why is there traffic control while work isn't happening?

Depending on the size of the project, traffic control may be in place for extended periods, even while works are stalled. Traffic controls and reduced speeds limits will remain on sites with safety hazards, changed road conditions, curing asphalt or concrete. This keeps road users, workers, and nearby properties safe and maintains traffic flow.



What types of Traffic control equipment are used?

Traffic control equipment you see on a worksite can vary from site to site, you may see:

Traffic signs, traffic cones and bollards, barriers, stop/slow bats, portable traffic signals, Variable Message Signs (VMS), temporary speed limit signs, lighting, high visibility clothing, signal wyes and bump cars



What determines whether traffic control is needed?

Key factors include:

- The type and duration of the works
- Impacts on pedestrians and cyclists
- Whether the works are happening during the day or at night
- Emergency or unplanned situations
 - The level of safety risk
 - Traffic volume and speed
 - Road width and layout



When will traffic control measures be removed?

Council aims to remove traffic controls as soon as it is safe to do so, while ensuring legal and safety requirements are met. We recommend checking live traffic updates on QLD Traffic or Council's Disaster Response Dashboard before travelling and allowing extra time when planning to drive through known work zones.

