



Policy Guideline for Assessing Applications to Operate Restricted Access Vehicles (RAV) on Local Government Roads

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Background

A Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) is a vehicle that exceeds a statutory mass or dimension limit as prescribed in the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014. RAVs can only operate on roads approved by Main Roads, under either an Order (Notice) or a permit. A Notice is an instrument of approval that is published in the Government Gazette and grants access for certain types of RAVs on defined networks of roads. All RAVs require a permit unless they are authorised under a Notice.

There are three types of restricted networks; the Standard RAV Network, Concessional Loading RAV Network and the Tri – drive Restricted Access Vehicle Network.

Operators may apply to add or amend a RAV route. It is Main Roads WA policy to consult with Local Governments before adding or amending a RAV route. Local Governments may request that Main Roads WA consider certain conditions for the RAV route. Once a Local Government has provided their conditional approval for a RAV route, Main Roads WA conducts a route assessment and prepares a summary report. The Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services (HVS) considers the application before the RAV Network is updated.

Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to provide guidance to Local Government when assessing an application to add or amend a road on the Restricted Access Vehicle network.

Statutory Authority

Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014
Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012
Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008
Road Traffic (Administration) Regulations 2014
Road Traffic Code 2000
Land Administration Act 1997 (Sec 55)
Local Government Act 1995
Main Roads Act 1930

Definitions

Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV): A Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) is a vehicle that exceed any of the following:

- a width of 2.5 metres;
- a height of 4.3 metres;
- a length of 19 metres for a vehicle combination;

- a length of 12.5 metres for a rigid vehicle;
- a gross mass of 42.5 tonnes;
- any other mass or dimension limit prescribed in the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014.

Notice: A Notice (or Order) is an approval instrument published in the Government Gazette by the Commissioner of Main Roads that grants access or provides mass or dimension modifications to RAVs.

Permit: A Permit is an approval instrument issued by the Commissioner of Main Roads to grant access or provide mass or dimension modifications to RAVs.

Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS): AMMS is a Main Roads concessional loading scheme that allows vehicles to operate above statutory Mass Limits. Once a transport operator has the appropriate loading control method in place they can apply for an AMMS permit which allows them to operate at the higher mass limits. AMMS allows for three (3) concessional mass levels which provide up to an additional 3.5 tonnes per tri-axle and 1.0 tonne per tandem axle combination.

Policy Statement

RAV Network for the Shire

The Local Government seeks to achieve a sustainable road network that balances the needs of the community and the provision of an efficient freight network to support economic growth and development. The most recent RAV network routes for the Shire can be found on the Main Roads WA Heavy Vehicles website.

Related Policies

The following Local Government strategies and policies are relevant to this policy:

(list)

RAV Networks

There are three types of RAV Networks:

Standard Restricted Access Vehicle Network

The 'standard' RAVs are those vehicle combinations specified as Category 1 to 10 vehicle combinations under the Prime Mover, Trailer Combinations and Truck, Trailer Combinations Notice.

The RAV Categories have been grouped into four (4) assessment levels, as follows:

- Level 1 - RAVs Categories 2-4 (e.g. pocket road train, B-Double, and other RAVs with a maximum length of either 25.0 m or 27.5 m);
- Level 2 – RAVs Categories 5-6 (e.g. RAVs with a maximum length of 36.5 m and a maximum mass of 87.5T);
- Level 3 – RAVs Categories 7-8 (e.g. RAVs with a maximum length of 36.5 m and a maximum mass of 107.5T); and
- Level 4 – RAVs Categories 9-10 (e.g. RAVs with a maximum length of 53.5 m).

Concessional Loading Restricted Access Vehicle Network

Concessionally loaded RAVs are grouped in the following categories:

- Level 1 - RAVs operating under a concessional loading scheme allowing up to 17 tonnes on a tandem axle group and 21.5 tonnes on a tri axle group.
- Level 2 – RAVs operating under a concessional loading scheme allowing up to 17 tonnes on a tandem axle group and 22.5 tonnes on a tri axle group.
- Level 3 – RAVs operating under a concessional loading scheme allowing up to 17.5 tonnes on a tandem axle group and 23.5 tonnes on a tri axle group.
- Level 4 – RAVs operating under other concessional loading schemes.

RAV operators require a relevant AMMS permit to carry a concessional load.

Tri – drive Restricted Access Vehicle Network

The Tri – drive RAV Categories have been grouped as follows:

- Level 1 – Tri Drive RAV Category 1 (e.g. a vehicle that would otherwise be a general access vehicle if it was tandem drive, This category has access to the tandem drive RAV Network 2)
- Level 2 – Tri Drive RAV Category 2 (e.g. RAVs with a maximum length of 25.0 metres).
- Level 3 – Tri drive RAV Category 3 (e.g. RAVs with a maximum length of 27.5 metres).
- Level 4 – Tri drive RAV Category 4 (e.g. RAVs with a maximum length of 36.5 metres).
- Level 5 – Tri drive RAV Category 5 (e.g. RAVs with a maximum length of 53.5 metres).

Assessing a RAV Access Application

It is Main Roads' policy that support from the relevant road owner is obtained before an application for RAV access is assessed. Main Roads HVS will forward all applications to the road owner for support. If the Local Government is supportive of the application, then they must undertake a preliminary assessment before endorsing the application.

The Main Roads RAV Network Access Strategy is aimed at establishing and maintaining a Strategic Road Freight Network (SRFN). The SRFN consists of roads, agreed on by Main Roads and Local Government, which carry the bulk of freight vehicles. When considering access decisions, Local Governments should be mindful of network wide considerations relating to efficiency, connectivity, sustainability, asset protection, public safety and public amenity. Where a more appropriate route is available, linking to the SRFN, it is reasonable to propose alternative routes to the applicant via the response to Main Roads WA. Approvals for RAV access outside of the SRFN should generally be limited to where access is required to a particular origin and / or destination or loading and unloading locations.

Assessing Support

The Local Government must first determine if it supports the application. The assessment to determine support must be performed by a suitably qualified and experienced Local Government officer or consultant. The assessor must record the basis for the decision and these records should accompany the application when it is referred to Council for approval.

The following criteria should be considered.

1. Is the road identified as a link on the Strategic Road Freight Network on a regional or local plan?
2. What is the designated Main Roads hierarchy? See Hierarchy Definitions and recommended roles in relation to the RAV Network in Appendix B.
3. Does the route provide connectivity to activity centres?
4. Does the route provide connectivity to the State road network?
5. Is the proposed RAV rating consistent with the connecting routes?
6. If the route crosses into adjacent Shires, have they been consulted?
7. Are there alternative routes that would be preferable for the RAV access?
8. Does the route impact community facilities e.g. schools, hospitals and town sites?
9. Will the proposed access impact public safety?
10. Is the proposed access likely to result in extraordinary damage to the road pavement? Consult the Local Government Heavy Vehicle Charging Policy.
11. Are there any bridges or other structures that are clearly below the standard required for the proposed access or likely to result in dangerous operating conditions?
12. Are there any known physical or topographical constraints?
13. Is the road listed in ROADS 2030?

Further to this, consideration needs to be given to the benefits of approving RAV access. While a RAV may be a larger vehicle, the routes are assessed to ensure the vehicle can operate safely amongst other traffic. Approving RAV access will potentially reduce vehicle movements for the same transport task, which in turn reduces congestion, emissions, noise, community impact and road wear.

Preliminary Assessment

If the Local Government supports the application, then a preliminary assessment must be performed by the Local Government. If the application is for a road on the Tandem Drive Network to be added to the Tri Drive or Concessional Networks then no preliminary assessment is required by the Local Government. Guidance on performing a preliminary assessment is provided by MR HVS, Framework – Adding a Local Government Road to a Redistricted Access Vehicle Network.

The Guide states that the following criteria should be considered:

- An assessment of the road width to ensure the road is suitable for the level of RAV access being requested.
- An assessment of the steepness of longitudinal grades to ensure they are within the specified limits.
- An assessment of the stacking and sight distance of any railway level crossings on the route.
- Sight distances at intersections must be checked to ensure they comply with the guideline requirements.

Operating Conditions

Standard Operating Conditions

Based on the Assessment of Support and the Preliminary Assessment, the Local Government may review their support for the application or recommend a selection of operating conditions to be applied as a condition of permit. Main Roads will apply all or some of the conditions below to very low traffic volume roads when the road's width does not meet the minimum requirements as shown in Appendix C.

These and other similar operating conditions may be applied to the assessment of other roads.

1. When travelling at night, the RAV must travel at a maximum speed of 40km/h and display an amber flashing warning light on the prime mover. Where RAVs are limited to 40km/h advisory signs must be installed for safety to other vehicles who may unexpectedly catch up a vehicle at night.
2. No operation on unsealed road segment when visibly wet, without Road Owners approval.
3. Headlights must be switched on at all times.
4. Speed restrictions. (*40 km/h or 60 km/h in accordance with the Appendix C Low Volume Rural Road Minimum Widths of the Standard Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Route Assessment Guidelines).

5. Direct radio contact must be maintained with other RAVs to establish their position on or near the road (suggested UHF Ch 40).
6. Road not to be entered until driver has established by radio communication that there is no other RAV on the road travelling in the opposing direction.
7. Operation is not permitted while the school bus is operating on the road. Operators must obtain school bus timetables; or where direct contact can be made with the school bus driver, operation is permitted once the school bus driver confirms all school drop offs/ pick-ups have been completed on the road.
8. The Operator must obtain written approval from the Road Owner. The approval letter must be carried in the vehicle and produced upon request. Commonly referred to as a CA07 condition.

Other Operating Conditions

The Local Government may consider the need for additional operating conditions for example:

- Road not to be used as a through route. For local delivery and pick up only. Driver must carry proof of local delivery or pick up.
- Empty travel only
- Single lane operation only
- Laden ascent travel only
- Speed restrictions
- Warning signs to be installed in accordance with Australian Standards and removed when haulage completed
- One truck movement at a time
- Truck entering signs to be erected by the Local Government and removed when not in use.
- Turning restrictions
- No operation during specified months or periods
- No operation on certain days e.g. Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays
- No movement permitted between specified times.

The Local Government must justify the need for the additional conditions, which will be approved and applied at Main Roads discretion. Only conditions applied by Main Roads are enforceable.

Restricted Local Access Period Permit

If the road is deemed unsuitable for addition to the RAV network, the assessor may consider the alternative of recommending to Main Roads that the application be considered for “Restricted Local Access”. The “Restricted Local Access” Period Permit provides access to the final destination of a particular transport task. This may include access to a farm gate, local business or pine plantation. A safety assessment is conducted by Main Roads taking into consideration the specific vehicle type and operation. The permit may be issued to a particular vehicle combination and/ or length with particular operating conditions. The assessor should consider the required operating conditions and make recommendations when referring the application back to Main Roads.

Timeframes

The Local Government will endeavour to return the assessment to Main Roads within 4 weeks of receipt. Should Main Roads not receive support from the Local Government within three (3) months, Main Roads reserves the right to undertake an assessment of the road and add to the relevant network if deemed suitable without Local Government support.

Authority

Support of an application to amend a RAV Route should be by decision of Council unless otherwise referred to the CEO as authorised in a Council policy.

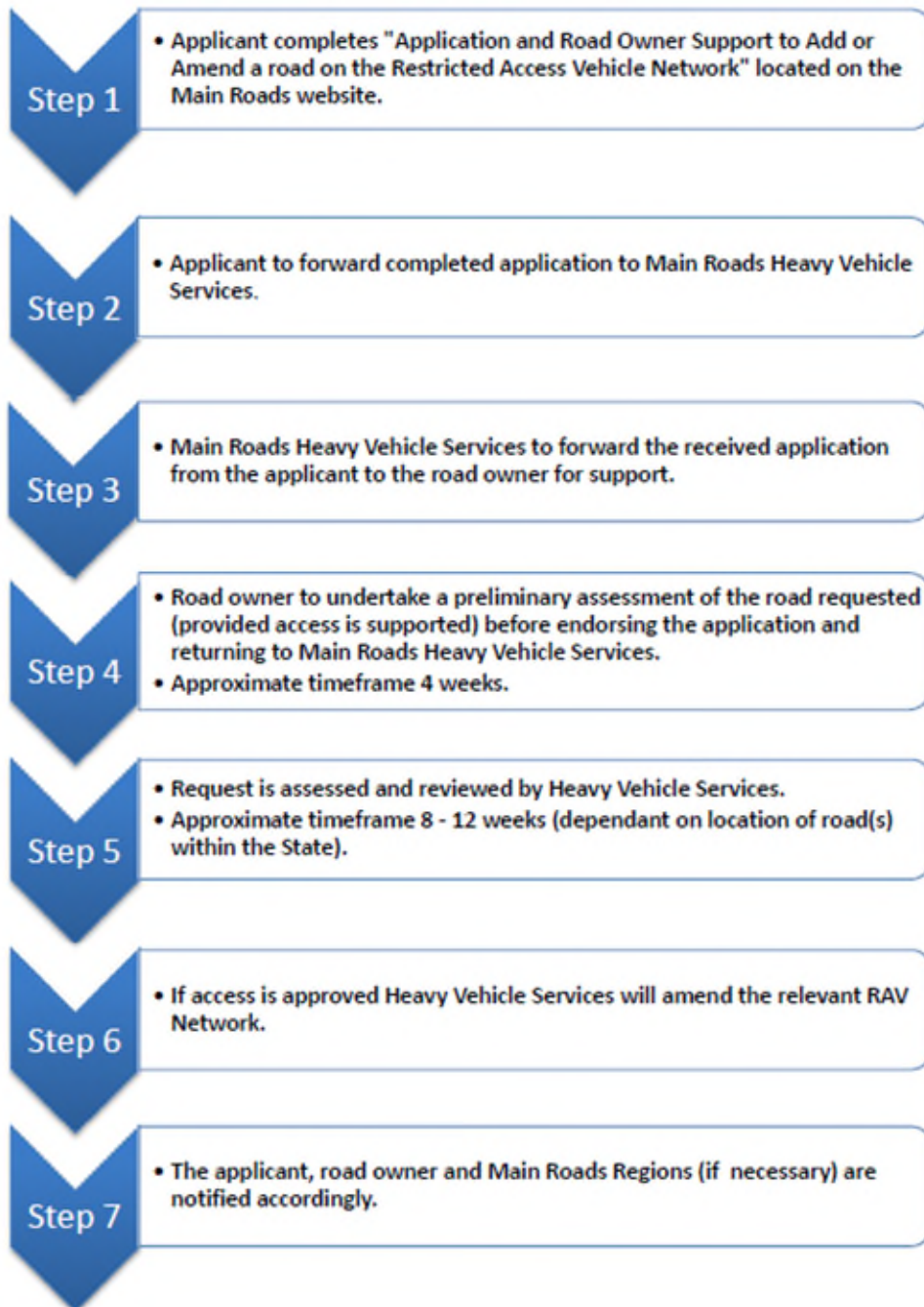
Reference Material

The RAV assessment process is managed and approved by Main Roads Western Australia. This policy must be applied in accordance with the relevant Main Roads guiding documentation. The latest reference material is listed below however Main Roads may review and change the process from time to time and Officers applying this policy should ensure they have familiarised themselves with the latest guidelines. The Guidelines can be viewed on the Main Roads website under Heavy Vehicles, RAV Network Access.

1. Restricted Access Vehicles: Prime Mover, Trailer Combinations: Operating Conditions
2. Framework – Adding a Local Government Road to a Restricted Access Vehicle Network
3. Guidelines for Approving RAV Access
4. Framework for Using Consultants to Assess Local Government Roads for Inclusion on a Restricted Access Vehicle Network
5. Standard Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Route Assessment Guidelines
6. Tri – Drive Route Assessment Guidelines
7. Concessional Loading Route Assessment Guidelines.

Appendix A

RAV Network Application Process



Appendix B

Road Hierarchy Considerations

A hierarchy of roads has been established to designate the role of all roads, funding allocations and to encourage uniform management of roads of the same type. This hierarchy is used as part of the decision-making process to determine if it is appropriate to add a road to a RAV network.

Primary Distributor:

Primary Distributor roads provide for major regional and inter-regional traffic movement and carry large volumes of generally fast moving traffic. These roads are State Roads and form part of the Strategic Freight Network. They are managed by Main Roads Western Australia and will generally be considered to be vital links of the Strategic Freight Network.

Regional Distributor:

Regional Distributor roads, which are not primary distributor roads, link significant destinations and are designed for efficient movement of people and goods within and beyond regional areas. They are managed by local government and will generally be considered as the preferred route for RAV network access. Regional Distributor roads may form part of the Strategic RAV Network.

District Distributors:

District Distributor A and B roads run between built up areas (generally not through them), forming a grid which would ideally space them about 1.5 kilometres apart. They are managed by local governments.

- **District Distributor A**
Carries traffic between industrial, commercial and residential areas and generally connect to Primary Distributor roads. These are likely to be truck routes and provide only limited RAV access to adjoining property.
- **District Distributor B**
Performs a similar function to District Distributor A roads, but with reduced capacity due to flow restrictions caused by frequent property accesses and roadside parking in many instances. These are often older roads with a traffic demand in excess of that originally intended and access conditions are generally applied to limit the RAV access to local operators.

District Distributor roads may on occasion form part of the Strategic Freight Network, however as they mostly provide local access they will generally only form part of the local freight network.

Local Distributor:

Local Distributor roads are managed by local governments. Their role is similar in both built up areas and rural areas, but traffic volumes and traffic management requirements differ significantly.

- **Built Up Area**
Roads that carry traffic within a cell and link District Distributor roads or Primary Distributor roads at the boundary, to access roads. The route of Local Distributor roads should discourage through traffic so the cell formed by the grid of higher order distributor roads only carries traffic belonging to, or serving the area. Local Distributor roads should accommodate buses, but discourage general truck movements. RAV access on these roads will be generally be supported provided the local government conducts adequate community consultation and access conditions applied to limit RAV access to local operators.

- **Rural**
Roads that connect to other Rural Distributor roads and to Rural Access Roads. They are not Regional Distributor roads, but are designed for the efficient movement of people and goods within regional areas. RAV access on these roads will be supported provided the local government conducts adequate community consultation and access conditions applied to limit RAV access to local operators.

Access Road:

Access roads provide access to abutting properties with safety aspects having priority over the vehicle movement function and are managed by local governments. In urban areas, these roads are generally bicycle and pedestrian friendly. RAV access on these roads will only be supported for local access and not as through routes.

Local Distributor and Access roads provide local access and will generally only form part of the local freight network.

Appendix C

APPENDIX C – LOW VOLUME RURAL ROAD MINIMUM WIDTHS

NB: This section is not to be used for assessing routes for RAV Category 8.

Type A Road (suitable for two-way RAV traffic)

	40 km/h	60 km/h
	Carriageway Width (m)	Carriageway Width (m)

Sight distance above 250 m

RAVs Categories 2-7	5.8	6.1*
RAVs Categories 9-10	5.9	6.3*

Sight distance below 250 m

RAVs Categories 2-7	6.1	6.4*
RAVs Categories 9-10	6.2	6.6*

For Type A low volume roads, Appendix H operating conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 will apply automatically as a condition of permit;

*If a road is at least 1.0 m wider than these widths, an 80km/h speed restriction should be considered. A speed restriction above 80km/h should only be considered if the road is sealed, has good sight distance and presents no significant safety concern.

Type B Road (unsuitable for two-way RAV traffic)

	40 km/h
	Carriageway Width (m)
RAVs Categories 2-7	3.5
RAVs Categories 9-10	3.5

For type B low volume roads, Appendix H operating conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 will apply automatically as a condition of permit.