

Abandoned Vehicles Policy

Section: 3.1.1 – Engineering Services – Transport

Subject : Abandoned Vehicles

Description: This document describes Council’s Policy towards the removal of abandoned vehicles.

Objectives:

- To ensure all abandoned vehicles are removed expediently.
- To ensure all abandoned vehicles that are causing an obstruction to traffic (vehicles or pedestrians) or is likely to be a danger to the public is immediately impounded.

Policy:

Policy Statement:

Council will order the removal of abandoned vehicles from roads or public places where such vehicles are considered to be abandoned in accordance with the Impounding Act 1993, Section 16, which states:

1. An impounding officer must make all reasonable inquiries in an effort to find out the name and address of the owner of a motor vehicle before the officer impounds the vehicle.
2. If the impounding officer’s inquiries fail to reveal the name and address of the owner, the officer may proceed to impound the vehicle.
3. If the impounding officer’s inquiries do reveal the name and address of the owner, the officer is not to impound the vehicle until notice of the proposed impounding has been given to the owner and the period specified in the notice has elapsed.
4. The notice to the owner must be in writing addressed to the owner and must indicate that the vehicle may be impounded unless it is removed within a specified period (not less than 3 days) and may be destroyed if its value is less than \$500 (or such other amount as may be prescribed under section 18).
5. A motor vehicle may be impounded immediately (without following the procedures in this section) if the vehicle is in a public place and the impounding officer is satisfied on reasonable grounds that its immediate removal is justified because it is causing an obstruction to traffic (vehicular or pedestrian) or is likely to be a danger to the public.

Note. Section 43 provides of the Impounding Act 1993 provides for assistance in finding out who the owner of a motor vehicle is. See section 49 for the ways in which notice can be given to the owner of a vehicle.

Exemptions: Nil

Other Matters: Nil

Responsibility: **Councillors** are responsible for adopting the Policy and ensuring that appropriate resources are allocated.

The **General Manager** has the responsibility to authorise the Policy.

Directors and Managers are responsible for reviewing, updating and enforcing the Policy.

Employees are responsible for following the Policy.

Related Documents:

- Impounding Act 1993

Review: This Policy will be reviewed as necessary or at least every four (4) years from date of adoption.

Last review: October 2013

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Reviewer: Director of Engineering Services

Resolution # 265/97, 94/05 (March 2005), 419/09 (September 2009), 249/13 (August 2013)

Authorised by:

General Manager

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Date