

**1. Purpose & Scope**

1.1 The conservation and maintenance of stone kerbs, channels and footbridges policy formalises Council's commitment to preserve the early granite kerbing and channelling and the early pedestrian footbridges in Charters Towers. Development of this policy is in conjunction with the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science & Innovation (DETSI) ten-year exemption certificate.

**2. Commencement of Policy**

2.1 This policy will commence from 19 March 2025.

**3. Application of Policy**

3.1 This policy applies to all heritage listed stone kerbing, channels and footbridges within the Charters Towers Regional Council area.

**4. Definitions**

Term	Definition
Kerb	Is the edge where a raised sidewalk or road median meets a street or another roadway
Channel / Gutter	Is a narrow channel that directs and carries water to a specific location.
Footpath	Means an area open to the public that is designated for, or has as one of its main uses, use by pedestrians whether sealed or unsealed and defined by kerb and channel excluding road verges.
Footbridge	Is a bridge designed for pedestrians only.
Bitumen	A black viscous mixture used for road surfacing.

**5. Policy Provisions**

The following are permitted maintenance works:

5.1 Installation of pre-cast concrete slabs for vehicular and pedestrian traffic

- Placing of slabs over the back of the stone kerb and across the stone gutter; and
- The early granite kerbs and channels must not be impacted by installation.

5.2 Removal of stones from the stone kerb and inset of slab to finish the adjoining stone kerb line

- This option must only be installed when option 5.1 installation is not feasible;
  - The top layer of stone kerb is removed and pre-cast concrete slab is installed in the void;
  - Masonry blocks or concrete is installed beneath the slab for support and to distribute the weight; and
  - Where necessary (due to potential erosion of the area surrounding the newly established crossover).

5.3 Installation of water services and drainage pipes through stone pitched gutters

- Stone is carefully removed and reinstated after the installation of pipes; and
- Removal of stones must be avoided. Where removal of stones is required these must be retained for re-use (see "5.10 Storage of stones removed during maintenance works") and voids filled with a lime-rich mortar mix to prevent erosion of backfill material. The mortar mix is finished below the exterior level or face of the surrounding stones.

5.4 Installation of markers or signs

- Street numbering signs are required on rare occasions, in most cases these numbers are attached to the crossover;

- The markers or signs must be fixed with an adhesive that can be removed without damage to the stones;
- Numeral size must be less than 30mm x 30mm; and
- Painting markers to locate nearby hydrants – stones may be painted yellow to mark the location of new water hydrants nearby.

#### 5.5 Weed control

- Chemical is sprayed to affected areas;
- Treated growth is not removed but can die and subsequently breakdown; and
- Larger plants may need to be carefully cut in line with the stone and the remaining section treated and left to rot.

#### 5.6 Sweeping/cleaning of stone pitched gutters

- Sweeping is undertaken by hand with a broom or by mechanical means using soft nylon brush to avoid damage to the stonework;
- Must not remove or damage existing materials;
- Hosing with low pressure water, less than 100 psi at the surface being cleaned; and
- Granite must only be washed with water and weak detergent and then rinsed with clean water.

#### 5.7 Concrete capping of stone kerbing

- With raising of stone pitched kerbs, smaller stones are placed on top of the existing kerb and then capped with concrete or a lime-rich mortar mix to prevent dislodgment;
- A mean thickness of 100mm is usual for this capping, which is finished flush with the face of the stone pitched kerb;
- Lowering of existing stone pitched kerbs, where multiple rows of stones are involved, stones from the top row are removed and a capping of concrete or a lime-rich mix installed to prevent dislodgement.

#### 5.8 Installation of concrete footpaths above stone pitched kerbs

- Care is taken during the application of the concrete using protective masking to the stone pitched kerb face that will remain exposed;
- The stone pitched kerb edge area is cleaned after the concrete is installed to remove any excess or spill; and
- Installation to achieve a 100mm mean thickness.

#### 5.9 Application of bitumen or concrete aprons abutting stone pitched gutters

- To bind road surface to the stone pitched gutters, concrete or bitumen is to continue over the stone pitched channelling up to 100mm, beyond the existing edge of the stone pitched channel. Take care to identify the edge of the stone pitched channel as this may be covered already. Works must ensure resurfacing does not result in bitumen and concrete creeping further across the stone pitched channel areas; and
- Care is taken during the application of the concrete or bitumen using protective masking to the stone pitched kerb edge and area is cleaned after the concrete is installed to remove any excess or spill.

#### 5.10 Storage of stones during maintenance works

- Any stones removed from the stone pitched gutter network within the State heritage place: Stone kerbing, channels and footbridges of Charters Towers must be securely stored by the Charters Towers Regional Council for future re-use. Location of stockpiles of stones must be included in the record maintenance of works undertaken as outlined in Exemption Certificate CHCH06775818.

5.11 Installation of temporary vehicle access over stone pitched kerbs

- Prior to installation, a methodology for the installation of vehicle access works must be submitted to Charters Towers Regional Council. A copy of any methodology approved for installation by Charters Towers Regional Council must be included in the record maintained of works undertaken as outlined in Exemption Certificate CHCH06775818.
- Temporary vehicle access works must be completely reversible, and no evidence of structures is to remain once they have been removed.
- Temporary vehicle access works must not be erected for more than three months within a twelve-month period.
- Stone pitched kerbs must be protected from impact and damage caused by the installation and use of vehicle access works.
- In general, protection is to be provided by placing appropriate compacted material in the gutter with appropriate protective barriers; (such as steel or heavy timber framework) and be placed above the leading gutter line stone and the top kerb stone line B.

5.12 External Reporting

Prior to undertaking any works listed in “permitted maintenance works” a survey report of the existing condition of the stone kerbing, channels and footbridges of Charters Towers must be submitted to the Cultural Heritage Branch, DETSI in writing (email: PaL@des.qld.gov.au). The survey report must include photographs of all areas within the heritage boundary of the place with plans. The survey plan must identify any areas where kerbing and channels have been covered with bitumen or concrete and must identify known extents of any early construction techniques such as dry-stone masonry, early mortar joints and use of pitch to seal or backfill.

During development, should damage occur to existing building fabric and/or other significant elements or artefacts, report such incidents immediately to the Cultural Heritage Coordinator, Heritage Branch, DETSI (email: PaL@des.qld.gov.au). An incident report confirming the details of the incident, must be provided within two business days of the initial notification to DETSI. The incident report must include the following information:

- Name and address of Heritage place;
- Permit number and condition number under which this report is being made;
- Details of incident, including time and cause of incident and damage report;
- Details of proposed measures to reinstate, remediate; and
- Name and contact details of person making report.

**6. Variations**

6.1 CTRC reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this Policy from time to time.

**7. Associated Documents**

- Section 74 Exemption Certificate – development at stone kerbing, channels and footbridges of Charters Towers (ECM Document No.1186529)
- Schedule of Permitted Works – Permit No: CHCH06775818 (ECM Document No.1186529)
- Record maintenance of works are contained within Council’s Enterprise Content Manager (ECM) (refer W4Q – Stone Pitched Guttering Upgrade (Deane Street))
- Queensland Heritage Register - <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/register>
- Heritage register map of Charters Towers Stone Kerbing, Channels and Footbridges (ECM Document No. 1031338)
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*

Document Review			
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