

# Kerb and Channelling

## What is kerb and channelling?

Kerb and channel is a concrete structure, typically located at the edge of a road. It is designed to provide road drainage and prevent water entering under the road surface, which helps council to maintain road condition and reduce the amount of potholes and road defects. Kerb and channel also helps to alleviate stormwater drainage flows and can act as a barrier to prevent vehicles from leaving the road carriageway.

Each year, Ipswich City Council undertakes a number of kerb and channel projects. There are two types:

- **New works** – installing kerb and channel on streets that currently either have none or asphalt kerb; or
- **Rehabilitation** – repair work to existing kerb and channel that is no longer functioning properly.

## What happens during construction of kerb and channel?

During construction, you can expect to see:

- Some excavation and demolition works (including some driveways that may need to be modified)
- Installation of drainage infrastructure (including sub-soil drainage and gully pits)
- General earthworks to bring back excavations to correct road levels
- Installation of kerb and channel
- Installation of existing house stormwater pipes affected by works
- Like for like reinstatement of existing driveways and footpath affected by works
- Installation of new road surface for affected area
- Turfing disturbed areas.

## How are kerb and channel projects prioritised in Ipswich?

The provision of kerb and channel across Ipswich City is a challenging task for council. There is a forward plan in place, but it will take decades to complete given current funding.

Given this, projects need to be prioritised according to engineering criteria, which includes resolving or improving known drainage, maintenance or safety issues.

Installing kerb and channel for aesthetic purposes is given a low priority.



Before



After

The photos above show a new kerb and channel project undertaken by a council work crew in 2018.

---

## What happens to a driveway during construction of kerb and channel?

---

The property owner is responsible for the maintenance of a driveway and can refer to council's Driveway Fact Sheet for further information.

The information provided below shows the general modifications undertaken by council when constructing a kerb and channel project.

### Driveway modifications

When kerb and channel works are undertaken, some property driveway accesses may require modification to meet any new height in the road and to ensure adherence to Australian Standards. This is assessed by engineers during detailed design.

During construction, council will install the kerb and channel and a new driveway invert. The diagrams below outline which sections of driveway may be modified by council and the sections which are the owners responsibility.

If your driveway is being reconstructed, the access to your property may be temporarily restricted for approximately 72 hours to ensure there are no quality defects.

Council asks that residents kindly make alternative parking arrangements while this occurs. Vehicle access to properties can be organised in the case of an emergency.

---

## Installing a driveway invert where there is no existing footpath

---

If no footpath exists, a driveway invert will be installed (see picture below). If further driveway modifications are required to ensure that vehicles can safely enter/exit the property, council will undertake works using the same material that currently exists (or as close as possible), e.g. if you have an existing concrete driveway, concrete will be used. If you have a gravel driveway, gravel will be used.





Driveway modifications may not include works all the way to the property boundary. If residents would like the work to continue to their property boundary, this must be negotiated as private works with the work's contractor.

## Installing a driveway invert where a footpath already exists

If a footpath exists, concrete will be placed between the driveway invert and the footpath as shown below.





---

## Contact

---

Ipswich City Council  
Infrastructure and Environmental Department

Phone: (07) 3810 6666  
8.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday

Email: [IED.Projects@ipswich.qld.gov.au](mailto:IED.Projects@ipswich.qld.gov.au)