Policy W1 – Road Construction Acquisition of Land

1. Policy Intent

To ensure that, where the acquisition of land is required for road realignment or road reconstruction, the affected landowners will be dealt with fairly and efficiently and in accordance with all relevant Acts and Regulations.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Where it is necessary and funds are allocated in the Shire of Murray (Shire) annual budget to undertake road works that require the acquisition of private land, officers will:

- formally advise the relevant landowners and seek written agreement for the proposed acquisition;
- ensure the key principle for the valuation given is a percentage of the value of the entire portion of land exempt of any major property improvements;
- seek the best possible value for money and/or undertake a process of cost/benefit analysis on the proposed purchase;
- ensure the land acquisition is to be benchmarked by an independent valuer, unless the size of the land or the agreed value is negligible; and
- ensure the acquisition of any portion of land shall be undertaken as expeditiously as possible to reduce red tape associated with statutory processes; reduce direct and indirect costs associated with purchase and facilitate project delivery.
- Should approval not be able to be negotiated then compulsory acquisition will be considered with approval from Council.

2.2 That upon receipt of written agreement and subject to budgeted funding commence the process to affect the transfer of land ownership to the Shire up to the value determined under clause 2.1 and agreed and reasonable injurious affection matters in accordance with law.

Policy Detail		
Responsible Directorate	Infrastructure Services	
Responsible Department	Engineering	
Responsible Officer	Manager Engineering	
Next Policy Review / Schedule	2028 (3-yearly)	
Council Adoption	**Date / Resolution**	15 December 1998 (SCM98/0394)
Amendment Record	**Date / Resolution**	26 July 2012 (OCM12/149)
		19 December 2013 (OCM13/253)
		23 June 2022 (OCM22/070)
		18 December 2025 (OCM25/159)