

Fact Sheet

What is sight distance?

Sight distance is the distance measured along the road, over which a driver has visibility of an object or another road user. Safe road conditions rely on road users having adequate visibility. A driver's sight distance should be as long as practicable, but it is often restricted by road layout and topography.

Obstructions to visibility can create hazards for pedestrians and other road users, as well as drivers. Council uses Austroads guides, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) technical directions and Australian Standards to guide sight distance investigations.

How we treat areas with poor topography and road layout

Topography and existing road layouts do not always allow adequate sight distances for vehicles to stop safely if a hazard presents itself.

To address situations like this, Council may:

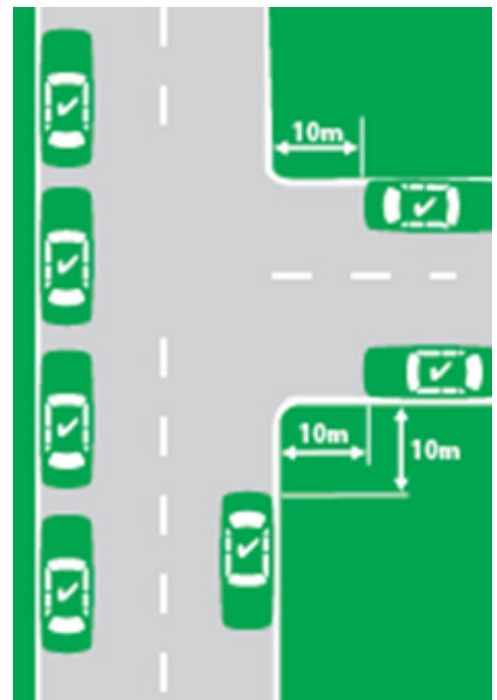
- install Stop signs if adequate sight distance is not achieved at an intersection (refer to the Stop and Give Way Signs fact sheet for further details)
- install parking restrictions to ensure the carriage way is clear
- install appropriate warning signs along a carriage way when sight distances are inadequate.

In the longer term, roadworks or other actions may occur to achieve adequate visibility.

How we assess and treat parked vehicles at intersections

In accordance with Australian Road Rules:

“A driver must not stop on a road within 10 metres from the nearest point of an intersecting road at an intersection without traffic lights, unless the driver stops at a place on a length of road, or in an area, to which a parking control sign applies and the driver is permitted to stop at that place under these rules, or if the intersection is a T-intersection—along the continuous side of the continuing road at the intersection”.



Council would **not** normally install signage or line marking to highlight this rule or extend the 10-metre area, unless:

- there are consistent illegal parking behaviours at the intersection
- there is consistent parking/ occupancy (85 per cent of the day and 90 per cent occupancy) at the intersection that restricts sight lines
- the 10-metre area does not ensure adequate sight lines due to road layouts.

All other intersections, such as those with roundabouts and traffic signals, have specific parking restriction requirements to ensure sight distance is adequate. These restrictions can, at times, be extended.

The following table provides some guidance concerning sight distance requirements in relation to the speed limit and reaction times:

CONTINUING ROAD SPEED LIMIT	DESIRABLE STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE ON ALL ROAD TYPES
40km/h	40m
50km/h	55m
60km/h	73m
70km/h	92m
80km/h	114m
90km/h	139m

How we assess and treat driveways, including parked vehicles

All new driveways must meet specific design and sight line requirements (refer to our Driveways fact sheet for further details).

Council uses Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard 2890.1 when determining requirements for sight distance at driveways. The Standard provides minimum sight lines for pedestrian safety and guidance on sight distance for exiting domestic and commercial access driveways.

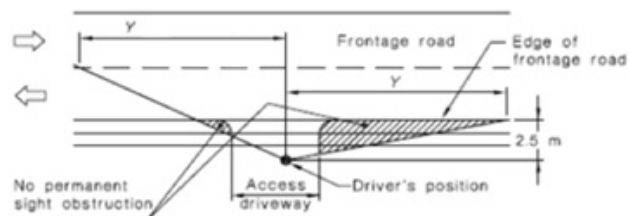
Cars parking on both sides of a driveway is a typical situation throughout Lake Macquarie City. Council does not normally install parking restrictions on either side of driveways, as parked cars are mostly considered to be a temporary obstruction and it is generally possible to achieve sight lines by manoeuvring a vehicle to use gaps in parking.

Council has a responsibility to responsibly manage infrastructure assets and our finances. When considering installing measures to reinforce sight lines, it is important to consider the frequency of behaviours and Council's capacity to maintain them long term.

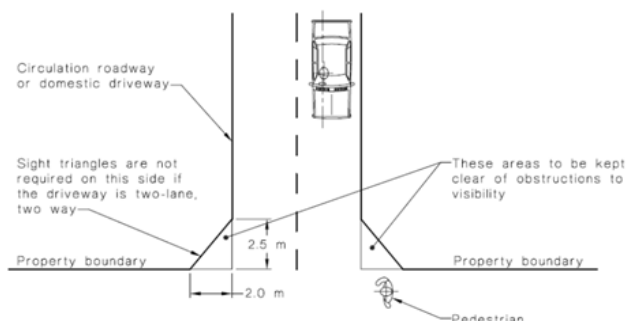
Council may consider the installation of driveway line marking in major economic centres to delineate appropriate areas to park and limit driveway

obstructions. Situations such as these will be considered as part of the development of Transport Management Plans (TMP) for each centre (refer to our How we manage parking in major hubs fact sheet for further information on TMPs). However, due to the impact on long-term maintenance, Council does not install driveway line marking in other areas.

The following figures provide guidance of sight line requirements at driveways.



Frontage road speed km/h	Distance (Y) along frontage road m		
	Access driveways other than domestic		Domestic property access
	Desirable 5 s gap	Minimum SSD	
40	55	35	30
50	69	45	40
60	83	65	55
70	97	85	70
80	111	105	95
90	125	130	Use values from 2 nd and 3 rd columns
100	139	180	
110	153	190	



How we assess vegetation?

Any vegetation will be assessed by a suitably qualified professional to determine if any trimming or removal is appropriate to maintain sight lines and the life of the vegetation. Any action identified from the assessment will be undertaken as soon as resources allow.