Control of fishing, jumping or climbing from or on bridges

1) Purpose and intended outcomes
This policy is intended to ensure that the RTA fulfils its duty of care to protect the general public from the risk of harm arising from fishing, jumping or climbing from or on bridges (prohibited activities).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Roads (General) Regulation 2000 (Clauses 17, 38 and 41).

2) Policy statement
The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) will take all reasonable steps to minimise the danger to the public arising from fishing, jumping or climbing from or on its bridge assets. Where these prohibited activities are known to occur at a bridge site, the RTA will undertake assessment of the bridge site in accordance with this policy to identify and prioritise appropriate treatments. The RTA will also assess the likelihood of prohibited activities at new bridge sites during the planning process and implement appropriate treatments.

The erection of warning signs and/or physical management control measures will be provided at locations identified under this policy in priority order based on funding availability. As far as practical the signs will use pictographs to indicate the prohibited activities and will also warn of the hazards encountered by undertaking the prohibited activity.

When necessary, the RTA will also liaise with police, local government and other agencies regarding enforcement and education activities.

3) Scope and coverage
This policy applies to all new and existing bridges, excluding bridge sized culverts.

It specifically excludes the risk to motorists from objects being intentionally thrown from overbridges onto traffic passing underneath. For guidance on this matter refer to the Policy for safety screening of bridges (TD2002/02).

Within the Infrastructure Maintenance (IM) management system this policy is referred to as IM-POL-501.
4) Background

There have been incidents where persons have injured themselves and others by fishing, jumping or climbing from or on bridges.

The RTA has erected prohibition signs on some bridges to inform the public of such prohibited activities. However, the signs provided at these locations do not usually include pictograms indicating the prohibited activity.

Other than on a small number of bridges, there are no physical barriers to prevent the above prohibited activities.

5) Responsibilities and/or delegations

Assessment for new bridges: Project Services Manager.

Action required during the planning process to manage prohibited activity needs to be considered within the framework of the policy: Project handover: Considering asset management implications during the project life cycle (PN046: IM-POL-101).

Assessment for existing bridges: Regional Bridge Maintenance Planners.

Inform police and council in writing for enforcement and possible education measures: Regional Managers.

Approve erection of signposting: Regional Asset Managers.

Statewide prioritisation of physical measures to prevent jumping and record keeping: Bridge Strategy Manager (IM).

Bridge Strategy Manager (IM) is responsible for keeping records of state wide prioritisation of physical measures and estimates for the same. Regional Asset Managers to submit proposals to Infrastructure Maintenance Branch.

6) Procedure or guidelines

Appendix A includes procedure for the assessment of bridge sites.

Appendix B includes some examples of control measures. Sign designs are provided in Appendix C.

7) Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be evaluated by way of audit. The audit methodology will consider application of the policy and the level of compliance by the public.

The evaluation will include measuring the effectiveness of this policy and its associated procedures.
8) Quality records

Background and associated records are located on the following files:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record</th>
<th>File number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This policy statement</td>
<td>5M3481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of this policy statement</td>
<td>06M2591/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of existing bridges</td>
<td>Regional bridge file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of new bridges</td>
<td>Relevant project file</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9) Definitions

Nil.

10) Additional Information

Reference documents:

- AS 1319-1994: Safety signs for the occupational environment
- Dederer v Roads and Traffic Authority & anor, NSW Supreme Court 2005
- Policy for safety screening of bridges (TD2002/02).
- Project handover: Considering asset management implications during the project life cycle (PN046: IM-POL-101).
- Roads (General) Regulation 2000

Effective date: 13 July 2007
Review date: 3 years after the ‘Effective date’
Policy replaces: Nil

11) Appendices

- Appendix A – Procedure for assessment of bridges
- Appendix B – Control measures.
- Appendix C – Sign drawings.

Approved by:

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Director Network Management

Further information:

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Appendix A – Procedure for assessment of bridges

A1) Existing bridges - Jumping or fishing from or climbing on bridge

1. Bridge

2. Evidence or knowledge of people jumping/fishing from or climbing on bridge?
   - Yes
     - Signpost and Monitor
     - Any evidence of continuation of jumping/fishing or climbing?
       - Yes
         - Inform Police/Council for enforcement and monitor
         - Any evidence of continuation of jumping/fishing or climbing?
           - Yes
             - Consider physical measures to prevent jumping/fishing or climbing
           - No
             - No further action
       - No
         - No further action
   - No
     - Lower priority for sign posting

3. No further action
A2) New bridges

For new bridges it is necessary to establish the need for signage and/or physical barriers based on the location of the bridge as a history of prohibited activity has not yet been established.

The Table A1 provides guidance for deciding on what initial action should be taken when building a new bridge. Once the bridge is built, it should follow the procedure outlined in section A1 above and take further action as necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bridge location</th>
<th>Possible initial action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jumping, diving and climbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near (&lt; 200 m) school or holiday/caravan park</td>
<td>Sign post and consider physical barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near (&lt; 200 m) open public space for water access</td>
<td>Sign post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday location</td>
<td>Sign post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near swimming hole/beach</td>
<td>Sign post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near (&lt; 200 m) hotel, club or amusement centre</td>
<td>Sign post</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B – Control measures

B1) Signage

RTA sign numbers R6-254 to R6-254-4 are given in Appendix C. The signs indicate the extent of activities prohibited and the reason why the activity is prohibited.

In addition to the erection of larger signs (sign R6-2540) at each end of the bridge, it is recommended that repeater signs (signs R6-254-1 to R6-254-4), as appropriate, be displayed at the specific locations of the prohibited activity. The content of the signs should be adapted to each site and based on actual circumstances.

B2) Physical management control measures

Physical management control measures to reduce the incidence of an event include:

.1 “Crown of thorn” spikes around the base of the end diagonals of truss bridges.
.2 Steel angles fitted to the top of hand railing to deter jumpers/divers.
.3 Vertical balusters in railings.
.4 Increasing the height of railings.
.5 Barbed wire at strategic locations.
.6 Full height screens or barriers.
.7 Security cameras and video recorders.
.8 Anti-climb paint (paint that remains thick and non-drying). Should only be used after consultation by the Manager, Durability and Protection).
.9 Modifying the bridge design.

Figure B1 Possible physical management control measures
Control of fishing, jumping or climbing from or on bridges
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