



# SAMI SOLUTIONS

## Reclamite 'S'

### Gunnedah Shire Council



Pavement Rejuvenation Solution No. 2



A close-up of Reclamite after spraying, showing it penetrating the existing spray sealed surface.

# Reclamite helping Gunnedah roads to go the distance

When it comes to the use of bitumen rejuvenators to extend the service life of spray seal pavements, one of the most experienced councils in Australia is Gunnedah Shire Council in northern NSW.

Gunnedah Shire Council has been using SAM I Pty Ltd's Reclamite for more than 15 years, taking advantage of the product's preventive maintenance qualities.

The Council regularly treats pavements around six to eight years old with Reclamite to rejuvenate and replenish the chemical constituents of bitumen which are lost through a combination of oxidation and ultra-violet degradation.

Gunnedah Shire Council has a large road network to maintain with limited funds.

Its areas of responsibility include:

- State roads — 150 km
- Regional roads — 100 km
- Sealed local roads — 250 km; &
- Unsealed local roads—1400km.

Commenting on Reclamite, which is used on up to 30% of the local sealed roads treated each year in Gunnedah Shire Council's annual road maintenance programme, Malcolm Jones, Manager Works, said: "Reclamite is an important component in our overall pavement maintenance strategy.

"It is a very valuable tool that enables us to significantly extend the period between reseals on roads where the surface is starting to degrade.

"In our experience, Reclamite has more than doubled the service life of many pavements, which would

otherwise have needed more substantial treatments.

"Because most of our local roads receive only fairly light traffic, many of them are still structurally sound even after 12 to 15 years, which means we are now applying Reclamite for a second time in some cases to further extend their service life.

"The difference Reclamite makes, even on bitumen which seems to have lost all of its strength and flexibility, is significant," he said.

"However, the trick is knowing when to use it, which is often before it's obvious. By the time a pavement starts to crack or pot-hole badly, it is generally too late for Reclamite."

Over the years, Gunnedah Shire Council has found that the bitumen on many of its spray sealed pavements starts to deteriorate long before the aggregate wears.

"The fact that our pavements are subject to great extremes in weather, with the



**SAM I sprays the Reclamite on behalf of the Council**

temperature varying from less than 0 to more than 40°C every year, makes the conditions tough on bitumen," said Malcolm.

"However, the use of Reclamite lets us take advantage of the excellent wearing properties of the local crushed river gravel we use for aggregate.

"This is a very tough stone which still has lots of service left in it after six to eight years and, as locally available construction materials become more scarce and expensive, maximising the service life of the existing materials is a big

bonus. We also believe this strategy is an environmentally responsible approach for the Council," he said.

"Keeping road closures to a minimum is another advantage of Reclamite," added Malcolm.

"A major goal in our road maintenance programme is to cause as little disruption as possible and Reclamite certainly minimises the impact on the travelling public.

"SAM I comes in and sprays the designated area, spreads a light cover of sand to protect the Reclamite while it penetrates the surface and the road is generally re-opened after a short delay," he said.

"Of course, the greatest reason of all for using Reclamite is the cost compared to other options.

"At the moment Reclamite is costing us about one third of the cost of a new bitumen reseal."

*This Case Study was prepared with the kind assistance of Gunnedah Shire Council.*



**A fine cover of sand is placed by a specialised spreading vehicle to enable early traffickability.**



For further information on any of the products featured in this Case Study or any of SAMI's other specialist road maintenance products and services, please contact:

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