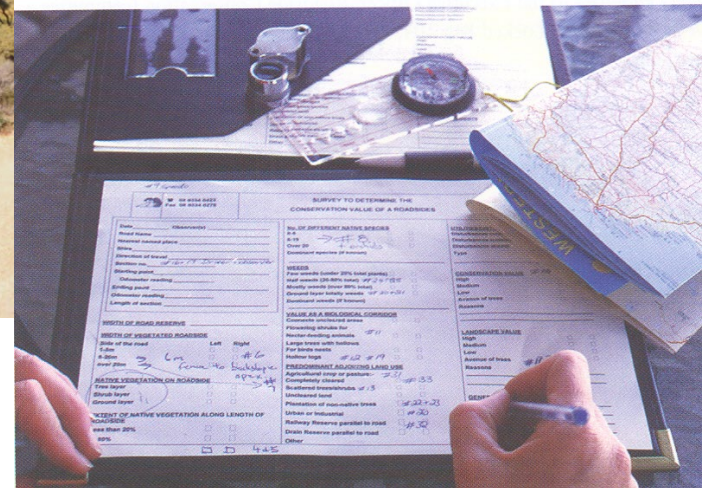


Roadside Vegetation Survey in Kent



Roadside Conservation Committee

Roadside Surveys

Determining conservation status.

Snap-shot study.

Aim: assess the conservation values of roadside remnants in Kent.

- ✓ Conducted from September to November 2004 and February to March 2005.
- ✓ 91.7% (1,198km) of Kent Shire's 1306km of roads were surveyed.
- ✓ Assessed by the RCC and maps produced via a Geographic Information System (GIS).



Roadside Surveys

The roadside surveyors were:

Nicole Davey
Hillary Willcock
Kevina Willcock
Michele Brown
Megan Hains

Michael Robinson
Ella Maesepp
Geoff Burrow
Lucy Skipsey
John Skipsey

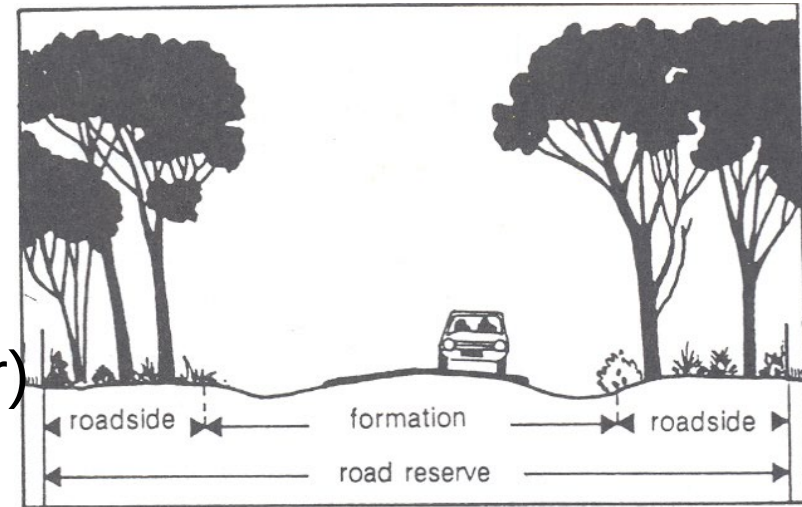


They contributed
to over 65 hours
of survey work!



Roadside Attributes

- Width of road reserve
- Width of vegetation
- 6 nominated weeds
- Utilities/services (water, power)
- Salt affected roadsides



- Extent of native vegetation
- Structure of native vegetation
- Number native plant species
- Value as biological corridor
- Degree of weed infestation
- Adjoining land use



Roadside Conservation Value

6 attributes are scored from 0 to 2.

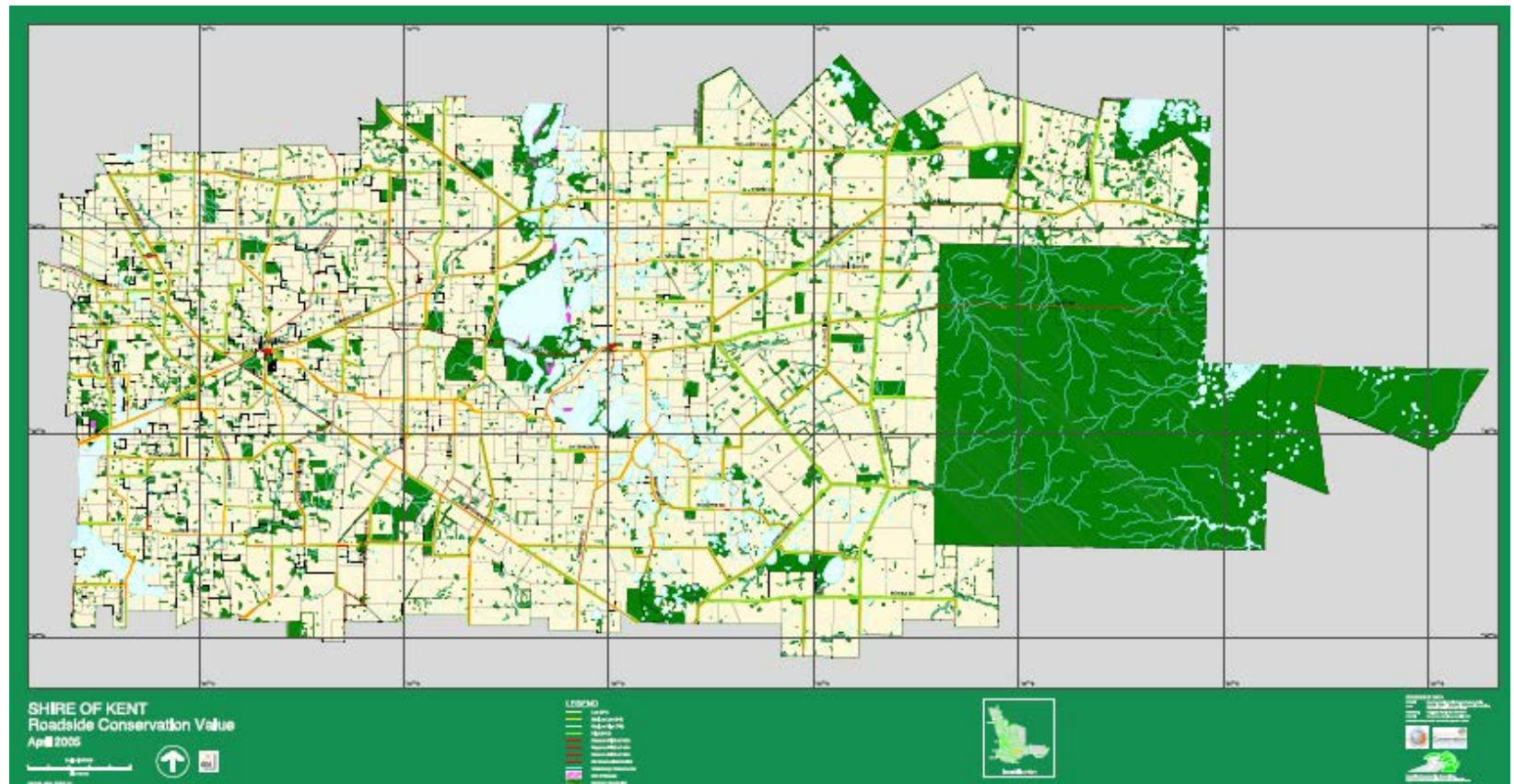
Added together = conservation value score: 0 – 12.

The conservation values, grouped into conservation status categories, are represented by:

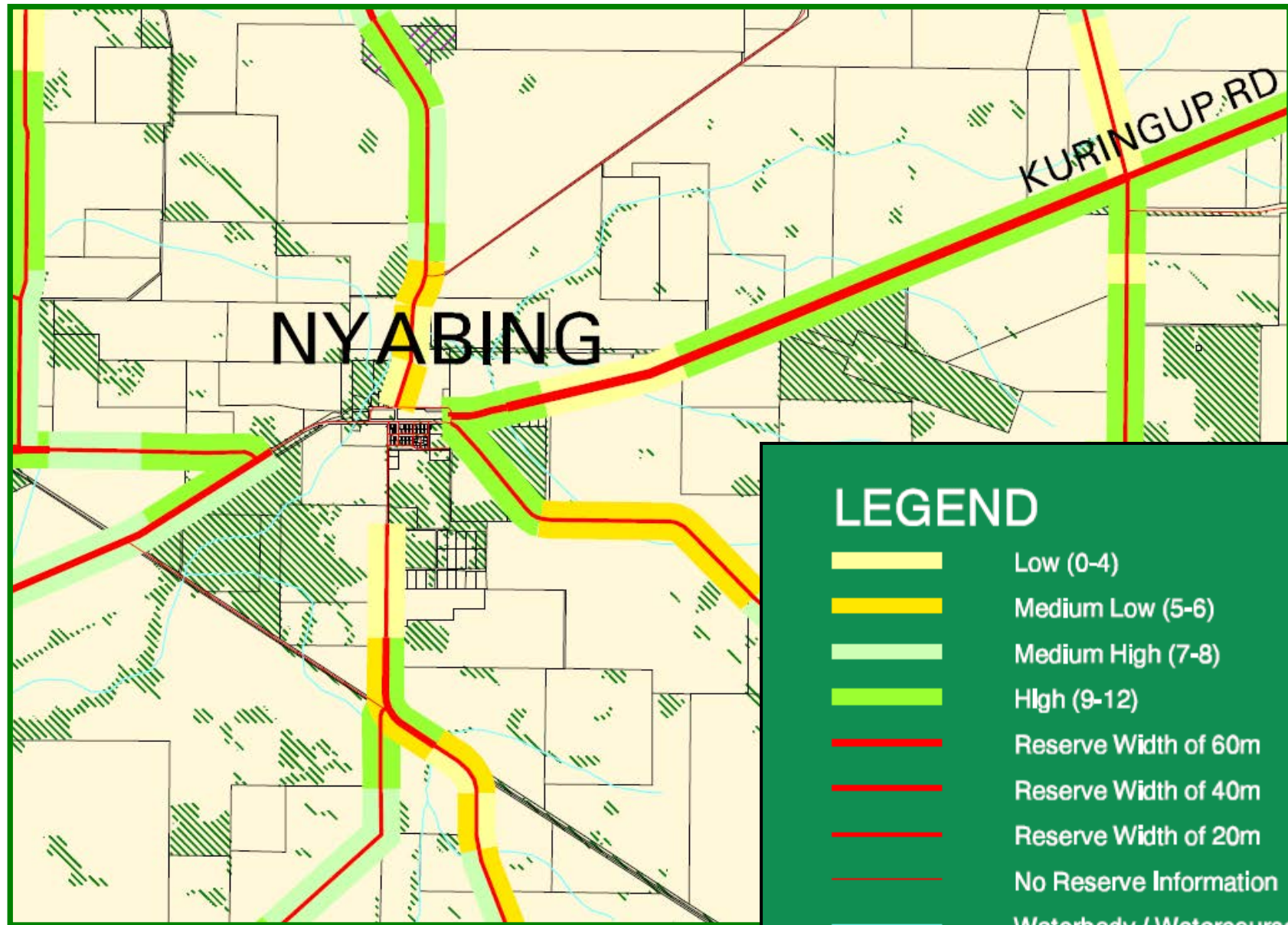
Conservation Status	Score	Colour
High	9-12	Dark Green
Med-high	7-8	Light green
Med-low	5-6	Orange
Low	0-4	Yellow



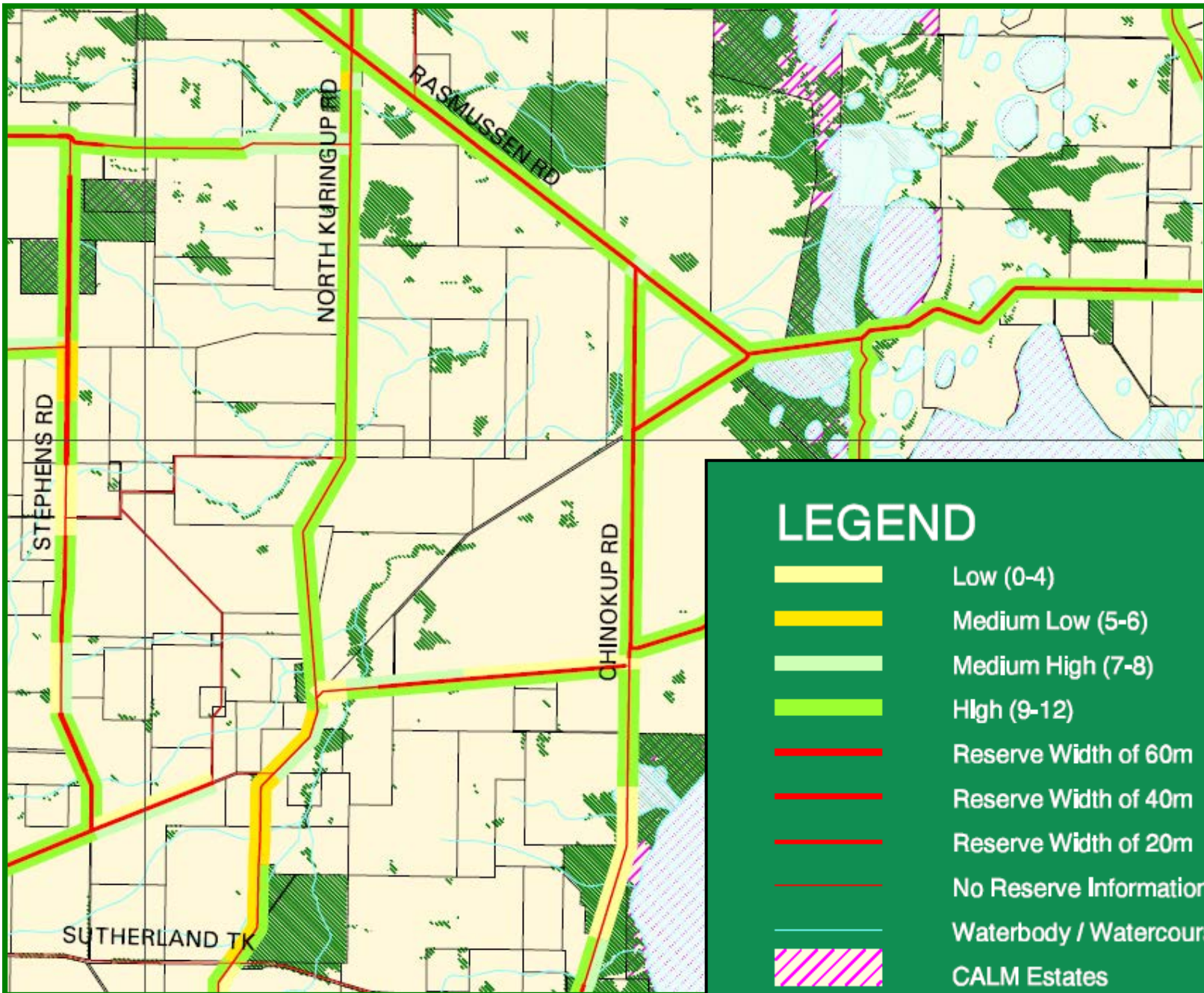
Using the RCV Map



Roadside Conservation Committee



Roadside Conservation Committee



Roadside Conservation Committee

RESULTS

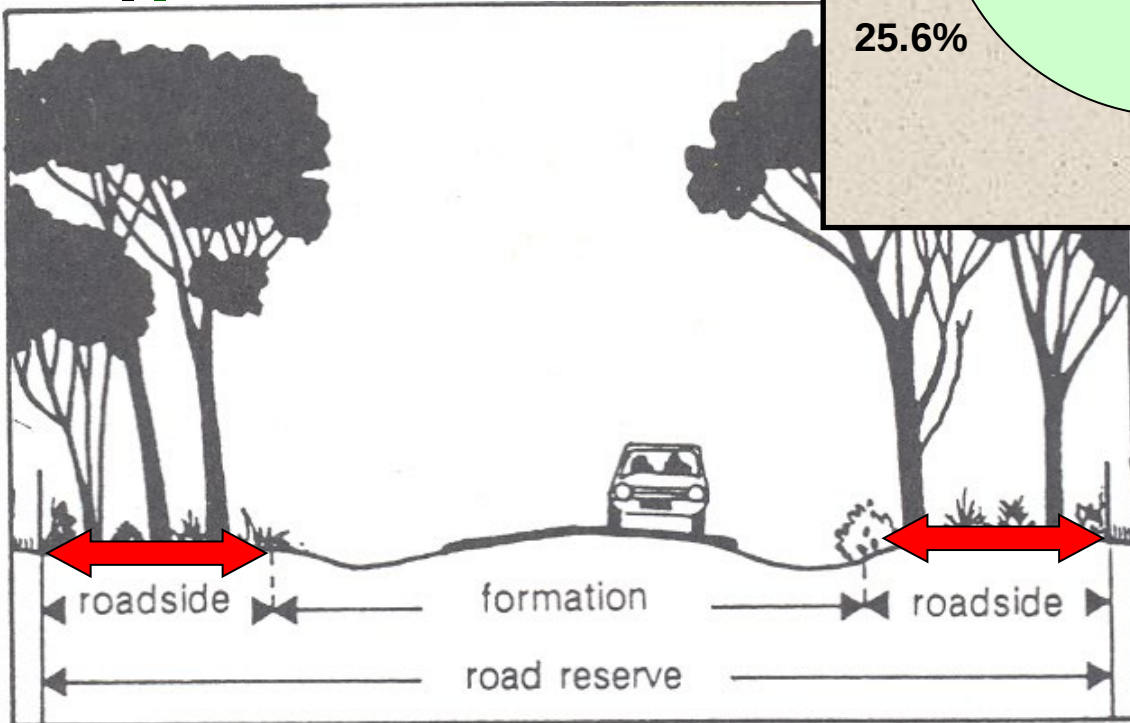
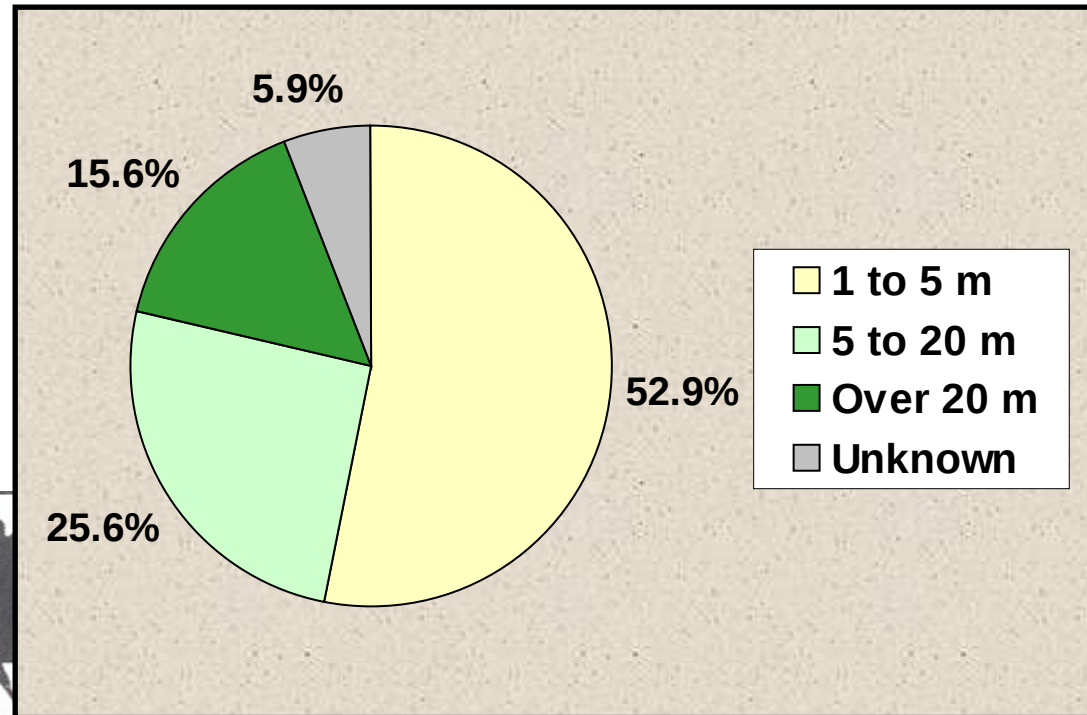


Ok

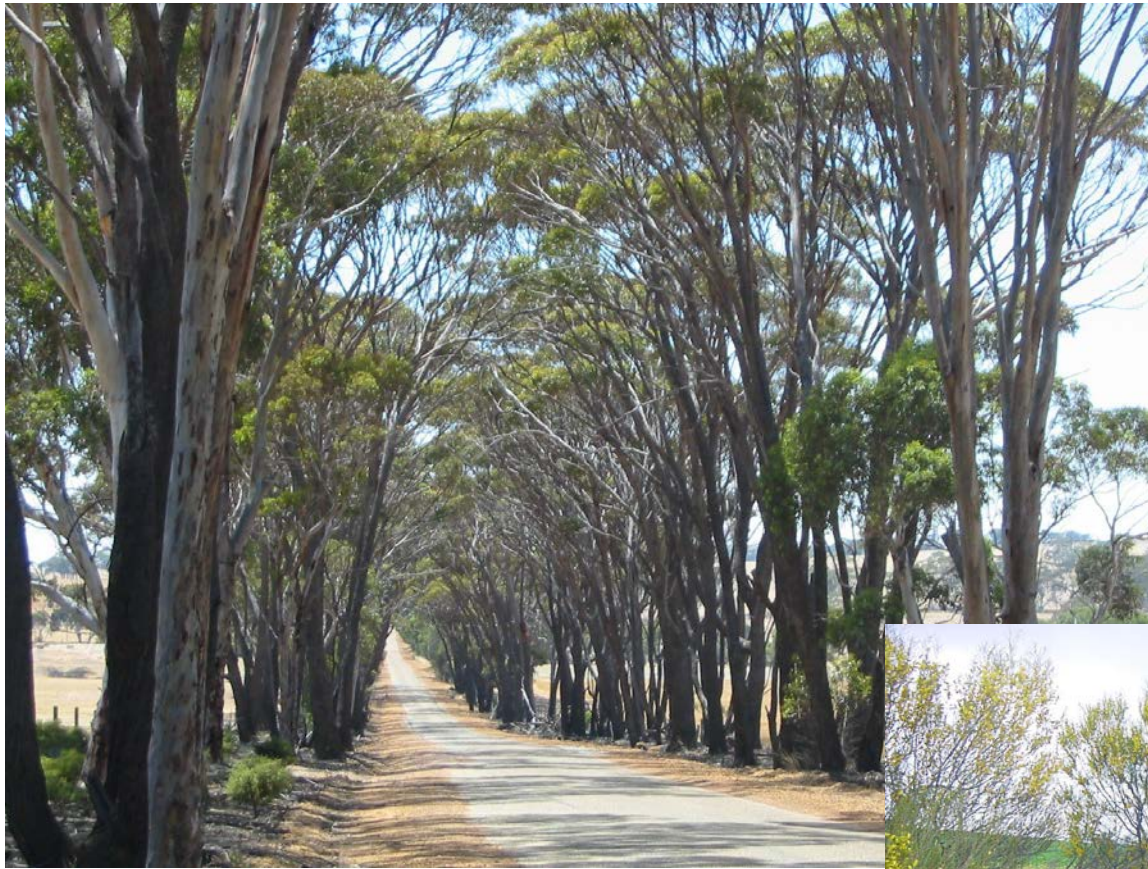
So what did we find?



Width of Vegetated Roadsides

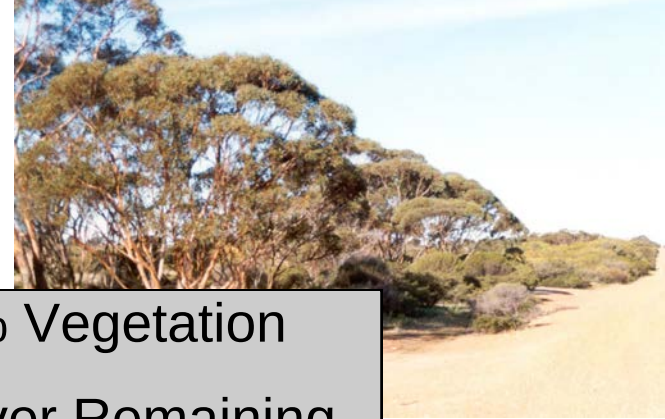


Width of Vegetated Roadsides



Roadside Conservation Committee

Remnant Vegetation



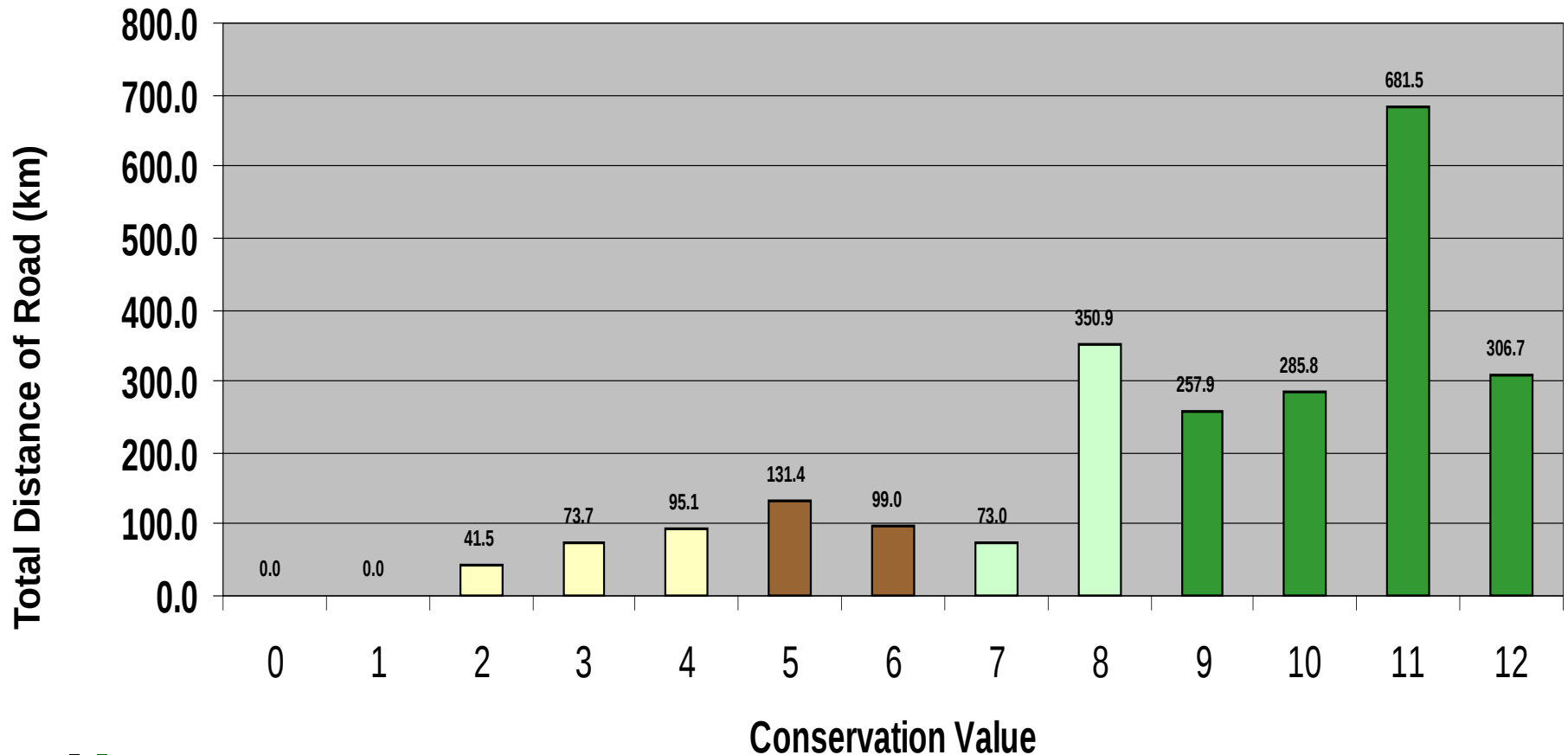
Shire	Total Area (ha)	% Vegetation Cover Remaining
Dumbleyung	253,816	9.5%
Katanning	153,272	11.2%
Kent	575,537	26.8%
Kulin	644,712	12.0%
Lake Grace	1,031,972	21.9%
Wagin	193,910	8.2%
Wickepin	202,347	7.5%

Vegetation types represented by less than 30% = ecologically endangered

National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (Environment Australia)



Conservation Value Scores

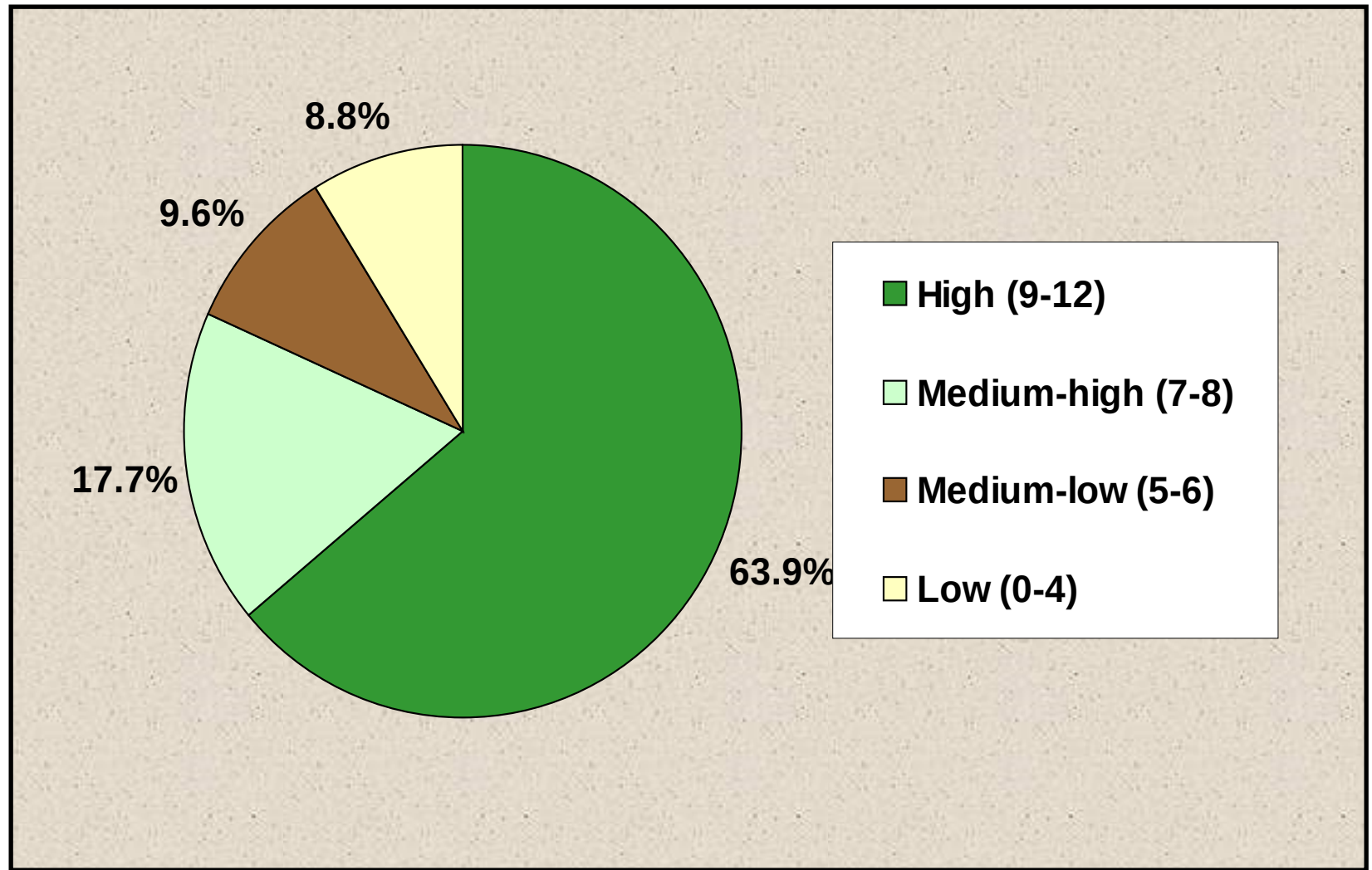


Note: These values combine left & right hand sides.

Roadside Conservation Committee



Conservation Status

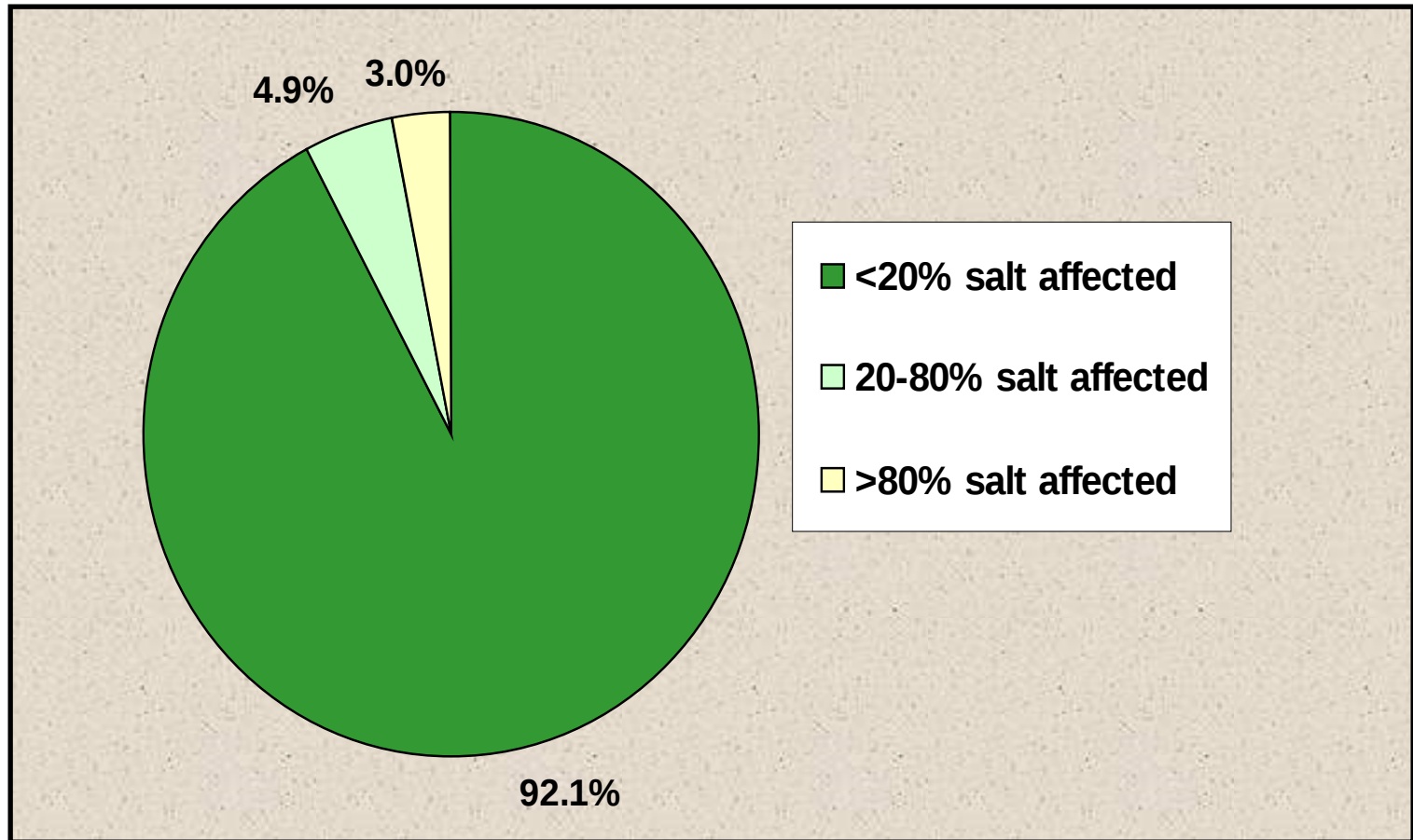


High Value Roads

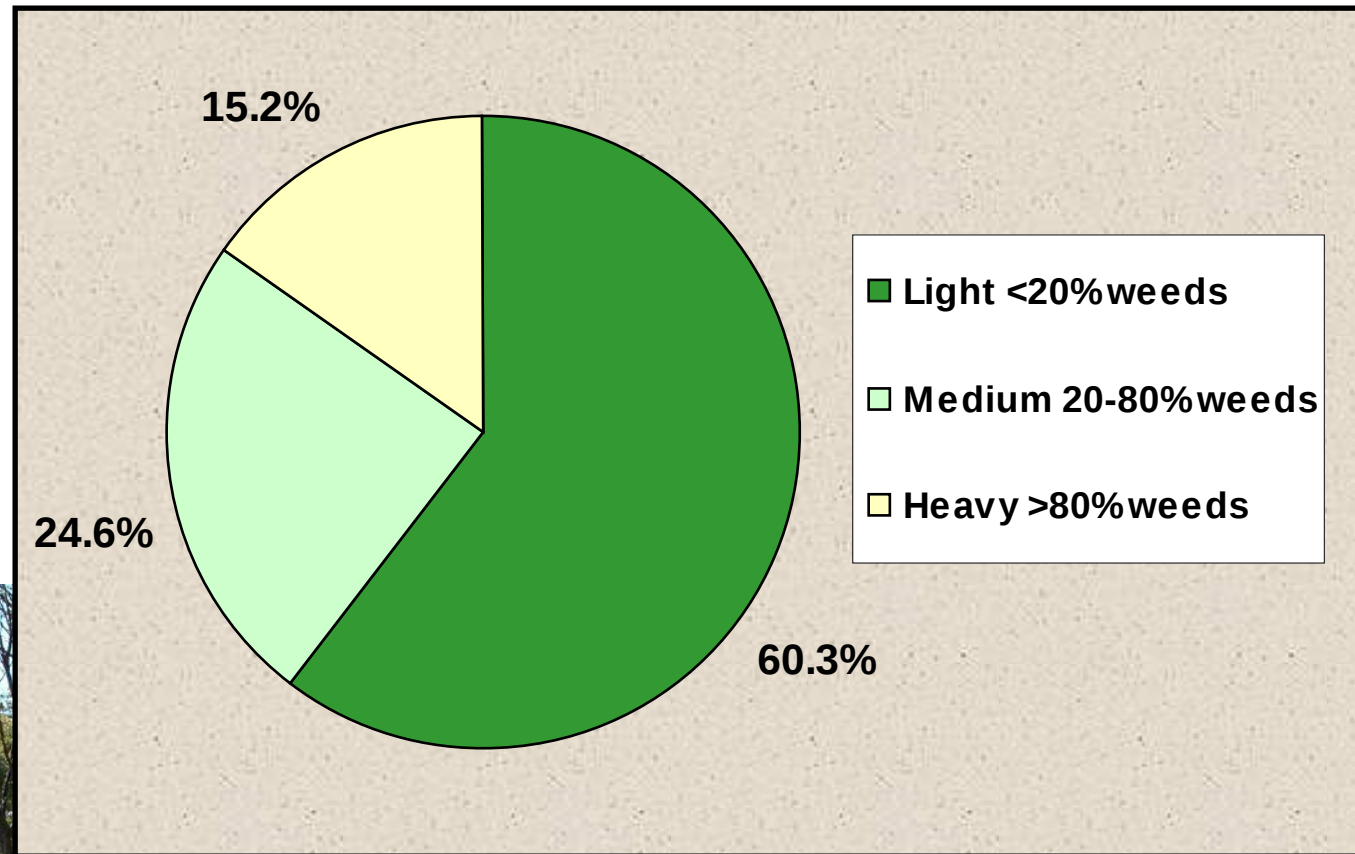
- Peterson Road
- Beagley Road
- Rasmussen Road
- Harvey Road
- Addis Road
- Boongadoo Road
- Gwelfi Road
- Kuringup Road
- Kuringup Road North
- Kwobrup North Road



Salt Affected Roadsides



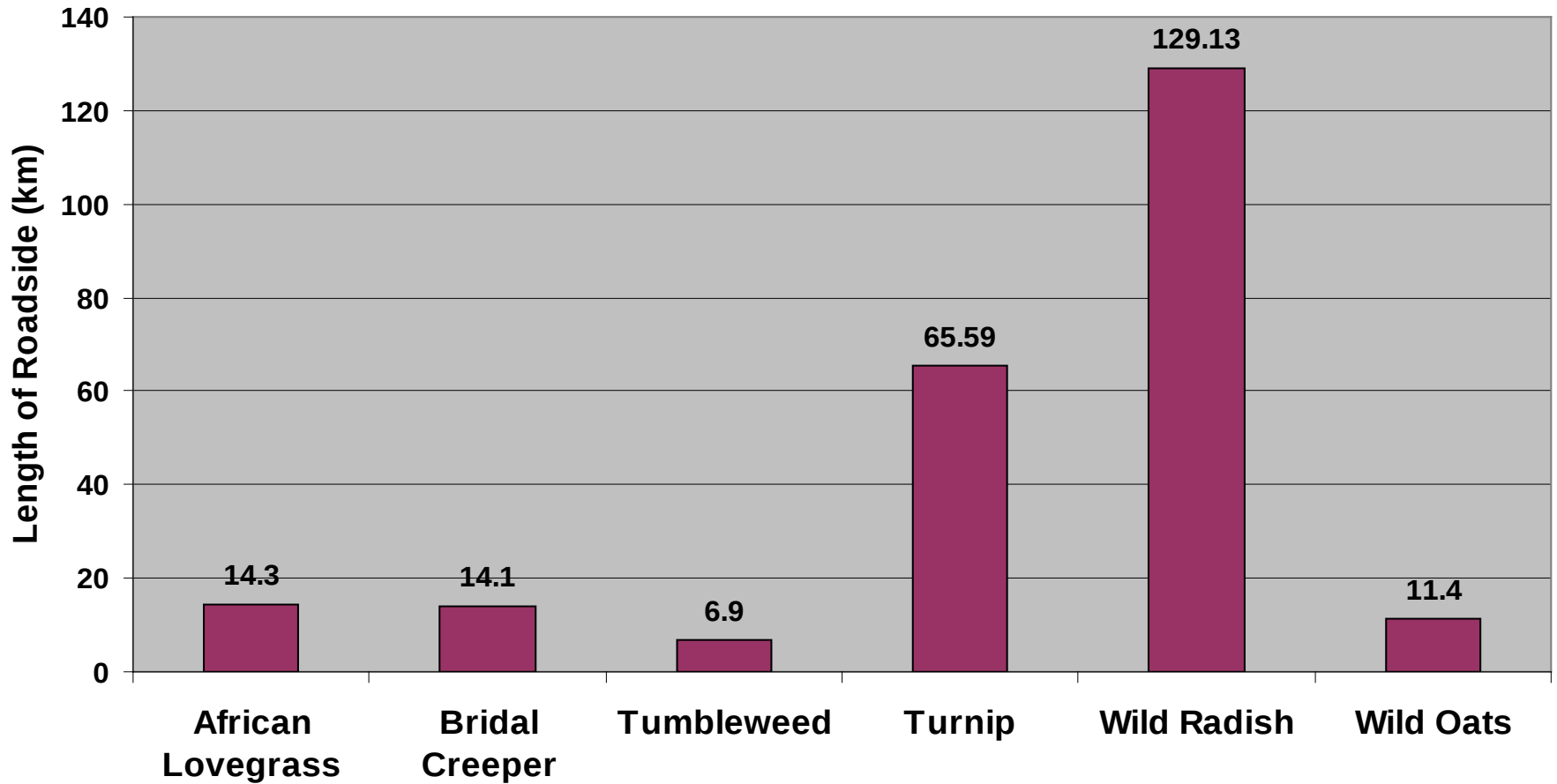
General Weed Presence



Heavy weeds (>80% of total plants)

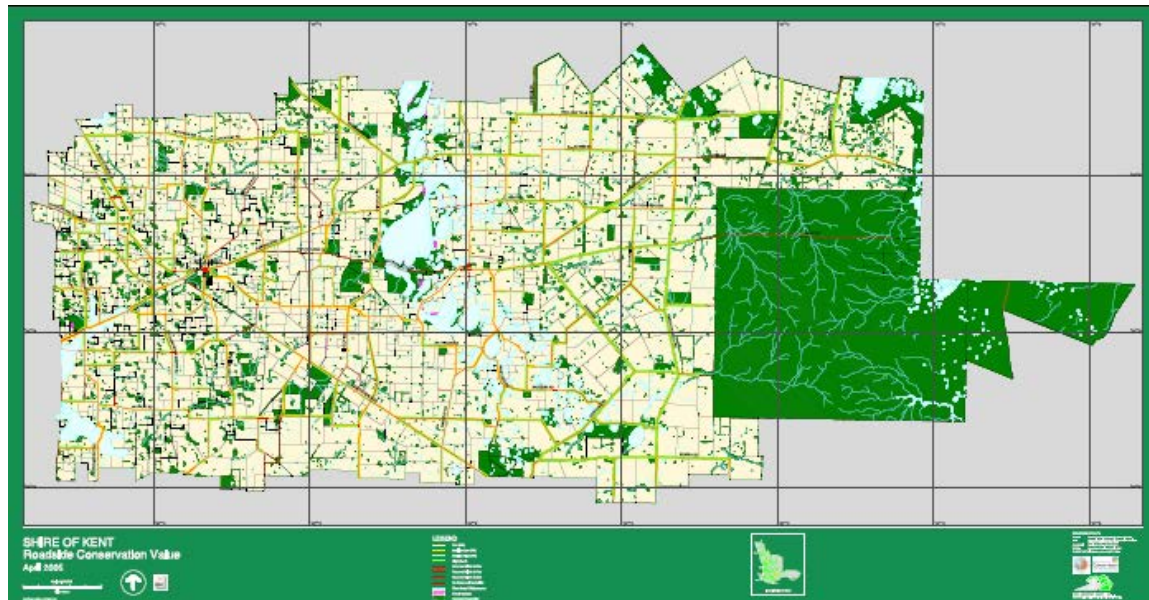


Nominated Weeds in Roadsides



So, what is all of this?

1. An inventory of the condition of roadside vegetation.
2. Reference map prior to roadworks, maintenance activities.
3. Snap-shot data useful for measuring change over time.
4. Management & planning tool.



Management & Planning Tool

- ✓ RCV Map: Digital or hardcopy, GIS capability.
 - ✓ Report: Consult for detailed results, recommendations and practical examples.
-
- Accurate information = informed decisions
 - Landscape level planning
 - Identify priorities for conservation areas



Management & Planning Tool

- Adopt specialised management techniques for different categories of roads

High conservation value roadside:		
Management goal		Maintain, enhance native plant communities
Management guidelines		Minimise disturbance

- Develop a *Roadside Register* (roads important for conservation)



Management & Planning Tool

- Weed strategy & priority
- Road works
- Funding applications
- Incorporate into Landcare and NRM projects
- Wildlife corridors
- Tourism (Flora Roads)
- Revegetation



Sustainability of Roadside Values



The future of roadside values depends on the current management practices.

It is crucial that the road reserves are managed in a manner that is sensitive to the values present.



Good management
requires that all
issues are considered
and balanced.



Contacting the RCC

For further information please contact:

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Roadside Conservation Committee