

Roadside Vegetation Survey in Wagin



Roadside Surveys



Determining conservation status.

Snap-shot study.

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

- ✓ Conducted from October 2004 to July 2004.
- ✓ 82.1% (721km) of Wagin Shire's 878km of roads were surveyed.
- ✓ Assessed by the RCC and maps produced via a Geographic Information System (GIS).



Roadside Surveys



The roadside surveyors were:

Sally Thompson

Dana Price

Judith Kershaw

Nathan Krakover

Steven Williams

Bert Williams

Horace Williams

Arthur Kershaw

Terry Davey

Mark Riley



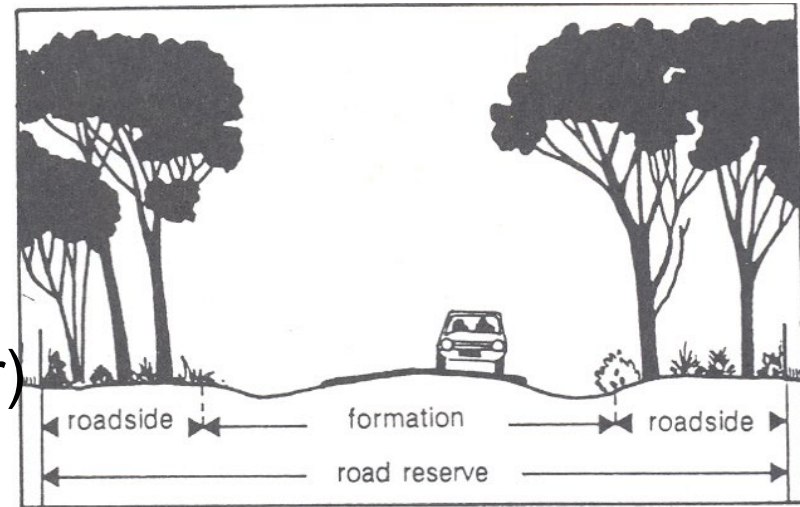
They contributed
to over 45 hours
of survey work!



Roadside Attributes

- Width of road reserve
- Width of vegetation
- 5 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.

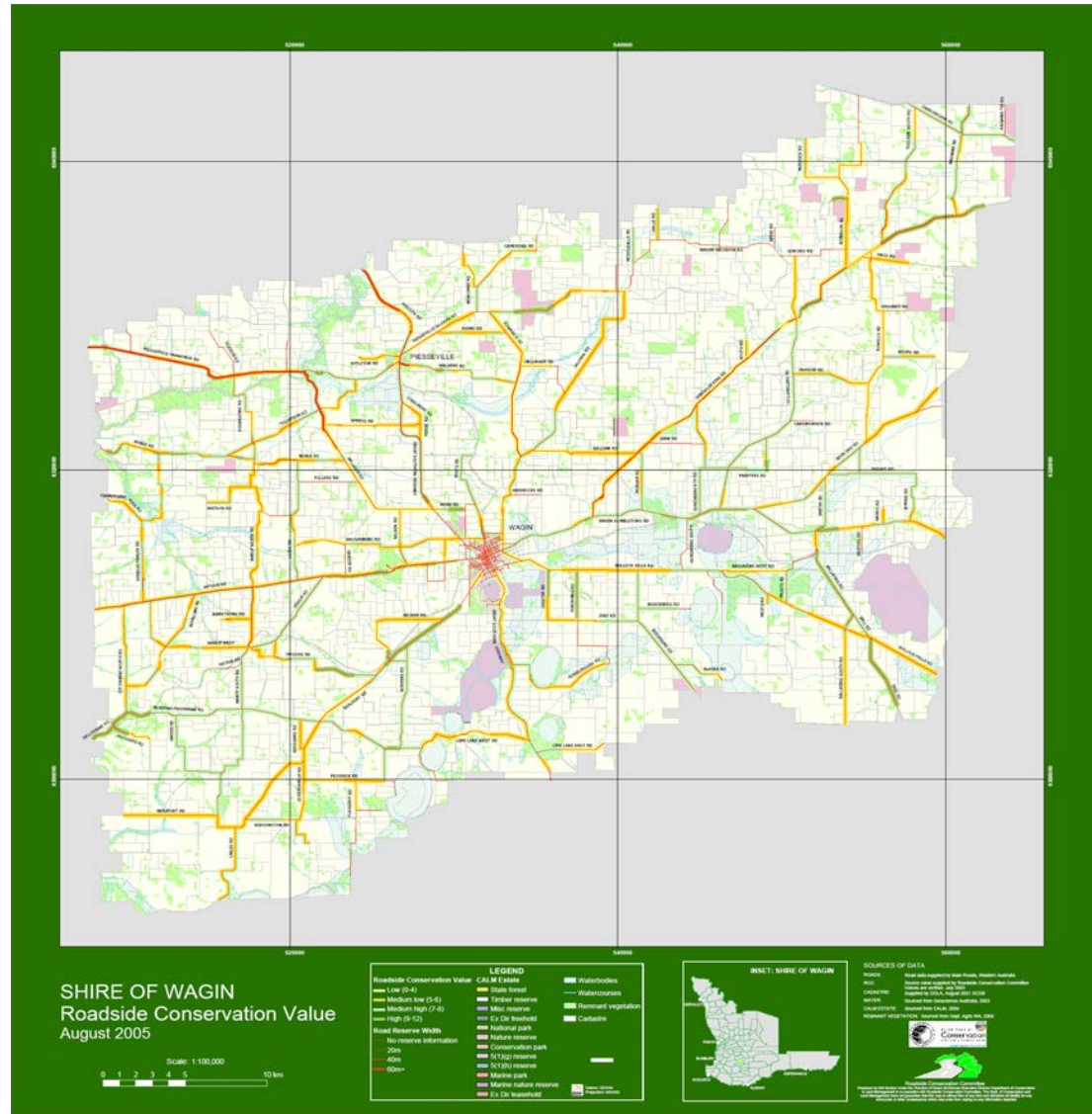
Added together = conservation value score: 0 – 12.

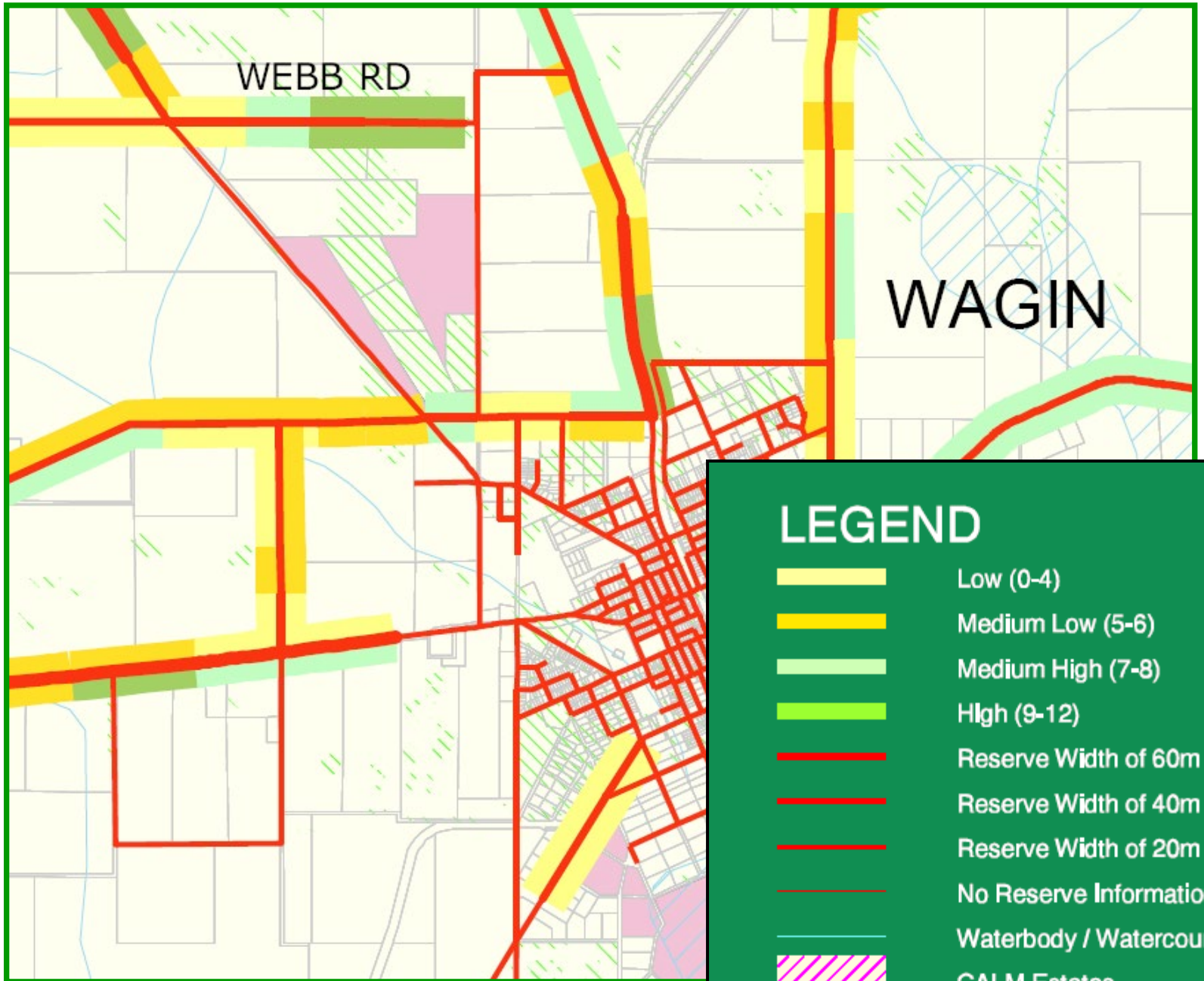
The conservation values, grouped into conservation status categories, are represented by:

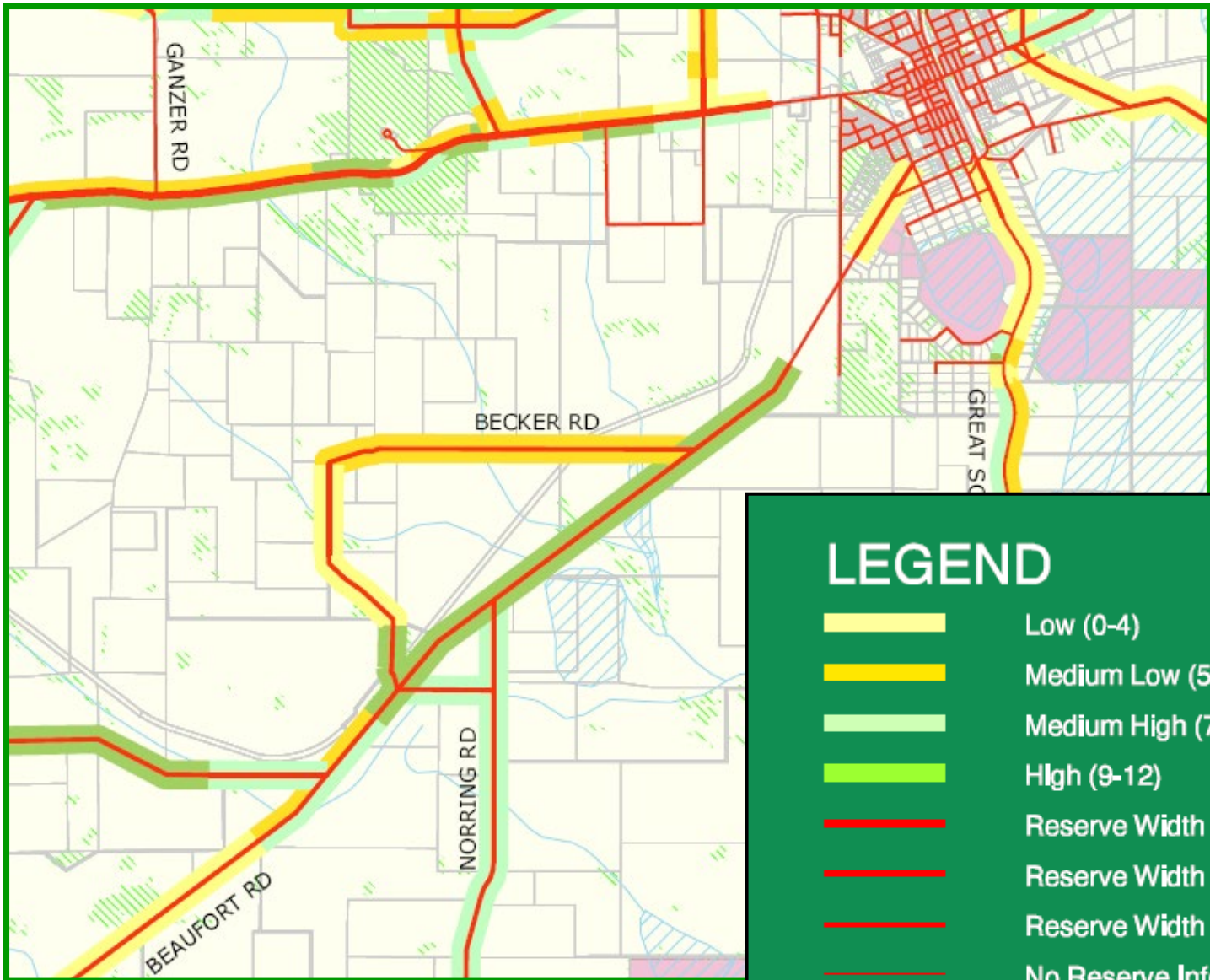
Conservation Status	Score	Colour
High	9-12	Dark Green
Med-high	7-8	Light green
Med-low	5-6	Orange
Low	0-4	Yellow



Using the RCV Map







LEGEND

	Low (0-4)
	Medium Low (5-6)
	Medium High (7-8)
	High (9-12)
	Reserve Width of 60m
	Reserve Width of 40m
	Reserve Width of 20m
	No Reserve Information
	Waterbody / Watercourse
	CALM Estates
	Remnant Vegetation



RESULTS

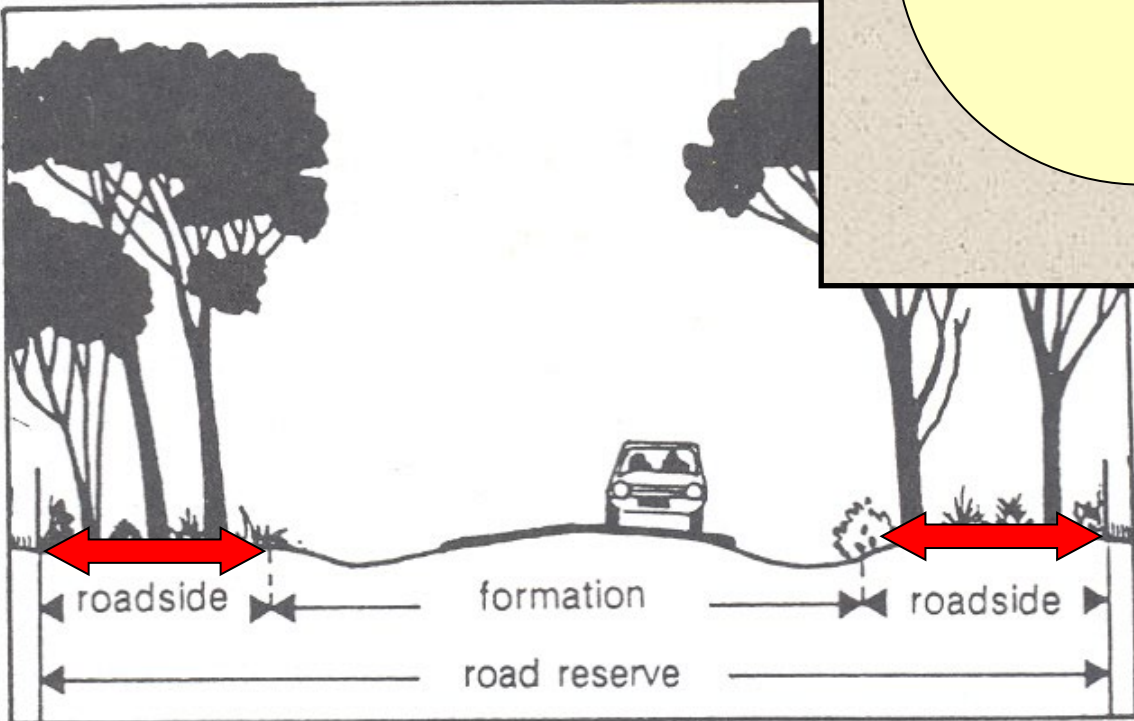
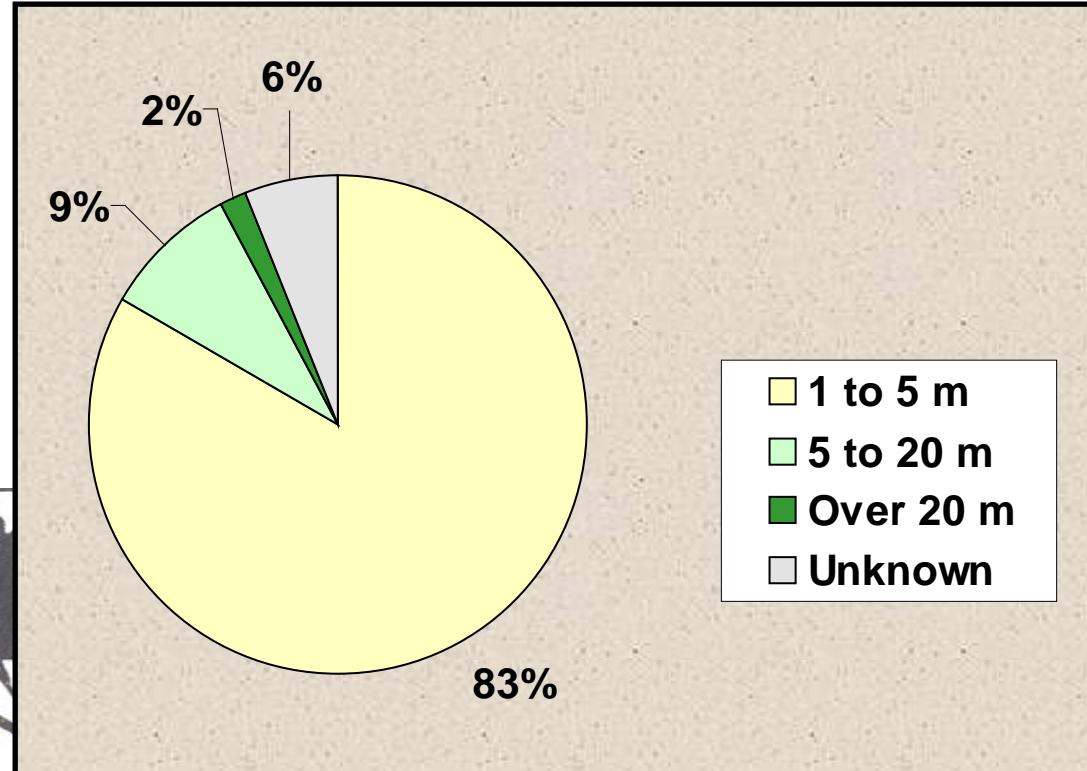


Ok

So what did we find?



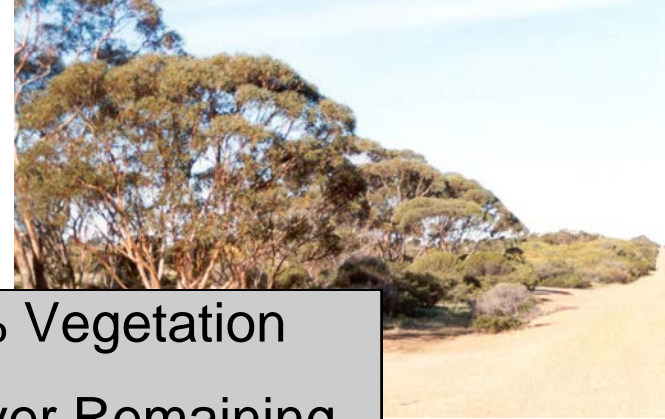
Width of Vegetated Roadsides



Width of Vegetated Roadsides



Remnant Vegetation

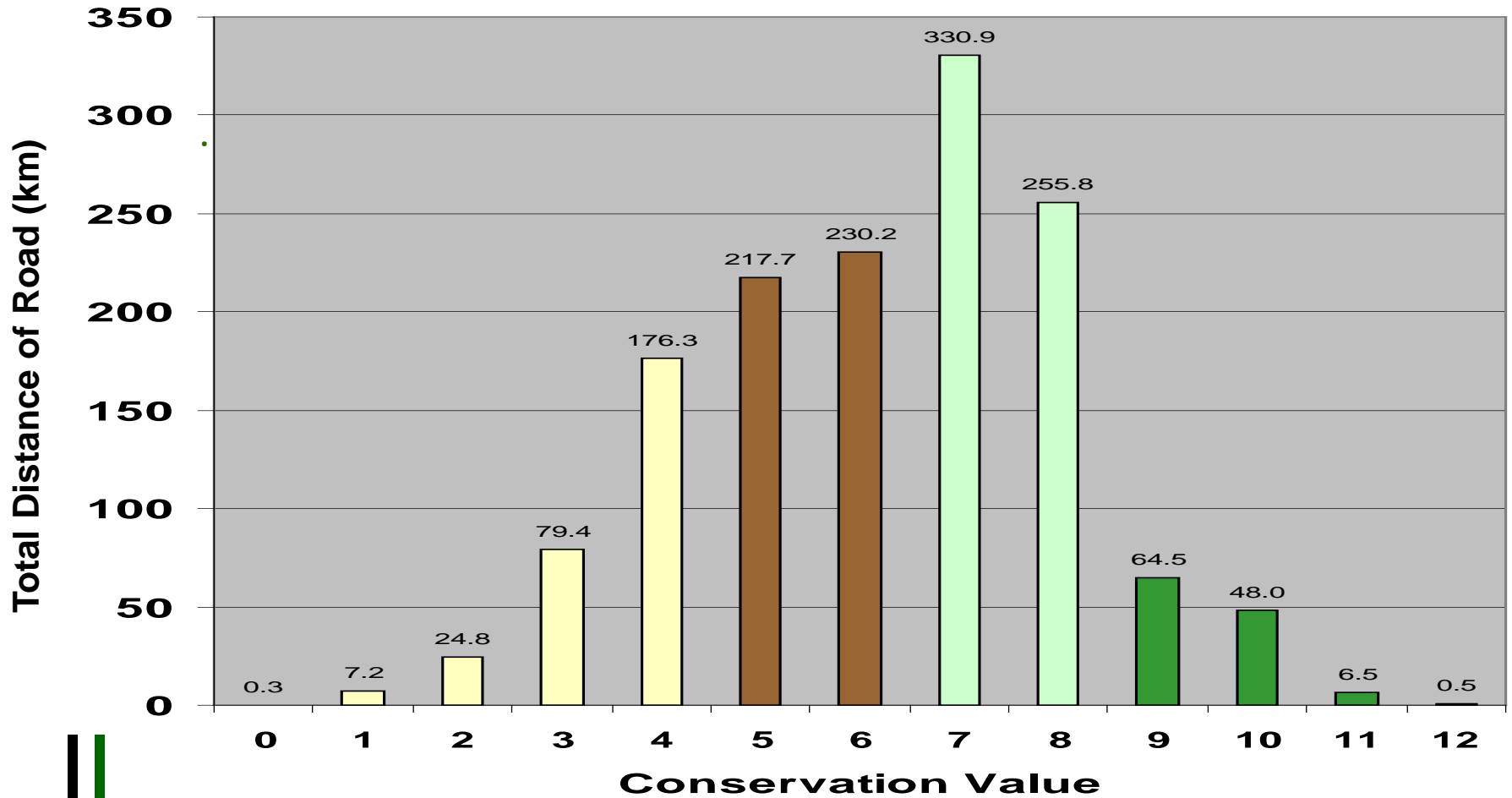


Shire	Total Area (ha)	% Vegetation Cover Remaining
Narrogin	164,063	13.6%
Wickepin	202,347	7.5%
Dumbleyung	253,816	9.5%
Woodanilling	111,769	12.9%
West Arthur	282,614	29.8%
Wagin	193,910	8.2%
Williams	228,482	33.1%

Vegetation types represented by less than 30% = ecologically endangered
National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (Environment Australia)



Conservation Value Scores

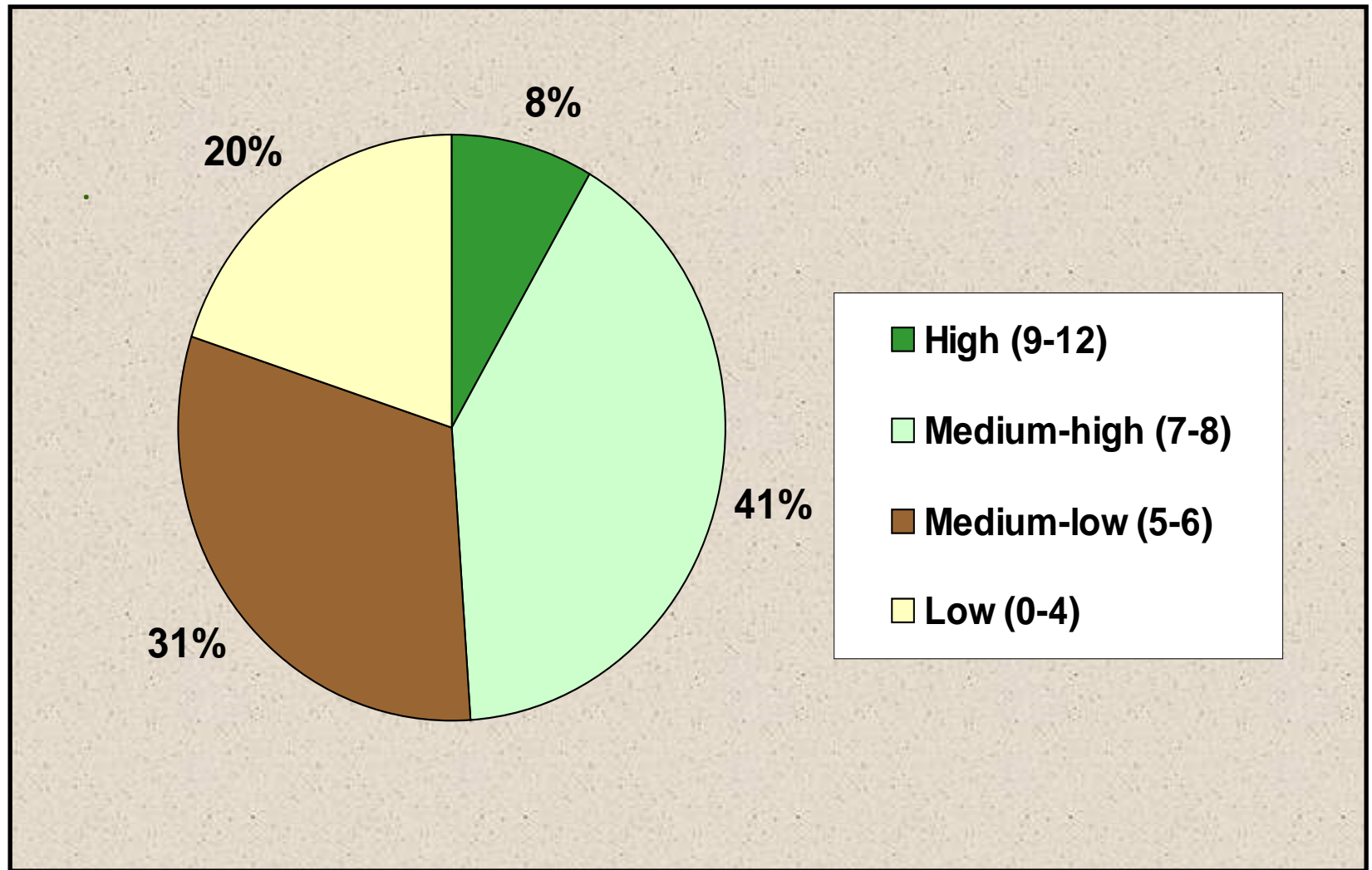


Note: These values combine left & right hand sides.

Roadside Conservation Committee



Conservation Status

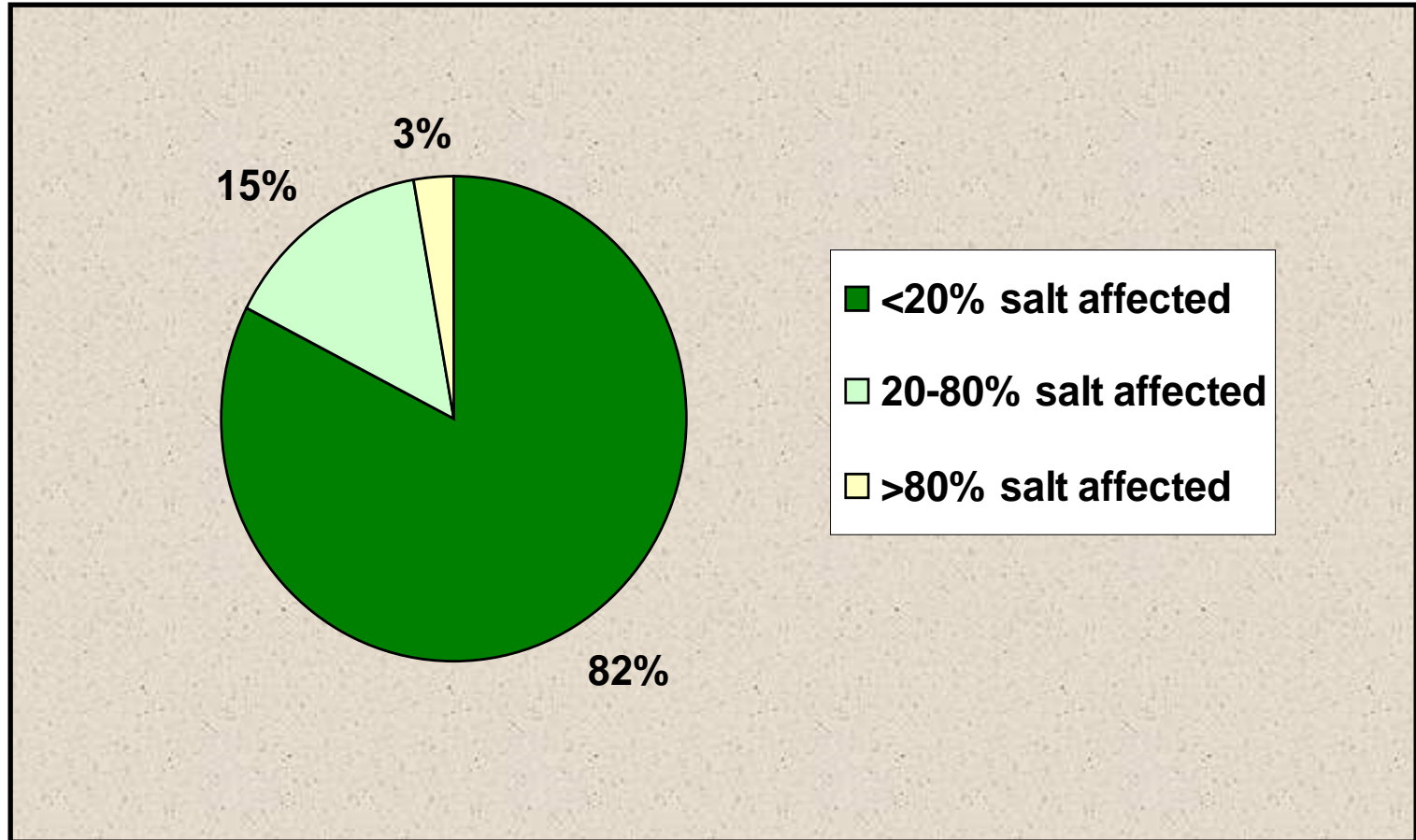


High Value Roads

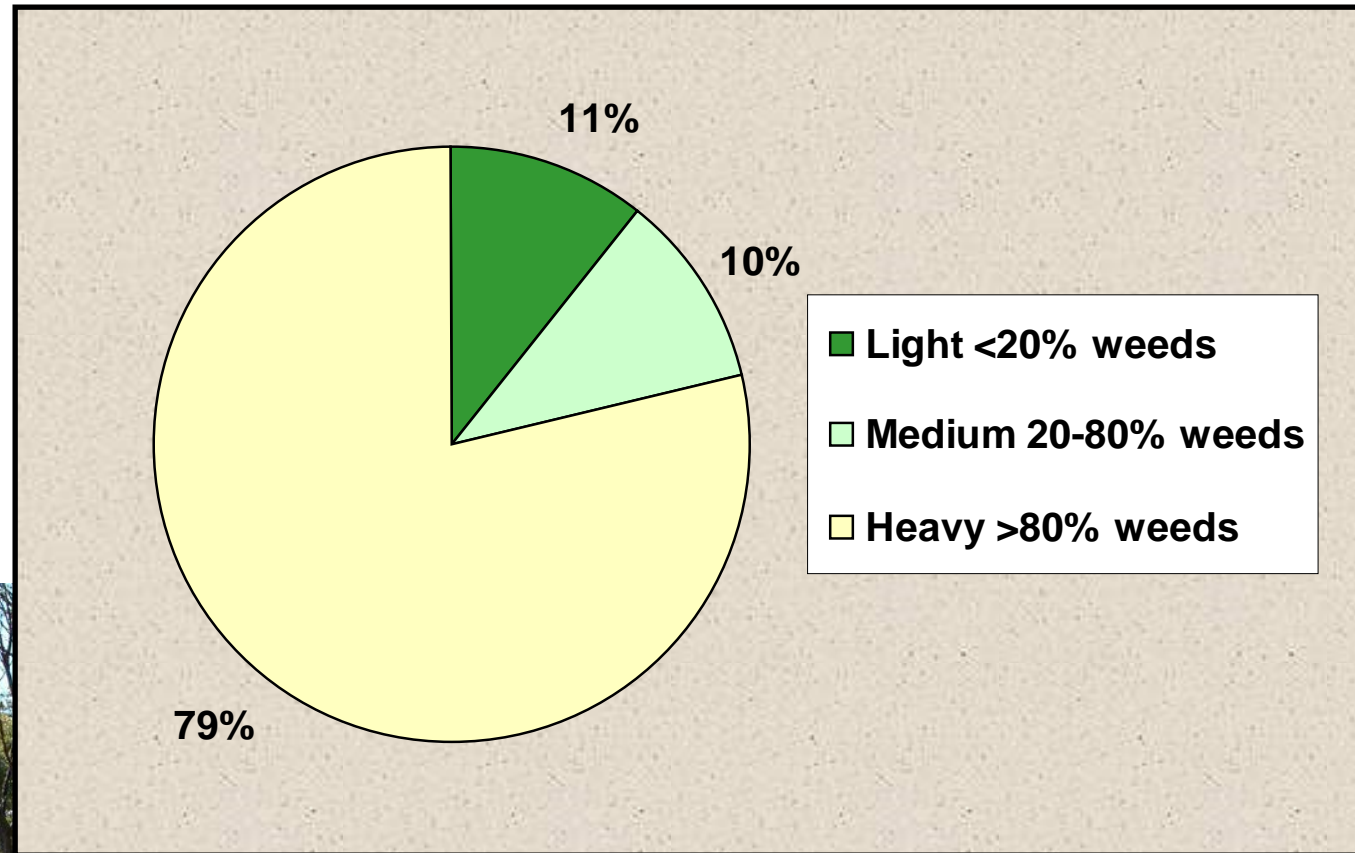
- Donlocking Rd
- Beaufort Rd
- Taylors Rd



Salt Affected Roadsides



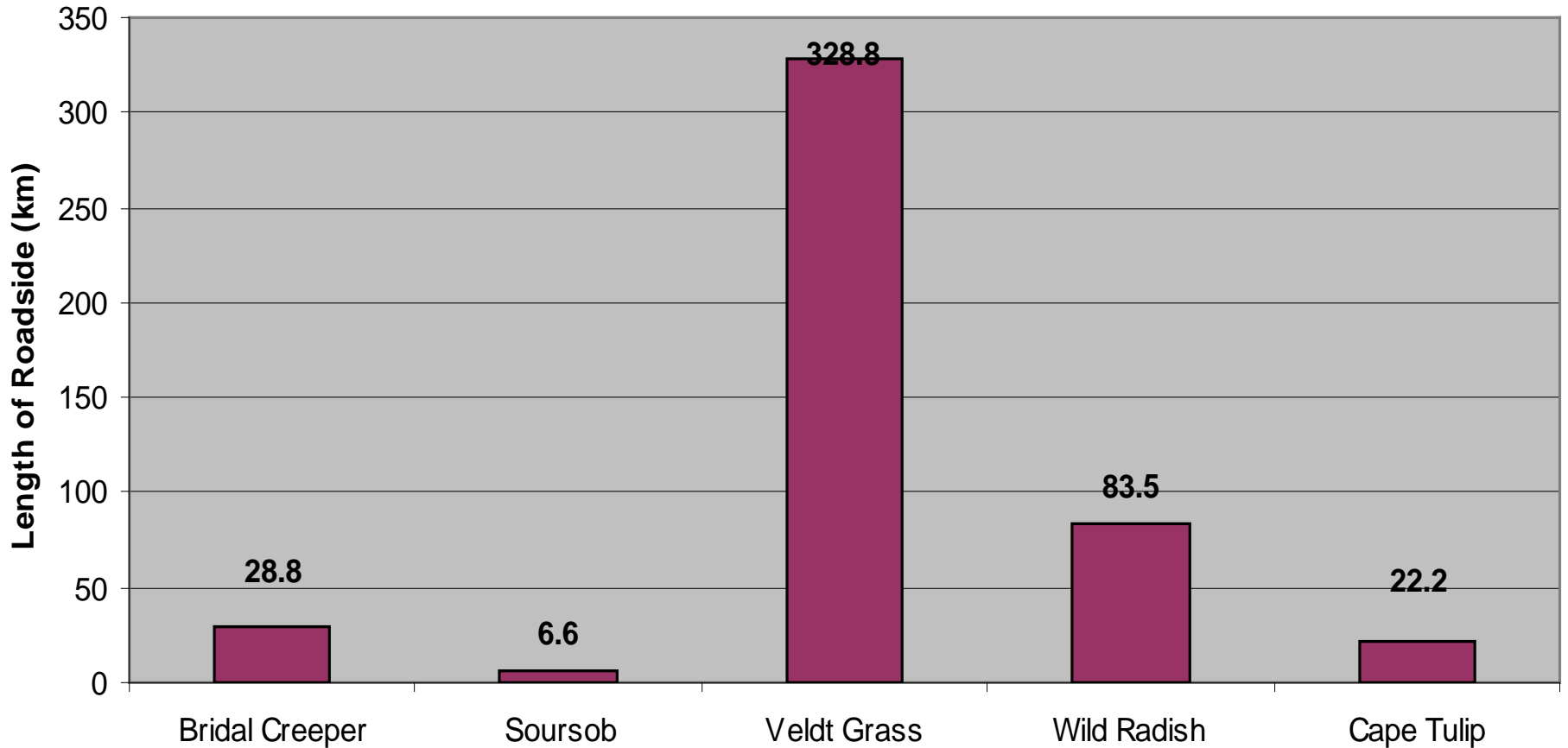
General Weed Presence



Heavy weeds (>80% of total plants)

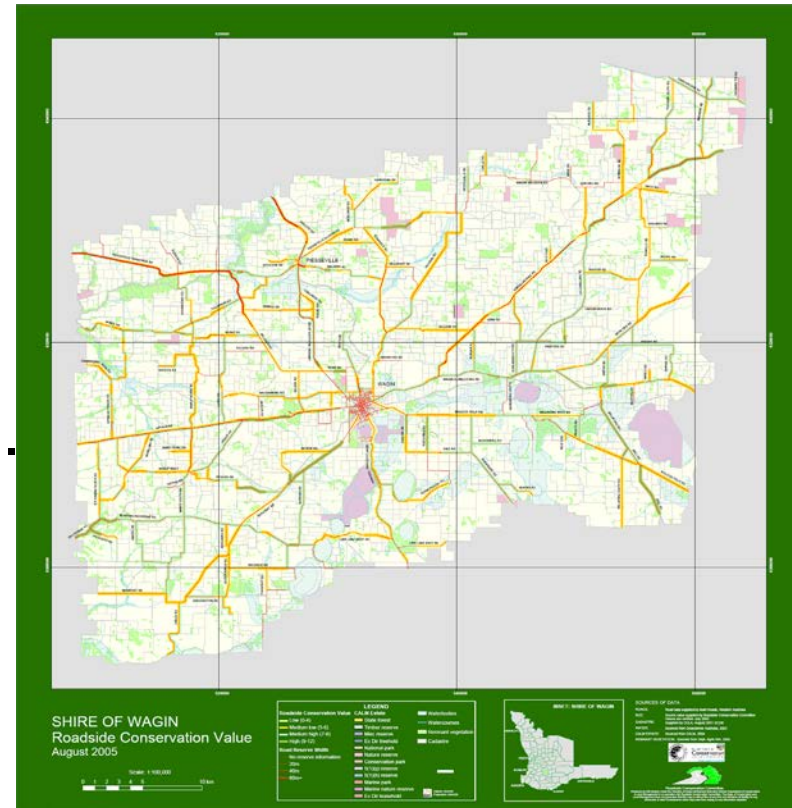


Nominated Weeds in Roadsides



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

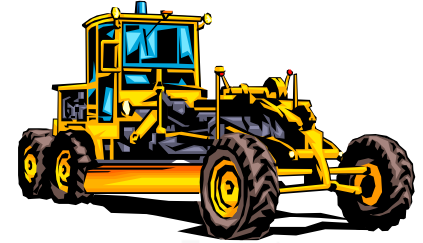


The future of roadside values depends on the current management practices.

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

