

Roadside Vegetation Survey in Koorda



Roadside Conservation Committee

Roadside Surveys

Determining conservation status.

Snap-shot study.

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

- ✓ Conducted from March to August 2006.
- ✓ 89.5% (975.7km) of Koorda Shire's 1085km of roads were surveyed.
- ✓ Assessed by the RCC and maps produced via a Geographic Information System (GIS).



Roadside Surveys

They completed
over 70 hours of
survey work!

The roadside surveyors were:

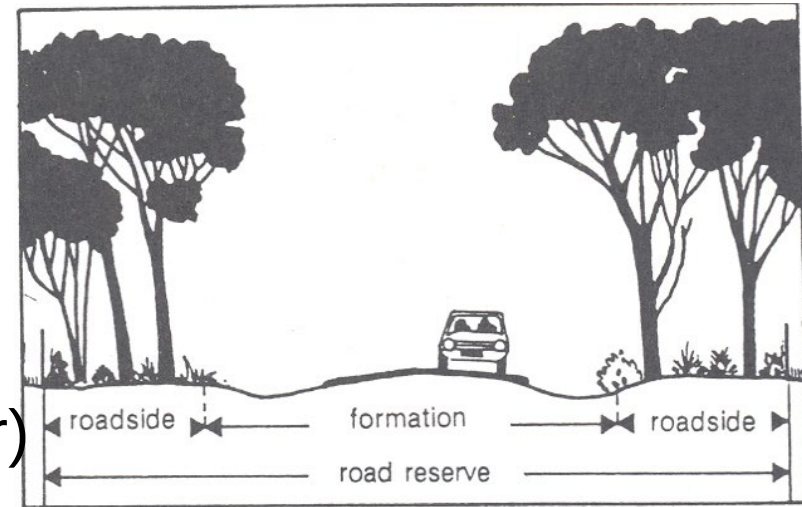
Hannah Sadler
Ricky Storer
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Colleen Scally
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Roadside Attributes

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



- 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

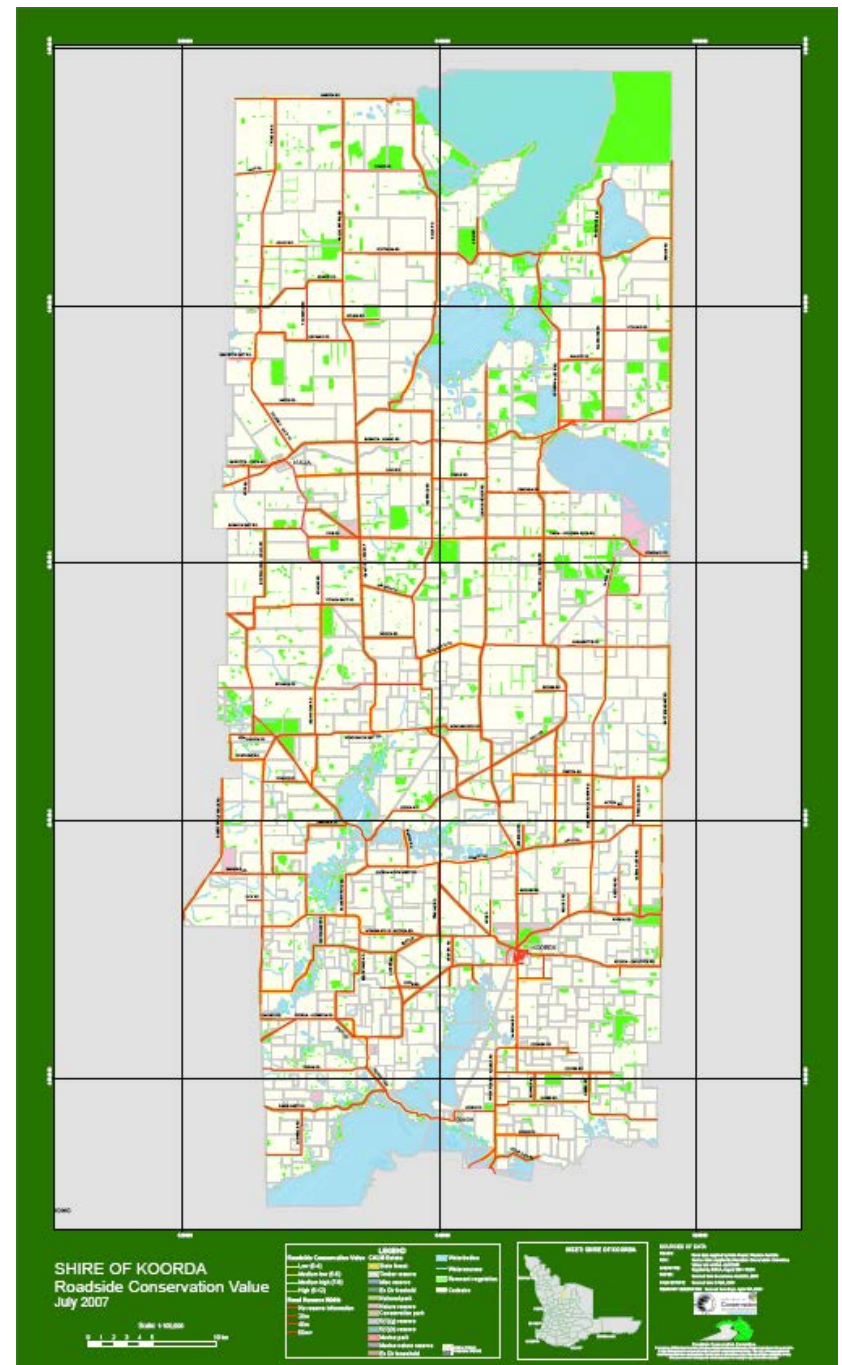


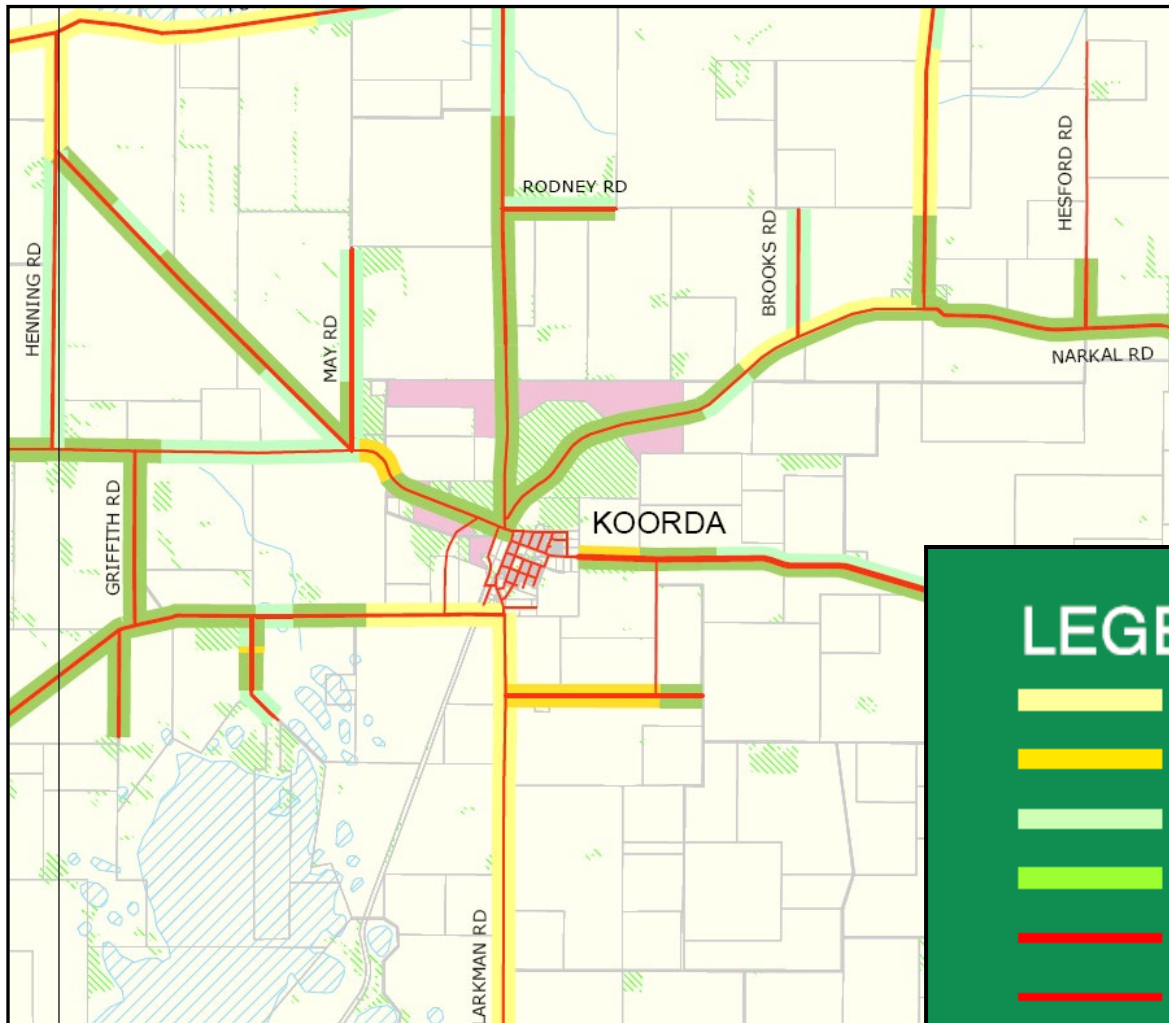
Using the RCV Map

- ✓ 6 weed overlays
- ✓ Available in 3 formats
 - Hardcopy
 - Digitally
 - Shapefiles
- ✓ Display it
 - Shire works depot
 - Staff areas
 - Public places e.g. Library



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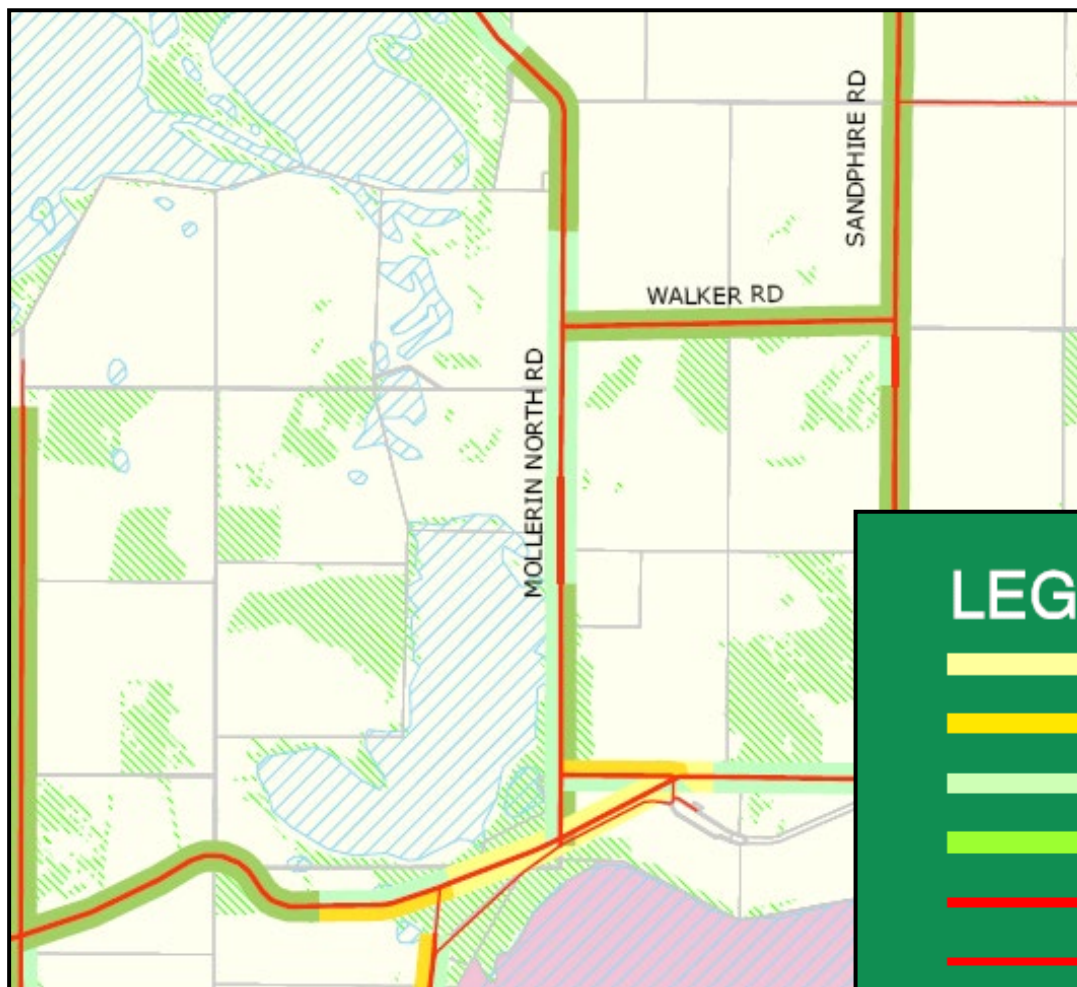


LEGEND

-  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



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RESULTS

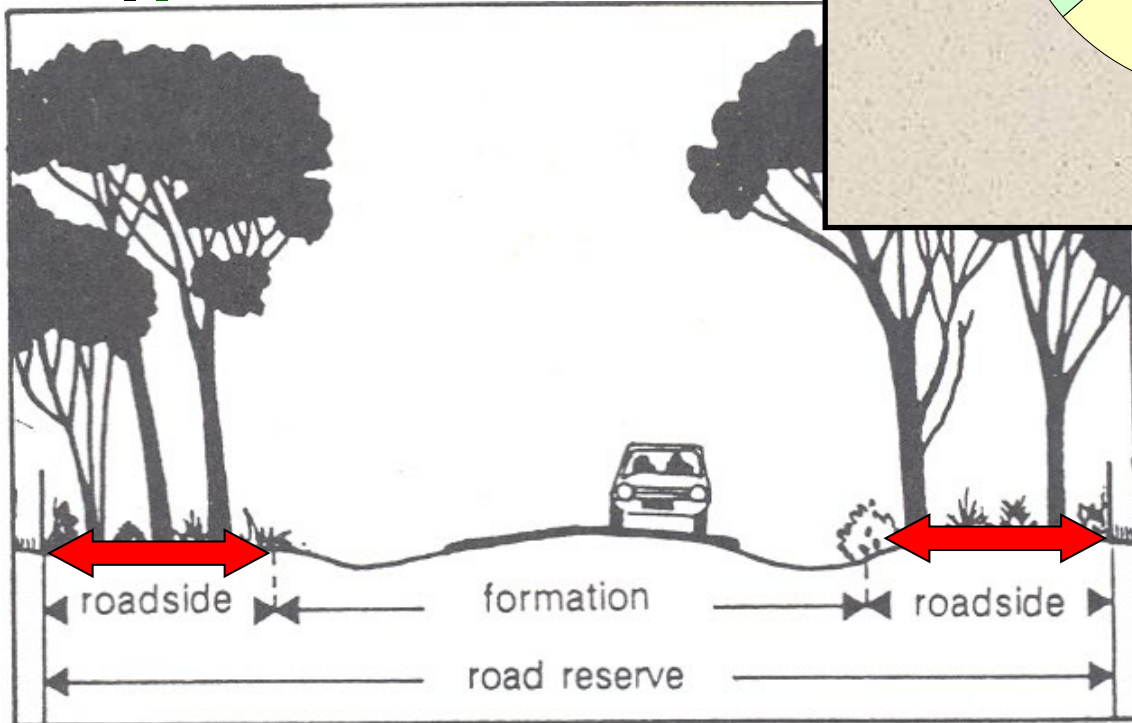
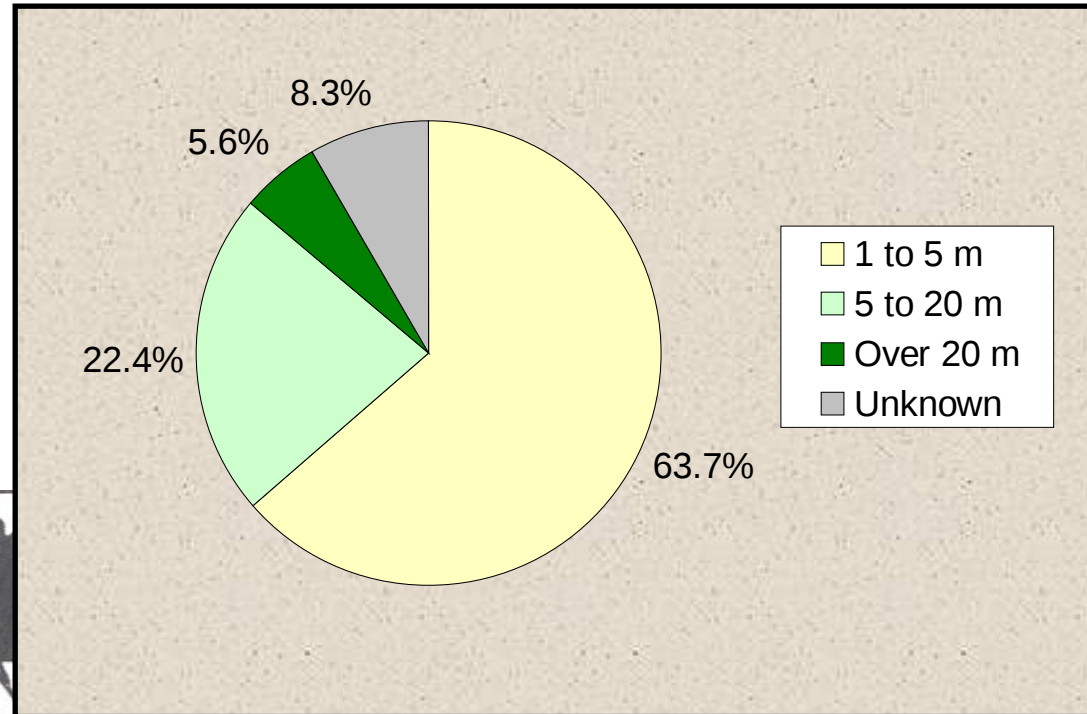


Ok

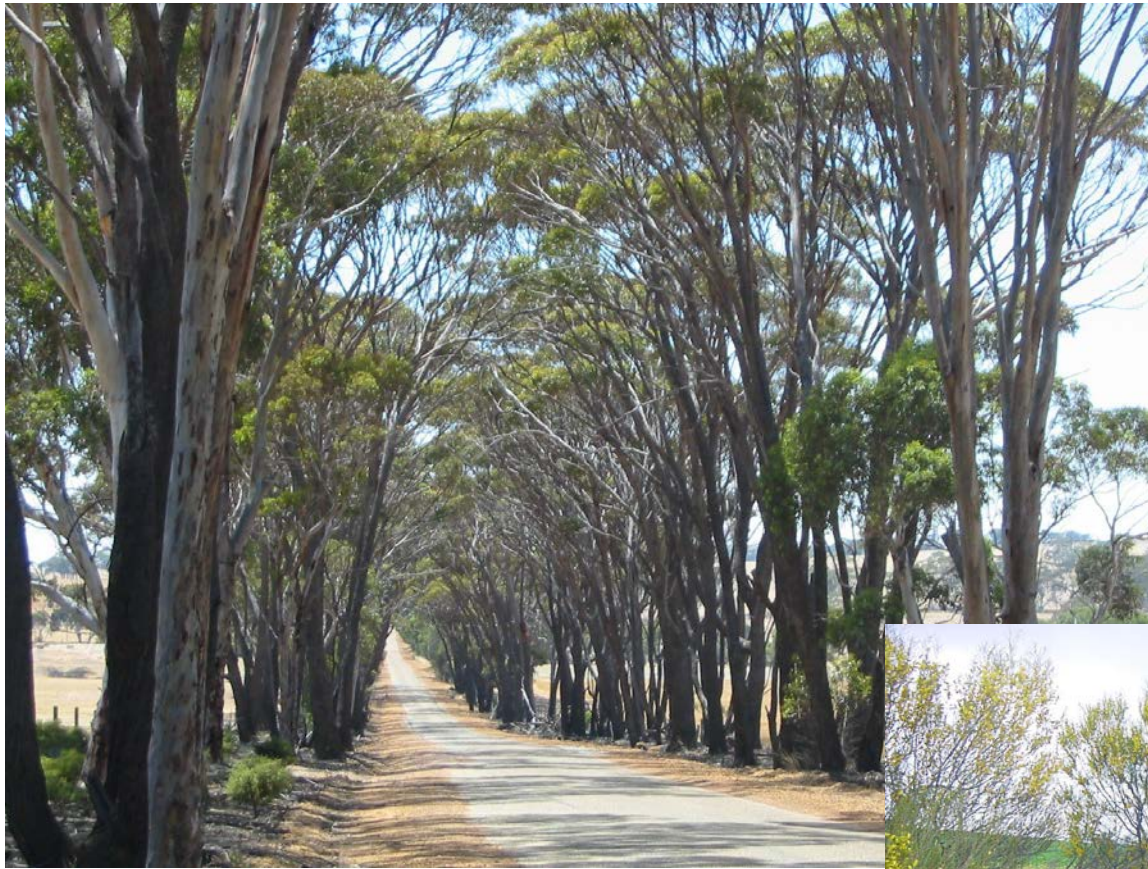
So what did we find?



Width of Vegetated Roadsides



Width of Vegetated Roadsides



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Remnant Vegetation



Shire	Total Area (ha)	% Vegetation Cover Remaining
Dowerin	188,786	4.3%
Mt Marshall	1,019,574	10.6%
Koorda	283,746	8.1%
Dalwallinu	723,681	12.0%
Wongan-Ballidu	333,908	5.2%
Trayning	164,255	8.4%

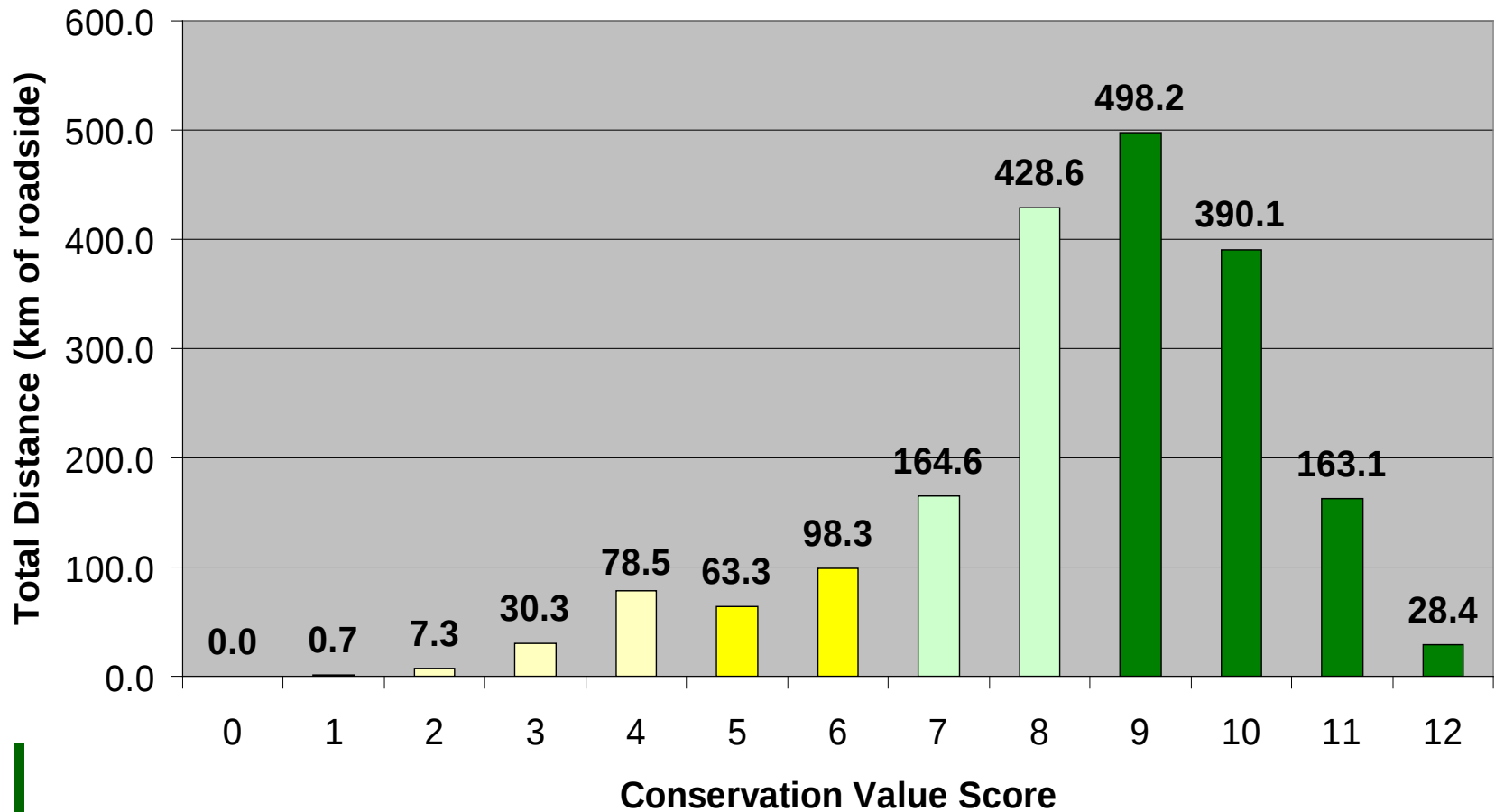
Vegetation types represented by less than 30% = ecologically endangered

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



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Conservation Value Scores

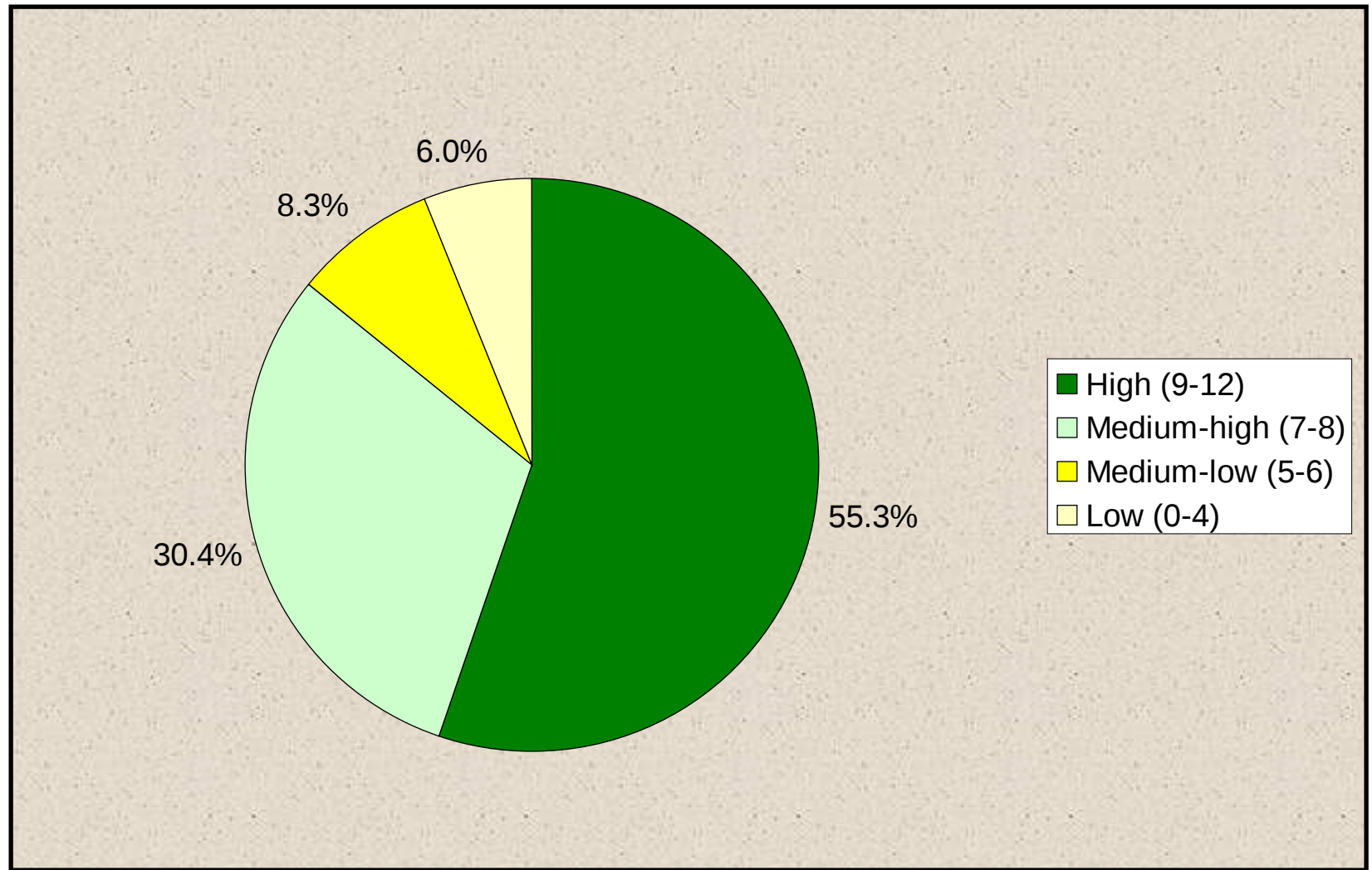


Note: These values combine left & right hand sides.

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Conservation Status

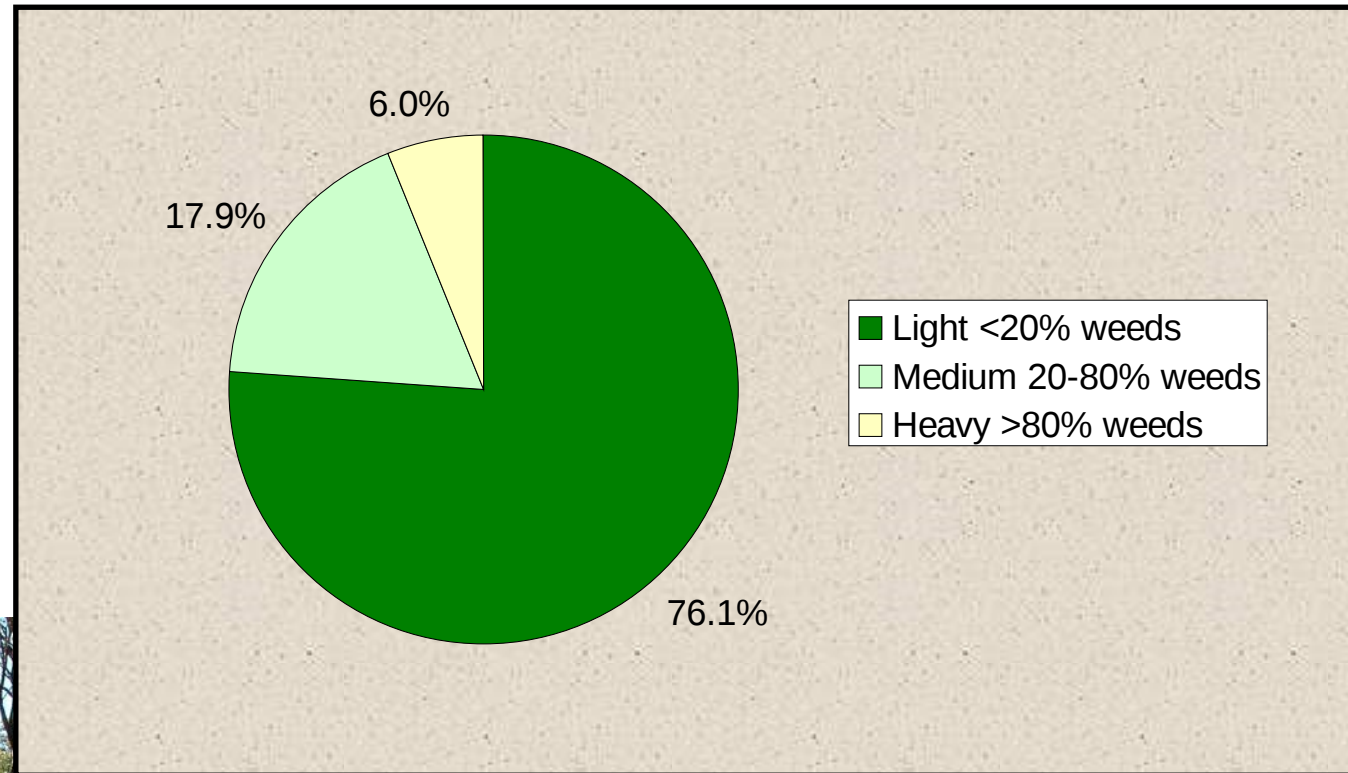


High Value Roads

- Kulja – Mollerin Rock Rd
- Commonwealth Rd
- Koorda – Kulja Rd
- Dukin West Rd
- Remlap Rd
- Best Rd



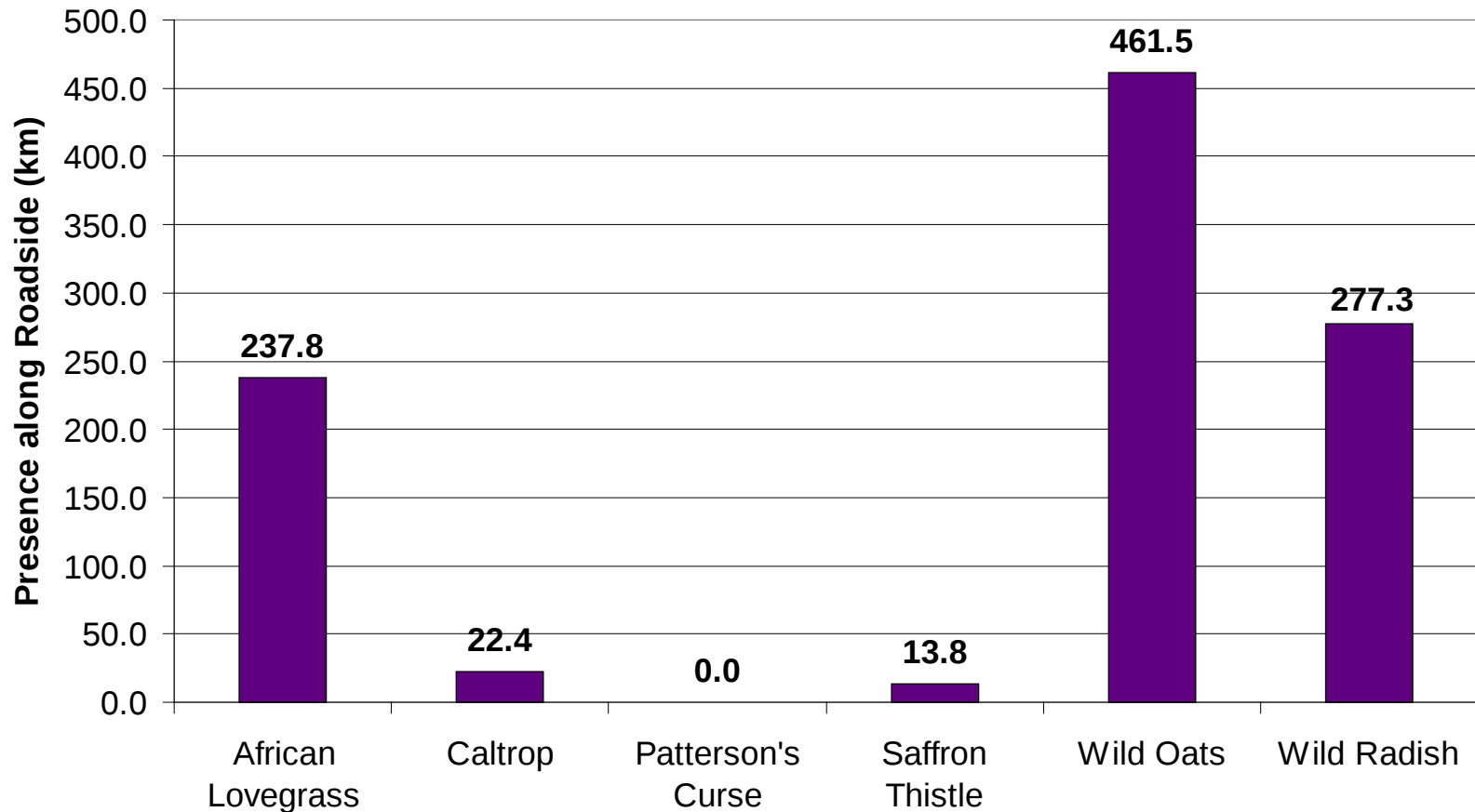
General Weed Presence



Heavy weeds (>80% of total plants)



Nominated Weeds in Roadsides

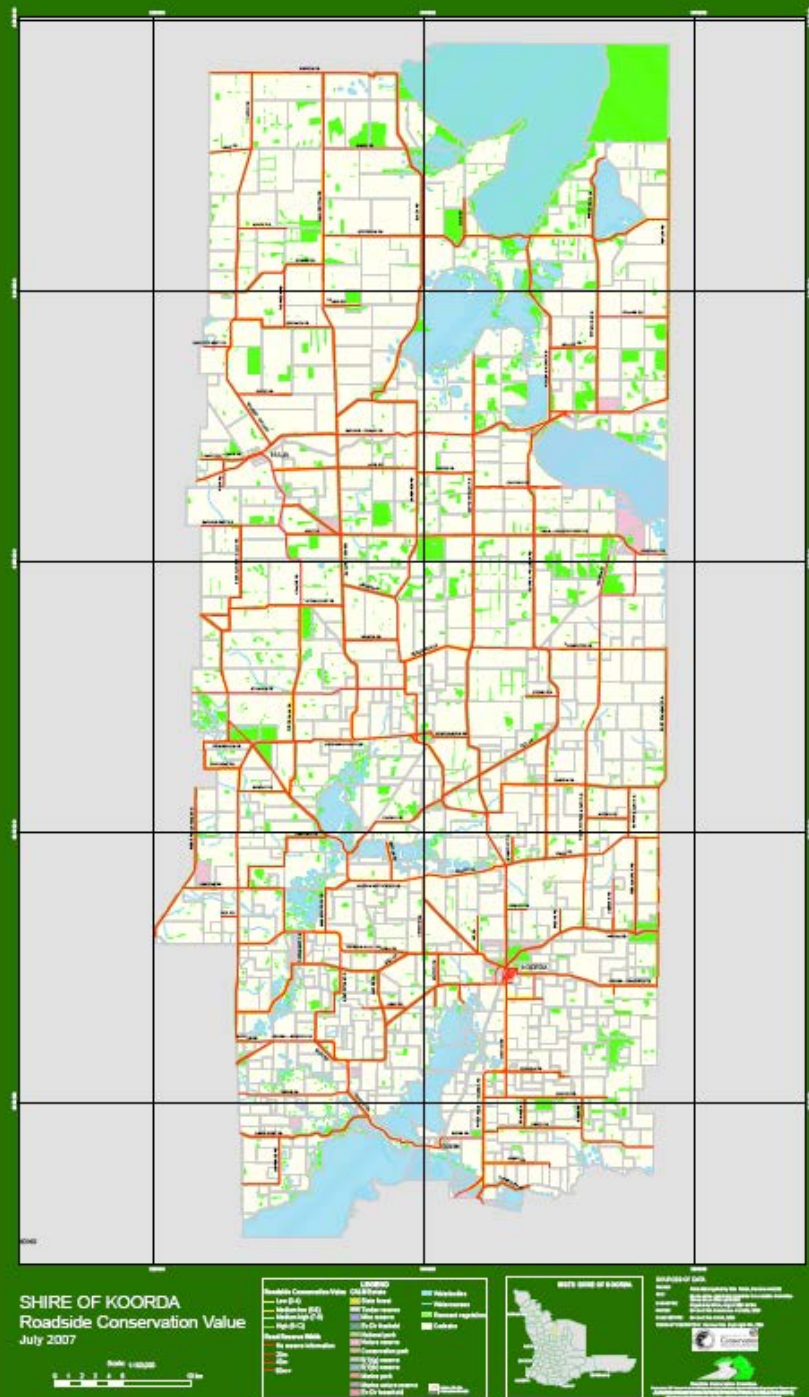


So, what is all of this?

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 and planning tool.



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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.



Roadside Conservation Committee

Contacting the RCC

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