

Roadside Vegetation Survey in Westonia



Roadside Conservation Committee

Roadside Surveys

Determining conservation status.

Snap-shot study.

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

- ✓ Conducted from October to November 2006.
- ✓ 96.7% (829.0km) of Westonia Shire's 857.6km of roads were surveyed.
- ✓ Assessed by the RCC and maps produced via a Geographic Information System (GIS).



Roadside Surveys

They completed
over 41 hours of
survey work!

The roadside surveyors were:

Pauline West

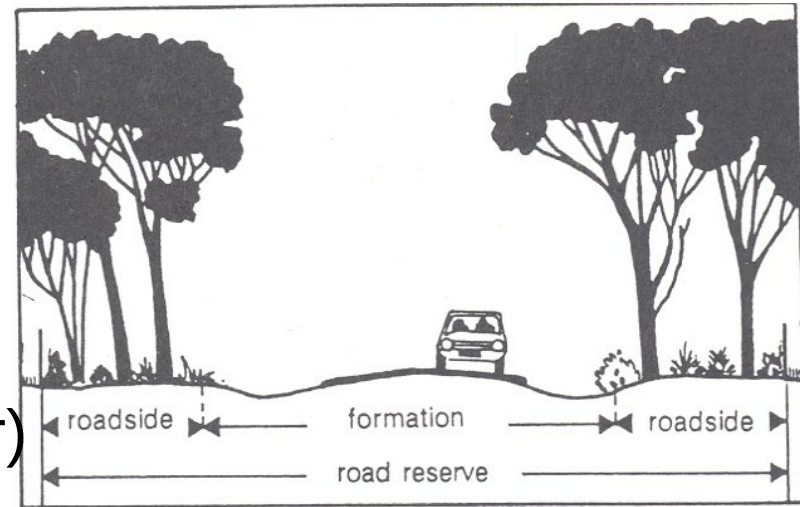
Sara Bright



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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

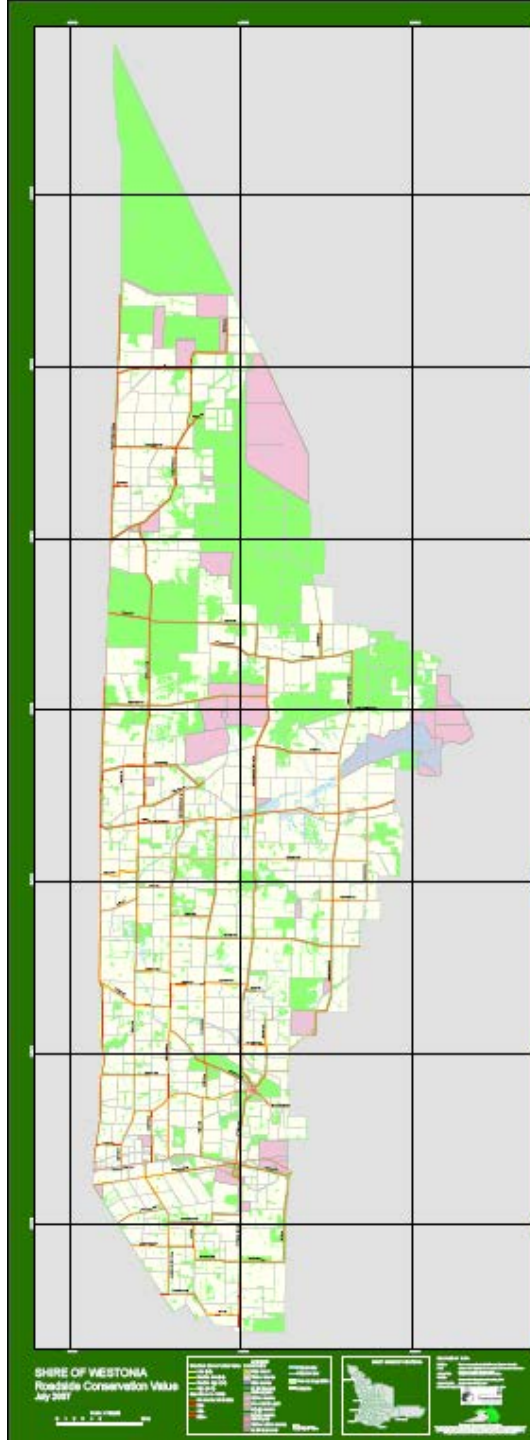


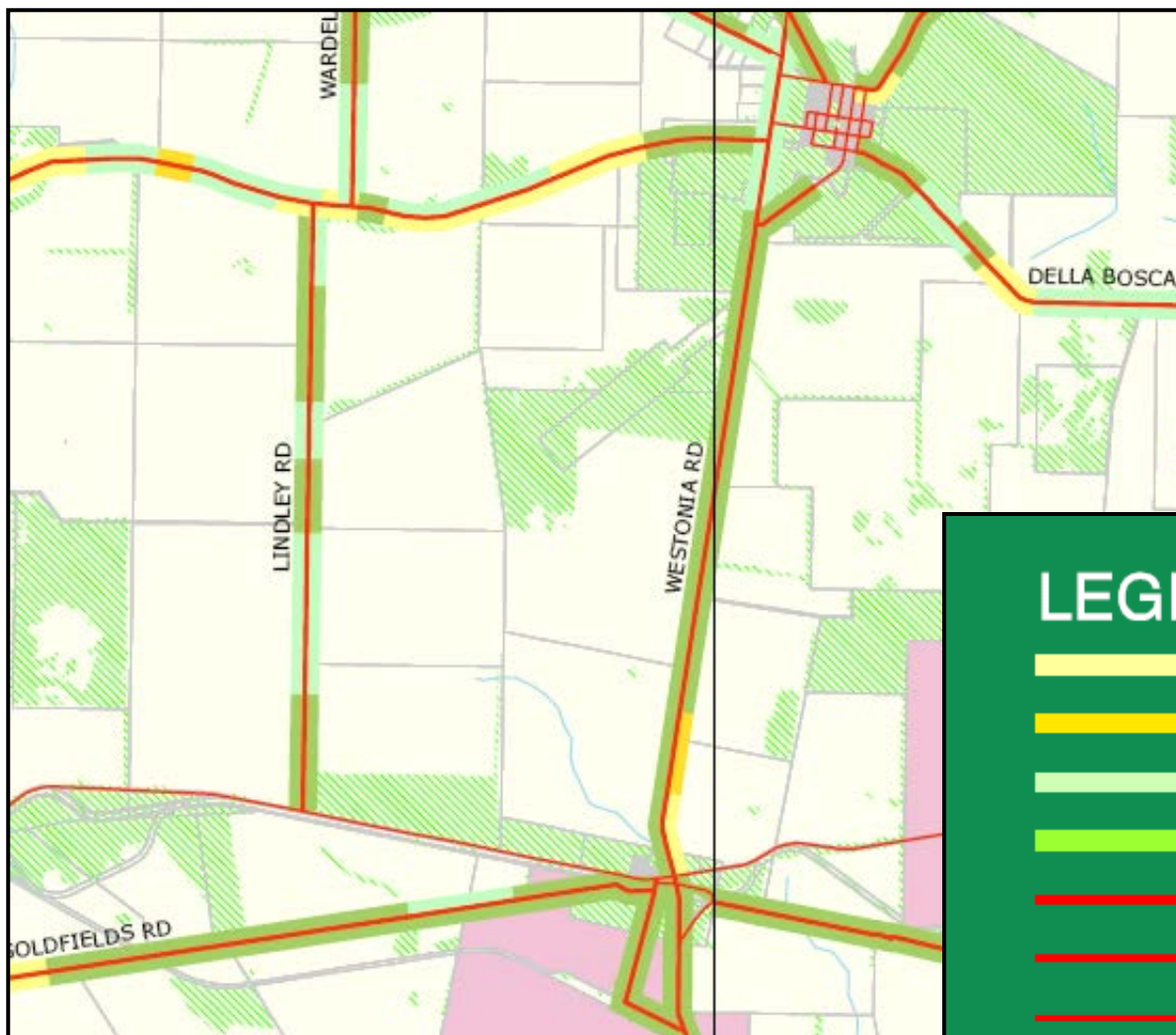
Using the RCV Map

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

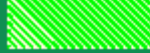


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LEGEND

-  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

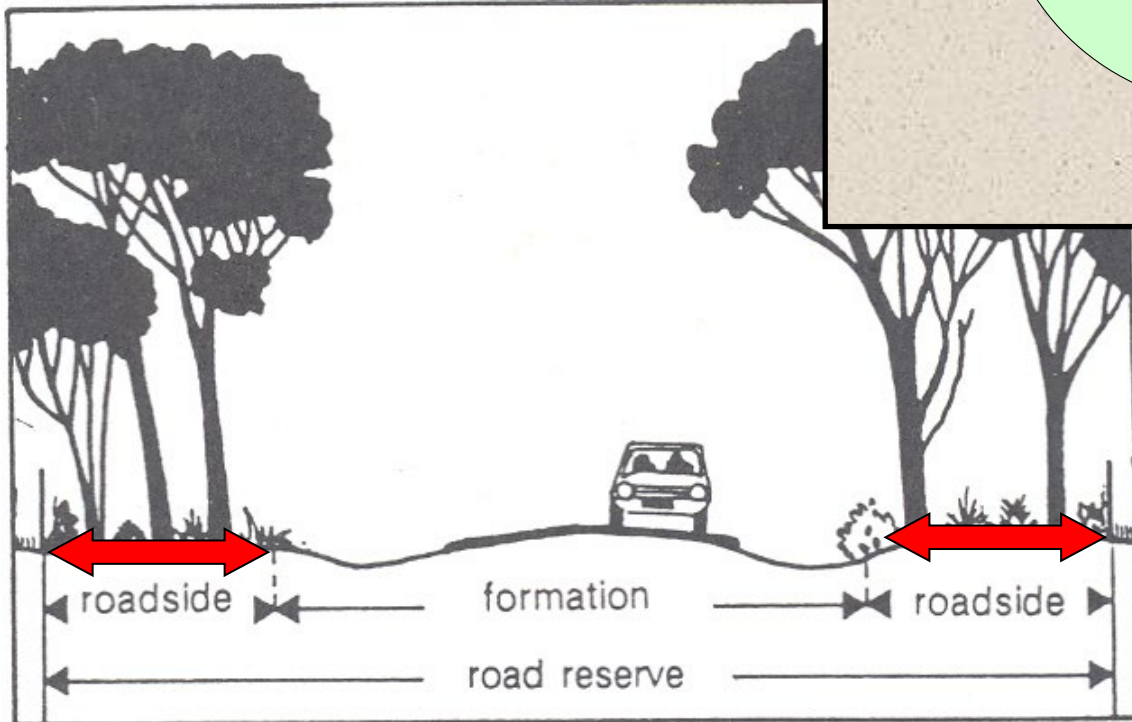
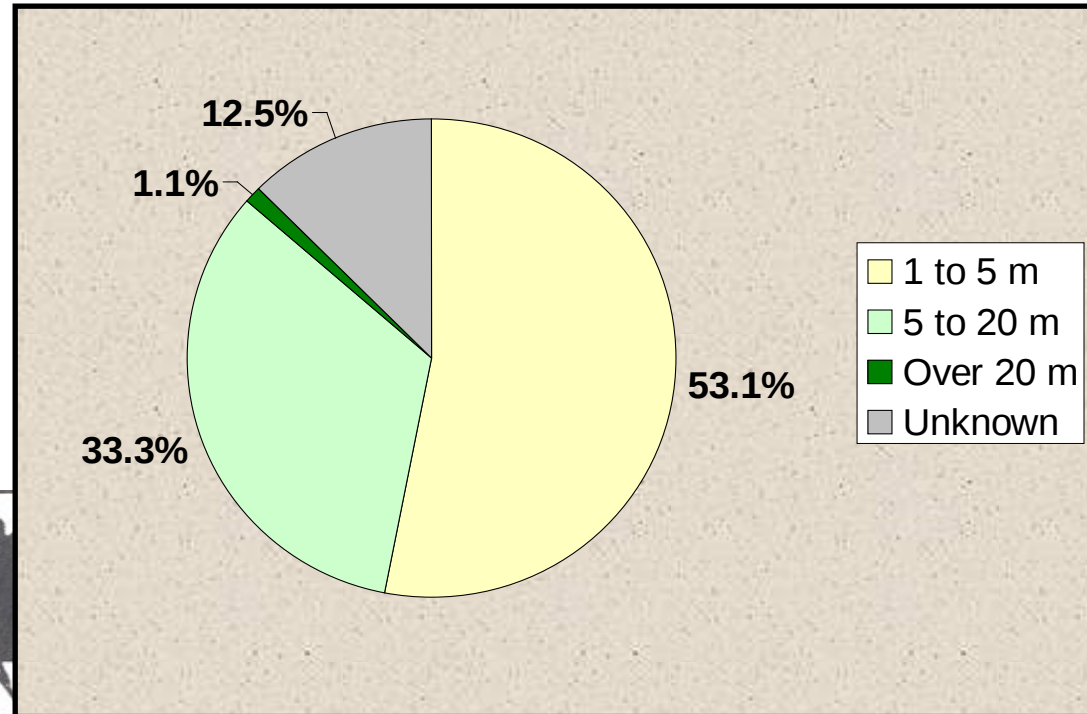


Ok

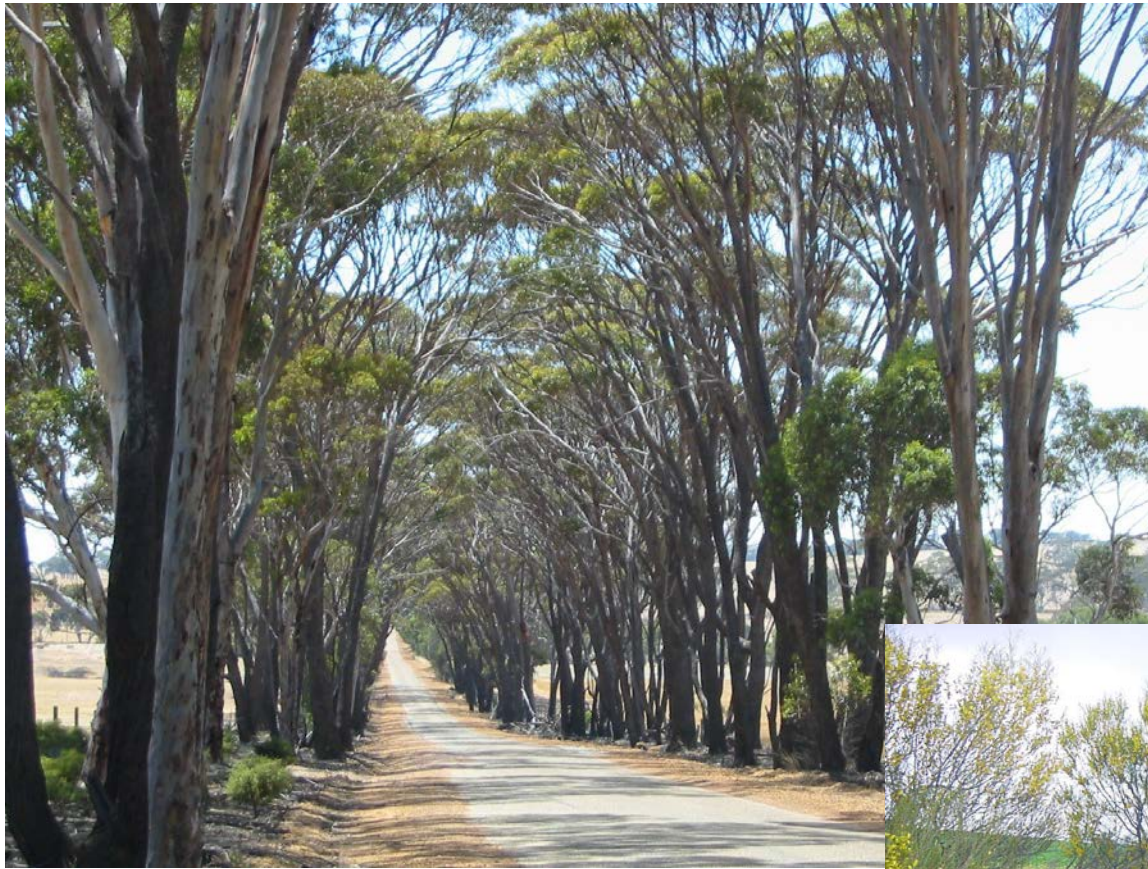
So what did we find?



Width of Vegetated Roadsides



Width of Vegetated Roadsides



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Remnant Vegetation



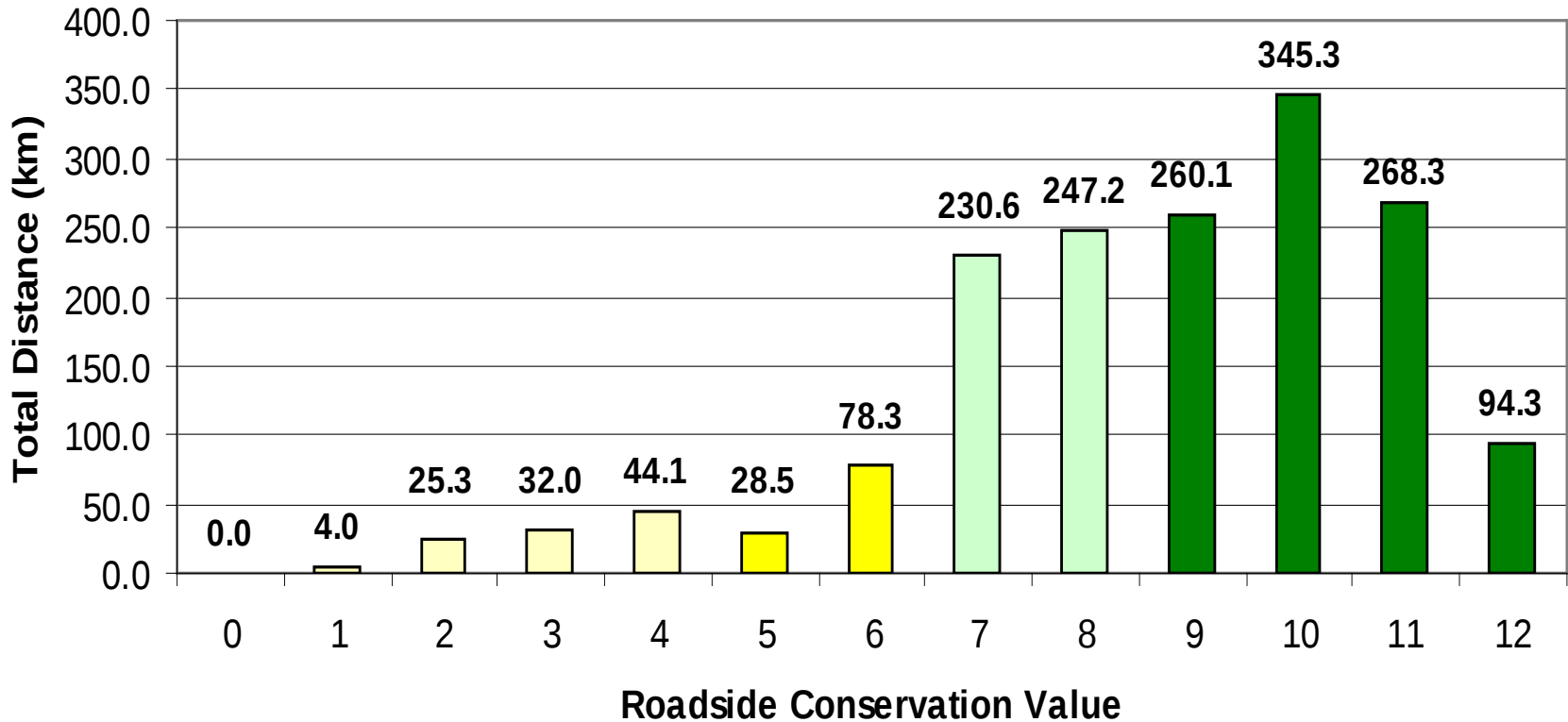
Shire	Total Area (ha)	% Vegetation Cover Remaining
Mukinbudin	342,575	14.0%
Nungarin	117,004	15.2%
Westonia	329,601	21.5%
Merredin	326,610	11.8%
Yilgarn	3,067,793	23.6%

Vegetation types represented by less than 30% = ecologically endangered

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



Conservation Value Scores

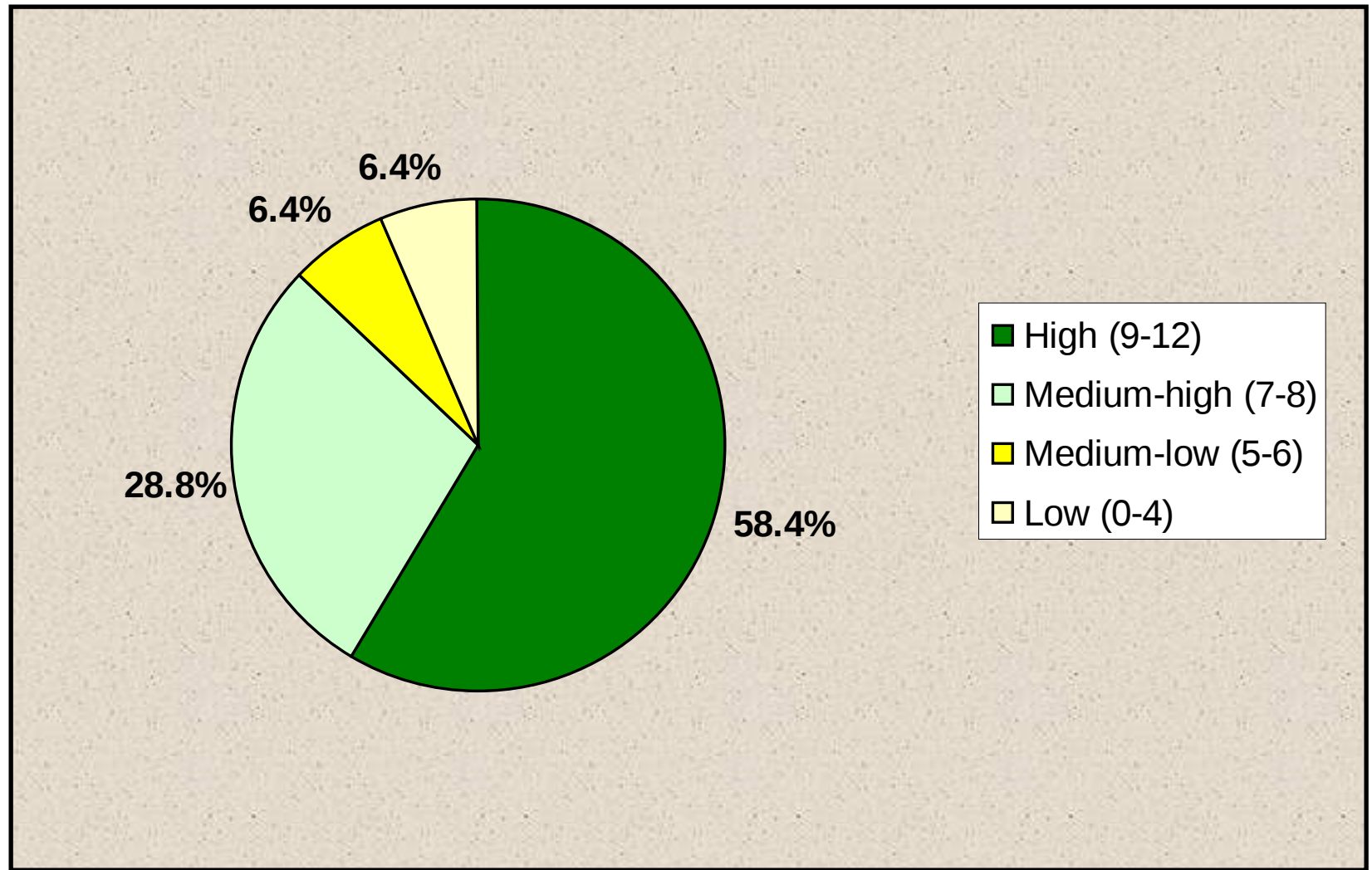


Note: These values combine left & right hand sides.

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Conservation Status

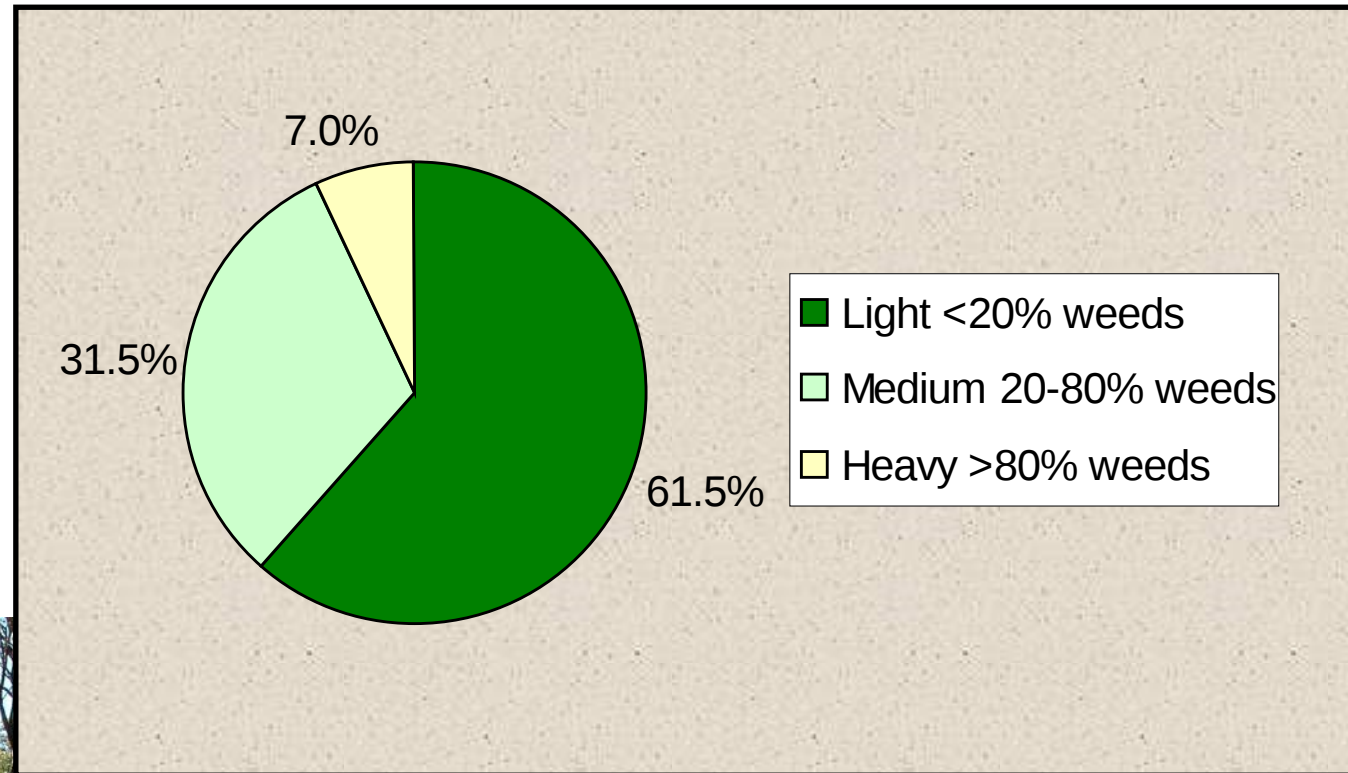


High Value Roads

- Grosser Rd
- Masefield Rd
- Hobbs Rd
- Elachbutting Rd
- Echo Valley Rd
- Brown Rd
- Farina Rd
- Morrison Rd
- Hunter West Rd
- Hunter Rd
- Duncan Rd
- Boodarockin Rd
- Lake Deborah Rd
- Warralakin North Rd
- Warrachuppin North Rd
- Carrabin South Rd
- Webb Rd
- Poole Rd
- George Rd
- English Rd
- Clothier Rd
- Hodgeson Rd
- Henderson Rd



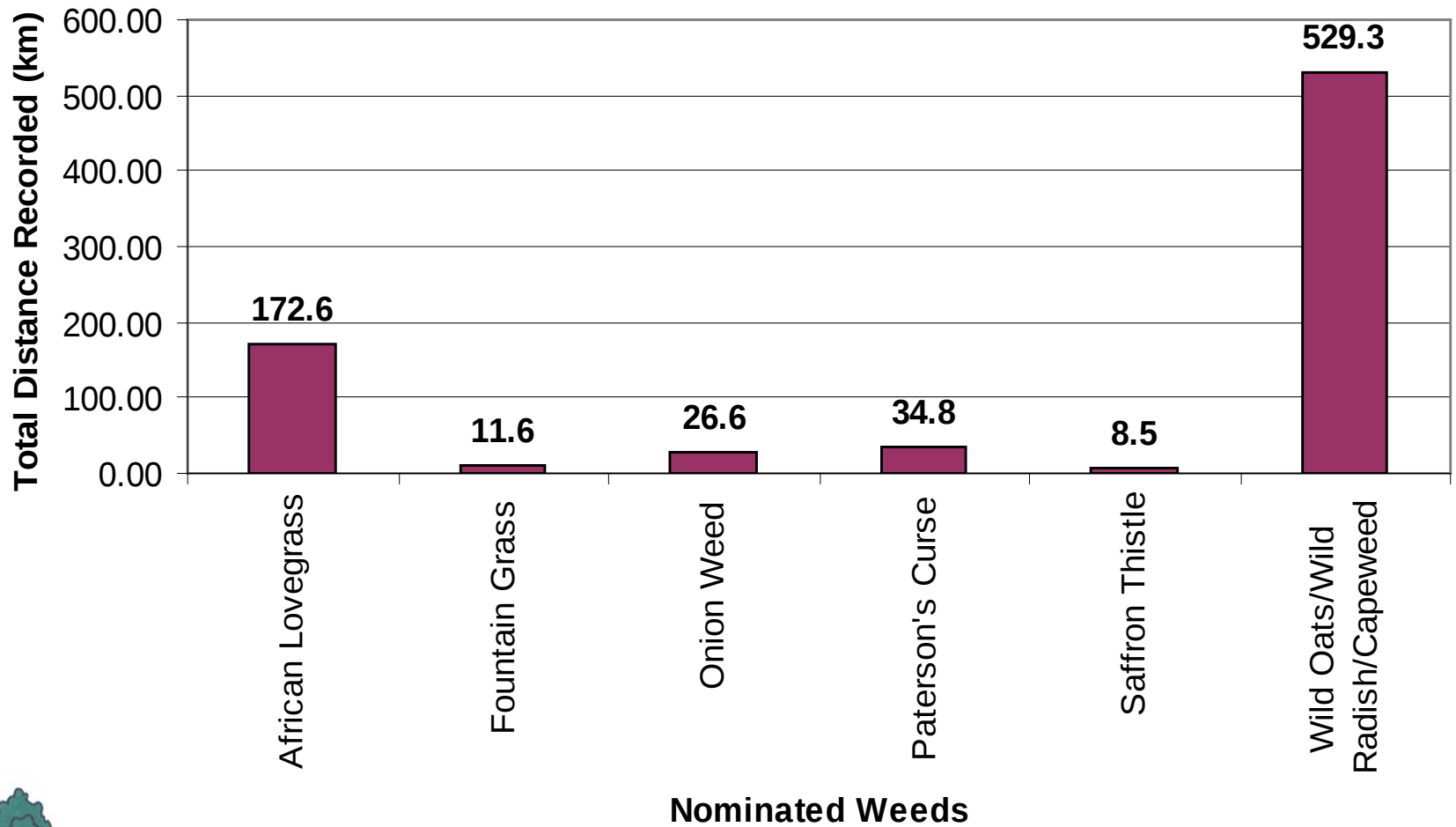
General Weed Presence



Heavy weeds (>80% of total plants)

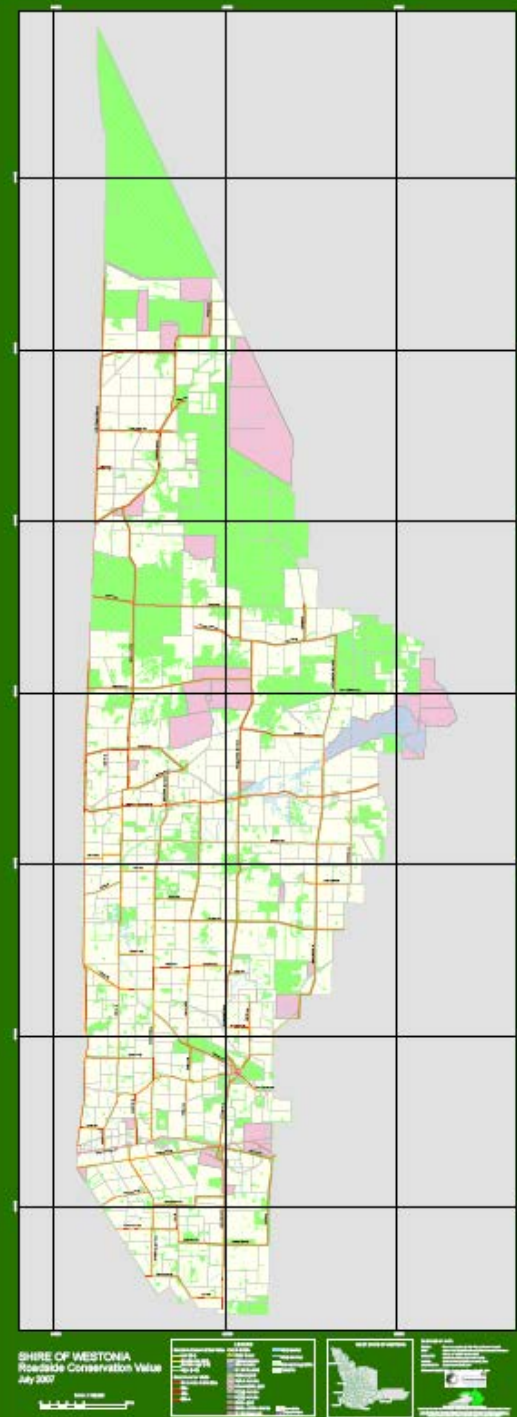


Nominated Weeds in Roadsides



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.



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

For further information please contact:

Cressida Wilson
Executive Officer

Roadside Conservation Committee

Phone: 9423 2423 Fax: 9334 0199

E-mail: rcc@dec.wa.gov.au

Rebecca Hayes
Technical Officer

Roadside Conservation Committee

Phone: 9423 2174 Fax: 9334 0145

E-mail: rcc@dec.wa.gov.au



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