

Roadside Vegetation Survey in Dowerin



Roadside Surveys



Determining conservation status.

Snap-shot study.

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

- ✓ Conducted October and November 2004.
- ✓ 85.2% (826 km) of Dowerin Shire's 969.4km of roads were surveyed.
- ✓ Assessed by the RCC and maps produced via a Geographic Information System (GIS).



Roadside Surveys



The roadside surveyors were:

Vanessa Malcolm

Beth Boase

Robert Boase

Ron Larkin

Debbie Larkin

Janelle Robinson

Kerry Robinson

Elaine Podmore

Anne Robson

Erin Slater

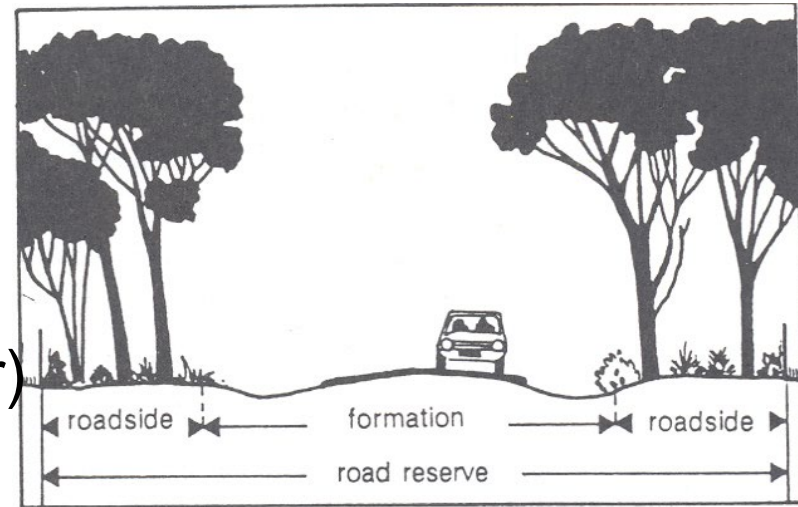


They contributed
many hours of
survey work!



Roadside Attributes

- Width of road reserve
- Width of vegetation
- 7 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.

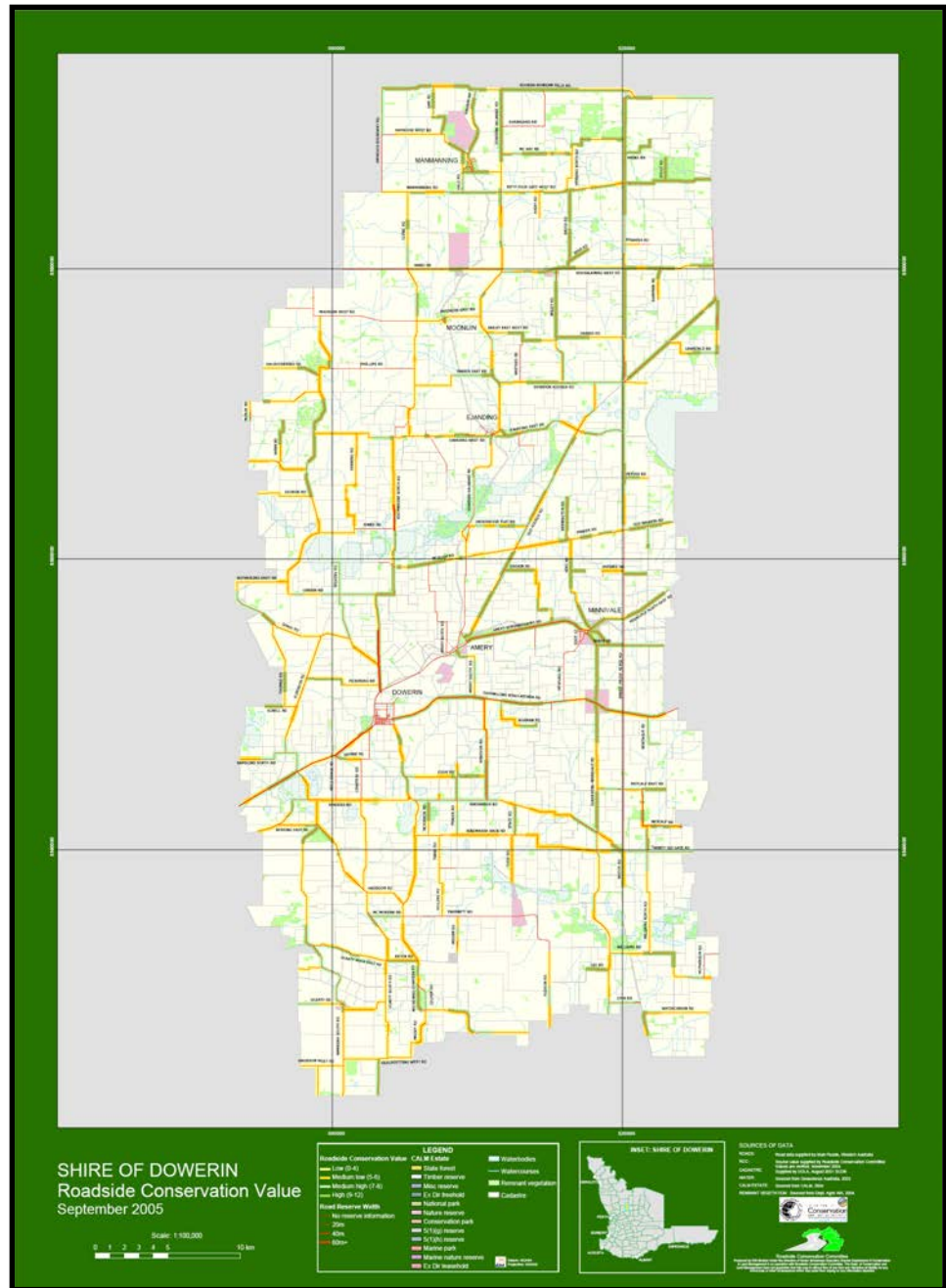
Added together = conservation value score: 0 – 12.

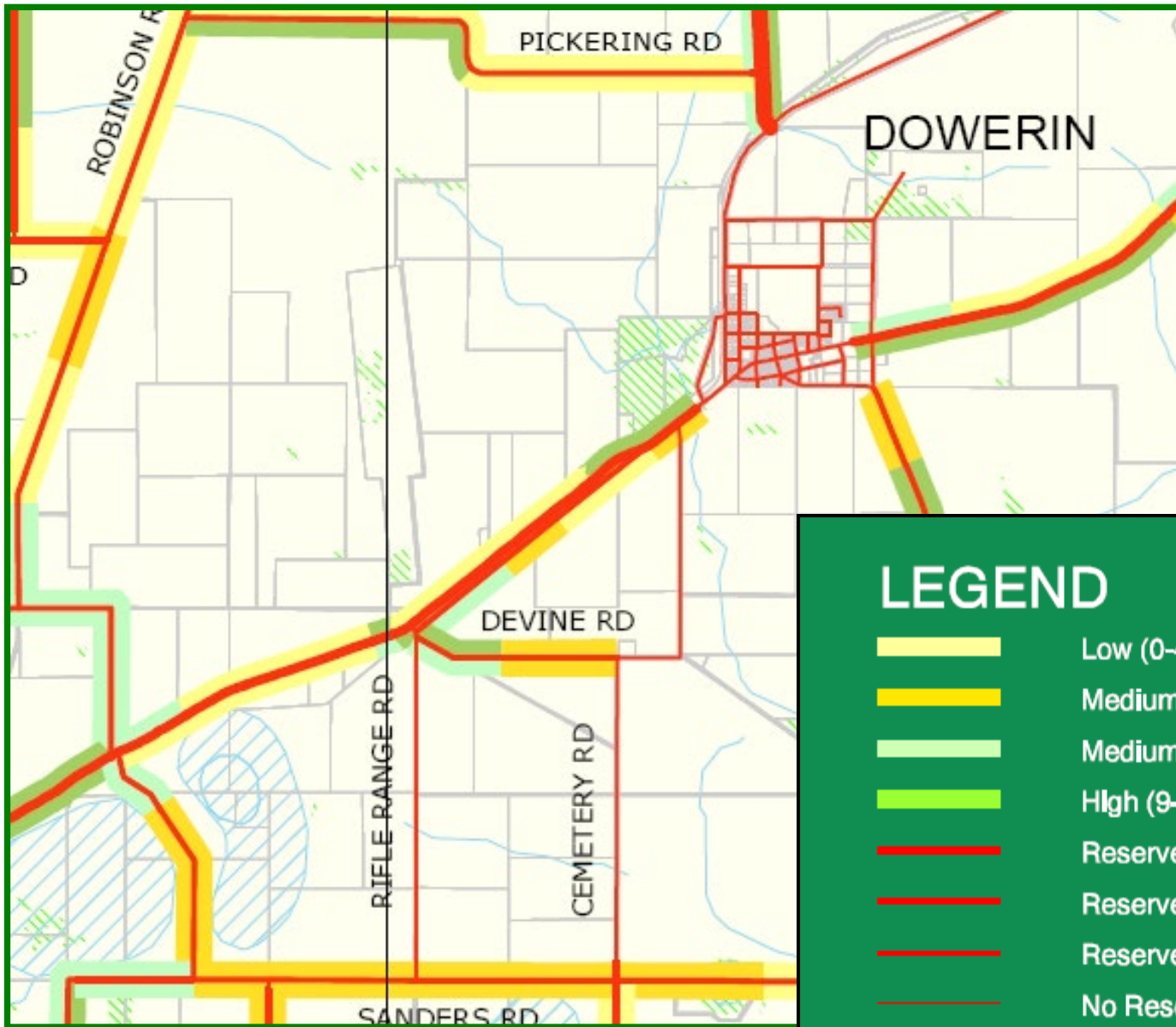
The conservation values, grouped into conservation status categories, are represented by:

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





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

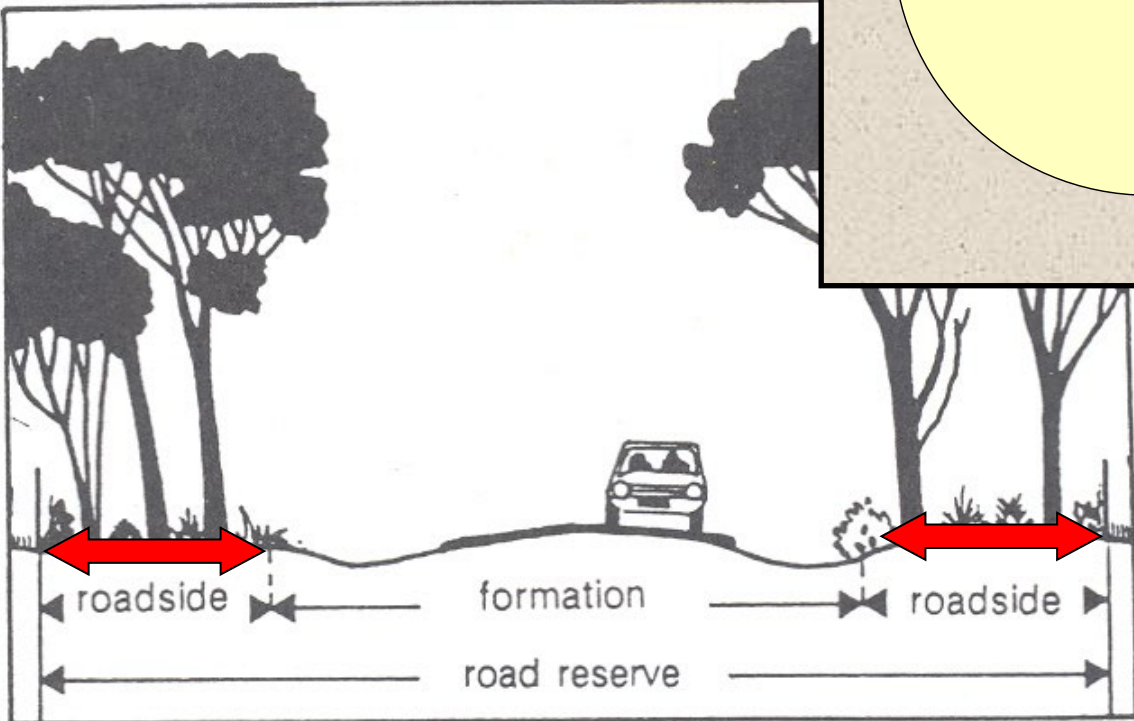
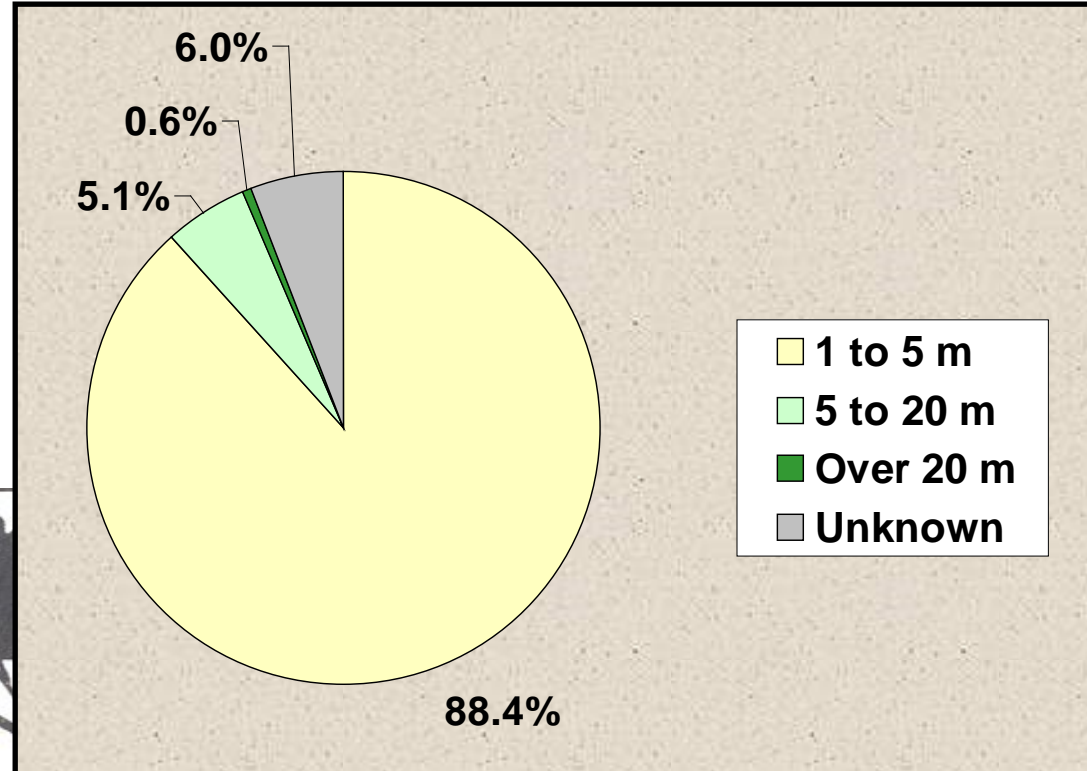


Ok

So what did we find?



Width of Vegetated Roadsides



Width of Vegetated Roadsides



Remnant Vegetation

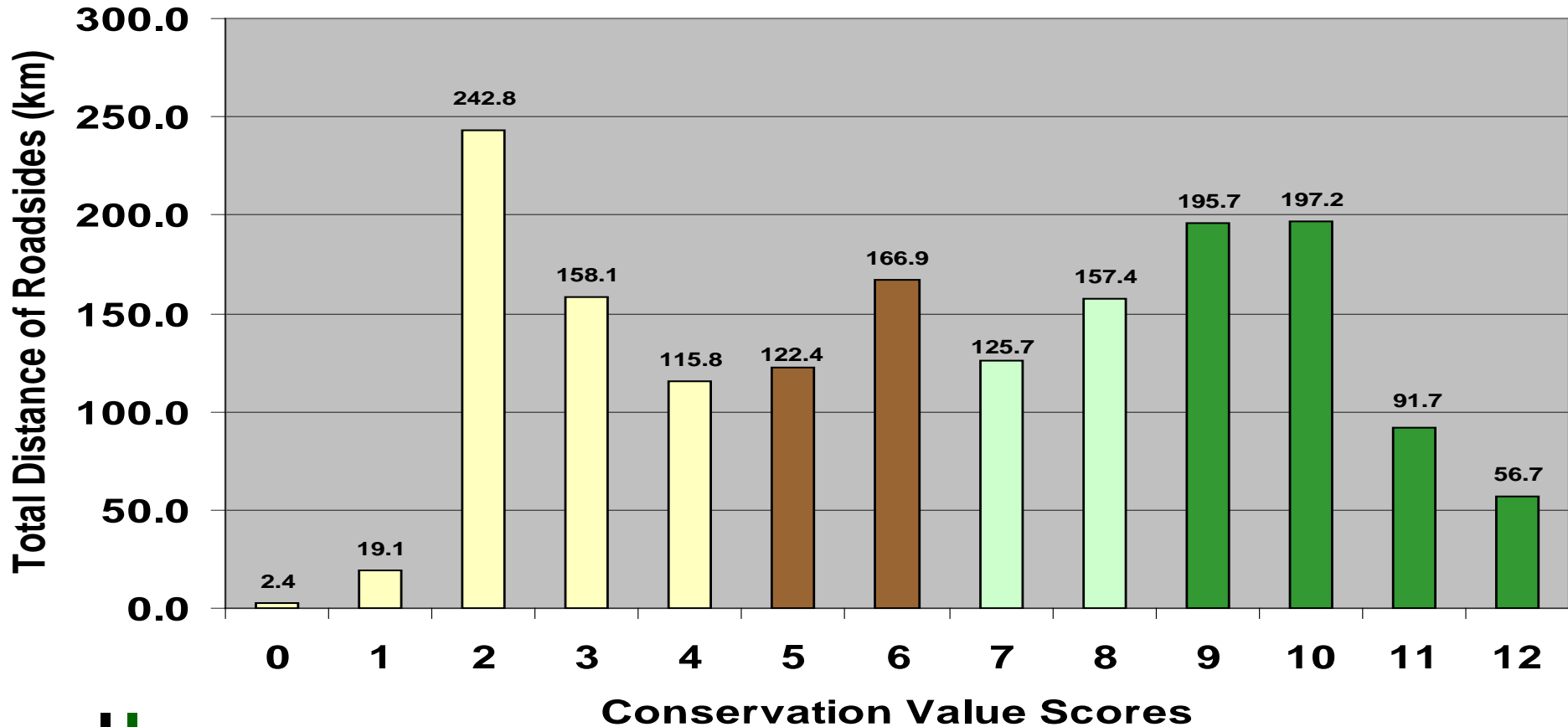


Shire	Total Area (ha)	% Vegetation Cover Remaining
Cunderdin	188,696	1.8%
Dowerin	188,786	4.3%
Goomalling	185,768	4.6%
Koorda	283,746	8.1%
Northam	141,410	22.1%
Wongan-Ballidu	333,908	5.2%
Wyalkatchem	158,004	4.9%

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



Conservation Value Scores

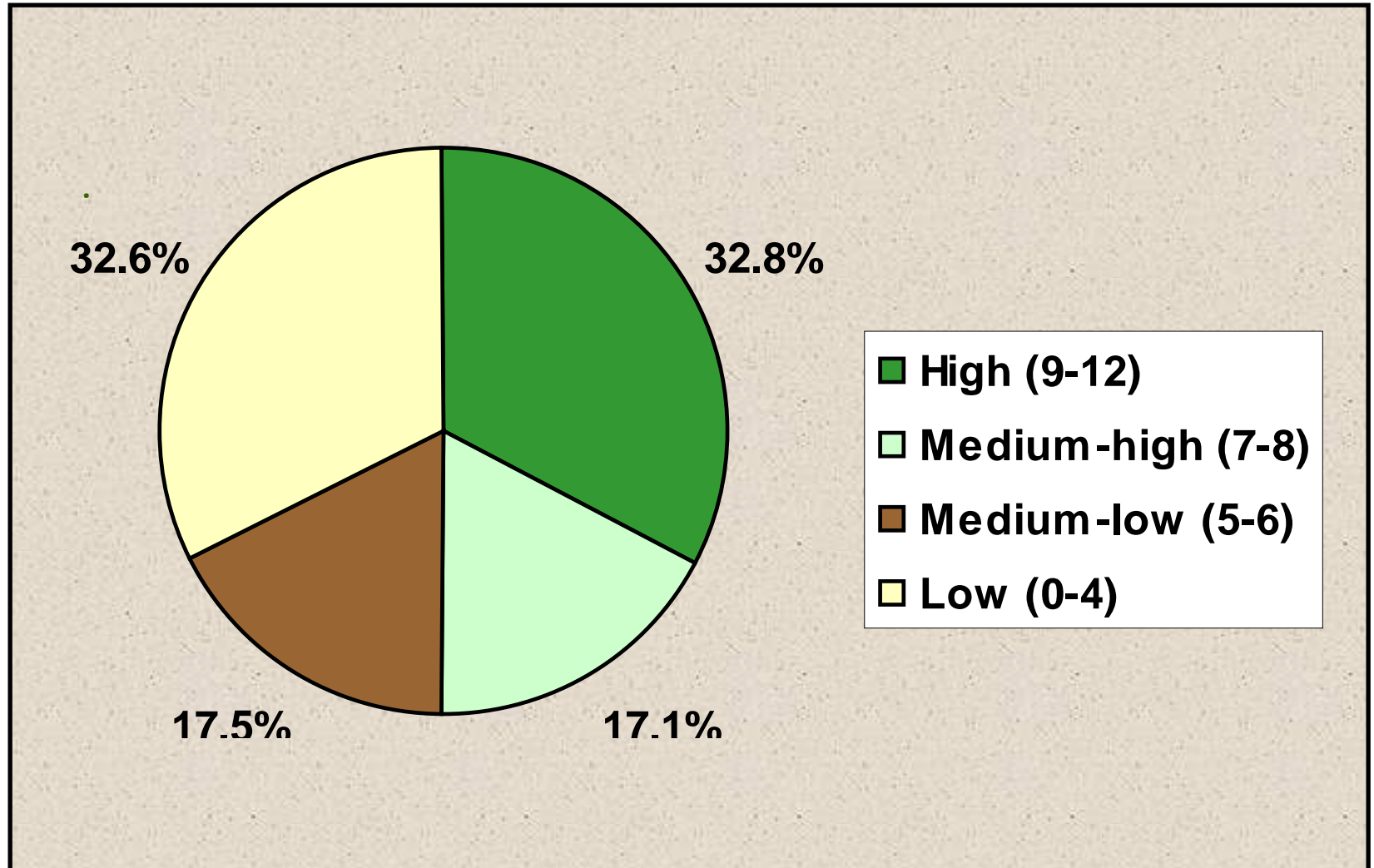


Note: These values combine left & right hand sides.

Roadside Conservation Committee



Conservation Status

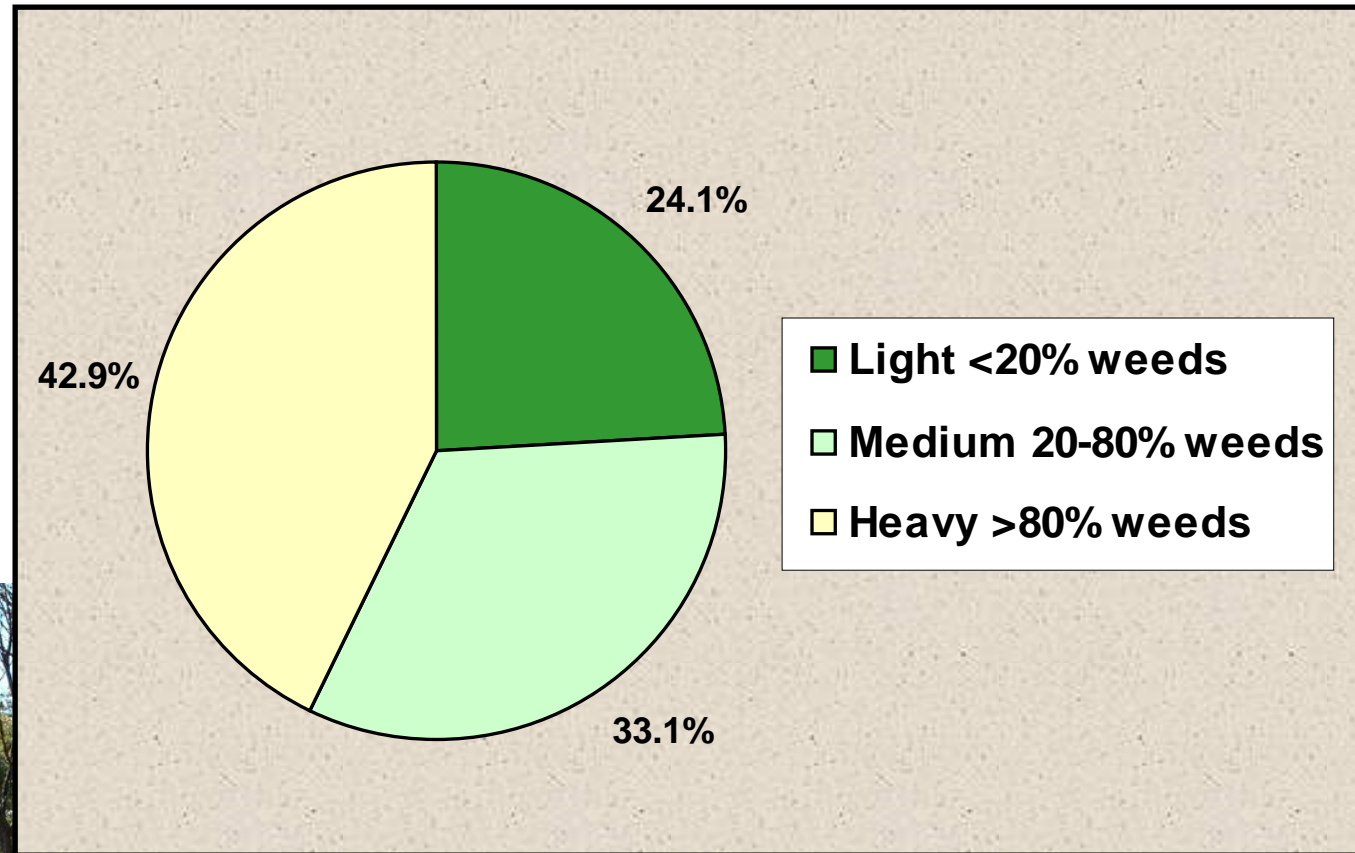


High Value Roads

- Amery-Benjabbering Rd
- Bebbington Rd
- Bruce Rd
- Dam Rd
- Fifty Four Gate West Rd
- Mains Rd
- Minnivale North East Rd
- Old Nalkain Rd
- Rabbit Proof Fence Rd
- Railway Rd
- Wheat Bin Rd



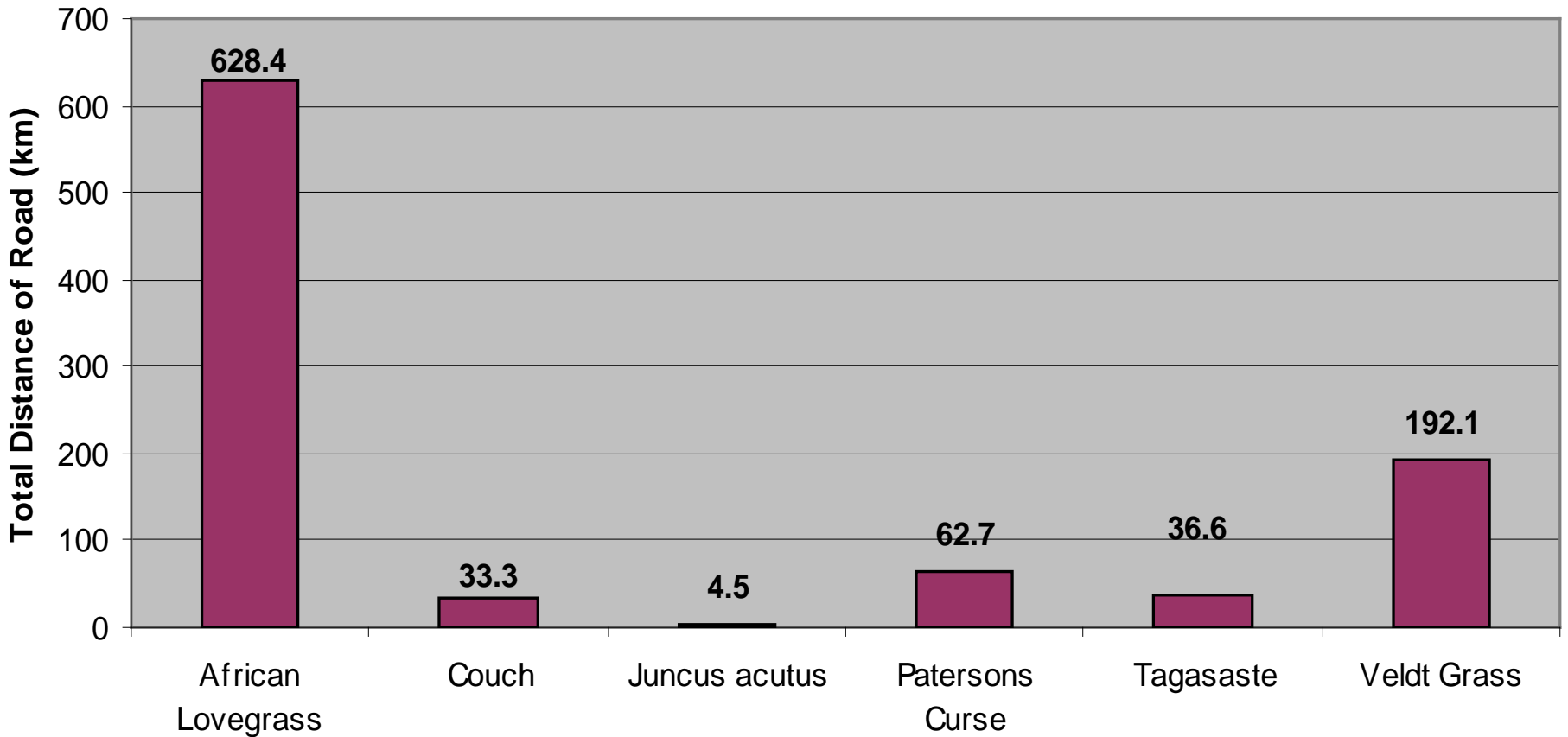
General Weed Presence



Heavy weeds (>80% of total plants)

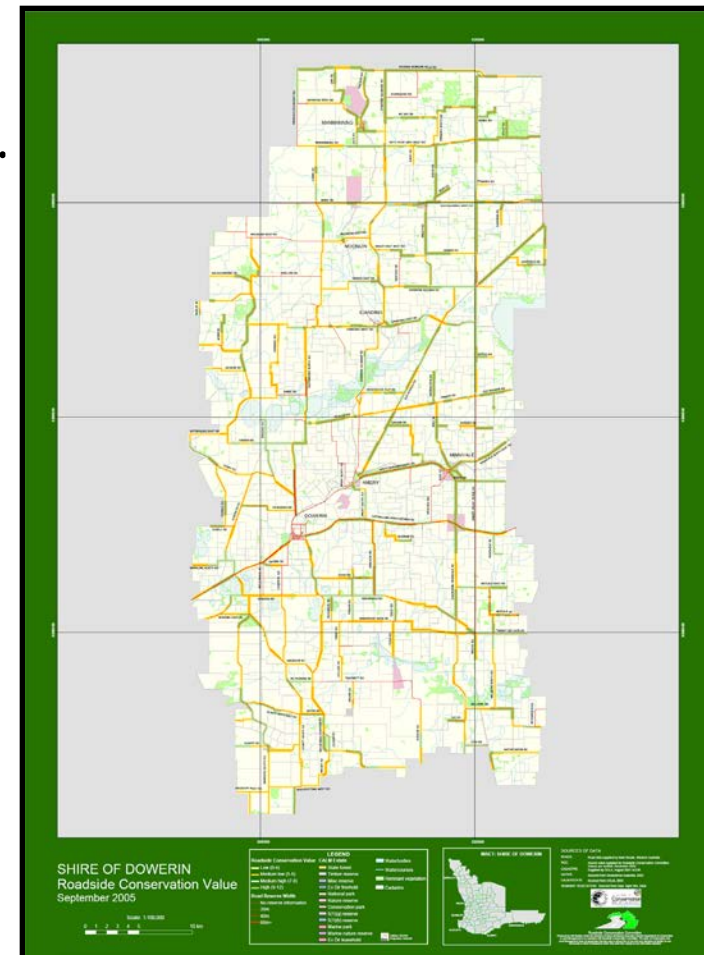


Nominated Weeds in Roadsides



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 & 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

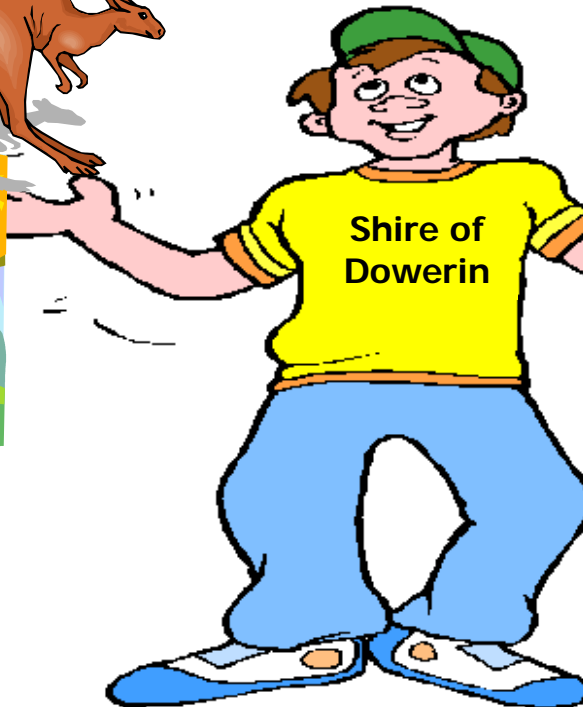
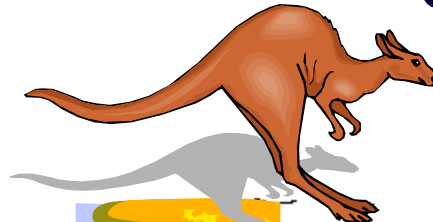
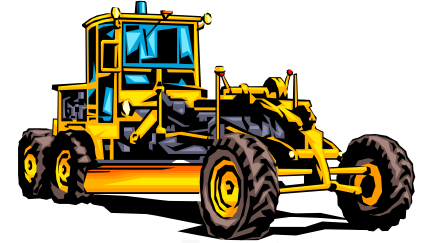


The future of roadside values depends on the current management practices.

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

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Roadside Conservation Committee

