

Mapping Roadside Conservation Value



The Roadside Conservation Committee

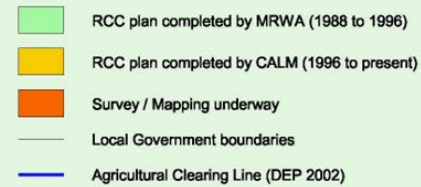


Roadside Surveys



 The Roadside Conservation Committee is working with the community, volunteer groups, Shires and Landcare representatives in coordinating roadside surveys.

 The aim: to survey and map all of the roadsides within the south west land division and outlying areas.





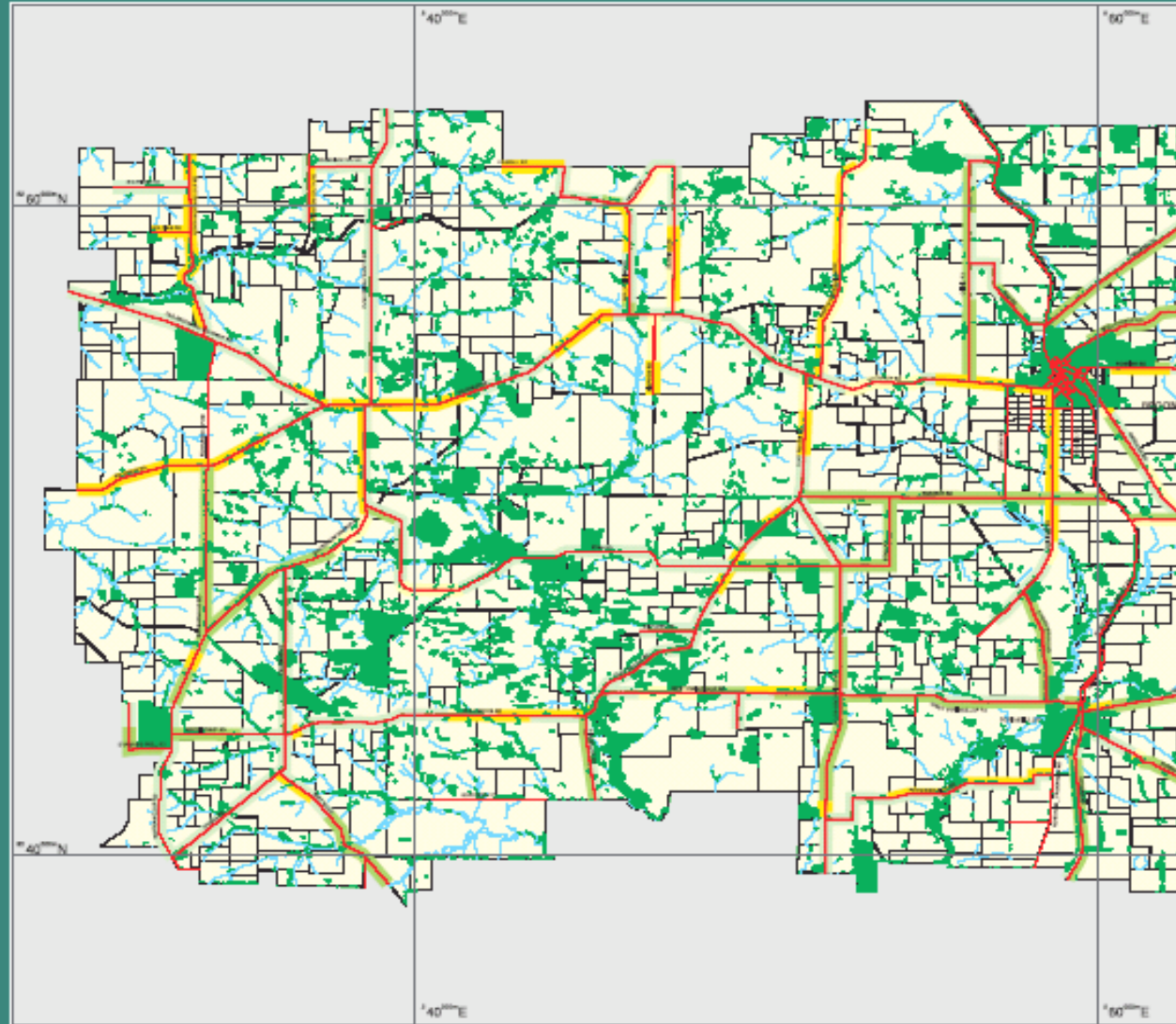
What Is the RCC's Role?

- ✓ Provide **training** for community volunteers,
- ✓ **Process** the roadside data,
- ✓ **Assess** the conservation value of roadsides,
- ✓ **Supply** the community group & Shire with Roadside Conservation Value maps and weed overlays,
- ✓ Provide a summary **report** outlining the results of the roadside survey

What Information Is Recorded?

- ✓ Width of road reserve
- ✓ Width of vegetation on roadside
- ✓ Structure of native vegetation
- ✓ Extent/continuity of native vegetation
- ✓ Weeds, general and specific
- ✓ Adjoining land use
- ✓ Presence of utilities
- ✓ Landscape value
- ✓ Conservation value





SHIRE OF BROOMEHILL **Roadside Conservation Value** **April 2002**

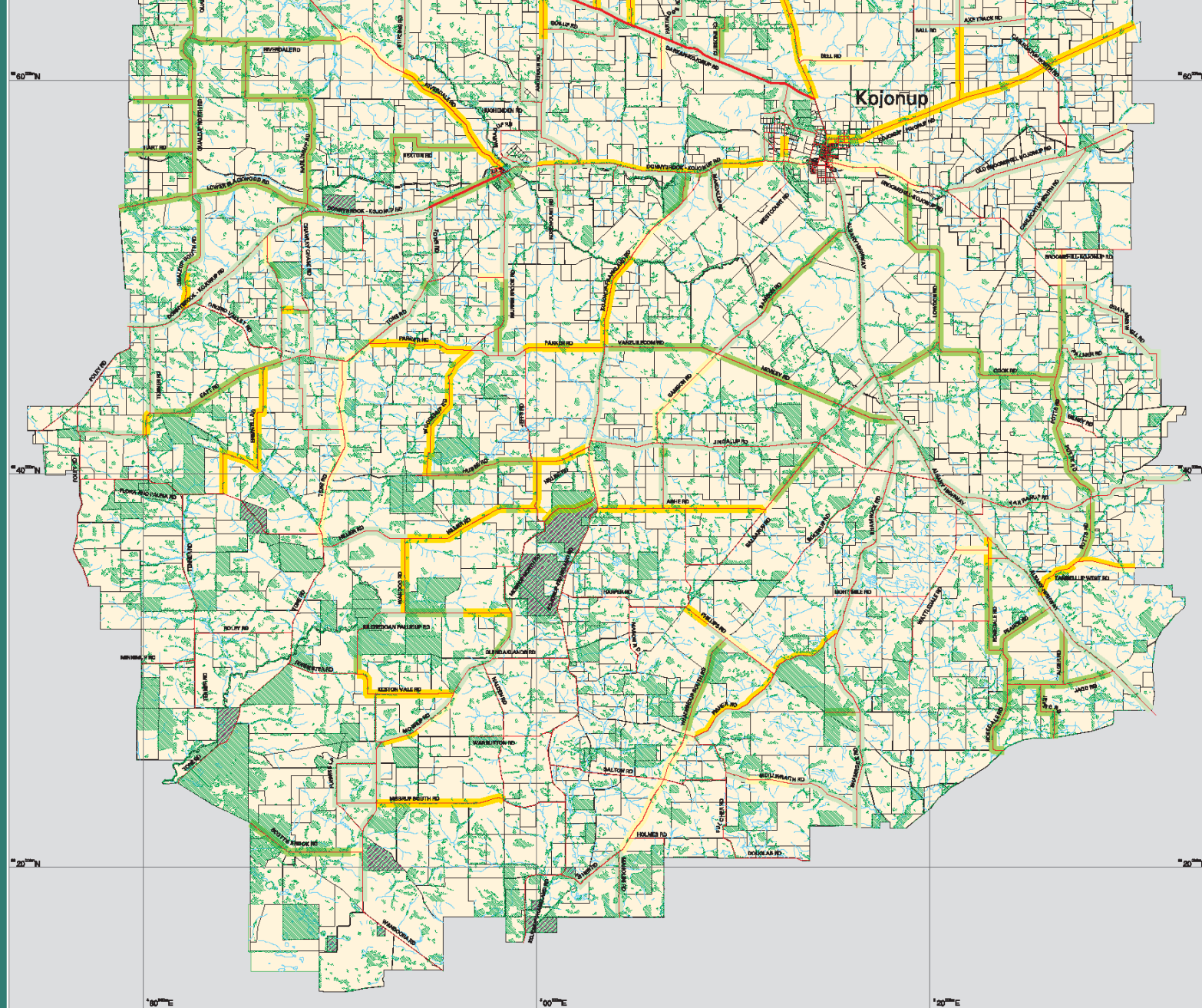
Scale 1:100,000
 kilometre

DATUM: AMG ZONE 50



LEGEND

- Low (3-4)
- 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
- CALM Estates
- Remnant Vegetation



SHIRE OF KOJONUP Roadside Conservation Value

LEGEND

- Low (0-4)
- Medium Low (5-6)
- Medium High (7-8)



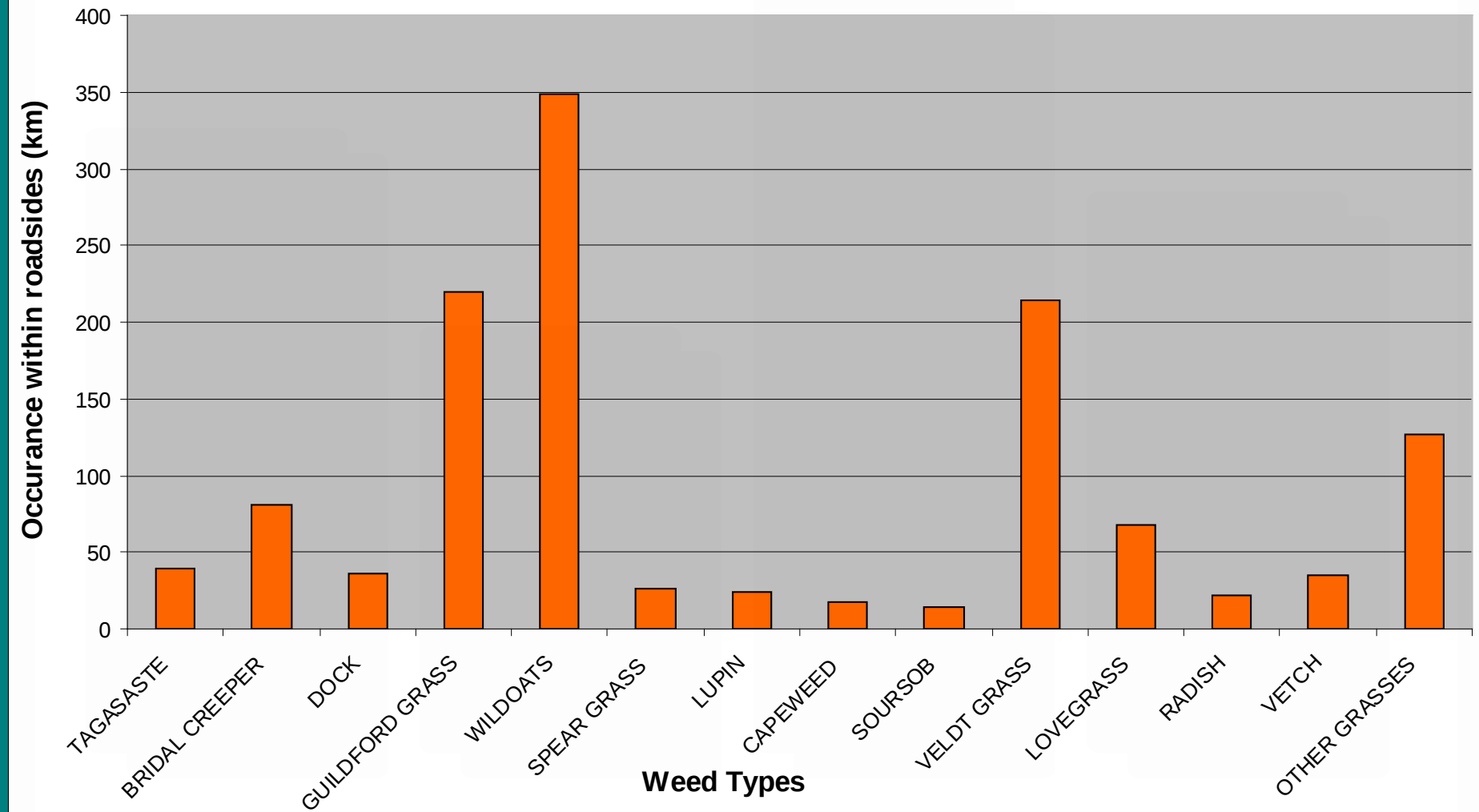
SOURCES OF DATA

ROADS: Data derived from 2004 mapping supplied by DOLA.
 VEGETATION: Data derived from 2004 mapping supplied by DOLA.
 COORDINATES: Supplied by DOLA, Australia wide.
 BOUNDARY: Supplied by DOLA, Australia wide.
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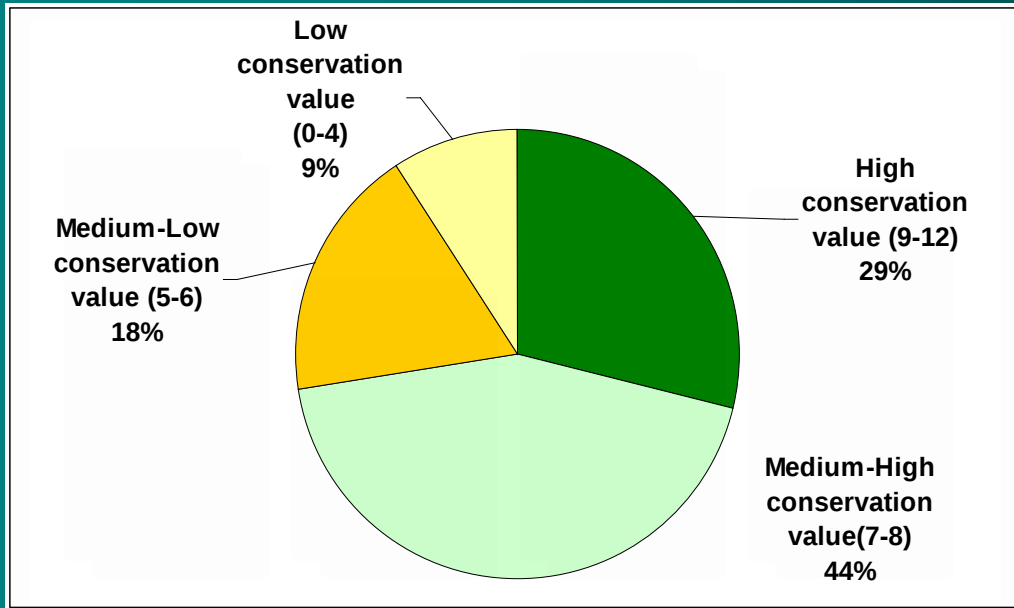
Weeds Overlays

Weed occurrence along roadsides (kms)



Purpose of the Map...

- ❖ Enable more effective management of roadside vegetation.
- ❖ Provide an inventory of the condition of the roadside vegetation.



- ❖ Study changes in conservation values over time.

Applications of the Map...

- ❖ Management,
- ❖ Planning,
- ❖ On-ground programs/activities.

Why Survey Roadsides?

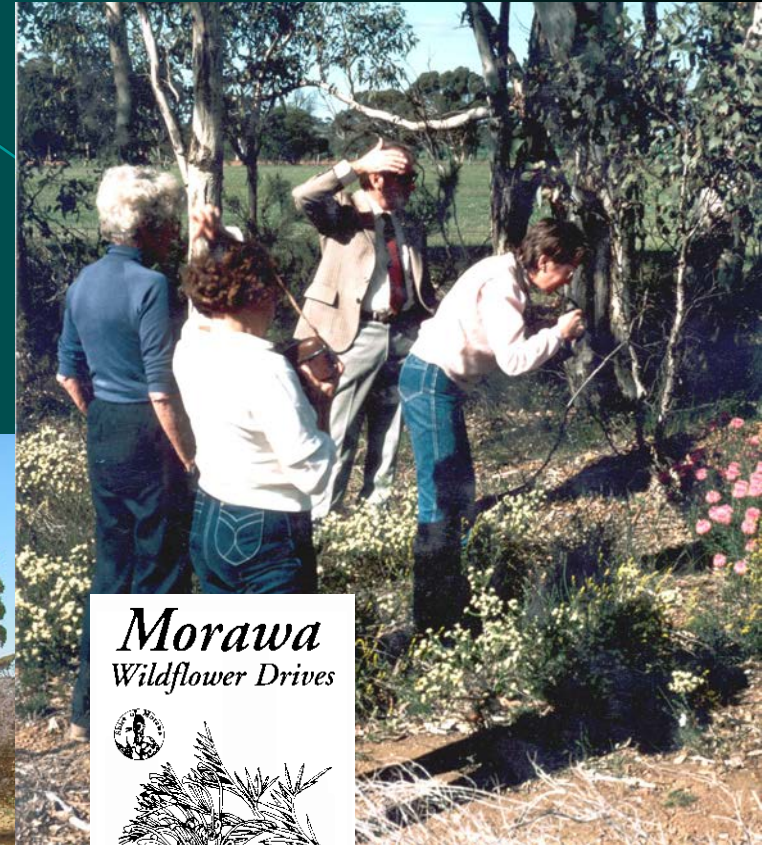


- ❖ People who use, live adjacent to, or work within the roadside can cause damage to the values found there (conservation, tourism, cultural, etc).



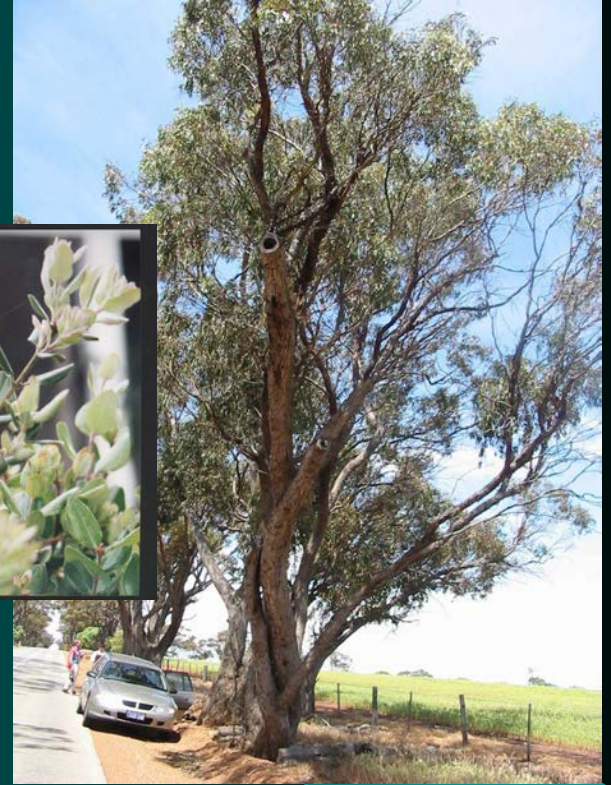
- ❖ Taking part in the roadside survey raises awareness of the values, threats and impacts.

- ❖ To promote significant historic, cultural or biological sites for tourism.



Why Survey Roadsides ?

❖ Identify wildlife corridors and protect important fauna habitat.



❖ Integrate into revegetation projects, and other Landcare programs.

Why Survey Roadsides ?

- ❖ Road managers should know of high value areas, in order to plan road works so that important areas of roadside vegetation are not disturbed.



Why Survey Roadsides ?

❖ These maps are also important for service authorities such as:

- ✓ Western Power,
- ✓ Alinta Gas,
- ✓ Telstra, and
- ✓ the Water Corporation,

which often use the road corridor for the location of their services.



Why Survey Roadsides ?

❖ Land degradation issues.

Salinity affected road surface



Sand drift
smothers
vegetation



Retaining roadside
helps minimise soil
erosion



Why Survey Roadsides ?

- ❖ Changes to the E.P Act.

- ❖ The maps and survey information will be used as a reference, in setting recommendations and in planning.

- ❖ Assist in the development of Shire *Roadside Vegetation Management Plans*, and in obtaining approval to clear vegetation for construction.



Benefits to the Shire & Community

- ✓ Increase knowledge about, and awareness of, threats to roadside vegetation, and human impacts;
- ✓ Community ownership of map and survey data;
- ✓ Easy to interpret Management Tool:
 - Weed control, Wildlife corridors,**
 - Fire, Tourism,**
 - Revegetation, Road works**
- ✓ Builds bridges between community, Landcare and Shire;
- ✓ Baseline data, useful for measuring changes over time.

Flora Roads



What Are Flora Roads?

The RCC has defined Flora Roads as:

“Those roads which have conservation value owing to the vegetation growing within the reserve.”

Principle Conservation Values

- ❖ Contain a significant population of native vegetation, not introduced plants;

- ❖ As near to its natural condition as possible;



- ❖ May be the only remaining example of original vegetation;

Flora Roads...

- ✓ Provides a source of local seed for revegetation;
- ✓ Acts as wildlife habitat and/or corridor;
- ✓ Provides feeding and nesting sites;
- ✓ May contain threatened species or communities;
- ✓ Be situated near tourist routes.



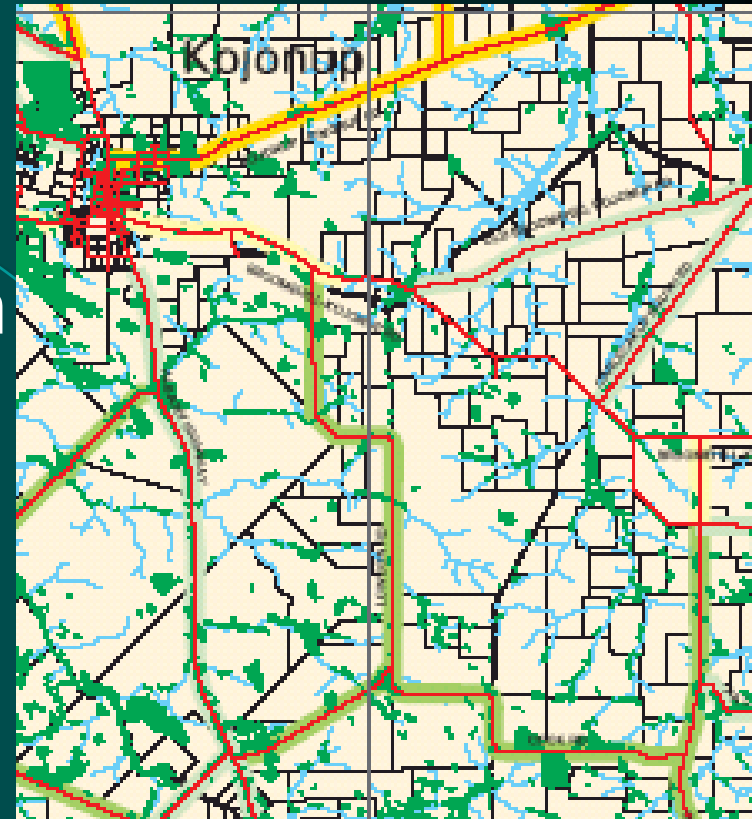
History of Flora Roads...



- Began as an initiative of the RCC in December 1986,
- Encourage road managers to protect and preserve roadside vegetation of high conservation value,
- Standard sign developed by Main Roads WA in 1989,
- MRWA developed policy for Flora Road signage in 1992.

Identification

- ❖ RCC roadside survey program identifies high conservation value roadsides.
- ❖ Only the managing authority in whom the care, control and management of the road can officially declare it a Flora Road.
- ❖ Support of road manager is essential.



Management Implications

- Minimise disturbance to the roadside vegetation,
- Take into consideration the conservation and tourism values present, and take special care when working within the Flora Road section,
- Council may choose to adopt a Policy on Roadside Conservation,
- No legal requirements.

Tourism Implications

- ❖ W.A. known as “Wildflower State”
- ❖ Flora Roads will be very attractive to tourists, and would be suitable as part of tourist drive networks.
- ❖ Promote Flora Roads by small brochure or map;



How Can You Help?



- ❖ Take part in a roadside survey to determine which roads are important for conservation;
- ❖ Contact the RCC for details;
- ❖ Nominate a roadside as a possible Flora Road;
- ❖ Integrate minimal disturbance techniques into projects;
- ❖ Utilise the RCV map in planning and management.

Thank-you...

For further information please contact

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Roadside Surveys

The Roadside Conservation Committee has been coordinating the roadside survey program since the mid-1980's, working in partnership with:

- Local volunteers,
- Community groups,
- Landcare practitioners, and
- Local Government.



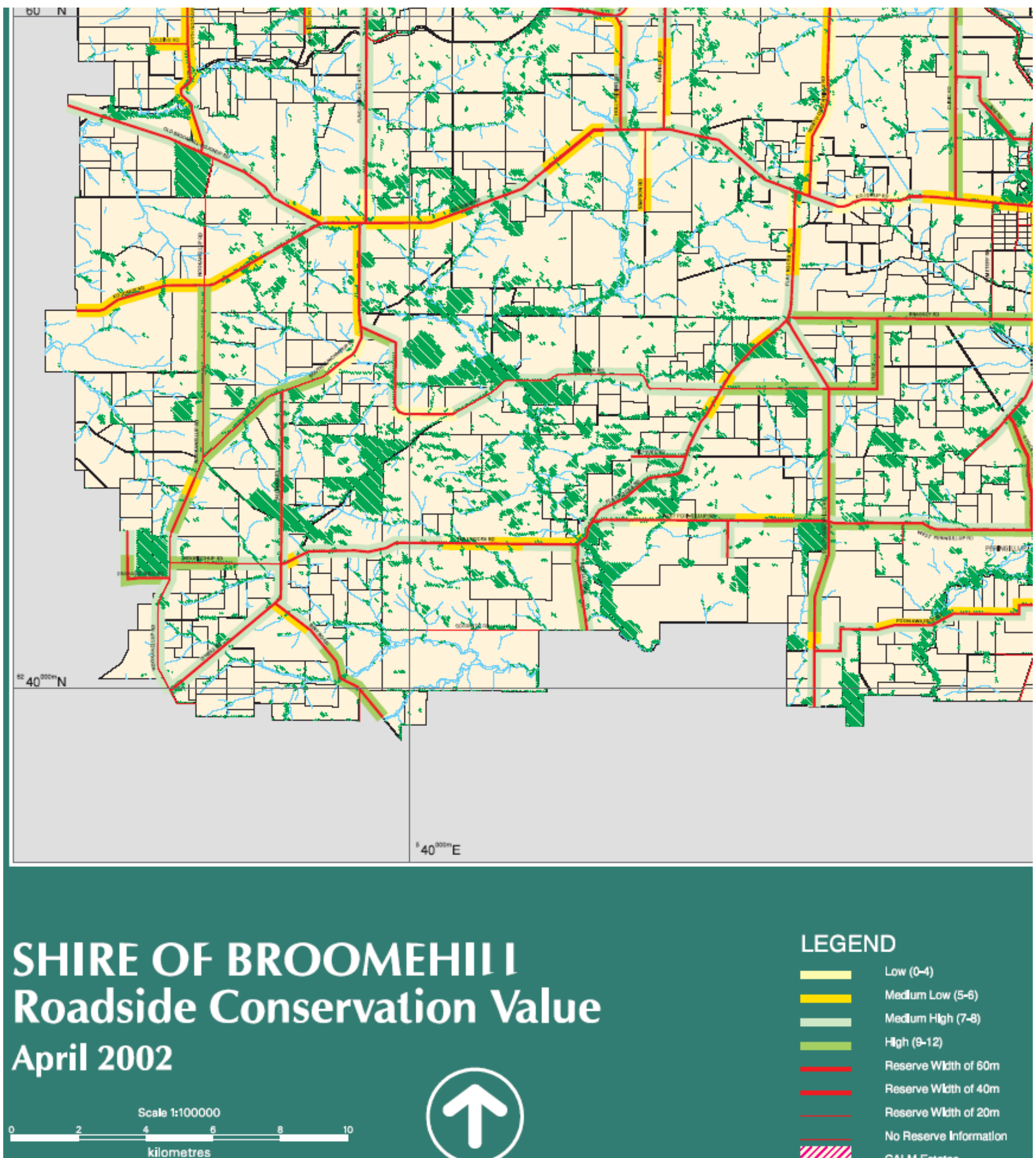
Roadside surveys are vehicular based.

The Aim: To assess and map roadside conservation values of all the roadsides within the south-west land division and outlying regions.



Roadside Surveys

The roadside conservation value map depicts the conservation value of each road, or section of road, by way of colour codes.



Roadside Surveys

The roadside survey data is used to produce a roadside conservation value map. The map is a valuable planning and management tool, and can assist Local Government, Landcare and the community in:

- Developing a general inventory of roadside conservation values,
- Identifying wildlife corridors and flora roads,
- Targeting strategic rehabilitation and revegetation projects,
- Mapping roadside weed infestations,
- Promoting significant wildflower areas, historic and cultural sites for tourism,
- Developing *Roadside Vegetation Management Plans*.



Roadsides are one of the most accessible places to view wildflowers.



The Role of the RCC

- To conduct roadside survey training sessions for community volunteers taking part in a roadside survey project.



- To process the roadside data collected and assess the conservation value of the roadsides surveyed.
- To supply the Shire and community with:
 - ✓ Roadside Conservation Value map,
 - ✓ Weed overlays, and
 - ✓ Summary report.