

Flora Roads

Briefing Note for Road Management Authorities

DEFINITION

The Roadside Vegetation Conservation Committee has defined Flora Roads as "those roads which have conservation value owing to the vegetation growing within the road reserve".

IDENTIFICATION

Any person may suggest to a managing authority or to the RVCC that a road, or section of road, fits the definition of a Flora Road. Currently, the RVCC is co-ordinating a volunteer survey to provide a preliminary list of roads of high conservation value. These can then be investigated further to see if they warrant declaration as a Flora Road.

DECLARATION OF A FLORA ROAD

Only the managing authority in whom the care, control and management of the road is vested can officially declare it a Flora Road.

IMPLICATIONS OF DECLARATION

Management

1. The aim of all management should be to disturb the roadside flora as little as possible, consistent with the provision of a safe and efficient roadway.
2. Environmental assessments (pre-construction checklists) should be completed prior to any upgrading work, to assist with planning for flora preservation.
3. Fire management should be undertaken in such a way so as to take into account the ecological needs of the flora.
4. Where rehabilitation is contemplated, local native species should be used where possible.

TOURISM

Declared Flora Roads will, by their very nature, be attractive to tourists.

Consideration should be given to:

1. promoting the road by means of a small brochure or booklet
2. eventually showing all Flora Roads on a map of the State
3. using specially designed signs to delineate the Flora Road section
4. constructing roadside rest areas where people can get out and enjoy the flora. Walk trails could be made from these, and information brochures produced.