

ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Establishment of the Committee

The Roadside Vegetation Conservation Committee (RVCC) was formed in 1985 in response to concern, expressed by local communities, the tourism industry, and the conservation movement, over the deterioration of roadside vegetation.

Originally established under the W.A. Land Resource Policy Council within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the RVCC is now convened by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. It replaces the Road Verges Conservation Committee which addressed similar issues between 1969 and 1983.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the RVCC are: to co-ordinate and promote the conservation and effective management of rail and roadside vegetation for the benefit of the environment and the people of Western Australia.

Committee Membership

Dr D Bennett	(Chairman 1985 - resigned January 1986)
Mr J Blyth	(Chairman April 1986 -)
Mr P Hewett	(Deputy Chairman)
Mrs J Seabrook	
Mr K Lindbeck	(May 1986 -)
Cr C Moore	
Cr J North	
Mr J Quilty	(1985 - resigned March 1986)
Mr J Robley	
Mr R Shaw	
Dr B Wilson	(1985 - resigned January 1986)

Staff

The Committee was serviced by a Secretary based in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Activities

The inaugural meeting of the Committee was held on 27 November 1985, and subsequent meetings took place on 29 January 1986, 26 March 1986, 30 April 1986 and 28 May 1986. The latter was held at Toodyay and involved an excursion to view areas of interest together with local persons.

Working within the confines of its limited resources, the Committee has developed policies for the management of roadside vegetation and provided funds for two research projects by CSIRO, one on the use of roadside vegetation by vertebrate fauna and the other a bibliography relevant to road verge management.

An introductory brochure outlining the Committee's activities has been produced. A copy is attached for your information.

Finance

Funds for servicing the Committee were provided from the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Main Roads Department.

During the financial year 1985/86, the funds expended were:

	Dept. of Premier and Cabinet	Main Roads Department	Total
Members fees, travel	4 000	nil	4 000
Publications	1 500	nil	1 500
Research	10 000	8 000	18 000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15 500	8 000	23 500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Policies

1. To promote the protection and enhancement of native rail/roadside vegetation, so that these provide representative transects of the original plant communities especially in regions which have been substantially cleared. However, weed, vermin and fire control are necessary components of rail/roadside vegetation management.

2. To provide information to government, local government voluntary organisations and the public on the importance of rail/roadside vegetation for nature conservation, for farmland protection and as an amenity. To encourage these groups to take a greater role in conserving and regenerating rail/roadside vegetation.
3. To encourage the development of a rail/roadside network of flora and fauna conservation corridors to enable the nature transfer of plants and animals between more extensive areas of bushland. This may involve the promotion of voluntary set-back of fences or encouraging the repurchase of private land where the width of the vegetation corridor is inadequate.
4. To promote the development of fire management strategies for road and rail reserves which are appropriate to conservation of native vegetation while at the same time recognising the responsibilities of the managers.
5. To encourage research programs aimed specifically at the problems of rail/roadside vegetation.
6. To encourage public utilities to locate their services away from road and rail reserves. Where alternative locations are unavoidable, advise on methods to reduce the impact of their services on roadside vegetation.
7. To promote the training of rail/road builders and maintenance organisations in techniques for protecting roadside vegetation.
8. Provide an annual report on the Committee's activities and report to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management.
9. To develop a set of model by-laws for adoption by local government authorities for the conservation and effective management of roadside vegetation for the benefit of the environment and the people of Western Australia.

ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the RVCC are: to co-ordinate and promote the conservation and effective management of rail and roadside vegetation for the benefit of the environment and the people of Western Australia.

Committee Membership

Mr J. Blyth (Chairman)
Mr P. Hewett (Deputy Chairman)
Mrs J. Seabrook
Cr A. Hillier (appointed Dec 1986)
Mr K. Lindbeck
Mr P. Martinovich
Cr C. Moore (resigned Dec 1986)
Cr J. North
Mr J. Robley
Mr R. Shaw

Staff

The Committee was serviced by an Executive Officer based in the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Meetings

Seven meetings were held during the year, on 6 August 1986, 1st September 1986, 28th October 1986, 15th December 1986, 17th February 1987, 28th April 1987, 15th June 1987. The September meeting was held at Morawa and the April one at Manjimup, and both involved excursions to view areas of interest.

Several standing Sub-Committees have been appointed which meet as and when necessary.

1. **Materials Sub-Committee** (to consider policy on the extraction of road making materials)
Chairman: Cr J. North
Date of Meetings: 20th October 1986, 28th January 1987.

This Committee has determined a policy (attached) which has been endorsed by the Country Shire Council's Association and is being discussed with individual Local Government Authorities.

2. **Research Sub-Committee** (to consider priorities for the allocation of research funds)
Chairman: Mr J. Blyth
Date of Meeting: 29th January 1987.

During 1986/87 the following research projects were funded:

- To evaluate a method for spot eradication of *Phytophthora* dieback.
- To evaluate the use of fire in regeneration of *Banksia cuneata*.
- To compile a register of roads with vegetation of conservation value.

Publications

The results of two previous research projects have been published:

"Roadside Vegetation Bibliography"
"Roadside Vegetation - Inventory of Current Research"
"A Survey of Vegetation and its Relationship to Vertebrate Fauna Present in Winter on Road Verges in the Kellerberrin District, W.A."

Three brochures have been printed and widely distributed:

"Dieback Kills Wildflowers"
"Roadside Marking of Special Environmental Areas"
"Revolutionise Revegetation" (in conjunction with Greening Australia).

A simple leaflet about *Banksia cuneata* has been produced.

General Activities

The Committee has liaised extensively with the Country Shire Council's Association, individual Local Government Authorities, Government Departments and Conservation Groups, concerning both general and specific matters.

Together with Greening Australia, a "Roadside Certificate of Merit" has been initiated, which will be awarded alongside the John Tonkin Tree Awards in 1987.

The Chairman and the Executive Officer have given a number of talks outlining the importance of roadside conservation and the role of the Committee.

The Committee has defined a "Flora Road" as: "a road which has conservation value by reason of the vegetation occurring on the road reserve". This concept has been endorsed by the Country Shire Council's Association. A Register of possible Flora Roads is being compiled during 1987-88 and a number of Local Government Authorities have indicated interest in adopting the concept to assist with their roadside management and the encouragement of tourism.

Finance

Funds for servicing the Committee were provided from the budget of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Main Roads Department.

During the financial year 1986/87, the funds expended were:

	<u>CALM</u>	<u>MRD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Salary	13 000	13 000	26 000
Members fees, travel	3 610	Nil	3 610
Publications	3 165	Nil	3 165
Research	<u>5 000</u>	<u>10 000</u>	<u>14 815</u>
	24 775	23 000	47 590

ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

POLICY

OBTAINING ROAD CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL FROM THE ROAD RESERVE

1. That the RVCC discourages the taking of road-building material from road reserves outside the designated construction and maintenance area, and recommends a procedure to ensure that alternative supplies have been adequately considered.
2. That road-making authorities should be encouraged to conduct pre-construction assessments on road projects involving the destruction of native vegetation, including a report on alternative sources of road construction material. These pre-construction assessments will be incorporated in a Bulletin being jointly revised by DCE, MRD and the RVCC, which will be distributed to all LGAs.

Pre-construction assessments are especially desirable if the road in question has been identified and agreed to as a Flora Road.

3. That this pre-construction assessment should include consideration of ways to preserve as much as possible of the natural vegetation and also include the disturbance or rare flora, the possibility of plant disease risk and the spread of declared and other unwanted plants.
4. That the method used by Esperance Shire be recommended to all LGAs as a practical and satisfactory approach to the problem of obtaining road construction material from private land.
5. That, subject to a materials resource assessment, road construction material reserves be created as a matter of priority.
6. If, after consideration of all alternatives, it is considered essential for road construction materials to be obtained from road reserves, then
 - a. care must be taken not to remove all of one soil type along the road
 - b. a pre-construction assessment should be carried out
 - c. hygiene methods to control the spread of disease or declared plants, as outlined by the appropriate bodies, should be followed.
 - d. progressive rehabilitation techniques, as outlined by MRD, should be used.
7. That, wherever road construction material is taken, appropriate extraction, rehabilitation and regeneration methods should be applied as part of the works.
8. That LGAs be encouraged to investigate ways of creating a rehabilitation fund, such as that used by the Augusta-Margaret River Shire.

ROADSIDE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

THE terms of reference of the Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) are to co-ordinate and promote the conservation and effective management of rail and roadside vegetation for the benefit of the environment and the people of Western Australia.

Committee Membership

Mr J Blyth (Chairman)
Mr P Hewett (Deputy Chairman)
Cr A Hillier (resigned May 1988)
Mr K Lindbeck
Mr P Martinovich
Cr J North
Mr J Robley
Mrs J Seabrook
Mr R Shaw

Staff

Miss P Hussey (Executive Officer).

Change of Committee Title

The Committee has, with Ministerial agreement, changed its name from "Roadside Vegetation Conservation Committee" to "Roadside Conservation Committee".

Meetings

Six meetings were held during the year, on 10 August 1987, 19 October 1987, 14 December 1987, 8 February 1988, 11 April 1988 and 13 June 1988.

Sub-Committees

Several standing Sub-committees have been appointed which meet as and when necessary.

Research Sub-Committee

(To consider priorities for the allocation of research funds)

Chairman:

Mr J Blyth

Date of Meetings:

1 July 1987, 28 October 1987, 18 February 1988.

During 1987/88 the following research projects were funded:-

- to evaluate a method for spot eradication of *Phytophthora* dieback
- to evaluate the use of fire in regeneration of *Banksia cuneata*.
- to undertake a survey of the conservation value of roadsides.
- to determine guidelines for the management of road verges with regard to fire.
- to investigate the impact from use of herbicides in road and rail reserves.
- to monitor the effect of fire on a roadside in Denmark Shire.

Standards Sub-Committee

(To develop a policy concerning clearance standards along country roads)

Chairman:

Mr. R Shaw

Date of Meeting:

17 May 1988

Workshops

Two workshops to which experts were invited, were held to develop a policy and define appropriate research projects.

Fire Workshop

To develop a policy and outline priorities for research

Chairman:

Mr J Robley

Date of Meeting:

10 August 1987

This workshop led to the development of a fire policy which is currently being discussed with the Country Shire Council's Association.

Herbicide Workshop

To outline priorities for research

Chairman:

Mr P Martinovich

Date of Meeting:

13 November 1987

This workshop delineated a research project on the impact of herbicides in rail and road reserves.

Publications

Four brochures have been printed and widely distributed:-

"Dandaragan Drives"
"Flora Roads"
"Ravensthorpe's Flora"
"Wide Roadsides - Flora Drives"

Together with the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Research Division, a synopsis of research entitled "Annual Revegetation Newsletter" has been produced.

Also published and distributed to Wheatbelt local government authorities was the "Report and Recommendations" from the seminar "It's the little bit of bush that counts" held at Mingenew.

Seminars

Two public seminars entitled "It's the little bit of bush that counts" have been held. One was organised in association with Greening Australia at Northam on 20 August 1987, and the other organised in association with the Shire of Mingenew at Mingenew on 22 March 1988.

International Conference/Workshop on Ecological Corridors

The Committee undertook to be co-ordinator for a major scientific conference, "Nature Conservation - the Role of Corridors", to be held in September 1989. This follows the successful conference held at Busselton, in August 1985, on the role of remnants in nature conservation.

General Activities

The Committee had extensive liaison with the Country Shire Council's Association, individual local government authorities, Government departments and conservation groups.

During a visit to Melbourne, the Chairman discussed matters of common interest with the Chairman and members of the Victorian Roadside Conservation Committee.

The Chairman and the Executive Officer have given a number of talks outlining the importance of roadside conservation and the role of the Committee.

Together with Greening Australia (W.A.), a "Roadside Certificate of Merit" was initiated as part of the John Tonkin Tree Awards. The winner for 1987 was the Shire of Pingelly.

A display was mounted (in conjunction with Greening Australia) at the Quairading Grain Expo in October 1987. It proved popular with show visitors.

A "Roadside Flora Area" is a roadside stop designed to allow travellers to safely park and enjoy the roadside wildflowers. After discussions with wildflower tour operators, three Roadside Flora Areas have been identified and discussions with various bodies are continuing concerning their development.

Finance

Funds for servicing the Committee were provided from the budget of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Main Roads Department and Westrail.

During the financial year 1987/88, the funds expended were:-

	CALM	MRD	WESTRAIL	TOTAL
Salary	13 650	13 650	nil	27 300
Members fees, travel	6 808	nil	nil	6 808
Publications	4 596	nil	nil	4 596
Research	10 083	10 000	3 000	23 038
	35 137	23 650	3 000	61 787

ROADSIDE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

THE terms of reference of the Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) are to co-ordinate and promote the conservation and effective management of rail and roadside vegetation for the benefit of the environment and the people of Western Australia.

Committee Membership

Mr J Blyth (Chairman)
 Mr P Hewett (Deputy Chairman)
 Mr K Lindbeck (resigned September 1988)
 Cr I Purse (August 1988 -)
 Cr J North
 Mr J Riches (February 1989 -)
 Mr J Robley
 Mrs J Seabrook
 Mr R Shaw
 Mr B Williams (October 1988 -)

Staff

Miss P Hussey (Executive Officer).

Change of Committee Title

The Committee has, with Ministerial agreement, changed its name from "Roadside Vegetation Conservation Committee" to "Roadside Conservation Committee".

Meetings

Six meetings were held during the year, on 8 August 1988, 11 October 1988, 12 December 1988, 13 February 1989, 10 April 1989 and 26 June 1989.

Sub-Committees

Several standing Sub-committees have been appointed which meet as and when necessary.

Research and Technical Investigations Sub-Committee

(To consider priorities for the allocation of research and technical investigations funds)

Chairman:

Mr J Blyth

Date of Meetings:

15 July 1988, 19 January 1989.

During 1988/89 the following research projects were funded:-

- to evaluate the growth requirements of *Banksia cuneata*.
- to continue a survey of the conservation value of roadsides and place the information gathered onto computerised database.
- to update the roadside bibliography.
- to investigate the condition of roadside vegetation with regard to nutrient status and insect attack.
- to monitor the effect of fire on a roadside in Denmark Shire.
- to investigate the effect of fertiliser on non-structural carbohydrate partitioning and resprouting ability of selected *Banksia* woodland understorey species.
- to publish the "Roadside Manual" and the "Roadside Vegetation Clearance Guidelines".

Standards Sub-Committee

(To develop a policy concerning clearance standards along country roads)

Chairman:

Mr. R Shaw

Date of Meeting:

19 September 1988

Corridor Ecology Workshop

Chairman:

Mr J Blyth

This workshop, to which experts were invited, was held to develop a policy and define appropriate research projects.

Date of Meeting:

19 September 1988

This workshop led to the delineation of a number of areas of research need.

Publications

A second edition of the "Roadside Vegetation Bibliography" has been printed and widely distributed.

Together with the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Research Division, a synopsis of research entitled "Tree Decline and Revegetation Newsletter" has been produced.

Together with the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Information Branch, an educational poster entitled "Bush Corridors" has been produced.

Two new brochures have been printed:

"Kukerin and Wheatbelt Wildflowers"

"Moora Wildflower Drive"

Two brochures have been reprinted:

"Dieback Kills Wildflowers"

"Flora Roads"

In press are the documents

"Roadside Manual"

"Roadside Vegetation Clearance Guidelines".

International Conference/Workshop on Ecological Corridors

The Committee undertook to be co-ordinator for a major scientific conference, "Nature Conservation - the Role of Corridors", to be held in September 1989. This follows the successful conference held at Busselton, in August 1985, on the role of remnants in nature conservation. The Conference has generated considerable interest and should stimulate advances in both research and management.

General Activities

The Committee had extensive liaison with the Country Shire Council's Association, individual local government authorities, Government departments and conservation groups.

The Executive Officer has given a number of talks outlining the importance of roadside conservation and the role of the Committee.

Together with Greening Australia (W.A.), a "Roadside Certificate of Merit" was awarded as part of the John Tonkin Tree Awards. The winner for 1988 was the "Men of the Trees".

Displays were mounted at various public events including the Kings Park Wildflower Exhibition, the Wildlife Show and agricultural shows at Carnamah, Dowerin, Mingenew, Quairading and Wagin.

Finance

Funds for servicing the Committee were provided from the budget of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Main Roads Department and Westrail.

ROADSIDE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) are to coordinate and promote the conservation and effective management of rail and roadside vegetation for the benefit of the environment and the people of Western Australia.

Committee Membership

Mr J Blyth (Chairman)
 Mr P Hewett (Deputy Chairman) (resigned October 1989)
 Mr P Bothwell
 Mr J Duff (resigned December 1989)
 Mr G Hamilton (January 1990-)
 Mr B Loney (October 1989-)
 Cr J North
 Mr G Norwell (January 1990-)
 Cr I Purse
 Mr J Robley
 Mrs J Seabrook
 Mr R Shaw (resigned December 1989)

Staff

Miss P Hussey (Executive Officer).

Meetings

Six meetings were held during the year, on 14 August 1989, 9 October 1989, 11 December 1989, 12 February 1990, 30 April 1990 and 11 June 1990. The April meeting was combined with a visit to the Shire of Dandaragan.

Sub-Committees

Several standing Sub-committees have been appointed which meet as and when necessary.

Research and Technical Investigations Sub-Committee

(To consider priorities for the allocation of research and technical investigations funds)

Chairman

Mr J Blyth

Date of Meetings:

12 July 1989, 4 December 1989 and 21 May 1990.

During 1989/90 the following research projects were funded:-

- to continue a survey of the conservation value of roadsides and place the information gathered onto computerised database.
- the identification of *Phytophthora* dieback on roadsides.
- the effect of log removal on ground fauna.
- the effect of grass-control herbicides on native plant species.
- survey and management of *Banksia goodii* on roadsides.
- publication of further sections of the "Roadside Manual".

Phytophthora Workshop

Chairman

Mr J Blyth

This workshop, to which experts were invited, was held to develop a policy and define appropriate research projects.

Date of Meeting:

3 August 1989

This workshop led to the delineation of an area of research need.

Publications

Together with the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Research Division and Greening Australia, Volume II of the "Tree Decline and Revegetation Newsletter" has been produced.

Four new brochures have been printed:

- "Carnamah-Eneabba Wildflowers"
- "Come to Kulin-Wonderful Wheatbelt Wildflowers"
- "Coorow Shire-Lesueur Area"
- "Wildflowers in Victoria Plains"

Two brochures have been reprinted:

- "Roadside Conservation Committee"
- "Wide Roadsides - Flora Drives"

A booklet has been printed - "Roadside Vegetation Clearance Guidelines".

Half the sections in a looseleaf "Roadside Manual" have been printed.

International Conference/Workshop on "Nature Conservation - The Role of Corridors"

The Committee was the coordinator for this major scientific conference which was held in Busselton in September 1989. Despite the airline pilots' strike just two weeks before the start, (which

regrettably caused cancellation from 14 proposed participants) the Conference was a great success, with 83 participants from all States and 5 overseas countries.

The Conference Proceedings will be published in book form in December 1990, and a booklet containing a public summary prior to that.

General Activities

The Committee had extensive liaison with the Country Shire Council's Association, individual Local Government Authorities, Government departments and conservation groups.

The Executive Officer has given a number of talks outlining the importance of roadside conservation and the role of the Committee.

Together with Greening Australia (WA), a "Roadside Certificate of Merit" was awarded as part of the John Tonkin Tree Awards. The winner for 1989 was Main Roads Department, Narrogin Division.

Displays were mounted at various public events including the Kings Park Wildflower Exhibition and agricultural shows at Dowerin, Quairading and Wagin.

Finance

Funds for servicing the Committee were provided from the budget of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Main Roads Department and Westrail.

During the financial year 1989/90 the funds expended were:-

	CALM	MRD	WESTRAIL	TOTAL
Salary	16 500	16 500	nil	33 000
Members fees, travel	8 391	nil	nil	8 391
Publications	4 302	nil	nil	4 302
Research	<u>10 300</u>	<u>10 000</u>	<u>3 000</u>	<u>23 300</u>
	39 493	31 500	3 000	68 993

ROADSIDE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) are to coordinate and promote the conservation and effective management of rail and roadside vegetation for the benefit of the environment and the people of Western Australia.

Committee Membership

Mr J Blyth (Chairman)
 Mr G Norwell
 Mr P Bothwell
 Mr G Hamilton
 Mr B Loney
 Mr C Morris (SECWA : represented on RCC since April 1991)
 Cr J North
 Cr I Purse
 Mrs J Seabrook

Staff

Miss P Hussey (Executive Officer).

Miss Penny Hussey has been seconded to work on a 10 month project to write management guidelines for remnant vegetation on private land beginning 4 June 1991. Mr David Lamont will be Acting Executive Officer until March 1992.

Meetings

Six meetings were held during the year, including two country trips, ie. 11 August 1990, Boyup Brook; 8 October 1990, 10 December 1990, 11 February 1991, 16 April 1991, Darkan, and 10 June.

Research and Technical Investigations Sub-Committee

Chairman

Mr J Blyth

Date of Meetings

22 October 1990 and 20 May 1991.

Research

Funding for the following research projects during 1990/91 was on going as approved by sub committee. All projects were undertaken with the view of providing an immediate practical return to management.

- to continue a survey of the conservation value of roadsides and place the information gathered onto computerised database, (ongoing).

- the identification of *Phytophthora* dieback on roadside, (completed).
- the effect of log removal on ground fauna, (final report to be submitted).
- survey and management of *Banksia goodii* on roadsides (ongoing).
- further sections of Roadside Manual published, (ongoing).
- fire in Wheatbelt, (ongoing).
- Herbicide spraying of pest plants in roadside vegetation (ongoing).
- Wandoo decline in Pingelly region, (ongoing).

Publications

Several new sections of the loose-leaf Roadside Manual have been printed and are ready for distribution. They are:

Part number 10 Weed Control, 11 Clearance for Fencelines and Services, 14 Control of Plant and Animal Pests, 16 Flora Roads, 17 Development of Roadside Flora, 18 Regeneration and Replanting and 19 Legislation Applying to Roadside Vegetation.

The proceedings of the conference "Nature Conservation : the Role of Corridors" was launched in Canberra on 26 June 1991 by Dr John Stocker, Chief Executive of CSIRO. The proceedings and a summary version of the conference findings were launched separately in Perth by the Deputy Premier, Mr Ian Taylor. The summary booklet, with guidelines on the establishment and management of corridors, has been widely distributed to shire councils and other interested groups.

Other Publications

Coorow - Midwest Wildflowers Drive
No Picking - leaflet
Avon Valley Wildflower Drive

The Tourism Commission conducted a very successful promotion of RCC brochures.

Dieback Training Day

A trial of Dr R Hart's package, produced for the RCC, for the identification of *Phytophthora* was undertaken on 15 November 1990. Field work was conducted in Modong Nature Reserve with 15 course participants. Due to this training Dieback has been located by the City of Gosnells horticultural officer in native vegetation.

Herbicide Meeting

A meeting to discuss the choice and application of selective herbicides for controlling weeds in communities of native plants was held on 30 January 1991, and chaired by Mr J Blyth. Seventeen people with expertise in the use of herbicides attended.

From the proceedings of the meeting and with additional material supplied by attendees, a set of guidelines for use by road managers was developed and circulated to country Shire Councils.

Roadside Certificate of Merit

To raise public awareness of the value of roadside vegetation, the committee annually awards the "Roadside Certificate of Merit" (in cooperation with Greening Australia). 25 entries were received for 1990/91, with half of them from Shire Councils. This years winner was Mrs Ray Paynter, of Toodyay who has dedicated more than 20 years towards the preservation of the natural environment.

Save the Bush Grants Scheme

RCC has been awarded a Commonwealth Government "Save the Bush" Grant. The grant of \$5,000 will be used to combine the Roadside Conservation Value data with the State Geographical Information System Database.

Submission to Parliamentary Select Committee on Land Conservation

A submission to this Select Committee was made by the RCC.

General Activities

The Committee continued to have close liaison with the Country Shire Council's Association, individual Local Government Authorities, Government departments and conservation groups.

The Executive Officer gave a number of talks outlining the importance of roadside conservation and the role of the Committee.

Displays were mounted at various public events including the Kings Park Wildflower Exhibition and several agricultural shows.

Finance

The Roadside Conservation Committee has no financial administration functions. The Department of Conservation and Land Management meets the cost of servicing the Committee and obtains contributions towards this cost from the Main Roads Department and Westrail. During the financial year 1990/91 expenditure to service the Committee was:

Salary	\$34 600 of which MRD contributed \$17 400.
Members Fees, Travel	\$10 000
Publications	\$ 4 500
Research	\$22 500 of which MRD contributed \$9 750 and Westrail contributed \$3 000.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To coordinate and promote the conservation and effective management of native vegetation on road and rail reserves for the benefit of the environment and the people of Western Australia.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr J. Blyth

CALM (Chairman)

Mr G. Norwell

Main Roads Department

Mr J. Robley

Bush Fires Board

Mr P. Bothwell

Westrail

Mr G. Hamilton

Department of Agriculture

Mr B. Loney

Greening Australia

Mr C. Morris

SECWA

Cr J. North

Country Shire Councils Association

Cr I. Purse

Country Shire Councils Association

Ms J. Seabrook

Representative of conservation interests

STAFF

Mr D. Lamont (Executive Officer)

As a consequence of the permanent transfer of Miss P. Hussey to work on remnant vegetation on private land, Mr Lamont's secondment as Acting Executive Officer has been extended indefinitely. The work done by Miss Hussey in the formative years of the RCC is gratefully acknowledged.

MEETINGS

Five meetings were held during the year: 14 October, 9 December, 19 February, 6 April and 8 June.

FINANCE

The Roadside Conservation Committee has no financial administration functions. The Department of Conservation and Land Management meets the cost of servicing the committee and obtains contributions towards this cost from the Main Roads Department and Westrail. During the financial year 1991-92 expenditure of the Committee was:

<i>Executive Officer, Salary*</i>	<i>\$34 600</i>
<i>Members' Fees, Travel</i>	<i>\$10 000</i>
<i>Publications</i>	<i>\$4 500</i>
<i>Research**</i>	<i>\$27 500</i>

*MRD contributed \$17 400.

**MRD contributed \$9 750 and Westrail \$3 000; a further \$5 000 came from the 1990-91 'Save the Bush' grant.

Enhancement and Protection

One of the RCC's objectives is to promote the protection and enhancement of native vegetation on rail and roadsides. During 1991-92, static displays were mounted at a number of venues, e.g. Kings Park Wildflower Exhibition, Mingenew Expo, and the Manjimup Show. A display of promotional material has been made available to country shires, and this has been used in the foyer of many country shows on an extended basis, for example for the Shires of Margaret River and Wickepin.

Country shires have been canvassed on several occasions during the year to ascertain the use and value of Special Environmental Area markers, and also to encourage the prohibition of wildflower picking and seed collection from road reserves.

Wildflower tour brochures for Boyup Brook and Mingenew/Three Springs are at the final draft stage and are expected to be released in August 1992.

The RCC annually awards the Roadside Certificate of Merit with cooperation from Greening Western Australia. This year the prize was shared by two divisions of the Main Roads Department for rehabilitation work on roadsides. Mr Don Marsh and Mr Alan Grist were the officers responsible for planning and implementing the MRD entries.

* Future reports from this committee will be incorporated into the Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management program.

Information Dissemination

A second objective is to provide information to government at all levels, voluntary organisations and the public on the importance of road and railside vegetation for nature conservation.

Surveys of the conservation value of roadsides have been conducted for several years; the data have provided the basis for Geographical Information System maps of roadsides to be produced. This has been done with the assistance of the Survey section of the Main Roads Department. This year, maps for the Shires of Serpentine/Jarrahdale, Boyup Brook and Wickepin were completed. Data for another 17 shires are in hand.

Burning of roadsides has been a contentious issue amongst community groups. To allow for informed decision-making in this sphere, Chapter 9 (Fire Management) of the Roadside Manual is being reproduced in a separate booklet form and will be distributed jointly by the RCC and the Bush Fires Board.

Workshops and information sessions on roadside conservation and management techniques have been conducted at the request of a number of country shires, e.g. Wickepin, Donnybrook/Balingup, Manjimup, Beverley.

Research

A third objective of the RCC is to develop an understanding of the ecological processes controlling roadside vegetation, and through this to devise better techniques for management of roadside corridors.

Several projects that have a direct effect on road and railside management have been fully or partly funded by the RCC. These are 'Herbicide Effects on Native Vegetation' (Dr E.M. Mattiske and Associates), 'The Decline of *Eucalyptus wandoo* Blakely in the Western Australian Wheatbelt Area' (J. Mercon, Honours project), 'The Use of Logs and Litter by Ground Fauna' (Dr B. Wykes), and a published report: *Banksia goodii, with the Emphasis on Roadside Populations* (Dr B. Lamont).

A survey of the conservation value of the disused rail reserve between Donnybrook and Katanning, conducted by E.M. Mattiske and Associates, was funded by the RCC. The survey results will facilitate informed decision-making regarding the disposal and future use of this land.

Three books were published. *Perth Outdoors* is a guide to the natural environment and recreation areas in and around Perth, and includes scenic drives, heritage trails, a plant calendar and species list. *Mountains of Mystery* is a detailed natural history of the Stirling Range. *Managing Your Bushland* boosts the volume of information on conservation management readily available to landholders. The book was produced by CALM with the assistance of the Commonwealth Save the Bush program; it is one reason why there has been a significant increase in liaison with Land Conservation District Committees.

'LANDSCOPE Expeditions' were launched. The expeditions are trips organised by CALM and WA Extension (of The University of Western Australia) for paying volunteers to accompany research scientists into the field. So far two expeditions have run: one to monitor endangered mammals in the Gibson Desert, and one to study rainforests and bats on the Mitchell Plateau. Both went well; the first was fully booked and the second was oversubscribed, allowing the expedition to take an extra vehicle and six more people.

The LANDSCOPE Conservation Card, the first card in Australia designed specifically to support conservation projects, was launched by the R&I Bank of Western Australia, in conjunction with CALM. Every time a card is used the Bank makes a donation to a trust fund which will be used to protect the State's endangered species. The card program is also a community education program as it allows Western Australians to participate directly in protecting the diversity of plants and animals in the State.

Applications to the Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme were again assessed by the Department. A total of 94 applications were funded, resulting in 4 396 ha of remnant bushland being fenced off at a cost of \$256 449. The Department also coordinated the State assessments of the Commonwealth-funded Save the Bush component of the National Landcare Program. Of the 74 applications received, 32 were recommended for funding at a cost of \$210 443. Both funding schemes assist community liaison for remnant vegetation conservation and other nature conservation issues. This work has been further facilitated by the appointment of a rural nature conservation officer, funded by the Save the Bush Program.

Departmental officers continued to respond to ever-increasing demands from the general public, schools and other organisations for talks and displays on wildlife and conservation issues. As an example, advice and information was provided in response to more than 8 500 public telephone enquiries concerning wildlife matters from the State Operations headquarters alone.

ROADSIDE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The RCC annually awards the Roadside Certificate of Merit. This year the award was won by a roadside revegetation project undertaken by The Men Of the Trees and the Armadale Branch of the WA Wildflower Society. Mr Mike Norman and Mr Kim Sarti were the persons responsible for the planning and implementation of the winning entry.

Surveys of the conservation value of roadsides have continued, the data being processed using a Geographical Information System (GIS). The maps produced will help local authorities to manage and plan for roadside vegetation more effectively. Workshops and information sessions on roadside conservation and management techniques have been conducted at the request of local shires and community groups in many localities (e.g. Corrigin, Plantagenet, Serpentine, Jarrahdale and Wickepin). In June a national conference on roadside conservation, funded by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency, was held in Melbourne. This was attended by delegates from the RCC, who played a significant role in bringing the conference about as well as in the workshop discussions. The penultimate chapter of the Roadside Manual, dealing with the rehabilitation of borrow pits on roadsides, has been completed; the manual should be available for distribution to local government during late 1993.

The RCC has funded an ongoing herbicide trial to control lovegrass in native vegetation. This trial is expected to be completed in 1994, with the results to be made available to local government. A study of bridal creeper has also been funded by the RCC.

The Herbarium

CALM's WA Herbarium mounted 9 191 new specimens, adding them to its database. A further 54 362 specimen records were added to the WAHERB specimen database, bringing the total number of databased entries to 316 500. This represents an estimated 90% of the State collection's data now available in electronic form. A prototype system for spatial validation of WAHERB records was also established, based on *Acacia* and funded by the Environmental Resources Information Network.

A total of 6 440 plant specimens were identified for researchers. Specimen loans were transacted with 17 national and international institutions, with 3 497 herbarium specimens being loaned, and 3 922 herbarium specimens received on loan from other herbaria. Also 2 174 herbarium specimens were distributed on exchange to other institutions, and 2 261 herbarium specimens of WA flora were received from other institutions to add to the collection.

The public access Reference Herbarium now comprises 8 136 specimens vouchered and linked to a databased specimen in the main herbarium collection. It was consulted by 768 recorded visitors, including CALM staff, tertiary students and amateur and professional botanists.

WACENSUS, the database of plant names for the State, now comprises a total of 12 819 records. The number of names in current use totals 10 809, of which 10 170 are formally published names and 639 are manuscript or phrase names for taxa yet to be formalised. Protocols have been established for maintenance of the Census entries which are now directly linked to information in the herbarium collection.

The regional herbarium at Manjimup was officially opened during the year, and is linked through the computer network to the main collection. The regional herbaria at Karratha and Albany also continue to provide decentralised access to herbarium facilities, with the Albany herbarium currently housing 12 170 specimens. Equipment was purchased to establish a regional herbarium at Geraldton. Volunteer support for the herbaria has remained strong through the year.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND LIAISON

Wildlife information signs or interpretive displays were constructed for six Abrolhos Islands, Geikie and Windjana Gorges, Purnululu, Porongorup Range, Hamelin Pool and Shell Beach and Lake Dumbleyung. A brochure on the Fitzgerald River National Park Biosphere was also produced. Environmental education activities included an Earth Caretakers program at Canning River Regional Park for teachers and students, presentations at the State-wide Museum Education expo for educators held at Perth Zoo,

and four Dryandra Woodland Ecology courses run for the public.

Interaction with Aboriginal groups has assisted CALM in gaining an understanding of nature conservation issues from the Aboriginal perspective. A collaborative project was completed with the Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation on the biota of the Great Victorian Desert, and consultation has commenced with the Ngaanyatjarra Council over the future management of the proposed Lake Throssell Conservation Park in the Goldfields Region. Cooperative interactions have also continued with the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation.

The Department again assessed the applications to the Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme for providing funding assistance for the fencing of remnant vegetation for nature conservation. A total of 138 applications were received, 48 fewer than last year. Ninety-seven applications were funded to fence off a total of 3789 hectares of remnant vegetation. \$245 113 were provided for fencing subsidies, at a cost effectiveness of \$64.68 per hectare protected.

The Department also coordinated the State assessment of the Commonwealth-funded Save the Bush component of the national Landcare program. Forty-nine applications were assessed, which, although being a reduction of 25 from last year, did represent an improvement in standards of application, and also an increased level of innovation in addressing awareness and management for nature conservation by the community. The funding provided to Western Australia under Save the Bush increased from \$187 569 in 1992-93 to a recommended \$221 009 for 1993-94. Both funding schemes provide an important nature conservation contact for the Department with the community, and in particular the Land Conservation Districts. This contact is further strengthened by the continued appointment of a rural nature conservation officer, funded by the Save the Bush program.

ROADSIDE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Roadside Conservation Committee, with assistance from Main Roads Western Australia, has continued to produce maps depicting the conservation value of roads within Shires. This year, maps have been produced for the Shires of Bridgetown/Greenbushes, West Arthur, Gingin and Chittering. These maps, when used in conjunction with remnant vegetation data from the Department of Agriculture and the conservation estate from CALM, provide local authorities and landcare groups with a valuable planning and management tool.

During the year the RCC ran a workshop on *Watsonia* species: their identification, distribution, control, biology

and methods of control. The workshop was well attended and the proceedings were published.

A wildflower tour brochure entitled *Wildflower Tours of Wickepin* was produced in June. This brochure is the fourteenth in a series of roadside flora tour brochures being produced by the RCC for Local Government Authorities around the State.

Through the past year several Shires have proclaimed Flora Roads within their areas. This positive action helps to conserve a valuable resource by making road managers aware of the values that need to be protected, and through the stewardship role that develops in the local communities.

During the past year the RCC has funded research projects (conducted by CALM's Science and Information Division) into bridal creeper biology and distribution, and the management of exotic plant species at rare flora sites on rail and roadsides. Final drafts of these reports are expected in the forthcoming year.

The RCC awards a Certificate of Merit to encourage the sympathetic management of rail and roadside vegetation. For 1993-94 this was presented by the Minister for the Environment to Mr D MacKenzie of Munglinup and to Main Roads (Kalgoorlie Division) for their respective revegetation projects.

Codes of practice for conservation and maintenance of roadside vegetation have been produced by some Shires. These documents provide a foundation for all operations and will help to ensure sound roadside vegetation management.

In February a workshop was held to consider the current operations of the RCC and make recommendations for future directions of this group. Participants at the workshop included representatives of 'stakeholder' groups. As a result of this workshop, the RCC has been able to define and prioritise its areas of interest, e.g. Local Government training on roadside conservation matters.

A paper entitled Roadside Corridors and Community Networks was presented at a CSIRO Networks Conference. This paper, co-authored by the Chairman and Executive Officer of RCC, documents the RCC experience in establishing community networks to conduct roadside surveys.