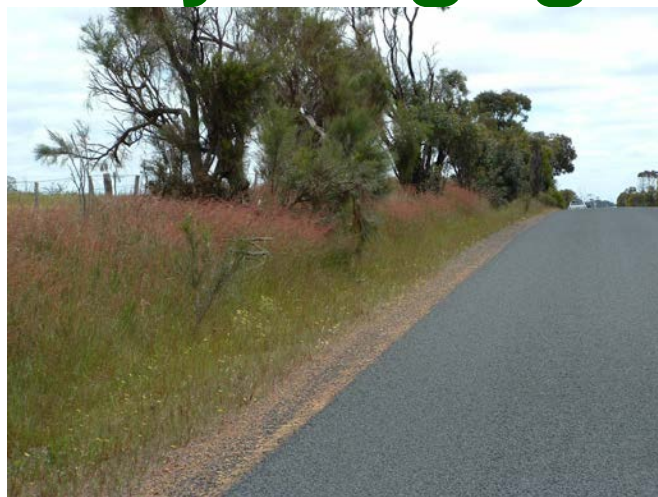


# Community Engagement



Community members keep an eye on roadside vegetation and report poor management to the RCC.



Volunteers helping to manually weed road reserves saves using chemicals which might harm native vegetation.

**Local community members are vital to the conservation of roadside vegetation.**



Getting involved: planting projects within and adjacent to road reserves increase the amount of habitat for flora and fauna in these areas.



Community volunteers are sought to help the RCC undertake vital Roadside Conservation Value survey work. If you have some time to spare why not become an RCC volunteer and help your local roads?

**Contributions of local volunteers through weed control, revegetation and vegetation surveys ensure roadside vegetation is conserved and managed for the benefit of the environment and the people within that local community.**



**Adopt a Verge:** Together with your neighbours and the local council, many hands make light work.



Work with your local shire and start a Roadside Care Committee to help look after roadside vegetation.

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(08) 9334 0423 or 0417 090 131

# Flora Roads



Anyone can nominate a road to be a Flora Road.



Then if the road appears suitable the RCC undertake an assessment of the values of the roadside vegetation.



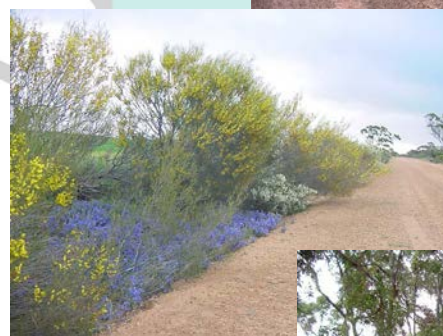
The RCC make a recommendation to the managing authority about declaring the Flora Road. Only they can officially declare the road.

**Flora Roads are those roads which have high conservation value due to the quality of the vegetation growing within the reserve.**



There are 35 declared Flora Roads throughout the south west of WA, with more pending council decision. This network of roads provides vital habitat and understanding of historic vegetation throughout the region.

**Suitable roads are assessed by the RCC and declared by the road manager. Vegetation Management Plans are developed to ensure the environmental values of the vegetation within the road reserve are maintained and enhanced.**



Flora Roads can have lots of different vegetation types.



Once a Flora Road is declared the managing authority, with the RCC, develop a Vegetation Management Plan for the road.



Road Management Plan 2004

Prepared by the Road Asset Business Unit in association with Macmillan Australia Pty Ltd to implement the Council's Road Asset Management Plan 2004 and meet the requirements of a Road Management Plan as defined in the Road Management Act 2004

Road Management Plan 2004 (20040001)

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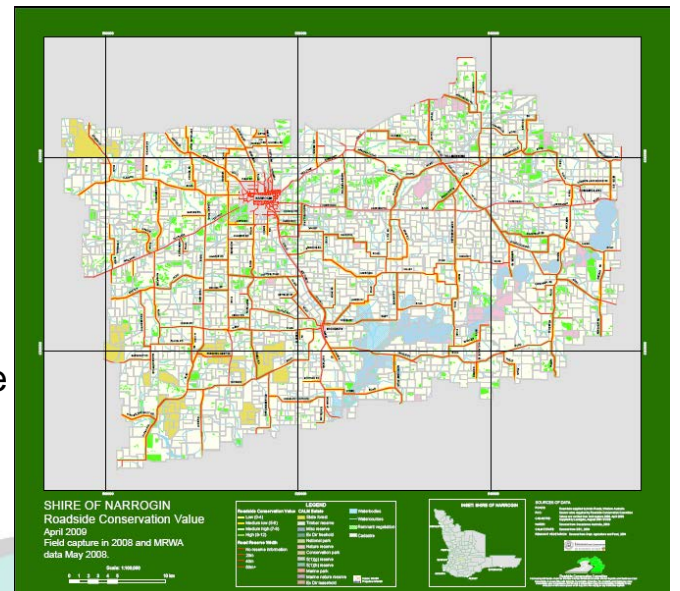
# Roadside Conservation Value (RCV) Mapping



Community volunteers undertake vegetation surveys of shire roads using RCC handheld computers.



Volunteers also collect information on the presence and extent of weeds within the road reserves, to aid management.



**RCV Mapping provides a snapshot of information about the value of vegetation within a road reserve.**

The RCC produce RCV maps from the data collected, showing where areas of high and low conservation value occur.



The data collected by volunteers contributes to how councils manage road construction, maintenance and upgrade works as well as setting priorities for weed and disease management.

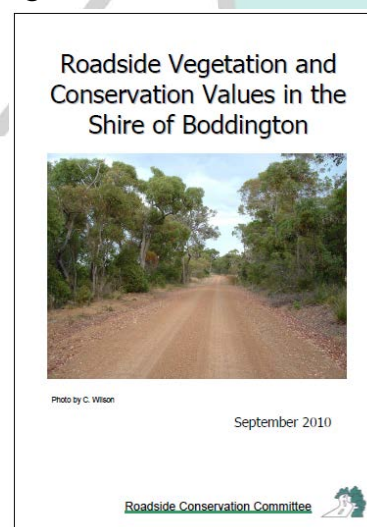
**Community volunteers collect information on environmental attributes of roadside vegetation and road managers use this information to make better decisions about the management of that road corridor.**

Conservation Status	Score	Colour
High	9-12	Dark Green
Med-high	7-8	Light green
Med-low	5-6	Orange
Low	0-4	Yellow

The data collected is provided to councils electronically for inclusion in GIS programs.



RCC staff produce technical reports on the data collected and provide advice to councils on implications for road management.



# Threats to Roadside Vegetation

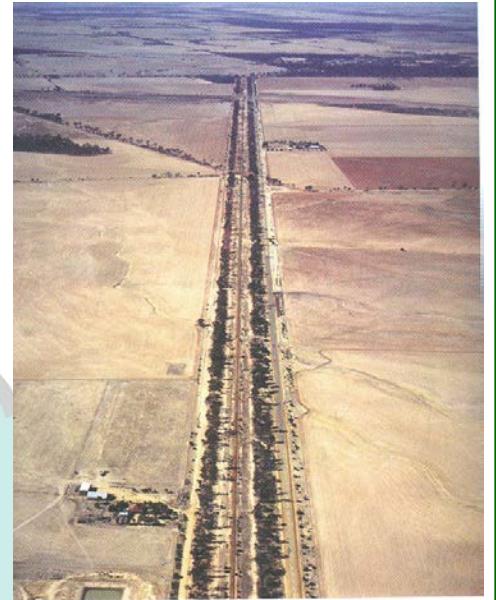


Dieback causes the decline and death of many native species and is spread easily along road reserves.



Weed infestation of roadsides is widespread and compromises the diversity of the native vegetation.

**Roadside vegetation has inherent problems relating to conservation due to competing interests within the road reserve.**



Isolation of vegetation due to over clearing decreases the long term sustainability of these corridors of vegetation.



Clearing of native vegetation is by far the biggest threat to roadside vegetation as it removes the biota as well as any chance of recovery.



Inappropriate burning leads to increased weeds and reduces native vegetation health



**Weed and disease invasion are often exacerbated by the act of clearing. These threats combine to severely shorten the lifespan of roadside vegetation.**



Salinity and wind erosion cause tree decline and death in many WA wheatbelt areas.

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# Values of Roadside Vegetation



Endangered species, such as Carnaby's Black Cockatoo use roadside vegetation for feeding and nesting.



Roadside vegetation can be very diverse and contributes to the long term health of nearby bushland.

**Roadside vegetation plays a vital role in the conservation of Western Australia's unique flora and fauna.**



Small mammals like Honey Possums take refuge in small roadside remnants.



Roadside vegetation creates corridors through highly cleared areas like the WA Wheatbelt.

**It provides essential habitat for rare and threatened species, forms corridors that facilitate species movement and, in many areas, composes a significant part of the remaining native vegetation.**



Iconic native flora attracts tourism to Western Australia



Many road reserves have European and/or Aboriginal heritage values. The vegetation within these reserves can also be the last of a vegetation complex in that bioregion.



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# Working Together



The RCC encourages and assists in community consultation regarding road management.

**The RCC works with key stakeholders to coordinate and promote the conservation and effective management of roadside vegetation.**



The RCC members are made up of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Main Roads WA, other government agencies, local government, conservation groups and service providers. All of these organisations work together to achieve mutually beneficial goals in roadside conservation.

**Only through understanding all of the issues from multiple perspectives will long term conservation of roadside vegetation be achievable. It is everyone's responsibility to be part of the solution.**



Local Community Groups can assist road managers with education and assistance activities to help achieve conservation outcomes.



Meeting on common ground to discuss road safety and conservation issues with the council works crew for a better outcome.



The RCC Executive Officer conducts free environmental training for road managers.



RCC staff provide on ground advice regarding site specific issues.

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