

Information for maintaining existing transport corridors

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Maintaining transport corridors is important to road safety and the longevity of infrastructure. **Roadsides and railway reserves may be important areas for nature conservation and in many areas are the only linkages or corridors between patches of remnant vegetation.** The following documents provide information about when clearing of native vegetation to maintain existing transport corridors is exempt or not, and best management practices to prevent degradation of native vegetation.

'A Guide to Exemptions for Clearing Native Vegetation for Maintenance in Existing Transport Corridors' Department of Environment and Conservation 2007 available at: www.dec.wa.gov.au/nvc in the publications tab under 'guidelines'

This guide has specifically been developed to clarify the exemptions detailed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulation 2004 and contains the following:

- The first section of this guide explains how the exemptions under the Regulations operate for clearing in existing transport corridors.
- The second section of this guide contains an Index of Activities which lists items by their topic. For example, clearing for a crossover, lateral clearance area or public roadside facility.
- The third section includes a Table of Exemptions which provides summary information on the relevant exemption.

New works require a permit to clear native vegetation

Any road or rail extension, widening or realignment is considered new works and requires a permit to clear native vegetation. Infrastructure upgrades such as new drains and culverts and new gravel extraction sites and extensions of existing sites also

require a permit to clear native vegetation and are not exempt.

Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC)

The RCC is an advisory committee consisting of government and non-government representatives. It provides guidance and examples for the development of roadside vegetation management plans, codes of practice and by-laws incorporating best practices for conserving and managing native vegetation.

Best management practice documents developed by the RCC

- Available at: www.dec.wa.gov.au
- Handbook of Environmental Practice for Road Construction and Maintenance Works, Roadside Conservation Committee
- Guidelines for Managing Special Environmental Areas in Transport Corridors, Roadside Conservation Committee

Other useful RCC documents:

- Assessing Roadsides: A guide for rating conservation value
- Verge Notes - A Roadside Note for Landholders - Mar 2005
- Verge Notes - Guidelines for the Nomination and Management of Flora Roads

Information relating to Dieback management developed by Department of Environment and Conservation

- Available at: www.dec.wa.gov.au
- Dieback Atlas, Department of Environment and Conservation 2007



What if I clear without a permit?

Refer to Fact Sheet 2 'Clearing Offences and Penalties' and Fact Sheet 3 'Compliance Inspections and Clearing Laws' for information about penalties and inspections.

More information

Legislation

This document is provided for guidance only. It should not be relied upon to address every aspect of the relevant legislation. Please refer to the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004, available from the State Law Publisher. Free electronic copies are available from www.slp.wa.gov.au

Compliance assistance documents

Additional publications relating to clearing laws, clearing permits, and application forms are available online from www.dec.wa.gov.au/nvc or can be requested by phoning 9334 0333.

Compliance advice

For advice on complying with your permit, or any other related matter, please contact DEC's Native Vegetation Conservation Branch on 9219 8744.

For permits related to mineral and petroleum activities contact Department of Mine and Petroleum on 9222 3570.

Roadside Conservation Committee

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