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Department of Biodiversity,
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ROADSIDE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The following groups are represented on the RCC:

- Department of Conservation and Land Management
- Main Roads WA
- Westrail
- Agriculture WA
- Western Australian Municipal Association
- Bush Fires Board
- Western Power
- Greening Australia WA
- Wildflowers Society of WA
- Alinta Gas
- Water Corporation
- Telstra

A full-time Executive Officer funded by the departments of Conservation and Land Management and Main Roads Western Australia, is based in the Wildlife Branch of CALM. The Executive Officer provides liaison between the RCC, government departments, the public, and road managers, as well as servicing the committee, arranging field inspections, and pursuing research into ways of achieving the aims of the RCC. The RCC seeks to foster communication and co-operation between the various groups. The committee is available to assist in the development of rail or roadside vegetation management plans, other thing like research, projects and publications.

CONTACTING THE RCC

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**Roadside
Conservation
Committee**



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ROADSIDES....the Vital Link

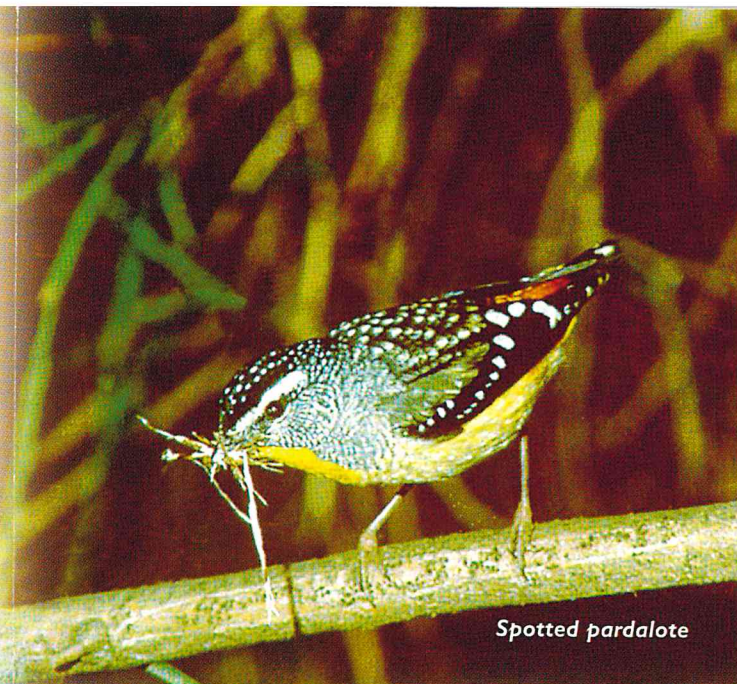
Native plants along roadsides often provide the traveller's first contact with Western Australia's world renowned flora.

Over much of the State, roadsides are reservoirs of plant species that have been cleared from the surrounding countryside. Roadside vegetation is a vital environmental link for our native wildlife. Patches and strips of native vegetation along rail and roadsides provides valuable habitat for many species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. These corridors of vegetation provide our wildlife with food and shelter; and enable nomadic and migratory species to move between populations otherwise isolated by areas cleared for agriculture or development.

In 1985 the Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) was formed 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 Western Australian Land Resource Policy Council within the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the RCC is now convened by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. It replaces the Road Verge Conservation Committee which addressed similar issues between 1968 and 1983. The terms of reference of the 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. It provides guidelines on how to manage roadsides to

best protect their native vegetation. It does not normally become involved with roadside vegetation issues in built-up areas.

Native vegetation on rail and roadsides is at risk from maintenance fire prevention activities, power and pipeline construction. It should be managed to maintain or enhance both the habitat for our native wildlife, and the visual characteristics of the areas concerned. In some areas relevant government departments, Shire councils and local community groups are working together to manage their rail or roadsides. The roadside vegetation is surveyed to identify areas of high conservation value so that rare or threatened plants and communities are protected.



Spotted pardalote



Red-Tailed phascogale