

FLORA ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT
POLICY:
HARRINGTON ROAD



(PHOTO - HARRINGTON ROAD, BY SEAN SMITH)

SHIRE OF AUGUSTA-MARGARET RIVER
JUNE 2003

Roadside Conservation Committee



FLORA ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River *Flora Road Management Plan* (2003) has been prepared for the locally controlled declared flora road, Harrington Road. Whilst Flora Roads have no legal status, it is anticipated that the Management Plan will be accepted and implemented as a reflection of the ethics and values held by the Shire.

Management Objectives:

The objectives identified in the Flora Road Management Plan are to:

- Ensure the safe function of the road;
- Minimise the risk and impact from fire;
- Protect and restore indigenous vegetation communities within the roadside.
- Minimise disturbance to the roadside vegetation;
- Prevent the introduction or spread of weeds and soil borne pathogens within the roadside;
- Maintain and enhance the visual amenity and landscape quality of the road and roadside;
- Protect the cultural and heritage values of the roadside;
- Prevent the installation of utilities, such as telecommunications, water, power and gas, from being located within the road reserve;
- Ensure compliance with all legislative requirements;
- Educate and involve the community in regards to Flora Roads and their value.

Roadside Management Policy

1.0 General Requirements

1.1 That council ensures that works being undertaken on the road allow for optimum protection and enhancement of the indigenous vegetation, having due regard for:

- (a) Road safety;
- (b) Fire prevention;
- (c) Minimising disturbance;
- (d) The introduction or spread of weeds and soil borne pathogens.

1.2 That local native vegetation beyond the road formation is not disturbed during road maintenance works. See Guidelines 1(a) - (e)

1.3 That council ensures all staff involved in road construction, maintenance and management are instructed in the correct techniques for minimising disturbance to indigenous roadside vegetation. See Guidelines 1(a), 1(b).

1.4 That council ensures all staff involved in road construction, maintenance and management are aware of the Flora Road and it's many values. See Guideline 1 (a).

2.0 Fire Management

2.1 That slashing or other suitable fire prevention works are not detrimental to the roadside vegetation within the Harrington Road Flora Road reserve. See Guideline 2(a), 2(b).

2.2 That Council encourages the local fire advisory committee to consider:

- (a) significance of a fire hazard
- (b) vegetation type
- (c) conservation value of the roadside
- (d) maintenance of clear sight distances

3.0 Special Environment Areas

3.1 That any rare, priority and significant flora and fauna within the road reserve be recorded and clearly identified and protected prior to any works being carried out. See Guideline 3(a)

3.2 That Council consults with the Roadside Conservation Committee and or the Department of Conservation and Land Management (DCLM) about the appropriate management of roadside areas where a rare, priority or significant flora species has been located.

3.3 That the procedure outlined by the Roadside Conservation Committee for signing and management of special environment areas be adopted.

4.0 Restoration and Revegetation

4.1 That regenerating indigenous vegetation is protected where practicable and managed in such a way to prevent interference with the structure of the road or other important activities. See Guideline 4(b).

4.2 That prior to any approval being given for revegetation or natural regeneration projects, plans must be submitted so Council can ensure that:

- (a) The project is compatible with various roadside Codes of Practice and Guidelines;
- (b) They will not interfere with any current service provision;
- (c) The type of weed control is appropriate to the site;
- (d) Local indigenous vegetation is being used;
- (e) The group initiating the planting or regeneration is able to maintain the plants until they are large enough to look after themselves
- (f) long term maintenance of the site has been adequately considered

4.3 That Council consults with all relevant agencies including the Roadside Conservation Committee and the Department of Conservation and Land Management prior to approving revegetation or regeneration projects. See Guideline 4(a).

5.0 Removal of Vegetation

5.1 That where permission has been granted to remove, destroy or prune any indigenous vegetation, council ensures that no native vegetation other than that specified is destroyed or disturbed.

Note: Removal of fallen timber from any roadside requires permission from Council and a licence from the DCLM. See Guideline 5 (c).

6.0 Pest Plants and Animals

6.1 That Council conducts a program to control all weeds within the Flora Road.

6.2 That where pest animals are present, the Department of Agriculture Western Australia (DAWA) and or the RCC be contacted to give appropriate advice on control measures. See Guideline 6(a)

6.3 That control of pest plants and animals on a flora road has regard to the pest and pest animal strategies developed by the DAWA and the RCC.

7.0 Community Education and Involvement

7.1 That Council highlights the importance of protecting Flora Roads consistent with the objectives of:

- (a) road safety
- (b) Fire prevention

(c) Wildlife habitat requirements

(d) Landcare objectives

(e) Local tourism

(f) Biodiversity sustainability

as part of its community information initiatives.

7.2 That Council educates and involves adjoining landholders in the protection of the Flora Road.
See Guideline 7 (a) (b).

7.3 That Council should encourage individual and community restoration and revegetation projects with special emphasis on enhancing wildlife corridors in accordance with the Roadside Management Policy.

GUIDELINES FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

1.0 General Requirements

- (a) Road construction supervisors and relevant staff will be encouraged to attend seminars or courses related to roadside management and conservation conducted by TAFE, the RCC or other organisations as approved by the Manager of Operations.
- (b) Persons undertaking works will be advised that native vegetation beyond the road formation is not to be disturbed, except where a permit has been issued or other Acts override this requirement.
- (c) Telstra, Western Power, local fire brigades and other relevant agencies will be made aware of Council's Flora Road Management Plan and the location of the road itself.
- (d) The boundary of works should be clearly identified prior to commencement of works.
- (e) Plant, equipment and stockpiles are not to be parked amongst indigenous vegetation on the roadside.

2.0 Fire Management

- (a) The local fire brigade will be advised of the location of the Flora road.
- (b) The local fire brigade will be encouraged to utilise other alternatives for strategic fire breaks to avoid disturbing the Flora road.

3.0 Flora Roads Register

- (a) A register will be prepared and held in Council's engineering department showing the location of this, and any other Flora Roads. The information in this register would be verified by the RCC.

4.0 Restoration and Revegetation

- (a) Plans of revegetation projects will be referred to the relevant agencies and community groups to determine compliance with relevant Codes of Practices.

(b) Indigenous vegetation will not be permitted to regenerate if it is likely to grow in the clearance space required by maintenance activities (i.e. drains), or obstruct the visibility of traffic.

5.0 Removal of Vegetation

(a) Flora Roads should be subjected to specific planning and management considerations to ensure their conservation.

(b) Prune offending branches rather than removing the whole tree. Cut branches off close to the limb or tree trunks.

(c) Any request to remove fallen timber from a Flora road will be inspected prior to granting permission to assess the accessibility of the timber and the presence of other ground level features to provide habitat for small native animals.

6.0 Pest Plants and Animals

(a) Where pest plants and animals are to be eradicated from a Flora Road, work will be carried out in a manner which will cause minimal damage to the native vegetation. The area will be reinstated in such a manner that it will discourage reinfestation.

7.0 Community Education and Involvement

(a) The community will be made aware of the Flora road, particularly adjoining landholders.

(b) Walk trails could be designed and information brochures produced to assist in raising awareness of Flora Roads in the wider community.



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