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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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# Declared Rare Flora and road maintenance

## *What is Declared Rare Flora?*

Declared Rare Flora species are wild plant species that have been adequately searched for but are rare, in danger of extinction or need special protection.

Many Declared Rare Flora species are only known from a few hundred, or less, mature plants in the wild and some only from one or two sites. Road verges often provide important habitats for rare flora, especially in shires where extensive clearing has occurred for agriculture, housing, roads and amenities.

## *Declared Rare Flora and the law*

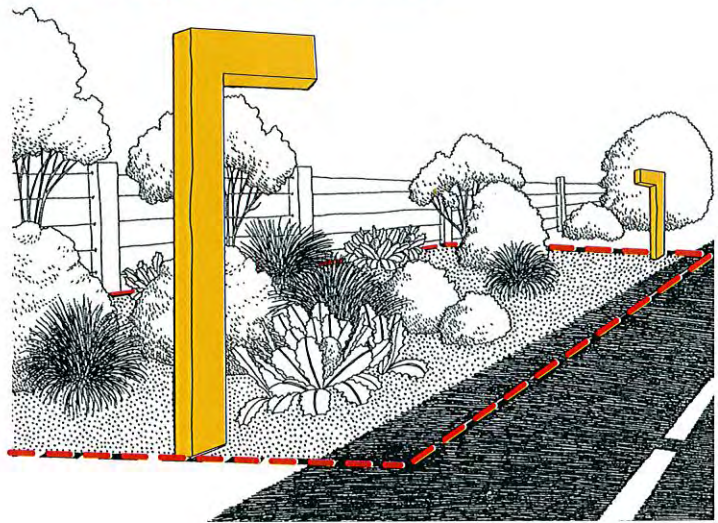
Declared Rare Flora species are protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, which states that any designated Declared Rare Flora shall not be taken. For this purpose, the words 'to take' means 'to gather, pluck, cut, pull up, destroy, dig up, remove or injure the flora or to cause or permit the same to be done by any means'.

The only way Declared Rare Flora may be taken lawfully is to apply for a permit, which must be approved by the Minister for the Environment. Applications for permits are free and can be arranged by contacting your local Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) office or DEC's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0455. Applications are assessed on their effect on the conservation of the species as a whole and require at least six to eight weeks to be processed. A penalty of up to \$10,000 applies to Declared Rare Flora that is taken without a permit.

## *How do I know where Declared Rare Flora grows on roadsides?*

Declared Rare Flora sites on roadsides are generally marked with two yellow markers which are bent to face towards each other as shown in the illustration. These markers are commonly known as 'hockey sticks' or DRF markers.

DRF markers indicate that Declared Rare Flora occurs somewhere along the roadside between the markers. If work is proposed around these markers and your manager has not identified the presence of Declared Rare Flora or given you instructions on carrying out works, contact your manager before proceeding. Continuing road works without obtaining a permit may break the law and jeopardise a critically endangered plant population.



Each time a new population of Declared Rare Flora is found, formal notifications are delivered to the appropriate landowners and managers. So, even if no DRF markers are present on the roadside, your works manager will be able to inform you of any Declared Rare Flora sites in the shire.

Declared Rare Flora is given special protection under State and Federal legislation to prevent extinction and to maintain biodiversity. Everyone is responsible for protecting Declared Rare Flora for the future.



Department of  
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

