

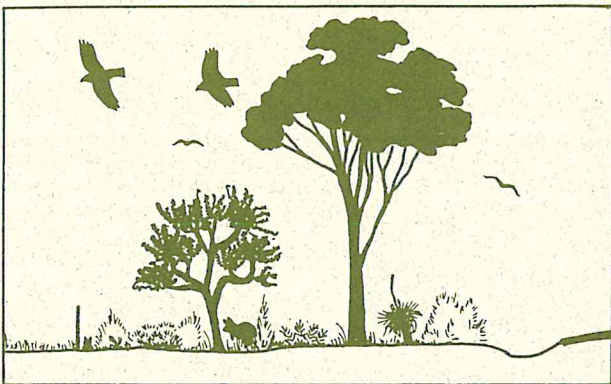
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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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5. It may provide nest sites and refuges for native animals.

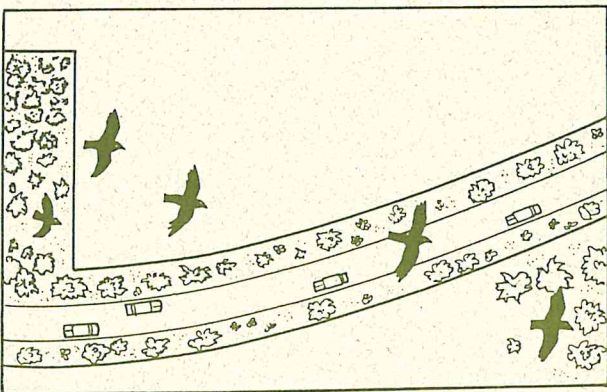
Thick shrubbery may harbour birds, holes and hollows in trees provide nest sites, tall limbs provide perches, flowering trees and shrubs provide nectar and seeds for food.



6. It may act as a biological corridor.

In farming areas, small bush remnants are islands in a sea of crops. Small animals, such as birds and reptiles, may be confined to them, as they find it difficult to cross extensive areas of bare paddocks.

Roadsides can act as corridors, connecting these islands, and enabling animals to move along them.



How you can help

1. Take part in a survey to determine which roads are important for conservation.

Contact the RVCC for further details.

If you cannot assist personally, nominate a roadside as a possible Flora Road.

Contact the RVCC if you think a road has conservation value. The Committee can then arrange an inspection.

2. Revegetate a road verge.

Greening Australia, Men of the Trees and other organisations promote and organise the planting of trees and shrubs along roadsides. Contact them to find out what is happening in your area.

Alternatively, organise your own plantings! Remember to:


contact the road manager (Shire or MRD)

select only local species

plant a mixture of trees, shrubs and herbs as appropriate to the area.

For Further Information Please Contact:

Roadside Vegetation Conservation Committee
PO Box 104
COMO WA 6152
Ph: (09) 367 0333

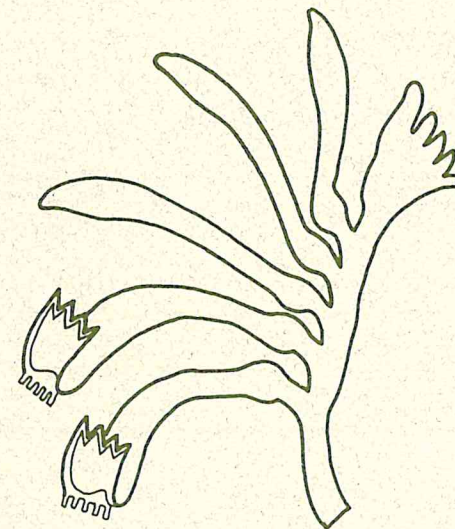
Department of Conservation and Land Management
50 Hayman Road
COMO WA 6152 
or
any Regional Office

Main Roads Department
Waterloo Crescent
EAST PERTH WA 6000
Ph: (09) 323 4111



FLORA ROADS

FLORA ROAD



Roadside Vegetation
Conservation Committee 

c/- P.O. Box 104 COMO W.A. 6152

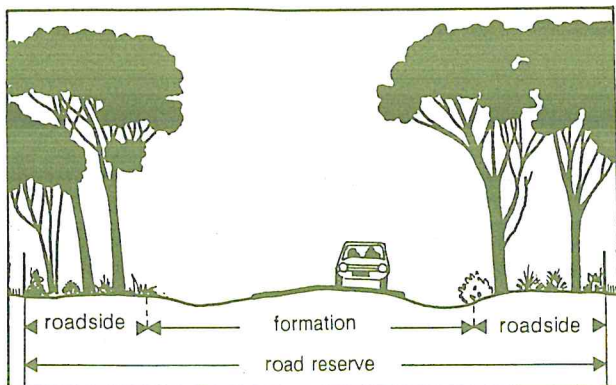
Flora Roads

Flora Roads are significant sections of road having a special conservation value due to the vegetation growing on the road reserve.

The Road Reserve

When a public road is created, a corridor of land is dedicated for this purpose and called the road reserve.

The road formation and its associated drainage works are accommodated within the road reserve. The remaining space is called the roadside.



The wider the roadside, the more likely it is to carry vegetation of conservation importance, although even narrow roadsides may also carry significant populations of native plants.

In the early days of Western Australia, most road reserves were created one chain (approx. 20m) wide. This was wide enough for the traffic of those days.

Stock routes, however, were wider, often up to 5 chains, to allow the stock to browse along the way.

In the 1960s, when it was realised how quickly Western Australia's wildflower heritage was being cleared for agriculture, the government decided to set aside wide road reserves, so that the extra space could become a flora conservation zone.

Thus today we have a range of road reserve and roadside widths, many of which carry significant communities of native vegetation.

Register of Roads Important for Conservation

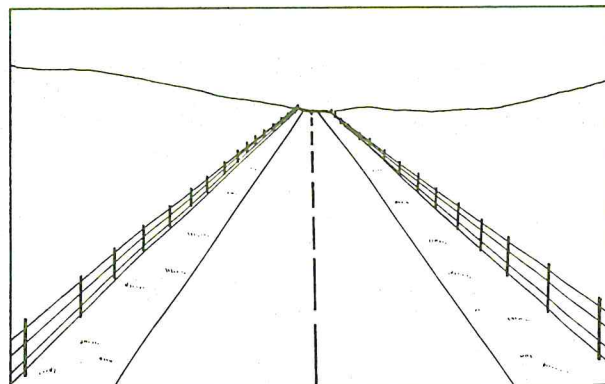
In order to plan roadworks so that important areas of roadside vegetation are not disturbed, road managers should know of these areas. Consequently the Roadside Vegetation Conservation Committee is co-ordinating a survey to create a Register of roads important for conservation.

This Register will also be important for service authorities, such as SEC, Telecom and Water Authority of WA, which often use the road corridor for the location of their services.

Principal Conservation Values

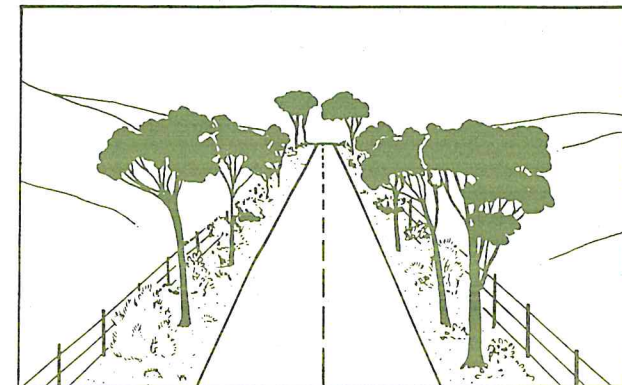
1. The roadside must contain a significant population of native vegetation.

Introduced trees and grasses are not important for conservation



2. The native vegetation must be in as near to its natural condition as possible.

In undisturbed vegetation several layers of plants occur—trees, shrubs and herbs in woodland, for example, or shrubs and herbs in heath. If one, or more of the expected layers are missing, the conservation value is reduced.



3. The roadside may be the only remaining example of original vegetation within a cleared area. It thus:-

assists in vegetation mapping and distribution studies

provides a benchmark for study of soil change during agricultural development

provides a source of local seed for revegetation projects.

acts as a wildlife habitat for the protection of fauna.

4. Rare or endangered plants may occur on the roadside.

Because of clearing, the roadside remnants may harbour the last few populations of particular plants