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Getting Roadside Projects Up and Rolling

Roadside vegetation is a very valuable asset. Roadside vegetation can sometimes be the only remaining vegetation in a landscape, thus providing essential habitat to plants and animals. For example, 53% of declared rare flora species have at least one population on a roadside. Roadside vegetation also provides a vital link between remaining remnants, allowing dispersal of plants and animals, which is crucial for breeding and the colonisation of remnants. Roadside vegetation is sometimes less disturbed than other vegetation, thus containing a wider range of species, which helps to ensure more natural revegetation. Roadside vegetation is also important in helping to provide people with a sense of place, as well as making their journeys more pleasant experiences.

With raising environmental awareness, local governments are often keen, and under increasing pressure, to undertake projects to improve their local environment. However, both drivers of environmental change are hampered by the lack of funds or technical capacity within many local governments. With this in mind, the Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) hopes that this VergeNote will provide Local Government Authorities with information about avenues of funding or other assistance for roadside projects such as condition mapping, revegetation, weed control programs and flora drives.

This is only a selection of the grants available. More information can be found at Grants Directory WA website (<http://grantsdirectory.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/>) and at the National grants website (www.grantslink.gov.au/). Your local Landcare Officer and Area Consultative Committee representative (www.acc.gov.au/) are also good sources of information on available grants. Please check the websites of the grant schemes described for more information and closing dates for funding applications.

For further advice on conservation projects for roadsides, contact the RCC or your local Department of Environment and Conservation office.

National funding

Envirofund www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/

Through landholders, Envirofund is able to offer funding for revegetation adjacent to the roadside vegetation, weed control and fencing. This funding source usually provides around half the funds required, with the other half coming from other sources such as other grants and Local Government. Local Government Authorities is not eligible for this grant. However, it is possible to work with landholders and LCDCs towards projects, such as revegetation adjacent to roads and gravel pit rehabilitation on private land.

Australia Post Landcare Community Development Grants www.landcareonline.com/

Community groups, including local Landcare groups across Australia, can now apply for yearly grants of up to \$3,300 (including GST) to help improve their local community and environment. As with the Envirofund, Local Government Authorities cannot apply for this grant, but again, it is possible to work with landholders and LCDCs towards projects.

Australian Tourism Development Program www.ausindustry.gov.au/

This program is designed to help projects that: promote tourism development in regional and rural Australia; increase visitation and yield throughout Australia; and enhance visitor dispersal and tourism expenditure throughout Australia. This funding may be useful for developing flora drives, for example, and include pamphlets, stopping bays and signage. Local Government Authorities can apply for this grant.



C. Wilson

Roadside revegetation.
C. Wilson



State funding

Gordon Reid Conservation of Natural Heritage Grants www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au/grants

This grant has provided funding for such projects as: planting local species of trees, shrubs and ground covers; creating bush corridors; fencing remnant vegetation; controlling weeds; flora and fauna surveys; management plans; and public education projects. Grants can be up to \$15,000 in any one financial year and applicants are encouraged to take a “whole of catchment” perspective. Local Government Authorities are eligible for this grant.

Western Australian Regional Initiatives Scheme (WARIS) www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/

WARIS provides grants from \$10,000 - \$250,000 for non-capital works projects designed to deliver benefits to two or more regions of the State in areas such as capacity building and leadership, youth support, population retention, environmental and natural resource management, and research and development on regional issues and opportunities. Local Government Authorities can apply for this grant.

Funding under regional NRM catchment councils

Some Commonwealth funding is available through the State’s Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) catchment councils. Past examples include the Northern Agriculture Catchment Council’s “Involving Local Government in NRM” project, and “Groundworks”, a funding program for on-ground works, delivered by the Blackwood Basin Group and the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, and administered by the South West Catchments Council. However, this funding is not necessarily available annually, so contact your regional catchment council to be up to date with any funding opportunities.

Volunteer Sourcing, On-Ground Works and Training Opportunities

Green Skills www.greenskills.green.net.au

Greenskills is a community not-for-profit organisation. It provides a range of services, including training and contract weed spraying, and can provide supervised volunteers (at a cost) for practical conservation projects. Greenskills aims to promote, create and manage quality practical conservation projects that benefit the environment, and deliver quality training in the environmental field.

Conservation Volunteers Australia

www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/Conservation_Assist.asp

www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/volunteer/Better_Earth.htm

This practical conservation organisation manages more than 2000 conservation projects across Australia each year. It is a not-for-profit organisation and aims to keep costs as low as they can for all project partners. Under their Better Earth program, Conservation Volunteers Australia assists land managers, such as Local Government Authorities, in undertaking practical conservation activities. Examples of projects undertaken include: planting trees for habitat and land restoration; collecting native seed for revegetation and reforestation projects; installing conservation fencing to protect vulnerable areas; and participating in wildlife surveys to assist with threatened species management. Conservation Volunteers charges \$550 per day (excluding GST) for a team of managed volunteers.

Ask how we can help with:

- *Roadside vegetation value mapping*
- *Environmental management training*
- *Roadside vegetation management plans*

Roadside Conservation Committee



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