

**Pyrenees Shire
Roadside Management Strategy
Reviewed Jan 2014**



CONTENTS	
FORWARD	3
1.0 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 How the roads were assessed	5
2.0 MANAGEMENT, FRAMEWORK and LEGISLATION	5
2.1 Legislation designating management responsibilities	5
2.2 Summary of legislation relevant to roadside management	6
3.0 COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES	8
3.1 Vegetation communities	8
3.2 Before undertaking works	8
3.3 Rare, threatened or locally significant plants and animals	8
3.4 Tree hollows	8
3.5 Cultural heritage	9
3.6 Wetlands and waterways	9
4.0 FUNCTIONAL ISSUES	9
4.1 Fire prevention	9
4.2 Weed management	9
4.3 Summary of weed management actions	10
4.4 Maintenance of tree clearance by electrical distribution companies and delegated contractors	11
4.5 Locating utility services - electricity, communications and water	11
4.6 Removal of vegetation assessed as a hazard or risk	11
5.0 FARMING AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES	12
5.1 Stock movement	12
5.2 Weed invasion	12
5.3 Harvesting of wildflowers and collection of seed	12
5.4 Roadside activities	12
5.4.1 Firewood collection	12
5.4.2 Fencing	13
5.4.3 Drainage of land	13
5.4.4 Cropping and haymaking	13
5.4.5 Storage of goods	13
5.4.6 Pest animals	13
5.5 Summary of roadside activities – do I need a permit?	14
6.0 ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT – OPERATIONS AND WORKS	15
6.1 Stockpiles, dump sites and waste management	15
6.2 Road operations	15
6.3 Road construction and widening	16
6.4 Summary of road management activities	16
7.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW	18
APPENDIX	
1.0 Road maintenance envelope	18
2.0 Declared noxious weeds	19
3.0 Environmental weeds of garden escape origin	21

FOREWORD

Pyrenees Shire covers an area of 3457 square kilometres and is located in central Victoria between the regional centre's of Ballarat and Ararat. It shares common boundaries with the City of Ballarat and Shire of Hepburn to the east, Golden Plains Shire to the south-east, Corangamite and Moyne Shires to the south, Rural City of Ararat to the west, Northern Grampians Shire to the north-west and Central Goldfields Shire to the north-east.

The Shire topography is varied over its length dominated by the Pyrenees Range to the north, a plateau and flood-plain of the Avoca River to the east, and the Great Dividing Range east-west through the central portion of the Shire. The southern portion of the Shire is characterised by basaltic plains containing natural lakes and wetlands.

In Pyrenees Shire the early road network was established around gold mining settlements to provide local and community business services. Building on the historical settlement pattern, the Shire is now served by the Western, Sunraysia and Pyrenees Highways providing connections to the surrounding region and to Melbourne.

While road reserves primary function is to provide for property access and the movement of people and goods, they are now used for variety of purposes including transport, to service utility infrastructure, provide wildlife movement corridors and native flora and fauna habitat.

Due to most roadsides experiencing fewer disturbances than surrounding land, their significance is now widely recognized. Roadside vegetation makes a major contribution to landscape character and in the Pyrenees Shire, roadsides contain a substantial proportion of native vegetation of high conservation status.

Uncertainty around the impact of climate poses a challenge for Pyrenees Shire's natural asset base, providing further reason to undertake the Roadside Management Plan. The potential impacts of a changing climate including reduced rainfall, higher temperatures and fire risk adds further complexity to the legacy of landscape modification.

Mayor
Michael O'Connor

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The existing Pyrenees Shire Roadside Vegetation Management Plan was developed in 1999 in partnership with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE). A review of this Plan was undertaken by Council with a threefold objective; to identify roadsides of high conservation value, to establish a works roadside procedure and to provide a code of practice for on-ground works.

Within the Pyrenees Shire extensive areas of the land have been cleared for agriculture; primarily cropping and pasture improvement. This has resulted in a modified landscape, with a decline in some vegetation communities such as Plains Grassland and Grassy Woodland.

The Roadside Management Plan is a strategic directional document to guide roadside management actions, integrating Council's role under the Road Management Act 2004 with environmental considerations stated under the Act as to:

- Provide safe transport corridors
- Ensure safe property access
- Minimisation of fire risk
- Protect and enhance biodiversity values
- Protect cultural, heritage and amenity values

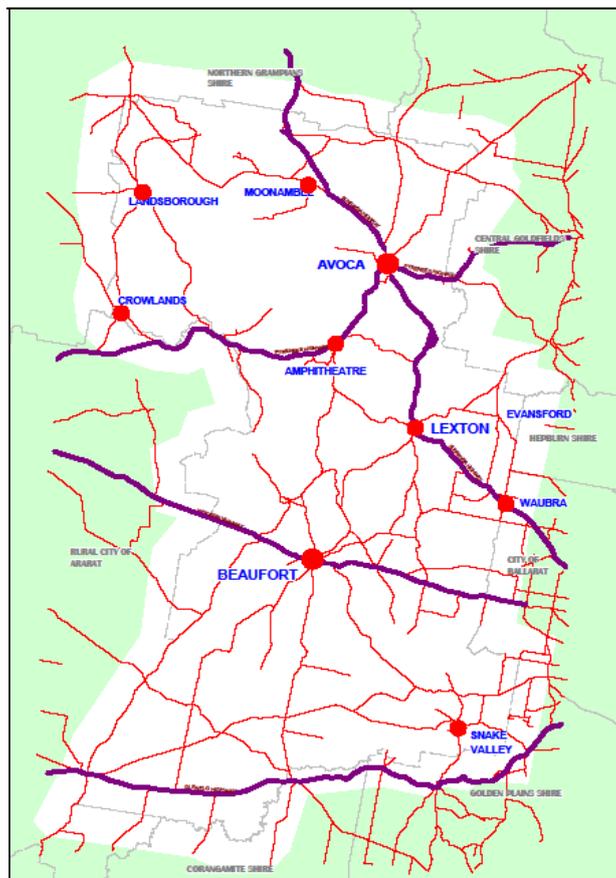


Fig. 1: Map of rural roads within the Shire municipal boundaries under the management of Council

1.1 How the roads were assessed

Roadsides were assessed using a rating system. Assessment included grasslands and was based on the proportion of native vegetation, percentage of weed cover, degree of site disturbance habitat value and presence of any threatened plants and animals.

Data was then collated by vegetation type and conservation status to arrive at the roadside management actions, grouped into high, medium or low conservation value. Data collection is supported by a roadside vegetation ground truth study and a web based vegetation mapping layer licensed from DSE with periodical updates. The information is available to all Council staff.

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE	Indicates a low level of disturbance and presence of significant vegetation capable of supporting a range of habitat needs. Ideal for corridor linkages and habitat for rare or threatened plant and animal species.
MEDIUM CONSERVATION VALUE	Moderate level of disturbance and weed levels, native vegetation occurs in patches with capacity for natural regeneration. Few other habitat features are present however this could be modified by changes to management.
LOW CONSERVATION VALUE	Generally of poor condition, with substantially disturbed or modified vegetation. A high level of non-native vegetation with weed infestation and low natural regenerative capacity or habitat features.

Fig. 1: Table representing Shire conservation values

2.0 MANAGEMENT, FRAMEWORK & LEGISLATION

Strategy and Policy

The Roadside Management Plan integrates with Victorian and local government strategy and plans including:

- Victoria's Native Vegetation Management and Biodiversity Provisions
- Pyrenees Shire Council Plan
- Pyrenees Shire Planning Scheme
- Pyrenees Shire Municipal Fire Prevention Plan

Strategic objectives and strategies

Management objectives for sustainable roadside management include:

- Integrate management of native vegetation into roadside planning
- Identify and protect significant plant and animal communities and their roadside habitat
- Integrate improved water quality values into unsealed road planning and maintenance
- Maintain the road formation to ensure safe function
- Minimise the risk and impact from fire

2.1 Legislation designating management responsibilities

Legislation relating to roadsides is outlined for Council, community and contractor processes to increase awareness of roadside vegetation values and promote best practice standards for Council and service providers.

2.2 Summary of legislation relevant to roadside management

Legislation	Function related to road reserves	Management responsibilities
<i>Crown Land Act 1958</i>	Gives the Crown ownership of all vegetation on roadsides, Royalties for timber collection, cropping & haymaking payable.	Minister for Climate Change and DEPI
<i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i>	Aims to prevent and suppress fires and protect life and property in the case of fire. Provides for the establishment of station and brigades, preparation of Municipal Fire Prevention Plans, and the issuing of fire prevention notices.	Overall responsibility is assigned to the Country Fire Authority. Local Government is responsible for the preparation of Plans, and the issuing of notices and fire prevention maintenance of Council managed roads
<i>Forest Act 1958</i>	Control and management of all trees, saplings and shrubs. Prosecution for unauthorised cutting of timber.	DEPI is responsible for works relating to State Forests.
<i>Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975</i>	The Australian Heritage Commission considers nominations and approves listing of places	Australian Heritage Commission
<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>	Provides for the reservation of Crown land for public purposes and the appointment of Trustees and Committees of Management.	Minister for Climate Change and DEPI.
<i>Transport Act 1983</i>	Regulation of use of freeways, State highways, main roads, tourist roads, forest roads or a stock route.	VicRoads is responsible for management of highways and other declared roads. Local Government may be delegated this responsibility.
<i>Aboriginal & Torres Strait Cultural heritage Protection Act 1984</i>	Recording and protection of sites of significance	Commonwealth & Victorian Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>	Development and administration of Planning Schemes and Native Vegetation Retention.	Minister for Planning and Local Governments.
<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>	Conservation and management of Victoria's flora and fauna. Controls in regard to protected flora.	DEPI subject to direction from the Minister for Environment and Climate Change
<i>Local Government Act 1989</i>	Assigns powers to Councils including the care and management of roads. May widen or narrow road reserve.	Local Government.
<i>Mineral Resources Development Act 1990</i>	Covers ownership, searching and mining of mineral resources.	Minister for Energy and Resources and DEPI
<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP)</i>	Identifies responsibilities for the control of proclaimed noxious weeds and pest animals.	The management of weeds and pest animals is currently under review. A DEPI, MAV, Local Government working party will present recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security by 30 June 2011
<i>Heritage Act 1995</i>	Protection and conservation of places	Minister for Planning, Minister

	and objects of cultural heritage significance	for Local Government
<i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i>	Provides for the Planning, installation and maintenance of services. Carries powers and immunities. Provisions for threatened species, environmental impact assessment.	Minister for Communication and the Australian Communications Authority
<i>Electrical Safety Act 1998</i>	Prescribes the regulation of power line safety. It establishes clearances between power lines and vegetation through the Code of Practice for Power line Clearances.	Chief Electrical Inspector.
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)</i>	The EPBC Act (1999) promotes conservation of biodiversity and protection of listed species, communities and areas of national significance.	Commonwealth Environment Minister
<i>Road Management Act 2004</i>	Prescribes the regulations associated with the management and maintenance of roads within Victoria.	VicRoads, local government
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>	Repeals the <i>Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972</i> . Protection of Aboriginal Heritage sites through the requirements of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage permits (ACHPs), Management Plans (ACHMPs) and Agreements (ACHAs)	DTPLI

Table 2: Summary of legislation relevant to roadside management

3.0 COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Roadside Management Plan is a reference document for implementing roadside management actions, integrating provision of safe transport corridors with environmental considerations.

Improving community awareness of roadside values will contribute to improved biodiversity and conservation values, including:

- Fostering of a local stewardship ethic toward roadside conservation
- Provide on-going education on reduction of environmental impact on roadsides
- Strengthening of Council environmental application

3.1 Vegetation communities

The principles of *Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework for Action 2002* apply to roadsides with the objective of long term native vegetation gain by:

- Retention of existing native vegetation by avoiding clearing where feasible and minimising disturbance to plant and animal habitat
- Development of actions to prevent further decline in indigenous vegetation resulting from Council activity
- Integration of native vegetation requirements into roadside planning processes
- Investigating opportunities to improve landscape connectivity, linking areas of fragments

3.2 Before undertaking works

Prior to undertaking any work on roadsides a check needs to be made for the vegetation type (EVC), conservation status, and any state or federal government requirements attached to the vegetation status.

Retain regeneration of native plants where feasible except where it poses a risk to road use including:

- Poses a safety risk
- Located on a strategic fire break
- Interferes with the road, table drain, signage, road widening and road safety treatment or in the presence of overhead power lines.

3.3 Rare, threatened or locally significant plants and animals

DEPI provides base data on the locations of significant sites. Information will need to be sourced externally and integrated with Council's mapping data.

- Conduct an initial analysis on vegetation community, status and EVC
- Conduct a follow up site visit for vegetation with a Conservation Status of endangered, depleted or vulnerable
- Assess vegetation removal against Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) & Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) permit requirements

Within the Pyrenees Shire vegetation communities with EPBC status, as of June 2010 includes:

- Plains Grassland
- Plains Grassy Woodland
- Grey Box Woodland
- Ensure steps have been taken to avoid unnecessary vegetation removal
- Determine the impact of proposed works and submit application and supporting documents and/or permit applications
- Document DSE and/or DEWHA permit conditions when undertaking site works

3.4 Tree Hollows

Tree hollows on roadsides are a valuable resource for wildlife, offering refuge and breeding sites. Removal of hollow bearing trees will contribute to displacement or death of wildlife reliant on those hollows. A range of hollow shapes and sizes is necessary as selection is not random.

3.5 Cultural Heritage

Indigenous and European cultural heritage contributes to a sense of community identity. This includes memorials, Avenues of Honour and historical artifacts of local significance, as roadside activities have the potential to impact on heritage sites.

All Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and material are now protected under state legislation consisting of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007*. Further detail on Aboriginal cultural sensitivity or significant sites along roadsides may be sought from the Department of Transport Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI). A check for indigenous values needs to be made especially near waterways, on the GIS mapping layer in the pre-planning phase.

3.6 Wetlands and Waterways

Any work near waterways or drainage lines on roadsides carries the responsibility of integrating standard environmental considerations into works. This includes limiting herbicide use near wetlands and waterways to reduce harm to aquatic life and ensuring any works undertaken don't alter natural water systems. To reduce the threat of erosion, filter any water discharge through native vegetation to lower velocity and contribute to improved water quality. For any works within the bed or banks of a waterway, including culverts and table drains, a *Works on Waterways* Permit is required from the relevant Catchment Management Authority.

4.0 FUNCTIONAL ISSUES

4.1 Fire prevention

Roads and roadsides provide important strategic fire breaks and corridors for threatened flora and fauna. Their linear design contributes to the prevention and suppression of fires, providing vital access points for fire officers and evacuation routes for refuge. Roads can also act as physical firebreaks to reduce spread of low intensity fires.

Under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, standards are outlined to minimize the impact of a strategic fuel break construction on threatened plant and animal species of national significance.

Integration of fire prevention works will protect and enhance native vegetation and prevent weed growth. Works including grading, ploughing, ripping or removal of vegetation are not permitted fire prevention activities on roadsides. For roadside burning as a fire prevention measure, written permission is required from Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

CFA Brigades may undertake roadside fire prevention works which are included in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan (MFPP) after consultation with the CFA Vegetation Management Officer, relevant authorities and endorsed by Council and compliant with current legislative requirements.

Where a listed flora, fauna species or community is identified, fire prevention works including burning will be referred to DSE for evaluation and site assessment. Where fire prevention works are programmed on roadsides of High, Medium or Low conservation status they will be identified in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan (MFPP).

4.2 Weed management

The responsibility for weed and pest management on municipal roadsides has now changed from adjacent landowners to Local Government. Invasive plants have a negative impact on native vegetation and need to be managed on a regional scale, aligning to Catchment Management Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy priorities. The Roadside Management Plan alerts landholders and Council to weed infestations and the potential of weed spread from roadside activities and puts guidelines in place for best practice in Council operations and includes external contractors.

Council has a role in promotion of weed control in partnership with adjacent landholders and public land managers. For roadsides noted as high and medium conservation value, small outbreaks and isolated patches are to be managed as a priority. Isolate any major infestations and work from the outer to the centre to reduce further spread of weeds and for long term protection integrate follow up weed management with a revegetation program.

Noxious Weeds

On 1st October 2010, the new Governor in Council Orders declaring noxious weeds and pest animals under the CaLP Act were published in a special issue of the Victorian Government Gazette. The result is some minor changes to update nomenclature and corrections to catchment and land protection regions. The listing and classification of Plants recorded as declared weeds within the Pyrenees Shire is listed in Appendix 2.

Declared noxious weeds in Victoria are Plants that have been proclaimed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act (*CaLP*) 1994. These Plants either cause or have potential to cause environmental damage. Declared Noxious Weeds were reviewed in Victoria in 2010 and fall into four categories:

- State Prohibited Weeds
- Regionally Prohibited Weeds
- Regionally Controlled Weeds
- Restricted Weeds

Local government is currently receiving funding from the State Government to control weeds and pests on municipal roadsides. As there are limited funds available priority areas have been established and a three year program approved by Department of Environment & Primary Industries (DEPI). Consultation was an important part of the process and was undertaken with relevant stakeholders including:

- Landcare Groups
- Catchment management authorities
- DEPI
- Council staff
- Public meetings

4.3 Summary of weed management actions

Activity	Weed management actions
Commercial contractors & herbicide use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some agricultural chemicals require an Agricultural Chemical User Permit (ACUP) or direct supervision of an ACUP holder. Ensure commercial contractors are registered with DHS or DEPI prior to undertaking works on roadsides and are trained in current environmental best practice and are competent at plant identification
Weed removal and disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weeds must be disposed of responsibly as moving weeds in-seed from an infested site is an offence under the <i>CaLP Act 1994</i>. A DEPI permit is required to remove soil, sand, gravel or stone containing noxious weeds
Machinery hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure contractor use of a mowing deck chain skirt and use machinery hygiene such as vacuuming or wash-down between jobs
Stockpiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road material stockpiles need to be located in a weed free zone or sprayed with herbicide prior to establishment
Slashing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid disturbance to native vegetation including grasses, shrubs and trees outside the roadside maintenance envelope. Time slashing to be prior to seed set where possible
Avoiding weed spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule works from the least infested areas to the most infested areas to reduce weed spread
Spoil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce weed invasion by not placing drain spoil onto the road reserve in areas of significant vegetation Apply clean-down of vehicles and machinery on-site, prior to beginning work Ensure gravel and soil is from weed free sites and spray the spoil site before offloading
Removal of soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove all stripping from widening and reconstruction works to a recognised dump site or depot

Table 3: Summary of weed management actions

4.4 Maintenance of tree clearance by electrical distribution companies and delegated contractors

The *State Electricity Commission Act 1958* sets out responsibilities for maintaining powerline clearances. Under the Act Code of Practice, Section 65 electrical distribution companies are responsible for maintaining powerline clearance in Pyrenees Shire as a rural or undeclared area. There is a permit exemption under the Code of Practice for native vegetation clearance however there is a need to manage 'important vegetation'. This relates to the importance of protecting high conservation value roadsides and those with significant vegetation signage.

4.5 Locating utility services - electricity, communications and water

When new services are proposed, planning must incorporate relevant codes of practice, legislation and existing council-service provider agreements. In addition, Council's Planning Scheme, relevant Commonwealth/State/Council policies codes or agreements, sites of cultural or heritage significance and demonstrated efforts to minimise vegetation loss must be taken into account.

Locating services in areas of Low or Medium conservation value or cleared land adjacent to roadsides a practicable approach needs to be demonstrated. An on-site inspection should be arranged for proposed works involving removal of native vegetation and time factored in for a permit referral to DEPI.

4.6 Removal of vegetation assessed as a hazard or risk

Pyrenees Shire is responsible for management within the road envelope; table drain to table drain and to a height of 4.5metres to allow for delivery of Council services. Trees or branches posing a safety or risk hazard within this envelope are to be assessed against maintaining safe vehicle passage. For a reduced

threat of fire, chip the heads and remove externally from the site. Tree branches may be cut into fire sized lengths and left on the roadside.

Any saplings assessed as posing a hazard may be removed, ensuring minimum disturbance to the roadside vegetation, by cutting to ground level and painting with a glyphosate-based product. (Appendix 1)

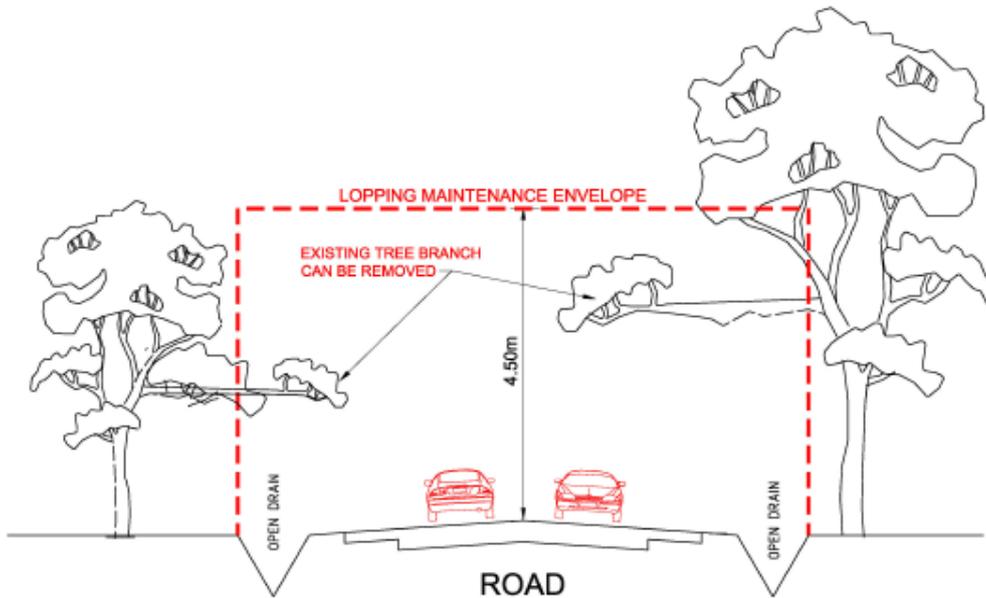


Fig. 2. Road maintenance envelope

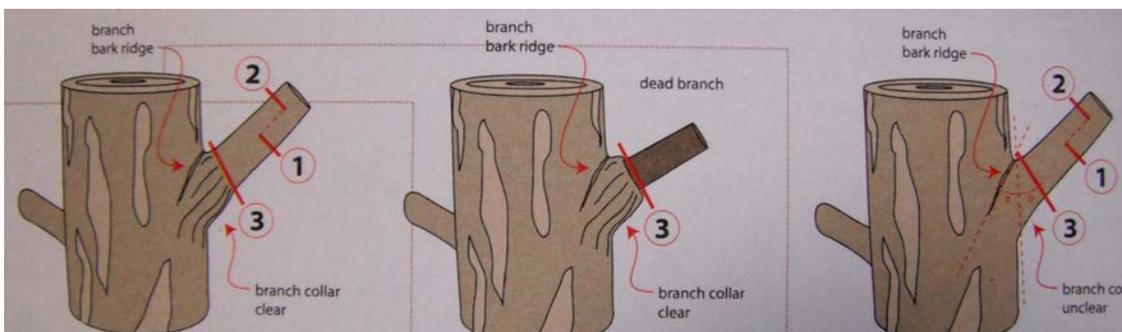


Fig. 3: Three-cut method for branch removal

Retain stumps and logs for animal habitat where possible. To remove branches use the three cut method; cut 1 an undercut, cut 2 an upper cut to prevent the bark being stripped below the final cut. Ensure no cut is made into where the branch joins the trunk (collar) as this may contribute to reduced long term health.

5.0 FARMING AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

5.1 Stock Movement

A Council local law permit is needed for stock movement other than direct transfer between paddocks and will include environmental considerations including roadside vegetation significance and the number and potential impact of livestock.

5.2 Weed Invasion

Movement of machinery used in agriculture and roadside management is a major factor in the spread of

weeds in Victoria. Weeds may be inadvertently spread through daily routines, moving from paddock to paddock as well as on roadsides. The potential for weed spread has also increased with the contractors and equipment travelling vast distances between jobs. Vehicle hygiene including vacuuming or wash-down between jobs will greatly reduce weed spread.

Undertake all weed control with a selective herbicide to ensure protection of non-target native vegetation and the relevant permits to prevent barring of the ground and further weed invasion.

5.3 Harvesting of wildflowers, plant material and collection of seed

Roadside vegetation provides an important seed source for revegetation activities across the region. A Seed Collection Permit is required from DEPI to undertake seed collection on roadsides and consent from Council. Application forms or further information about protected flora can be obtained from DEPI Regional Offices, or the Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or at www.depi.vic.gov.au.

Responsibility for referring an action related to a roadside with vegetation of national significance, under the *EPBC Act (1999)* lies with the person proposing to undertake action. Notify Council if intending to undertake harvesting of wildflowers, plant material or collection of seed.

5.4 Roadside activities

5.4.1 Firewood collection

The Victorian Government has developed *Victoria's Firewood Strategy for Public Land 2010*, setting out actions for household and commercial contractor firewood collection, establishing local government as the delegated authority for collection of fallen timber for domestic firewood use

Council's investigation into collection of fallen roadside timber revealed issues around risk mitigation, ensuring environmental values were maintained and compliance with the Australian Standards under the Road Act were impediments to establishing a community roadside firewood collection program.

The interim measures for bushfire protection in the Planning Scheme list exemptions where no planning permit is required. Included is removal of fallen timber for personal use from the roadside of an existing public road until 1 March 2012; however the need for Council consent remains.

Currently, firewood collection on public land does not require a Permit from DPIE, however there are seasonal constraints and the firewood collected must be from a designated site.

5.4.2 Fencing

Under the Victorian Planning Scheme there are exemptions for native vegetation removal for certain activities. Fencing is one of the listed activities. The combined maximum width of clearing must not exceed 4 metres. When fencing on a Council managed road the clearing requirement is 1m on the roadside side and 3 metres on the landholder side, leaving the ground vegetation layer intact. All works must be undertaken from the landholder side. Consent is to be gained from Council prior to undertaking fencing on a Council managed road roadside. Access for fenceline maintenance is from private land. In some circumstances a Flora and Fauna (FFG) Permit from DEPI will also be required

5.4.3 Drainage of land

To minimise the impact of excess water to the road reserve, ensure natural drainage lines are maintained and raise community awareness of the impact and need for a Local Law permit to direct water onto the roadside.

5.4.4 Cropping and haymaking

Cropping is not permitted on Council managed roadsides. Haymaking activities require a permit and are restricted to roadsides of low conservation value with no native vegetation. If fire prevention measures need to be undertaken, the preferred action is slashing or prescribed burning following discussion with Council's Fire Prevention Officer.

5.4.5 Storage of goods

Storage of goods on a Council managed roadside requires a permit from Council. This approach also includes storage of bales and fencing materials.

5.4.6 Pest animals

Pest animals can be destructive and have a significant impact on roadside vegetation. If native vegetation removal is needed to carry out harbor destruction then a permit is required from DEPI. In areas of high and medium conservation value, fumigation methods will minimise damage to plant communities compared to warren ripping.

5.5 Summary of roadside activities – do I need a permit?

This table provides a guide to activities that may be undertaken on roadsides. Some activities on roadsides may be restricted to take into consideration safety considerations and the conservation and biodiversity value of the roadside.

Roadside Activity	Do I need a permit?
Bee keeping	Generally not permitted
Burning	Permit required from Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer and must align to the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan
Camping	Not permitted
Collection of firewood	Not permitted
Controlling roadside weeds	Discuss with Council's Environmental Officer.
Cropping	Not permitted on roadsides
Driving vehicles and machinery	Permit required
Droving	Not permitted. Droving is defined as the movement of stock on a roadside in excess of one day.
Dumping fertiliser and/or soil	Not permitted
Dumping garden rubbish	Not permitted, to litter roadsides is an offence
Feeding Stock	Not permitted
Fencing	Consent required from the road manager. All works are to be undertaken from the landholder side to a total width of 4m, being 1m on the roadside and 3m on the landholder side.
Fire prevention	Council responsibility on roadsides
Flora and fauna monitoring sites	Permission required from the municipality
Grazing	Permit required but not permitted on medium to high conservation value roadsides

Hay making	Permit required and if permitted will be restricted to low conservation value roadsides with no native vegetation.
Horse riding	Not permitted in high conservation value areas unless on a designated track.
Laying cable above/or below ground	Planning permit required
Making a new entrance/gateway	Steps taken to minimize native vegetation disturbance must be demonstrated, 6m wide maximum
Mining	Planning permit required
Moving stock	Permit is required for stock movement other than direct transfer between paddocks
Mowing/slashing	Permit required. Slasher height on high conservation road should be 200mm and 100mm elsewhere
Pine trees	Not permitted to be planted on roadsides. Responsibility lies with the landholder with pine trees to remove pine wildlings from the roadside by cutting off at ground level
Planting on roadsides by residents	Written consent required from Director Assets. Only indigenous species should be planted on rural roads with the exception of historic avenues or commemorative plantings. No tree planting in grassland remnants.
Planting shelter belts	Not permitted on roadsides. Shelterbelts are to be planted inside the landholder's fence line.
Ploughing/grading or spraying firebreaks	Not permitted without Council approval
Rabbit harbor destruction	Written permission and a permit is required from Council where native vegetation is to be removed. Also permit is requirement from DEPI
Removal of fallen timber, hollow logs etc.	Not permitted on roadsides
Removal of native vegetation including trees, shrubs, ground covers and grasses	Written consent and planning permit required if exemptions don't apply eg fence, driveway
Removal of rocks	Not permitted
Removing limbs from native trees	Consult with Environmental Officer
Removing limbs from non native trees	Consult with the Officer in charge of Parks and Gardens.
Seed collection	Permits are required from the DEPI for the collection of native seed or plant material and permission is also required from the Municipality.
Signage	Planning permit required
Stockpiles	To be in designated areas on low conservation roadsides and a permit is required
Storing hay, agricultural machinery	Permit required
Revegetation Projects	Contact the Director Assets for any proposed revegetation or rehabilitation work on roadsides. Permission must be granted by council and those carrying out the work will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance
Undertaking earthworks	Planning permit will be required
Machinery turn points	Identify machinery turn points to reduce disturbance to native vegetation. No machinery turn points in areas of medium and high conservation value.

Table 4: Summary of roadside activities

6.0 ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT – Operations and works

Assets and Infrastructure staff have responsibility for the maintenance and provision of infrastructure assets such as roads, streets, footpaths, buildings and community facilities. Included in this role is the legislative responsibility to minimise the impact of roadside works on roadside native vegetation.

6.1 Stockpiles, dump sites and waste management

To assist works project planning, a data base of Council designated stockpile and dump sites needs to be developed to highlight designated stockpile locations. To reduce weed invasion undertake weed control around sites and undertake control of new identified weeds

To ensure protection of roadsides with high conservation values:

- Review stockpile sites and locate on low conservation value roadsides
- Remove weeds before stockpiling materials on a new site
- Locate stockpile sites to avoid impact on remnant grasses and shrubs
- Avoid placing new stockpile/dump sites on roadsides adjoining public land
- Avoid tree damage with soil build up or compaction within the drip line of trees

6.2 Road operations

- Minimise disturbance to native vegetation and rehabilitate disturbed areas
- Avoid 'tidying up' native vegetation where not part of required works
- Import any clean material to the site from a known reliable source
- Reduce damage to tree root zone, trunks and limbs by working outside the drip line of trees
- Avoid windrowing excess spoil from drain clearance operations by grading spoil onto the roadside surface on high conservation roadsides
- Remove excess windrow to a designated dump point. If this is not possible in High and Medium conservation areas, spread soil over the road shoulder
- Avoid and minimise damage to native vegetation using established practices set out in the MOU, when locating or maintaining drainage cut off points
- Park vehicles and machinery in a previously disturbed or cleared areas
- Identify and record machinery turn points to reduce native vegetation disturbance, such as intersections, driveways and areas used previously
- Match machinery size to the required works to minimise site impact
- Confine machinery to the approved construction zone by taping off 'no go' areas
- Construct and maintain table drain lines to follow natural drainage, reducing water velocity and run-off

6.3 Road construction and widening

Pyrenees Shire has an agreement with DSE; *Agreement for the removal of native vegetation of public roads (MOU)*, setting out exemptions for safety and maintenance treatment. The purpose of the MOU is to assist Council in determining if works involving removal of native vegetation are exempt under the Planning and Environment Act. Vegetation removal thresholds apply for any one safety project, depending on the conservation status of the vegetation class. For road construction and widening projects, the following issues need to be addressed:

- Vegetation Assessment and Legislative requirements
- Waterway protection and quality
- Erosion and sediment control
- Dust suppression
- Cultural and Heritage Values
- Site Contamination
- Noise Pollution
- Waste minimisation
- Landscaping rehabilitation
- Site Plan and clearly defined works area

Where high conservation values are present, modify the design to integrate road design with appropriate

safety requirements and standards.

6.4 Roadside management summary

The following table provides a summary of roadside activities. Each activity has different management prescriptions based on the roadside vegetation management response classifications.

ACTIVITY	LOW Conservation Value	MEDIUM Conservation Values	HIGH Conservation Values
Machinery Operations	Avoid areas of remnant native vegetation on roadsides and restrict machinery operations to a designated construction zone	Avoid areas of remnant native vegetation on roadsides and restrict machinery operations to a designated construction zone.	Confine machinery operations to the existing road formation or a designated construction zone.
Turn points for machinery	Establish machinery turn points to reduce disturbance to native vegetation	Establish machinery turn points to reduce disturbance to native vegetation.	Turn around only at appropriate locations, i.e., driveways or intersections.
Spoil	No spread of spoil into native vegetation on roadsides.	No spread of spoil into native vegetation on roadsides.	Grade spoil onto the road for re-use with new gravel in resurfacing works or remove to a designated dump site
Removal of Topsoil	Remove all stripping from widening and reconstruction works to a designated dump site	Remove all stripping from widening and reconstruction works to a designated dump site	Remove any topsoil prior to works and store in a designated area free from weeds. Re-use in reconstruction.
Slashing	Slashing operations for fire lines and strategic firebreaks only	Slashing operations for fire lines and strategic firebreaks only	Slashing operations for fire lines and strategic firebreaks only
Table Drains	Clean table drains regularly so they do not become clogged with silt or vegetation.	Clean table drains regularly avoid native vegetation when locating or maintaining drain cut off points.	Clean table drains regularly and avoid native vegetation when locating or maintaining drain cut off points.
Stockpiles	Remove and control weeds before stockpiling materials on a new site.	Plan to relocate existing stockpiles No new stockpiles in these areas.	Plan to relocate existing stockpiles and rehabilitate No new stockpiles in these areas.
Vehicle Hygiene	Clean down machinery and equipment before moving onto or off a roadside to reduce weed contamination	Clean down machinery and equipment before moving onto or off a roadside to reduce weed contamination	Clean down machinery and equipment before moving onto or off a roadside to reduce weed contamination.
Construction Zone	Mark out the construction zone prior to works commencement	Mark the construction zone prior to works commencement. Avoid parking of plant and equipment in this zone.	Mark the construction zone prior to works commencement. Avoid parking of plant and equipment in this zone.

Table 5: Roadside management summary

7.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

This document will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure all operations are conducted in accordance with the strategies determined. Any anomalies will be addressed immediately and communicated to all relevant stakeholders to ensure similar indiscretions do not occur.

This document will be reviewed in three years to ensure it remains compliant with relevant legislation and applicable to the organization. Review date January 2017.

APPENDIX 1

ROAD MAINTENANCE ENVELOPE

Routine Roadside Maintenance Sapling Removal Flowchart

ROAD MAINTENANCE ENVELOPE

Width of the road maintenance envelope varies for different categories of road, including:

- Rural Collector Edge to top/toe of batter
- Rural Sub collector Edge to top/toe of batter
- Rural Access Edge of pavement to 1.5m
- Unformed Track (Unused Reserve) Edge of pavement to 0.5m

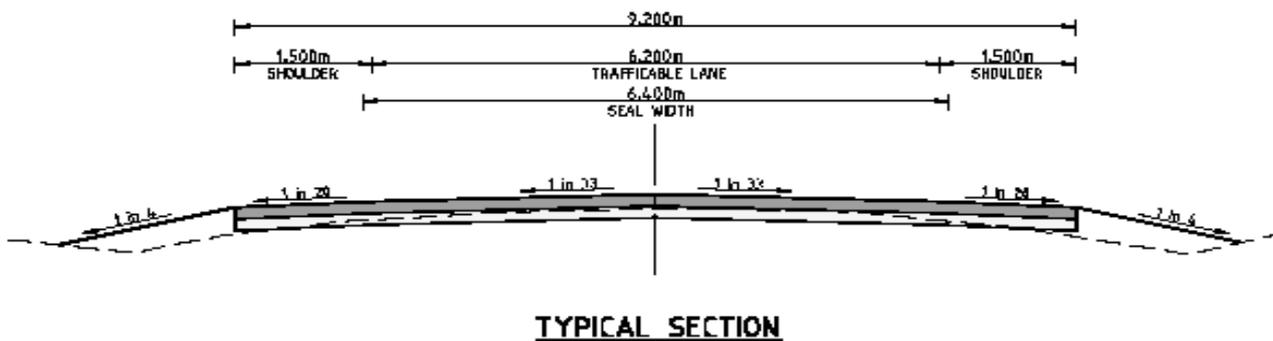


Fig. 4: Sealed road cross section

APPENDIX 2

DECLARED NOXIOUS WEEDS LISTED FOR PYRENEES SHIRE

The list of regionally controlled and regionally prohibited weeds for Pyrenees Shire includes those highlighted by all four CMA's; Wimmera, Corangamite, North Central and Glenelg Hopkins CMA's in the classifications of Regionally Controlled (C) and Regionally Prohibited (P). These two weeds classifications align to Future Farming weed funding guidelines. Further widespread weeds are classified as Restricted and State prohibited, however these weeds are not listed in the table below.

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	Regionally controlled (C) Regionally prohibited (P)			
		WM	COR	NC	GH
African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissium</i>	C	C	C	C
African Daisy	<i>Senecio pterophorus</i>	P	P	P	C
African Feather Grass	<i>Pennisetum macrourum</i>	P	P	P	C
African Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>		C	C	
Amsinkia	<i>Amsinkia sp.</i>		P	C	
Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	C	C	C	
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>				
Bathurst Burr	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>		C	C	C
Boneseed (Bitou Bush)	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	C	C		C
Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	C			
Blackberry	<i>Rubis fruticosis</i>		C	C	C
Buffalo Burr	<i>Solanum rostratum</i>	P			
Californian Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>		C		C
Caltrop	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>		C	C	C
Cape Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	C	C		
Cape Tulip (one leaf)	<i>Moraea faccida</i>	C	C	C	C
Cape Tulip (two leaf)	<i>Moraea miniata</i>	P	P	C	C
Chilean Cestrum	<i>Cestrum parqui</i>	C			
Devils Claw	<i>Proboscidea louisianica</i>				C
Dodder	<i>Cuscuta spp.</i>	P			
English Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	P	C		
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>		C		
Flax-leaved Broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>	C	C		
Golden Thistle	<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>		C	C	P
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	C	C	C	C
Hardheads/Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	C	P	C	P
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	C	C	C	C
Hawthorn	<i>Cratageus monogyna</i>	C			
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>		C		

DECLARED NOXIOUS WEEDS LISTED FOR PYRENEES SHIRE -continued

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	Regionally controlled (C) Regionally prohibited (P)			
		WM	COR	NC	GH
Hoary Cress	<i>Lepidium draba</i>		C		
Khaki Weed	<i>Alternanthera pungens</i>	C		C	
Noongoora Burr/Californian	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>			C	C
Onion Weed	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>			C	C
Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>		C		
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium Plantagineum</i>	C	C	C	C
Prairie Ground Cherry	<i>Physalis viscosa</i>	P	P		
Prickly Pear (Drooping)	<i>Opuntia monacantha</i>	C		C	
Prickly Pear (Erect)	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	C		C	
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>		C		C
Safron Thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	C			
Sand Rocket/Sand Mustard	<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolia</i>				C
Scotch Thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>		C	P	C
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	P	C	P	P
Silver-leaf Nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	C	C	C	P
Skeleton Weed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>				C
Spiny Broom	<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	C	C		
Spiny Burr Grass/Gentle Annie	<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>	C		C	P
Spiny Rush	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	C		C	C
St Barnaby's Thistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	C	P		P
St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	C	C	C	C
Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	C	C	C	C
Thorn Apple(Long Spine & Recurved)	<i>Datura sp.</i>			C	C
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus</i>				C
Vipers Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	C	C		C
Wheel Cactus	<i>Opuntia robusta</i>	C		C	
Wild Garlic	<i>Allium vineale</i>	C		C	
Wild Watsonia	<i>Watsonia meriana</i>		C		

Table: Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited weeds in Pyrenees Shire

REF: DPI Declared Noxious Weeds March 2008

C - Regionally controlled

P -Regionally prohibited

APPENDIX 3

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS OF GARDEN ORIGIN

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
Arum Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>
Blue Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium amplexicaule</i>
Blue Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
Bridal Creeper or Smilax	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Broad-leaf Privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>
Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>
Cootamundra Wattle	<i>Acacia baileyana</i>
Desert Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia ssp. angustifolia</i>
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Freesia	<i>Freesia leichtlinii</i>
Gazania	<i>Gazania linearis</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Large-leaf Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>
Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>
Parrots Feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
Pepper Tree	<i>Schinus molle</i>
Phalaris	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>
Prickly Paddy Melon	<i>Cucumis myriocarpus</i>
Radiata Pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Shell Grass	<i>Briza maxima</i>
Silver-leaf Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster pannosus</i>
South African Weed-orchid	<i>Disa bracteata</i>
Spanish Heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>
Tree Lucerne	<i>Cytisus palmensis</i>
Wandering Jew	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>

Table: Environmental weeds of the Pyrenees Shire region

Environmental weeds are generally plants of garden origin that escape to invade natural areas, including introduced and native Plants. Unlike *Regionally Prohibited* and *Regionally Controlled* weeds, these species are not declared under the CaLP Act and no funding opportunities are available. The above pest weed species may be controlled or removed as part of scheduled on-ground works.

REFERENCES

CMA Plant and animal management strategies

CMA Native Vegetation Plans

Department of Environment and Primary Industries, managing native vegetation on roadsides: A guideline for implementing agreements under the local government public road exemption, 2009

Greater Shepparton City Council, Roadside Management Strategy, Document 1 Version2, March 2008

DEPI, *Victoria's Planning Provisions - Biodiversity Assessment Handbook*.

VicRoads, Roadside Handbook: An Environmental Guide for Road Construction and Maintenance, 2006