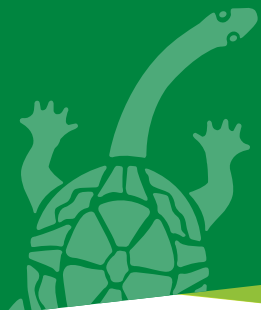




Community Roadside Management Handbook



1.0	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	How to Read this Community Roadside Management Handbook	3
1.2	Shire of Campaspe Landscape	3
2.0	ROAD RESERVES	3
2.1	The Value of Native Vegetation on Roadsides	4
2.2	Protect Native Vegetation	4
2.2.1	Significant Environmental Areas	5
2.3	Protecting Native Fauna and Wildlife Habitat	6
2.4	Avoid the Spread of Weeds	6
2.5	Protect Wetland and Waterways	8
2.6	Protect Cultural Heritage	8
3.0	GUIDELINE SUMMARY FOR ROADSIDE ACTIVITIES	9
3.1	Firewood Collection and Timber Removal	12
3.2	Fire Prevention and Management	12
3.3	Farming and Associated Activities	12
3.4	Landcare and Revegetation Activities on Roadsides	14
	Management Guideline Summary	16
	REFERENCES	19

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 How to read this Community Roadside Management Handbook

This Roadside Conservation Strategy consists of three documents targeted to particular audiences:

Document 1 – the ‘Roadside Conservation Strategy’ is designed for Council management and services. The Strategy will be a reference document in the Campaspe Planning Scheme.

Document 2 – the ‘Community Roadside Management Handbook’. Designed for the general community, including landholders, fire prevention agencies and Landcare groups.

Document 3 - the ‘Roadside Environmental Code of Practice Handbook’. Tailored to the requirements of road construction and maintenance contractors and workers. To be used in conjunction with the Goulburn-Broken Catchment Roadside Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols (G-BCRBRMPP, 2007) and Public Works existing processes and procedures.

1.2 Shire of Campaspe landscape

Prior to European settlement a diverse range of native vegetation types existed across the flat to gently undulating landscape of the Shire of Campaspe.

Most of the municipality had Grey Box, Yellow Box, Black Box and River Red Gums as the dominant species. The understorey was often diverse with shrubs, wildflowers and native grasses present. The Northern Plains Grasslands also occupied a large area of the western part of the Shire.

These woodlands and grassy areas have been extensively cleared for agriculture and the substantial irrigation throughout the municipality has led to a significantly modified landscape contributing to almost total removal of some native vegetation types.

Most remnants now only remain on road reserves and along the Campaspe and Goulburn River corridors. These represent the few remaining examples of ecosystems where the remnant vegetation provides fauna habitat, corridors and connections between isolated areas of bushland.

Roads primarily provide transport and access routes for people, goods and services. However they also function as reserves for native flora and fauna. Some roads, or more specifically roadsides, support high levels of biological diversity and areas of high conservation value. The implications of climate change increase the significance of these areas for biodiversity conservation.

2.0 ROAD RESERVES

Road reserves provide transport and access routes for people, goods and services. The various sections of the roadside are illustrated in Figure 1.

Roadsides are also recognised for their conservation value for native flora and fauna. Roadsides also contain cultural heritage sites and provide amenity value for the local community and visitors to the area.

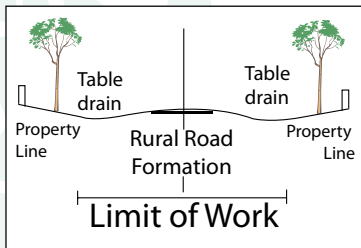


Figure 1.
The sections of a road reserve.

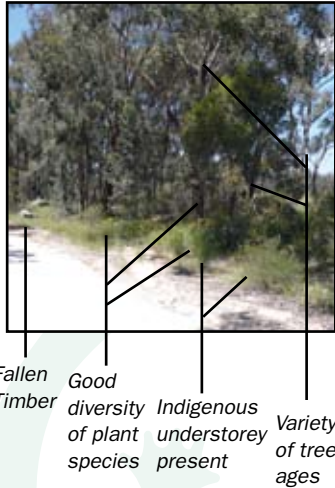


Figure 2.
Healthy Remnants Vegetation

Remnant vegetation on roadsides tends to be narrow and linear, meaning the roadsides are more susceptible to threats, including clearing and fragmentation of native vegetation, pest plants and animals, inappropriate firewood collection, roadworks and agricultural activities.

This handbook seeks to encourage practices on roadsides which:

- Enhance community awareness and knowledge of roadside issues,
- Protect and enhance the environmental, amenity and cultural values of roadsides while maintaining safe road function,
- Increase awareness of the importance of the Northern Plains Grasslands,
- Minimise pest plant and animal invasion and spread,
- Enhance water quality from roadsides and minimise land degradation, and
- Promote techniques that minimise disturbance.

2.1 The Value of Native Vegetation on Roadsides

Native vegetation that occurs on roadsides is valuable and important to protect because:

- Roadsides now contain some of the last remnants of the vegetation that was originally widespread throughout the Shire of Campaspe,
- Roadsides can contain endangered native flora and fauna, in particular some of the last remaining remnants of Northern Plains Grasslands,
- It provides food and shelter for native wildlife,
- Provides an important seed source for revegetation,

- Native grasses have lower fuel loads and fire risk than introduced species,
- Roadsides with native vegetation provide the foundations and framework for landscape connectivity and restoration (including biolinks),
- Roadside vegetation cover minimises erosion and provides for improvement in water quality,
- Links for fauna movement as well as providing shade and wind breaks (for adjoining landholders as well), and;
- Aesthetic values.

Native vegetation includes trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers. In some cases, such as the Northern Plains Grasslands, not all these types of plants are present. High priority is given to the protection of native grasses due to their rarity.

Trees are great along a roadside but the remnant vegetation along roadsides that contains the shrubs and groundcovers is better for increasing biodiversity and habitat values while reducing weed spread.

2.2 Protect Native Vegetation

Protection of native vegetation and fauna on roadsides is a legislative and planning requirement.

The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act) is the Victorian legislation for the conservation of threatened species and communities and for the management of potentially threatening processes. Roadsides within Victoria contain 25% of all rare or threatened flora species and communities listed



Figure 3. Significant native vegetation

under the FFG Act. The best way to protect native vegetation is to minimise disturbance. Disturbance provides opportunity for weeds to invade a site which can outcompete the native vegetation, reducing the biodiversity of the site while increasing maintenance costs and can lead to higher fire risk.

Remnant vegetation on roadsides tend to be narrow and linear which means they are more susceptible to damage from threats such as clearing and fragmentation.

If you suspect there is a rare or threatened species on site you should contact the Shire of Campaspe Conservation Officer. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) can also provide information about rare and threatened species and appropriate management. In some instances, threatened species have been fenced for protection on the roadside and sign posted. It is an offence to disturb or destroy species listed under the FFG Act and the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, 1999.

2.2.1 Significant Environmental Areas

Roadside vegetation signage is used to highlight significant vegetation and prevent unnecessary damage. If working at a signed area (Figure 3), contact the Shire of Campaspe for advice on appropriate management before commencing any works. Not all areas of high or very high conservation significance are sign posted.

Guidelines:

- Leave native vegetation undisturbed, except for regrowth that interferes with the road function on the road shoulder, verge or table drain.
- When signage indicates significant flora species are present, contact Council for appropriate management advice. Remember, not all significant roadsides are sign posted, if you are unsure about any native vegetation, err on the side of caution and check.
- Retain all habitats such as dead standing trees, fallen timber and leaf litter unless they pose an identifiable risk in terms of road safety. Do not 'tidy up' areas of native vegetation along roadsides, as this can encourage weed growth.
- Ensure that large old trees are protected from activities such as firewood collection, agricultural activities and fire prevention measures. If you are concerned about the fire hazard of a roadside, speak with Council before undertaking any works. Large old trees require a permit for their removal.
- Encourage regeneration by weed and rabbit control and fencing (to stop grazing).

All roadsides in the Shire of Campaspe have been assessed for the quality of their native vegetation. The categories are Very High, High, Medium, Low and Degraded. Over the page, displays pictures of roadsides at the conservation value of high, medium and low to indicate what you would expect to see. The conservation mapping for the whole Shire can be accessed from Shire of Campaspe website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au or by contacting the Conservation Officer.



High

High Conservation Value

Mostly undisturbed native vegetation with most expected layers present and low levels of weed invasion. Supports a range of habitats. The example on the right includes native grasses, ground covers and fallen timber.



Medium

Medium Conservation Value

Moderately disturbed native vegetation with one or more vegetation layers modified or absent. The example on the right shows a weedy understorey with native vegetation restricted to the overstorey trees.



Low

Low Conservation Value

Highly disturbed native vegetation, some sites have no native vegetation remaining. High levels of weeds invasion. Often has narrow roadside width.

2.3 Protecting Native Fauna and Wildlife Habitat

Roadsides contain habitat for a range of native fauna. In particular, scattered large old remnant trees that are features of the Shire of Campaspe landscape contain hollows that are vital habitat for many species including gliders, possums, birds and bats.

Other elements such as fallen timber, coarse woody debris, leaf litter and native understorey form equally important habitat for other species including lizards, insects etc.

The following guidelines apply to protecting habitat for wildlife:

- Natural regeneration on roadsides will be encouraged where they form wildlife corridors and these are to be given first priority in restoration programs
- Dead trees or limbs containing hollows that have fallen naturally will be retained to provide habitat unless they are identified as a safety risk.
- All habitat components will be retained unless they pose a significant hazard as specified by the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan.
- Check for nests or other fauna habitat, and avoid disturbance to those areas.
- Retain all habitat such as rocks, dead standing trees, fallen timber and leaf litter unless they pose an identifiable risk in terms of road safety.
- Ensure that large old trees are protected from activities such as firewood collection, agricultural activities, and fire prevention measures.
- Do not slash or disturb regeneration, unless for safety.
- Encourage regeneration by undertaking weed and rabbit control, and fencing (where appropriate).
- Leave native vegetation undisturbed. Do not 'tidy up' areas of native vegetation on roadsides.

2.4 Avoid the Spread of Weeds

Road construction, maintenance and operation can spread noxious and environmental weeds. Council and contractors have an obligation under the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994 to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are plants that are legally declared to be serious threat and



Figure 4. Examples of roadside conservation values.

economic cost to the environment and agriculture. The four noxious weeds classifications are:

- State Prohibited,
- Regionally Prohibited,
- Regionally Controlled, and;
- Restricted



Shire of Campaspe staff conducting vehicle hygiene.

Under the CaLP Act 1994, the Victorian Government is responsible for the eradication of State Prohibited weeds. The only state prohibited weed found within the Shire of Campaspe is Ivy-leaf Sida. It is known to occur on roadsides south west of Tongala.

The responsibility for weeds on roadsides is currently under review by the Victorian Government. Previously the Department of Primary Industries has taken responsibility for weeds on roadsides.

Environmental weeds are not listed under the CaLP Act 1994 but are recognised as having potential to threaten natural ecosystems. These plants may be introduced from overseas or native plants that did not originally grow in the area. Some of the recognised environmental weeds in the Shire of Campaspe include Wild Oats, Peppercorn trees, Phalaris and Paspalum.

Digital maps of known weed infestations across the Shire of Campaspe can be downloaded from the Shire of Campaspe website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au follow the links Council Services > Environment and Sustainability > Weed Management > Weed Mapping.

Guidelines

Avoid the Spread of Weeds

- Minimise disturbance.
- Learn to identify weeds of the region. Both the Goulburn Broken and North Central Catchment Management Authority produce great weed identification booklets.
- Avoid activities that spread weeds, e.g. dumping of garden waste, ploughing or grading roadsides.
- Practice vehicle hygiene to avoid spread of weeds. Transport of weeds or weed seeds is an offence under the CaLP Act 1994.
- Spoil from drains is generally high in weed seeds, and should be moved offsite in areas of significant vegetation. Offsite disposal should occur at landfill. Other sites will require approval from DSE prior to disposal.
- Obtain soil and gravel from weed free sites.



Above: One of the waterways across a road in the Shire of Campaspe.



Above: A scar tree in the Shire of Campaspe.

Slashing of Weeds

- Contact the Shire of Campaspe before undertaking any slashing on roadsides to determine if any native vegetation is present.
- Avoid regenerating indigenous vegetation during slashing as indigenous vegetation not only offers greater biodiversity value, weed invasion can be a more fire hazardous vegetation (CFA, 2001).
- If native grasses are present, blades on slashers should be set no lower than 150-200mm above ground level to prevent damage.

2.5 Protect Wetland and Waterways

The Water Act 1989 defines a waterway as a river, creek, stream, watercourse and a natural channel where water regularly flows, whether or not the flow is continuous.

The relevant catchment management authority, either Goulburn Broken or North Central Catchment Management Authority should be contacted and a Works on Waterways permit obtained before undertaking any works within the bed and banks of designated waterways.

Guidelines

- Roadside drainage systems should ensure that the water levels of wetlands and waterways are not altered,
- Ensure that runoff is not directed into waterways, and

- Appropriate work practices must be used to protect wetlands and waterways, including minimising the use of herbicides.

2.6 Protect Cultural Heritage

Roadsides may contain historic and cultural sites. Cultural heritage (indigenous and non-indigenous) provides communities with a sense of community identity. Heritage places and objects are natural and cultural environments that are of special value for the present community and for future generations. Heritage sites include archaeological sites, building or structures (together with associated contents) and created landscapes. Some roadsides may contain:

- Significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (e.g. scarred trees and midden sites).
- Historic reminders of colonial time and significant events (e.g. Avenue of Honour).

Any works or activities that may disturb or damage sites of indigenous cultural heritage should contact the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party (for advice see Council). All Victorian indigenous cultural heritage sites are protected by the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

All Victorian non-indigenous historical sites are protected by the Victorian Heritage Act 1995. Heritage Victoria administers the Act and maintains the Victorian Heritage Register of all listed sites.

3.0 GUIDELINE SUMMARY FOR ROADSIDE ACTIVITIES

Written consent is required by the Shire of Campaspe before undertaking works in a road reserve. Mowing nature strips by adjoining landholders does not require consent. Table 1 summarises the approvals required for activities on a roadside.

Activity	Approval Required	Point of Contact
Native Vegetation on Roadsides		
To remove, lop or destroy native vegetation	Working on roadside permit required (even if the activity is exempt from a planning permit). Permit to take Protected Flora from DSE (for species listed under FFG Act 1988 exempt and non-exempt removal). A Forest Produce licence from DSE may be required.	Council Phone 1300 666 535 DSE Phone 136 186 Email:customer.service@dse.vic.gov.au
Revegetation	Working on roadside permit required.	Council
Collection of firewood	Not permitted on roadsides with exception if in an approved site to for a reduction burn identified in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan. If collection approved, a Forest Produce licence from DSE is required.	Council
Droving	Local Law permit is required.	DSE
Grazing (including regular movement of livestock as per Local Law No. 7)	Local Law permit is required.	Council

Activity	Approval Required	Point of Contact
Ploughing or grading	Local Law permit required. Planning permit, if activity will remove, lop or destroy native vegetation. If vegetation is protected, require Protected Flora permit as well.	Council DSE
Cropping	Local law permit required. Planning permit, if activity will remove, lop or destroy native vegetation. If vegetation is protected, require Protected Flora permit as well.	Council DSE
Slashing	Working on roadside permit required. Planning permit, if activity will remove, lop or destroy native vegetation. If vegetation is protected, require Protected Flora permit as well.	Council DSE
Mowing	Mowing for maintenance in front of a residence is exempt from permit. Any other form of mowing requires a permit.	Council
Haymaking	Not permitted on roadsides.	
Fire prevention	Permission from Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.	Council
Spraying	Working on roadside permit required.	Council



Activity	Approval Required	Point of Contact
Fencing	Working on roadside permit required, if working from the road reserve. Planning permit if overlays present for removal is beyond exemption. If vegetation is protected, require Protected Flora permit as well. Forest Produce licence if timber is removed from roadside.	Council DSE
Seed Collection	Working on roadside permit and seed collection permit from DSE.	Council DSE
Earthworks	Working on roadside permit required. Planning permit, if activity will remove, lop or destroy native vegetation. If vegetation is protected, require Protected Flora permit as well.	Council DSE
Waterways and Wetlands		
Any works on the banks or beds of a waterway.	Works on Waterways permit. Planning permit if native vegetation being removed.	NCCMA / GBCMA (03) 5448 7124 / (03) 5820 1100 Council
Cultural Heritage		
Any works or activities that may disturb or damage site of cultural heritage.	Notification or approval, depending on the nature of the works. A permit is required for work on or near a scar tree.	Registered Aboriginal Party (for advice see Council). Heritage Victoria for non-indigenous sites (03) 8644 8800.

3.1 Firewood Collection and Timber Removal

Firewood collection is not permitted on roadsides. Dead and fallen timber is very important habitat for many native mammals, birds, bats, reptiles and insects. Firewood collection is listed as a threat to many native vegetation types, contributing to the decline of some species of fauna. Given the highly altered landscape of the Shire of Campaspe, few roads contain enough native vegetation to require biomass removal through firewood collection.

Firewood collection will be permitted when it is part of the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan, with the conditions specified by the Making Victoria Fire Ready program of the Victorian State Government.

3.2 Fire Prevention and Management

Only works in accordance with the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan (MFPP) are permitted on road reserves. Any fire prevention works on roadsides, including burning or slashing, require written consent from Council (provided as a works on roadside permit) and the approval of the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

The objectives of roadside fire management, after road user safety, are to:

- Prevent fires on roadsides (which includes education, regulation and provision of fuel free areas including fuel free shoulder),
- Contain roadside fires,
- Manage safety of road users,

- Provide control lines (on designated roads, not all roads), and;
- Recovery from roadside fires (CFA, 2001).
- No new ploughed or graded firebreaks should be constructed by landholders
- Landholders are encouraged to undertake fire prevention works, including new firebreaks on their own property as described in the CFA's 'Roadside Fire Management' brochure.
- Existing ploughed or graded firebreaks can be maintained, provided they are specified in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan.


For further information about fire prevention, refer to CFA publications and the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au

3.3 Farming and Associated Activities

Stock Movement, Droving and Grazing

Livestock are an important economic factor within the Shire of Campaspe. However the Roadside Conservation Strategy seeks to address the impact of livestock activities on roadsides such as the potential spread of weeds. Grazing can destroy areas of significant high conservation value native vegetation.

Permanent livestock crossing (livestock regularly crossing a road at a particular location) is only permitted with a Council permit as specified under General Local Law No.7.



Livestock droving (the movement of livestock either by driving them into the municipality or by driving them along any road or roads through the municipality a distance greater than can be achieved by travelling in one day between the hours of sunrise and sunset) or grazing (livestock held in an area for the purpose of feeding off roadside vegetation) requires a permit. In granting a permit Council must consider whether damage to plants of conservation value is likely and may impose permit conditions.

Movement of livestock (livestock which are being moved on any Council controlled road other than droving or grazing or regular movement) does not require a permit, provided that:

- All livestock reach their destination by the most direct route consistent with the requirements of General Local Law No.7 clause 4.12,
- Livestock are only allowed on the road for the time it takes for the movement to their destination,
- Stock are only allowed on a road during daylight hours,
- Must be supervised by a competent person and adequate warning must be given to drivers on that road, with no traffic delays exceeding 5 minutes in any one crossing,
- Stock movement is not allowed on sections of the road that are determined by the Council to have high or very high conservation value, and;
- Comply with directions from Council with regards to; protection from damage caused by livestock to the road, the road reserve, roadside vegetation, any construction on the road or roadside drainage.

Guidelines:

- An application for a permit from Council is required for all proposed droving on roadsides.

- Droving or grazing is not permitted on Very High or High Conservation Value roadsides, unless approved by DSE for ecological management.
- Limited droving or grazing on Medium Conservation Value roadsides may be permitted where ecological benefits such as weed control can be demonstrated, or to reduce fuel in accordance with the MFPP.
- Droving on Low Conservation Value roadsides will only be permitted when soils are not saturated or prone to compaction.
- Supplementary feeding of stock is not permitted on any roadsides.
- Avoid weed prone areas when moving stock.

Cultivation and Ploughing

Ploughing, grading or cultivation on roadsides requires written consent for works on roadsides under Local Law No. 7 and the Road Management Act 2004. A planning permit from Council is also required. Landholders are required to install firebreaks for private benefit on private land. Firebreaks for community benefit can only be constructed on public land on sites listed in the MFPP. Any infringement will result in prosecution under the EPBC Act and/or rehabilitation works to compensate for any biodiversity loss.

Slashing

Slashing of native vegetation with very high or high conservation value requires written consent from Council and a permit and consultation with DSE. Exceptions are provided to authorised Council staff and contractors for undertaking works to improve traffic safety, ie at intersections to improve line of sight.



Landholders who crop on roadsides without permits will be required to revegetate the site at their own expense to Council standards.



Illegal farm storage on roadsides can result in the Council Ranger impounding the product.



A landholder has planted shrubs on their property (right of the fence line) to compliment the remnant vegetation of the roadside.

Slashing of native grasses should not occur between November and January to allow native seed set, and blades on slashers should be set no lower than 150mm above the ground.

Cropping and Haymaking

Cropping or haymaking activities on roadsides require written consent from Council for works on roadsides (Local Law No. 7 and Road Management Act, 2004). Non-compliance could result in an infringement notice being issued. Cropping and haymaking is only allowed on roadsides with a conservation value of low or degraded as described under the individual permit conditions. Council will assess each application on a case by case basis subject to conditions at the time.

Machinery Movement

Due to the value placed on remnant vegetation, Council is reluctant to approve machinery movements requiring vegetation removal beyond normal clearance distances.

Drainage of Land

Landholders require a permit to use, pollute, obstruct or in any way interfere with the passage of water in a drain or drainage works.

Landholders need to ensure water is retained on-farm through improved irrigation practices. Penalties may be imposed for irrigation water falling onto roadsides.

Farm Storage

Subject to approval by Council, storage of stockfeed on Low Conservation Value roadsides may be permitted for periods of less than two months.

Storage of farm equipment, refuse, fencing materials or chemicals is prohibited on roadside reserves.

The leading principle for all of the activities in Table 1 is that approval to remove native vegetation requires a planning permit. Secondly, consent from Council is required to work on a Council road reserve.

3.4 Landcare and Revegetation Activities on Roadsides

Landcare Groups are encouraged to become involved in protecting and enhancing remnant vegetation on roadsides, including 'adopting' particular roadsides for ongoing involvement in management. Expanding areas of native vegetation onto private property is even better!

Priorities for managing native vegetation at a State and regional level are:

1. Retain and Protect Existing Remnants
2. Enhance Existing Remnants
3. Connect Existing Remnants by Biolinks (Wildlife Corridors)

Permission from the land manager of the roadside (either Council, VicRoads or DSE) is required prior any roadside planting.

Most activities associated with revegetation on roadsides are considered as works under the Road Management Act 2004 and thus require written consent from Council (which is provided as a permit for Works Within a Road Reserve). As roads are primarily for safe transit, revegetation works must not compromise road safety. Contact Council's Environmental Services Department to discuss further.



Guidelines for Planting or Direct Seeding along Roadsides

- Contact Council to assess suitability of planting – a checklist for this purpose has been developed.
- Adjacent landholders must be consulted.
- Plantings should not be undertaken on Fuel Reduced Corridors or within the cleared areas of Priority Access Roads designated in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan.
- Only use indigenous species grown from locally collected seed. Aim to re-establish the relevant Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) where possible.
- Allow adequate planning time, up to 12 months, to ensure indigenous plant species can be sourced.
- Trees or shrubs should not be planted in native grasslands.
- Encourage natural regeneration where possible, e.g. by guarding plants or remove grazing pressures and weed control.
- Plantings should aim for a natural appearance (avoid rows).
- Plant shrubs and understorey species in dense clumps.
- Plantings under powerlines should adhere to the guidelines recommended in 'Planting Trees Near Power Lines' by Citipower and Powercor November 2008. Plantings within 5 metres of powerlines should be no more than 4 metres in height. Plantings within 5 to 8 metres of powerlines should be no more than 9 metres in height. Plantings further than 8 metres from powerlines have no height restrictions.
- Set back plantings metres from fences to allow for maintenance. Set backs from the road edge for rural roads should be:
 - 4.2 metres when road is unsealed
 - 6 metres for sealed roads of speed limits up to 100 km.

- Plantings should not obscure traffic sight lines and visibility. Do not plant trees with a mature trunk diameter of 100mm at base within sight lines. Council will advise on appropriate set backs for the road safety aspects as specified in the VicRoads Design Guidelines. Planting plans need Council approval.
- Direct seeding is the most cost-effective means of revegetating large areas or long linear corridors.
- Apply best practice techniques at all times, including suitable site preparation, diverse species selection and ongoing maintenance.
- Plantings shall not be undertaken in high conservation areas, except for enrichment plantings of significant or specific species, undertaken by people with suitable experience.
- Written consent from Council is required for works on roadsides, including plantings.

Guidelines for Seed Collection on Roadsides

- Seed collection is encouraged to ensure that seed supplies are available for appropriate revegetation purposes on roadsides.
- Seed collection or removal of cutting material on roadsides requires a permit from Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and written consent from Council (or VicRoads on arterial roads). Commercial collection requires a DSE license.
- Ensure ecologically sustainable seed collection practices are used and disturbance to sites is avoided. For detailed guidelines for seed collection view the FloraBank website www.florabank.org.au. Large-scale collections are not permitted, except if larger quantities of seed are required for direct seeding of appropriate sites.
- A Works on Roadsides permit is required from Council to collect seed.

Management Guideline Summary

Action	VERY HIGH / HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW / DEGRADED
Native Vegetation Removal	Avoid removing native vegetation beyond the road formation where possible. Apart from exempt works a permit is required to remove native vegetation from roadsides.	Avoid removing native vegetation beyond the road formation where possible. Apart from exempt works a permit is required to remove native vegetation from roadsides.	Avoid removing native vegetation beyond the road formation where possible. Apart from exempt works a permit is required to remove native vegetation from roadsides.
Firewood Collection	No firewood collecting permits are issued for roadsides. Exception if it is an approved site for a fuel reduction burn identified in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan.	No firewood collecting permits are issued for roadsides, with exception if it is an approved site for a fuel reduction burn identified in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan.	No firewood collecting permits are issued for roadsides, with exception if it is an approved site for a fuel reduction burn identified in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan.
Road Maintenance and Construction	Identify machinery turn around points in areas that will not result in disturbance to native vegetation.	Identify machinery turn around points in areas that will not result in disturbance to native vegetation.	Identify machinery turn around points in areas that will not result in disturbance to native vegetation.



Action	VERY HIGH / HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW / DEGRADED
Revegetation	Natural regeneration is preferred. Council will provide priority and support to any proposal aimed at creating a vegetation link for a wildlife corridor.	Landholder groups are encouraged to contact Council to implement a program to revegetate roadsides and to create wildlife corridors.	Landholder groups are encouraged to contact Council to implement a program to revegetate roadsides and to create wildlife corridors.
Slashing	If slashing is unavoidable, plan works to occur during early spring or autumn.	If slashing is unavoidable, plan works to occur during early spring or autumn.	Check all sites prior to slashing operations and identify regenerating native vegetation with a stake or other appropriate method (e.g. temporary fencing).
Weed Management	No broadacre spray applications to be conducted on these roadsides. Use hand weeding, rope wick applicator or spot spraying to remove isolated weeds in areas of native vegetation. Dispose at Municipal Disposal site.	Identify location of prominent weeds. Inform adjacent landholders of proposed weed control and encourage their involvement. Implement a program to remove woody weeds between March and July (except Blackberries, which require control during November to March). Burn weeds on site or on cleared area, or dispose of at a Council approved disposal site.	Identify location of prominent weeds. Inform adjacent landholders of proposed weed control and encourage their involvement. Implement a program to remove woody weeds between March and July (except Blackberries, which require control during November to March). Burn weeds on site or on cleared area, or dispose of at a Council approved disposal site.

Action	VERY HIGH / HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW / DEGRADED
Grazing on Roadsides	Grazing is not permitted on High Conservation Value roadsides, unless approved by DSE for ecological management.	Limited grazing may be permitted where ecological benefits such as weed control can be demonstrated, or to reduce fuel in accordance with the MFPP.	Grazing will only be permitted when soils are not saturated or prone to compaction.
Droving	Not recommended. Where unavoidable, stock to be supervised and moved quickly to minimise impact on native vegetation and soil compaction.	Stock to be supervised and moved quickly to reduce impacts on native vegetation and soil compaction.	Stock to be supervised and permitted when soils are dry (to avoid compaction). Avoid weeds prone areas where possible (eg animals should not walk through patches of Paterson Curse when it is seeding).
Stock Movement	Not allowed.	Minimise stock movement.	Preferred stock movement confined to roadside of low or degraded conservation value.

References

Goulburn-Broken Catchment Roadside Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols Project (2007) Goulburn-Broken Catchment Roadside Biodiversity Risk Management Project

Country Fire Authority (2001) Roadside Fire Management Works – Guidelines and Procedures. Country Fire Authority Victoria.

For further information

Shire of Campaspe (2010) Roadside Conservation Strategy. Shire of Campaspe. Available at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au



