Significant Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

2020
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Vision

The vision for Bass Coast’s environment is to restore and improve the health of the landscape through increased biodiversity and indigenous vegetation protection. Council commits to improve land and catchment management working cooperatively to better protect and enhance our biodiversity.

Objectives

The purpose of this document is to review and update the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan November 2003 and bring the document up to date with current legislation. The plan will provide a framework for consistent and strategic management of rural roadsides under the management of Council across the Bass Coast Shire.

Council’s Significant Roadside Vegetation Management Plan contributes to the delivery of the key themes and strategic objectives that are set out in the Council Plan 2017-2021. This is achieved through:

- Restoring coastal and inland vegetation corridors in partnership with land owners, land managers and Landcare groups.
- Enhancing our visitor economy through preservation of our natural environment.
- Enhancing our environment and landscape with vegetation and native wildlife protection initiatives.
- Protecting our natural environment balanced with access for all to enjoy.

The objectives of the Plan are to protect roadside biodiversity and landscape values without compromising other essential functions of roadsides, roadway or related assets; such as road safety, fire management, and the provision of utilities and services.

Roadside vegetation represents the last remaining examples of vegetation that was once abundant in the area. Bass Coast Shire Council recognises the significant contribution that indigenous roadside vegetation has in the landscape. Council is committed to the conservation and enhancement of this valuable asset.

The Significant Roadside Vegetation Management Plan will assist Council staff and contractors, organisations, service authorities and individuals concerned with road construction, roadside management, land protection, roadside conservation, fire protection and provision of services to maintain the integrity of roadsides identified as high conservation value in the Bass Coast Shire.

The Plan links protection of vegetation and environmental outcomes to on-ground works and it will assist to embed environmental considerations into standard practice.
Scope

What areas do the plan cover?

The Significant Roadside Vegetation Management Plan covers rural roads under the management of Council, excluding roadsides in urban areas. In urban areas planning policy is utilised to protect indigenous vegetation. The Significant Roadside Vegetation Management Plan does not cover declared roads that are under the direct control of Regional Roads Vic, such as highways and tourist roads. Unused Roads are also beyond the scope of this Plan, as the associated management and licensing arrangements require a separate focus.

What is a roadside?

A road is made up of a road formation and a road side. The road formation is the part of the road used by vehicles and includes to the back of the table drain. A roadside is the area from the back of the table drain (or edge of road formation where no drain is present) out to the adjoining property fence line.

The following diagram defines the various portions of the road reserve, including the ‘roadside’ section that this plan specifically covers.

![Road maintenance envelope diagram]

*Envelope height:
- 6.5m for Over Dimension (OD) routes
- 6m for urban and rural freeways, and main and arterial roads
- 5m for local and other roads

Fig 1. Road maintenance envelope
**Why is it important to protect our roadside reserves?**

Less than 14% of remnant indigenous vegetation remains across the Bass Coast Shire (Bass Coast Shire Council Biodiversity Biolinks Plan 2018). This low percentage is due to the wide-scale clearing that opened up the region for settlement, agriculture and industry. The vegetation that does remains today occurs as small isolated patches or linear strips in reserves, on private land, and growing along our roadsides. Roadside vegetation provides important genetic diversity of the forest that covered the shire prior to European settlement and are integral in conserving the gene pool of indigenous plant species.

The networks of vegetation on our roadsides play a key role in linking together fragmented vegetation across the landscape and allows for movement, population dispersion and occasional nesting sites and food reserves for fauna.

Roadside vegetation makes an important contribution to landscape values helping to define the unique characteristics of our area, providing a valuable source of indigenous seed stock. Roadside vegetation helps to protect against erosion, salinity and climate change and can provide protection for livestock on adjoining properties.

**Threats to Roadside Vegetation**

The native vegetation coverage has been greatly reduced since European settlement. Native vegetation removal or displacement for new housing and industrial estates, agriculture, service infrastructure, road construction and widening, fence construction and tracks, as well as displacement through the encroachment of weeds, leads to incremental losses and further degradation and fragmentation. These pressures reduce the viability and value of services that the vegetation can provide.

It is vital to protect the remaining vegetation from indiscriminate clearing while managing and enhancing it to prevent further decline and degradation. Research has demonstrated that in a landscape which has 35% native vegetation, a total of 75-80% of species could still survive. However, any further decrease below the 35% level, extinctions accelerate rapidly (WGCMA Native Vegetation Plan).

**Values of Roadside Vegetation**

Roadside vegetation is highly valued for the following reasons:

- They provide examples of indigenous vegetation that may have largely disappeared from the region.
- They provide habitat and corridors for native animals and represent the only habitat for rare and endangered species.
- They conserve the gene pools of indigenous flora and fauna, which represents a source of genetic diversity.
- They minimise land management costs as native vegetation requires little maintenance and will self-propagate quickly after fire or minor disturbance.
- They assist in the fight against land degradation by providing shelter, prevent soil erosion, provide wind breaks and assist in preventing salinity if in a recharge area.
• They increase farm productivity by providing insectivorous bird habitat, windbreaks, shelter for stock and can assist in the control of weeds if the vegetation is established.
• They provide trees and shrubs which store carbon and which assists in reducing emissions.
• They define the landscape character and heritage of the area.
• Roadside vegetation reduces the urban heat island effect by providing shade along roadides.
• They provide valuable location for walking and cycling tracks assisting in community linkage and tourism.

**Why have a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan?**

The Significant Roadside Vegetation Management Plan was developed out of a need to protect and enhance the biodiversity of roadsides. The ultimate aim is to manage these multiple functions, uses and demands.

**Management Objectives**

Within the context of maintaining its legislative responsibilities, the objectives of the Bass Coast Shire Council’s management of vegetation on roadsides are to:

• Ensure that key stakeholders are aware of this plan and to encourage their participation and commitment to its implementation;
• Encourage the adoption of best practice by all land managers – including the implementation of environmentally sensitive road construction and maintenance;
• Reduce the spread and encourage the control and eradication of priority pest plants;
• Maintain and enhance biodiversity values;
• Improve the condition of priority roadsides by maintaining, and where feasible, restoring indigenous vegetation communities;
• Ensure the safe function of roads;
• Protect the road formation;
• Protect service assets located on roadsides;
• Protect cultural and heritage values;
• Maintain and enhance the visual amenity and landscape qualities of roadsides;
• Minimise the risk and impact from fire, and address the conflicting issues of fire protection and conservation; and
• Control pest animals and vermin where Council is responsible.

**Legislative requirements**

Roadsides are complex areas governed by a range of legislation, local laws, policies, strategies, plans and guidelines. The key documents is listed below:
• Shaping a better Bass Coast – Council Plan 2017-2021;
• Natural Environment Strategy 2016-26;
• Victoria’s Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action 2011;
• Local Government Act 1989;
• Planning and Environment Act 1986;
• Environment Protection Act 1970;
• Bass Coast Planning Scheme;
• VicRoads Roadside Management Strategy 2011 - Roadside Management – a balanced approach;
• Procedure to rely on the road safety exemption in planning schemes August 2018;
• Road Management Act 2004.

Links to corporate strategies

The roadside management plan links to several corporate documents, listed below.

Bass Coast Planning Scheme 2019

The Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) states that in relation to native flora and fauna:

Bass Coast has environmental and landscape values of regional and national significance, including Ramsar listed wetlands, marine parks and remnant native vegetation.

The northern half of the Westernport Lowlands will become increasingly vegetated with local vegetation communities extending from bushland reserves along roadsides and watercourses into open rural land.

Phillip Island Northern Coast will be characterised by indigenous vegetation which extends in corridors between inland reserves and the natural coastal edge.

Bunurong Coast and Hinterland … will be interspersed with native vegetation corridors.

Bass Hills cultural vegetation patterns and native vegetation corridors will create contrasts with the historic cleared landscape character.

Biodiversity Biolinks Plan 2018

The biolinks plan aims are to restore ecological connectivity in the landscape by linking remnant patches of bushland. It encourages the movement of wildlife and allow for genetic diversity in breeding populations. Over 200 biolinks have been identified in the biolinks plan that will increase the amount of native vegetation cover and provide habitat for native flora and fauna. Roadsides with significant vegetation cover have been included in the biolinks plan as they contain significant vegetation.

Road Occupation Permit

A road occupation permit is required if you are doing any infrastructure works, or tree removal and planting on a roadside.

Guidelines for Planting in Nature Strip
Your nature strip is the Council land between your property boundary and the road.

Nature strips form part of the road reserve. While they are generally under the management responsibility of councils, property owners mow the nature strip lawns that may be in front of their property.

The primary purposes of nature strips are to provide:

- Safe areas for pedestrians that may include footpaths
- Space for power/light poles and for underground services including electricity, gas, water, phones, etc.
- A place for the collection of household garbage and recycling
- Visibility for motorists and pedestrians at intersections, driveways and curves in the road.

**Local Law No. 1 Neighbourhood Amenity (2012)**

The Local Law specifies what is suitable for native vegetation on Council owned land.

Weed control can enhance natural regeneration and suppress weed growth including slashing at specific times of the year and controlled fire regimes.

**Municipal Fire Management Plan**

Fire prevention works are consistent with the recommendations with the Bass Coast Municipal Fire Management Plan V3 2018 (MFPP) and are to be in accordance with the guidelines and plan. Significant roadsides that are suitable for an ecological burn have been identified in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan, which outlines what treatments are suitable for specific roadsides.

**Roadside Asset Management Plan (2019-2023)**

The Roadside Asset Management Plan describes the current management arrangement for Council’s road assets. It demonstrates the responsible management of road assets, compliance with regulatory requirements and to communicate funding needed to provide existing levels of service.

**Tree Maintenance Policy 2017**

The objectives of the policy is to provide guidelines to ensure consistency in the maintenance of tree assets on Council manage land. The policy will guide decision making for the maintenance, removal and retention of street, park and reserve trees:

1. To set service levels for the maintenance of the tree network to maximize benefits whilst reducing risks to the public.
2. To manage and maintain trees within the Bass Coast Shire area on Council managed land.

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**Table 1 Significant roadsides with nationally and state listed vegetation communities.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetation Community</th>
<th>Bioregional Conservation Significance</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Act/Listing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Moonah (Melaleuca lanceolata subsp. lanceolata) Woodland Community</td>
<td>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (State) listed</td>
<td>Red Rocks Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strezlecks Warm Temperate Rainforest Community</td>
<td>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (State) listed</td>
<td>Dalyston Glen Forbes Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast Banksia Woodland</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Mouth of Powlett Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Chisolm Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Scrub</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Cowes Rhyll Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowland Forest</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Garry Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damp Forest</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Batesons Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Damp Grassland of the Victorian Coastal Plains</td>
<td>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal) listed – Critically Endangered</td>
<td>Turnbull Woolamai Rd Rance Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Scrub</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Loch Kernot Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains Grassy Woodland</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Harbison Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swampy Riparian Woodland</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Pinkerton Rd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fig 2 Warm temperate rainforest along Dalyston - Glen Forbes Road*
Local roadside environmental management threats and issues

Below is a table of the most cost-effective and ecologically sound method of restoring and maintaining native vegetation to allow indigenous species to regenerate naturally.

**Table 2 Revegetation and Regeneration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify roadsides that are degraded and carry out supplementary planting or direct seeding, and adequate weed control to improve the roadside vegetation.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment, Bass Coast Landcare Network, Contractors, community groups.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restore the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) benchmark components of former grassland sites</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment, Bass Coast Landcare Network, Contractors</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate and schedule direct seeding on suitable roadsides (Fig 3).</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment, Bass Coast Landcare Network, Infrastructure Delivery</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consult with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for advice on appropriateness, timing and frequency for ecological burns.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment, Emergency Management</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work in collaboration with Councils Delivery and Maintenance team on roadwork projects that require the removal of native vegetation to rehabilitate the roadside.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment, Infrastructure Delivery</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen the Local Law in relation to firewood removal</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment, Emergency Management</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig 3 Direct seeding of roadside to increase native vegetation cover on along roadside.

**Threats**

**Pest Plant and animals**

Invasive pest plants and animals are among the most severe threats to Bass Coast Shire’s natural environment. Weed invasions change the natural diversity and balance of ecological communities through displacing native species, contributing significantly to land degradation. They represent the biggest threat to our biodiversity after habitat loss. Invasive weeds threaten the survival of many plants and animals as the weeds compete with the native plants for space, nutrients and sunlight. The increase in the amount of native wildlife has seen an increase in the amount of roadkill on our roads. The roadside weed management program has seen a significant reduction in roadside weeds. All council’s roadsides were mapped for weed cover in 2013 and again in 2019. There was an additional 552.5 km of weed free roadsides in this period. This is due to the weed program delivered by Bass Coast Landcare Network. Blackberries on the roadside have decreased by 39% over the 6 year period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Table 3 Pest Plant and animal works</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue the Roadside Weeds and Pest management program to control weeds on rural roadsides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control weeds on roadsides with significant vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revegetate areas where weeds have been removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor sites of recent works for any regrowth or new growth of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
weeds and undertake follow up control where required.

Investigate options for reducing roadkill on roads i.e. virtual fencing trail.

| BCSC Sustainable Environment Department, Asset Management, Phillip Island Nature Parks, DELWP | High |

![Fig 4 Removal of Pine trees from significant vegetation along roadside](image)

**Firewood collection**

Dead vegetation contributes to enhancing habitat values along roadsides. It has values for fauna that require hollows for nesting or fallen vegetation for shelter. Department of Environment Land Water and Planning assign designated areas for firewood collection, with the closest designated area found at Mirboo North. Dead vegetation should be left on the roadside as habitat for insectivores bats and birds.

**Roadside Construction and Maintenance**

Road construction, widening and maintenance require careful planning before any works are undertaken to ensure that the conservation of the roadside vegetation is achieved.

Appropriate planning and preparation of road construction and maintenance should ensure that impacts on roadside vegetation are minimised and rehabilitation of roadside vegetation should be planned into the construction and maintenance program.

The Road Safety Procedure exemptions with DELWP allows Bass Coast Shire to maintain the safe function of roads via the removal or lopping or vegetation within the road envelope as well as managing table drains and sight lines without the need to pay for offsets, except for large (40+ diameter) canopy species. Low impact construction works are also included in this exemption if they are less than 0.5 hectares and enhancing the safe and efficient functioning of an existing road, details can be found at “Procedure to rely on the road safety exemption in planning schemes, DELWP 2018”

Council need to ensure that a balance is achieved when considering the functionality of the road network and be able to meet all legislative and safety requirements.
Weed species and locations

A roadside weed management program is implemented to reduce the weed cover on Council roads across the shire. The main weeds that are targeted on roadsides are blackberry, gorse, broom, Spanish heath, watsonia and ivy. The roadside weeds targeted, with distribution maps across the shire can be found in Appendix 2, which shows the comparison of weed coverage between 2013 and 2019.

By tracking the progress of weed control over the years, we have determined the effectiveness of the roadside weed control program.

A key finding over the last six years has shown that

- 552 kilometres of roadsides are free of weed cover when compared to 2013
- There has been an overall reduction of blackberry, broom, gorse, Spanish heath and Watsonia on roadsides throughout the shire.

Weed species can be identified from Councils ‘Common Weeds of Gippsland – weed identification’ brochure. This can be collected from the Wonthaggi Civic Centre.

Roadside environmental management priority sites

Significant Roadside Vegetation Signage

The Significant Roadside Vegetation signage informs roadside workers and the general public about the conservation value of the roadside. It is designed to alert passing travellers, residents, workers from utility services, e.g. water, electricity, drainage, sewerage, gas and communications as well as County Fire Authority, Council Maintenance Crews and others to the roadside conservation significance.

Areas of significant vegetation have been marked with roadside signs to alert road users. They have also been marked with green markers to alert Infrastructure Maintenance staff and details what is significant about the vegetation on the roadside.

Example of Significant Roadside Vegetation Signage below. This sign informs roadside workers as well as the general public where a roadside has high conservation value.

Fig 5. Significant roadside sign highlighting areas that are of high biodiversity value
There are several roadsides that contain native grassland (Fig 7), which should be treated in a manner so that they do not degrade over time. The specific actions for these roadsides are

- No slashing between September and January
- No stockpiling on road verge
• Not parking of machinery or plant on road verge
• No revegetation on road verge

A list of grasslands and sedgelands are listed in Appendix 1.
Management action plan

These management actions provide guidelines for best practice management, along with responsible authorities or organisations and priority ratings.

Table 4: Management Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue the Roadside Weeds and Pest management program to control weeds on rural roadsides</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment, Bass Coast Landcare Network</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control weeds on roadsides with significant vegetation.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment, Bass Coast Landcare Network</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revegetate areas where weeds have been removed.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment Department</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor sites of recent works for any regrowth or new growth of weeds and undertake follow up control where required.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment Department</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS map the roadsides for level of weed cover and compare with GIS mapping that was done in 2013.</td>
<td>Bass Coast Landcare Network</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide training to outdoor staff and Contractors in weed identification and appropriate methods of control, prevention and machinery hygiene practices.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment Department, Bass Coast Bass Coast Landcare Network</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect seed from significant roadsides and store ready for use in future projects.</td>
<td>Seedbank volunteers, Bass Coast Landcare Network</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use seed collected from significant roadsides to revegetate and enhance roadsides with medium to low conservation value and where the roadside is recognised as a wildlife corridor.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment, Bass Coast Bass Coast Landcare Network, contractors</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review the MFMP and the Significant Roadside Management Plan to ensure there is consistency between both documents.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment Department, BCSC Emergency Management</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Responsible Party</td>
<td>Priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut, bale and remove the exotic grass competition on identified grassland EVC road reserves (Woodland or Forest EVC) as hay prior to its seed set in November.</td>
<td>Landowner adjacent</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that key stakeholders are aware of this plan and encourage their participation and commitment to its implementation. Stakeholders include CFA, Service Providers e.g. water, electricity, drainage, sewerage, gas and communications, Council Staff, Bass Coast Landcare Network Groups, Conservation Societies, Friends of Groups, local residents and the Community.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment Department</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure annual training for all council Infrastructure Maintenance roads workers for best practice management of native roadside vegetation and incorporate the roadside management plan into their induction package. Training should make reference to the significant roadside vegetation map, recognition of signage, machinery hygiene skills and skills in native vegetation and weed species identification.</td>
<td>BCSC Sustainable Environment Department</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Appendix 1 Location of significant roadside vegetation

Description of roadside vegetation and other environmental values

Significant roadside vegetation is located on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Ecological Vegetation Class</th>
<th>Bioregional Conservation Status</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agar Rd</td>
<td>Bass</td>
<td>Grassland</td>
<td></td>
<td>Weed control</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Agar Rd" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atkinson Rd</td>
<td>Lance Creek</td>
<td>Lowland Forest – Swamp Scrub</td>
<td>Vulnerable-Endangered</td>
<td>Weed control and revegetation</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Atkinson Rd" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axfords Rd</td>
<td>Wattlebank</td>
<td>Damp Heathy Woodland / Lowland Forest Mosaic – Swamp Scrub</td>
<td>Vulnerable-Endangered</td>
<td>Weed control</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Axfords Rd" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Landing Rd</td>
<td>Bass</td>
<td>Swamp Scrub</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Weed control</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bass Landing Rd" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Neighbourhood</td>
<td>Vegetation Type</td>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Action Description</td>
<td></td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bateson Rd</td>
<td>Glen Forbes</td>
<td>Damp Forest</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Weed control and revegetation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry's Road</td>
<td>Wonthaggi</td>
<td>Sand Heathland – Swamp Scrub - Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland</td>
<td>Rare-Vulnerable-Endangered</td>
<td>Weed control and revegetation including neighbouring farm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundary Road</td>
<td>Wonthaggi</td>
<td>Damp Sands Herb Rich Woodland</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Weed control and revegetation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell Street</td>
<td>Wonthaggi</td>
<td>Damp Sands Herb Rich Woodland</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Weed control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery Rd</td>
<td>Corinella</td>
<td>Grassy Woodland</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Weed control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Suburb</td>
<td>Vegetation Types</td>
<td>Threat Status</td>
<td>Action Required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chisolm Road</td>
<td>Wonthaggi</td>
<td>Damp Sands Herb Rich Woodland/Swamp Scrub Mosaic, Swamp Scrub, Coastal Saltmarsh, Sand Heathland/Wet Heathland Mosaic</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Weed control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coghlan Rd</td>
<td>Cowes</td>
<td>Swamp Scrub - Grassy Woodland</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Weed control and revegetation including neighbour properties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowes Rhyll Rd</td>
<td>Rhyll</td>
<td>Grassy Woodland - Swamp Scrub</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Weed control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalyston – Glen Forbes Rd</td>
<td>Glen Forbes</td>
<td>Damp Forest - Lowland Forest - Wet Temperate Rainforest</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Prepare management plan to restore the wet temperate rainforest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Species Type</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunsmore Rd</td>
<td>Plains Grassy Woodland</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Revegetation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Lane</td>
<td>Damp Sands Herb Rich Woodland</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Revegetation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap Rd</td>
<td>Grassland and Sedgeland</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Weed control and no slashing between Sep-Jan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Investigate dieback, weed control</td>
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<td>and revegetation including</td>
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<td>Weed control and revegetation</td>
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<td>Region</td>
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<td>Pyramid Rock Rd</td>
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<td>Minimise slashing and continue weed control</td>
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<td>Weed control and no slashing between Sep-Jan</td>
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<td>Condition</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>The Shuntoff</td>
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<td>Weed control</td>
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<td>Weed control</td>
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<td>Status</td>
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<td>Viminari a Rd</td>
<td>Harmers Haven</td>
<td>Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland – Swamp Scrub</td>
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<td>Weed control</td>
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<td>Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland - Swamp Scrub</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Weed control</td>
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<td>Weed control</td>
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<td>Wilson Road</td>
<td>Cape Paterson</td>
<td>Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland - Sand heathland – Swamp Scrub</td>
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<td>Revegetation</td>
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A variety of actions are performed taking into account this plan and other referenced documents to ensure preservation, enhancement and functionality of the road reserve.
Appendix 2 Weed coverage comparisons

Comparison of weed coverage between 2013 and 2019

Fig 8. Blackberry coverage comparison between 2013 to 2019
Fig 9. Broom coverage comparison between 2013 to 2019
Fig 10. Gorse coverage comparison between 2013 to 2019
Fig 11. Spanish Heath coverage comparison between 2013 to 2019

Fig 12. Watsonia reduction comparison between 2013 to 2019

Fig 13. Woody weed coverage comparison between 2013 to 2019
Fig 14. New and emerging weeds
Appendix 3 Work practice guidelines road construction and widening

WORK PRACTICE GUIDELINES
ROADSIDE VEGETATION PROTECTION
ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES
All works are to be performed in accordance with the principles outlined in the:

- VicRoads Regional Codes of Practice for Roadside Maintenance and Construction (2016)

GUIDELINES

Construction - High Conservation Value

- Determine and clearly mark the construction zone (being the area where all construction activities take place) prior to the commencement of works.
- Confine plant equipment and stockpile sites to the design road formation (including cut off drains and table drains), proposed alignment, access tracks or a designated construction zone unless otherwise directed by the site supervisor. If necessary use low conservation sites.
- Turn vehicles and machinery on sites that have minimal indigenous vegetation (such as a designated wayside stop).
- Rip turning areas on completion of contract where compaction could be a problem.
- Undertake construction works in stages to expose the smallest practical work area for the shortest time.
- If possible locate borrow pits within the work area and minimise disturbance to indigenous vegetation.
- Design drainage systems and batters to minimise damage from water run-off and to control erosion. The location of culverts on rural roads is a priority issue for design.
- Select the type and size of machinery appropriate to the job to minimise disturbance to vegetation.

1.1 Weed Control - High Conservation Value

- See Work Practice Guidelines for Vegetation Management/Slashing/Weed Control.
1.2 **Stockpile Sites - High Conservation Value**

- Only use designated stockpile sites for the stockpiling of materials when carrying out any works on road reserves.
- When selecting new stockpile sites consider locating them so as to have minimal effect on aesthetics, drainage and indigenous vegetation. Low conservation value areas may be used where necessary.
- New stockpile sites are not to be located on or adjacent to High Conservation Value roadides, or road reserves in or adjacent to National Parks, or Public Reserves of tourism and recreational significance, such as wayside stops.
- Do not locate new stockpile sites on drainage lines, floodways, steep slopes or culvert areas.
- Ensure stockpile sites comply with CFA requirements for fire access. Check with local brigades to ensure turning space, height clearance and road access is suitable.
- Use the minimum space necessary to store or dump materials and maintain access.
- Mark boundaries of stockpile sites clearly and fence, barricade or screen from the road if appropriate.

**Rehabilitation and Erosion Control - High Conservation Value**

- Where indigenous vegetation is to be removed during construction works, consider felling, chipping and stockpiling in a cleared area for spreading over the site at the completion of works. The removed vegetation may also be used for seed collection where appropriate. If possible contact local seed collectors one week in advance to enable seed to be collected.
- Ensure material to be chipped is free of topsoil.
- If subsoil is compacted loosen or roughen subsoil prior to spreading topsoil over the site. Rip to a minimum depth of 300mm.
- Water topsoil once it is spread to minimise the chance of wind erosion.
- As far as practical, ensure that the ground level at the completion of works follows the original contours.
- Where replanting is to occur, use species indigenous to the area, including native grasses, propagated from locally collected seed unless directed by the responsible authority.
- Where replanting use appropriate methods of weed control and moisture retention such as mulching and weed mat.
• Where practicable collect local seed for use in revegetation works. Treat and spread using appropriate techniques.

• Ensure that excess fill is not placed within 2 metres of the trunks of trees or within the drip line of trees and does not exceed 300mm in depth.

General

• Remove all litter and rubbish (both personal and works related) away from the site at the completion of works.
Appendix 4 Work practice guidelines road maintenance

WORK PRACTICE GUIDELINES
ROADSIDE VEGETATION PROTECTION

ROAD MAINTENANCE

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES
All works are to be performed in accordance with the principles outlined in the:

- VicRoads Regional Codes of Practice for Roadside Maintenance and Construction (2016)

GUIDELINES
1.1 Road Maintenance – Conservation Value

- Determine the maintenance area prior to the commencement of works.
- Confine plant equipment and stockpile sites to the road formation table, proposed alignment, access tracks or a designated zone unless otherwise directed by the site supervisor. Low Conservation Value areas may be used where necessary.
- Rip turning areas on completion of works where compaction could be a problem.
- Undertake works in stages to expose the smallest practical work area for the shortest time.
- Select the type and size of machinery appropriate to the job to minimise disturbance to vegetation.
- Take care to avoid damaging vegetation when machinery is being manoeuvred.
- Avoid any machinery or vehicle operation within the drip lines of trees to minimise root damage and soil compaction from machinery.
- Grade shoulders and gravel roads to the minimum necessary to maintain the road formation and the condition of the road (as specified by the responsible authority).
- Avoid changing the ground level around existing vegetation.
- Design, construct and maintain table drains to follow natural drainage lines to reduce water velocity and run-off to prevent erosion and water from flooding the road and roadside (except at times of flash downpours).
• Design and maintain cut-off or mitre drains to prevent waterlogging the road pavement and to disperse excess water from the road onto adjoining land with minimum disturbance to surrounding vegetation. Drains should be directed to the natural drainage line.

• Remove regenerating vegetation from drainage lines and if only if necessary up to 1 metre behind the invert.

• Undertake erosion control measures where appropriate or necessary.

Road Maintenance – High Conservation Value

• After working in weed or disease affected areas, clean vehicles and machinery of all soil and plant debris prior to working on high/medium conservation value roadsides or weed free sites.

• Spoil should be directed towards the road pavement and removed to a designated dump site. Do not spread spoil onto indigenous vegetation on roadsides. It may be retained on the road shoulder if weeds are unlikely to accumulate.

• Minimise disturbance to indigenous roadside vegetation outside the road formation or functional part of a table drain, or cut-off or mitre drain.

• Where wetlands occur ensure that the road drainage system does not upset the natural balance by altering the water levels or allowing sediment or silts to enter the wetland.

Stockpile Sites - High Conservation Value

• When selecting new stockpile sites consider locating them so as to have minimal effect on aesthetics, drainage and indigenous vegetation.

• Only use designated stockpile sites for the stockpiling of materials when carrying out any works on road reserves.

• New stockpile sites are not to be located on High Conservation Value roadsides, or road reserves in or adjacent to National Parks, or Public Reserves of tourism and recreational significance, such as wayside stops.

• Do not locate new stockpile sites on drainage lines, floodways, or culvert areas.

• Ensure stockpile sites comply with CFA requirements for fire access.

• Use the minimum space necessary to store or dump materials and maintain access.

• Mark boundaries of stockpile sites clearly and fence, barricade or screen from the road if appropriate.

• Restrict stockpile sites to already disturbed, preferably already cleared sites.
Rehabilitation and Erosion Control - High Conservation Value

- Where indigenous vegetation is to be removed during maintenance works, consider felling, chipping and stockpiling in a cleared area for spreading over the site at the completion of works.
- Ensure material to be chipped is free of topsoil and weeds.
- If subsoil is compacted loosen or roughen subsoil prior to spreading topsoil over the site. Water topsoil once it is spread to minimise the chance of wind erosion.
- As far as practical, ensure that the ground level at the completion of works follows the original contours.

Rehabilitation and Erosion Control - High Conservation Value

- Where replanting is to occur, use species indigenous to the area, including native grasses, propagated from locally collected seed unless specifically directed by the responsible authority.
- Where replanting use appropriate weed control and moisture retention methods such as mulching and weed mat.
- Where practicable collect local seed for use in revegetation works. Treat and spread using appropriate techniques.
- Ensure that excess fill is not placed within 2 metres of the trunks of trees or within the drip line of trees and does not exceed 300mm in depth.

Vegetation Management/Slashing/Weed Control

- See Work Practice Guidelines for Vegetation Management/Slashing/Weed Control.

General

- Remove all litter and rubbish (both personnel and works related) away from the site at the completion of works, or burn on site if an appropriate cleared area is available. Permits may be required for burning.
WORK PRACTICE GUIDELINES
ROADSIDE VEGETATION PROTECTION
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT/SLASHING/WEED CONTROL
GUIDELINES

Vegetation Management – High Conservation Value

- Prior to removing, destroying or lopping native vegetation on any roadside a permit must have been obtained.
- It is the responsibility of the contractor to confirm the existence of the appropriate permits.
- Mark vegetation which is to be removed or lopped prior to work commencing.
- Remove only the minimum vegetation necessary to meet the required works.
- Remove damaged and fallen trees and root balls resulting from clearing or storm damage if they are a safety hazard, a potential fire risk, a harbour for vermin, etc.
- All vegetation lopping shall conform to best horticultural practice (see industry guidelines) and the operator shall be suitably qualified.
- Fall vegetation in the direction that minimises damage to surrounding vegetation.
- Retain dead trees and naturally fallen limbs on the roadside to provide habitat for wildlife unless they pose a significant safety hazard or fire hazard. The fire hazard is to be defined by the MFP Officer in consultation with the MFPC or individual CFA brigade officers.
- Leave tree stumps at least 1.2 metres high so as to be visible to maintenance or fire fighting vehicles or grind them out as soon as practicable.
- Maintain existing clearance distances unless inadequate for the class of road. Prune the vegetation to the width of the existing road formation (including table drains) with a 5 metre height clearance wet and 6 metre height clearance dry.
- Choose equipment that allows works to be undertaken from the road formation, cleared land or private land e.g. cherry picker, chainsaw.
- If felled material is not required for habitat, recycle the material by chipping and returning to the site to be used in rehabilitation works (or make available for community projects) or stockpile in a cleared area and make available for firewood when appropriate.
- Do not chip any weeds that may be capable of spreading e.g. Cotoneaster or Privet. Only use herbicides in line with manufacturers specification.
- Retain larger felled vegetation containing hollows on site or move to another area where wildlife habitat is needed.
• Do not stack fallen timber as this could provide harbor for pest animals.

1.2 **Vegetation Management – High Conservation Value**

• Operators shall be trained to undertake the specified works and be briefed on requirements necessary to avoid damage to native vegetation.

• Ensure that all operators are aware of the requirements of the Significant Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2020 and for sites registered as significant (flora and fauna).

• Retain all habitat components, such as leaf litter, rocks and crevices, trees with hollows, naturally fallen limbs and dead and decaying vegetation, standing pools and marshy land, unless they pose a significant safety hazard or fire hazard. The fire hazard is defined by the MFP Officer in consultation with the MFPC or individual CFA brigade officers.

**Slashing Roadsides High Conservation Values**

• Slash to retard growth of exotic grasses and enhance growth of indigenous plants. Review time of slashing annually according to the requirement of the season.

• Slash only to the back of the table drain, or to a minimum of 3 metres from the edge of the pavement or 1.50 metres behind the guide posts.

• On road verges dominated by exotic grasses and weeds, slash also from the drain to the fenceline.

• Consider burning of exotic grasses as an alternative to slashing.

**Slashing Roadsides- High Conservation Values**

• The operator shall be trained to undertake the specified works and be briefed on requirements necessary to avoid damage to natural regeneration of native vegetation.

• Avoid slashing indigenous understorey on an annual basis unless specified in the MFMP. On the years that slashing is required for fire prevention purposes, it should be undertaken at a time (generally early Spring or Autumn) and in a manner that enhances growth of indigenous understorey and avoids regenerating trees and shrubs.

• In areas of understorey plants maintain an average 200mm slashing height.

• Where a native grassland is identified avoid slashing native grasses between September and late December so that grasses and plants (orchids, lilies, daisies etc) can grow, flower and set seed. Annual slashing is not encouraged. Adopt the mosaic principle for slashing. It is noted that prescribed burning can be used as an alternative to slashing. See specific management requirements for sites where available.
• In areas of native grassland where slashing operations are to occur, slash at a height that will achieve both fire prevention and conservation objectives. It is preferable that native grasslands are slashed to a height of 75mm during the last week of November and the first week of December to avoid damage to soil and plant roots and prevent invasion of the site by exotic grasses or weeds. Slash a second time to a height of 200mm at the end of January to allow grasses to set seed. The times for slashing may need to be adjusted for seasonal variation.

**Weed Control - High Conservation Values**

• Ensure that the type of weed control undertaken is appropriate for the site, roadside conservation values, and weeds present.

• Give priority to weed control on high conservation value roadsides.

• Obtain advice from DELWP prior to undertaking control of new species of weeds.

• Do not use plants known to be environmental weeds in any landscape project by the Municipality and other authorities.

• Avoid ploughing, cultivation or broad acre herbicide use for weed control on roadsides.

• Consider cut and poison and tree injection methods where possible for selected woody weeds.

• Avoid removal of weeds in seed unless there is no alternative.

• Avoid transporting weed seed from one site to another on plant and equipment.

• If it is necessary to remove weeds in seed, dispose of at a designated disposal site and cover during transportation to prevent weed seeds blowing away and colonising new areas.

• Where possible remove weeds in high conservation value roadsides using minimal disturbance techniques.

• In high conservation areas wherever possible obtain soil for road maintenance from weed free sites.

• The indiscriminate use of herbicides is not permitted.

• Use the appropriate herbicides for the job and ensure that the application of herbicides is undertaken in accordance with the registration requirements as detailed on the label and in statutory requirements including the requirement for Chemical Users Permit.

• Roadside spraying program will be carried out by experience contractors.

• Avoid indigenous understorey and regeneration areas when spraying.

• Spray weeds prior to seed set whenever possible.
• Maintain records of chemical sprayed, location and date of spraying, weather conditions and target species sprayed.

• Remove topsoil and store separately. Use stored material on sites suitable for rehabilitation only if free of weed seed (i.e. from a weed free area).

• Obtain materials for construction works from disease free and weed free areas.

• Control weeds prior to stockpiling or dumping materials on a new site. Monitor the area for any subsequent weed growth and undertake follow up weed control if necessary.

• If grass is to be sown for short term stabilisation, use a sterile seed such as sterile rye grass to prevent the spread of the grass.