



ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



**Greater Shepparton City
Council**

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BACKGROUND

The original document was prepared by Dianne McPherson & Associates in 2001 with the following people providing assistance:

Andrew Straker	Roadsides Conservation Advisory Committee.
Greg McKenzie	Greater Shepparton City Council.
Greg Wood	Department of Sustainability and Environment, Kerang.
Rolf Weber	Department of Sustainability and Environment, Tatura.
Anthony Sheean	City of Greater Bendigo.

The development of this revision of the Roadside Management Strategy has been undertaken under the direction of Greater Shepparton City Council. The scope of this strategy is the management of rural roadsides under the control of Greater Shepparton City Council, specifically excluding roads controlled by Vicroads.

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on behalf of the:

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This publication is intended to be of assistance to all people involved in the management of roadsides, but the Greater Shepparton City Council, its employees and consultants, do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or that it is wholly appropriate for the particular purposes of individuals, and therefore disclaim any liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from reliance on any information in this publication.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

How to Read this Roadside Management Strategy

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

Document 1 - this document, comprises:

Section 1 '*Council's Role in Roadside Conservation*' which outlines the objectives, general principles and actions necessary to implement this Strategy.

Section 2 '*Council Department Responsibilities*' which is written specifically to assist Council officers in their task of protecting biodiversity assets in the performance of their duties.

Document 2 - the '*Community Roadside Management Handbook*' has been produced as a user friendly document, for use by the general community including land holders, fire prevention agencies and Landcare groups.

Document 3 - the '*Roadside Environmental Code of Practice Handbook*' is also a user friendly document tailored to the needs of road construction and maintenance contractors and workers. It is to be used in conjunction with the Routine Roadside Maintenance Flowcharts included in this Strategy and the Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols which will be included when they are finalised.

Complementing this Strategy is the *Roadside Conservation Values Assessment Map* which details the existing conservation values of roadsides throughout the City of Greater Shepparton. This map can be accessed at www.greatershepparton.com.au.

Relationship of Roadside Management Strategy to Council Policy Structure

The Roadside Management Strategy further develops Council Policies in relation to environmental sustainability and responsible management of natural resources encapsulated in Greater Shepparton 2030, the Municipal Strategic Statement and in the Council Plan 2006-2010.

It acknowledges that the primary function of roads is to provide safe vehicle transit and is complementary to the Greater Shepparton Road Safety Plan 2003.

The Strategy falls within a complex legal context and complies with Victoria's *Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action 2003* (hereafter referred to as the Native Vegetation Framework).

What Area does this Strategy Cover?

The Strategy covers all rural roads within the City of Greater Shepparton that are not under the direct control of VicRoads. Roads inside town boundaries have not been included. The Strategy focuses on the management of remnant vegetation located on roadsides and recognises the opportunities to protect and enhance our indigenous vegetation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (Cont.):

Why is it Important to Protect our Roadside Reserves?

Roadsides provide:

- Links for fauna movement;
- Locations for service assets;
- Wildlife habitat;
- Biological diversity;
- Foundations and framework for landscape connectivity and restoration;
- Important historic, cultural and natural landscape values;
- Aesthetic values for tourism;
- Assistance with the control of land degradation and road integrity (erosion, water table control etc);
- Areas for planned fire management;
- Windbreaks and shelter belts;
- Access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

The primary goal identified for native vegetation management in the Native Vegetation Framework is:

'A reversal, across the entire landscape, of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a Net Gain'.

Within the City of Greater Shepparton approximately 97 per cent of the land has been cleared for agriculture. With a large percentage of this land being irrigated, a significantly modified landscape exists, contributing to almost total destruction of some native vegetation types. This increases the significance and importance of what remains.

Our road reserves often represent some of the few remaining examples of ecosystems where the remnant vegetation provides many services. These include important fauna habitat corridors and connections between isolated areas of bushland. They can provide a store for important genetic flora and fauna resources and are a source for seeds. Further they can provide protection for livestock on adjoining properties, assist in erosion control and influence water quality.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (Cont.):

Threats to Roadside Reserves

Roadsides are under numerous threats. Due to their narrow linear nature they are more susceptible to intrusions of pest plants and animals, the encroachment of farming activities and urban development, timber extraction, road maintenance and construction works, together with any inappropriate fire prevention activities, and the installation and maintenance of services. All these activities are threatening the viability of our roadside vegetation and as a result, reducing the value of services that ecosystems provide.

Poor management practices can result in increased maintenance costs, site specific conflicts, increased fuel loading, harbour for pest plants and animals, spread of soil borne pathogens, poor drainage and land degradation, visual pollution, erosion, and loss of remnant vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Target Groups

It is important therefore that each sector of the community becomes actively involved in finding solutions to the problems created by these threats. To this end, roadsides within the Municipality have been assessed and given a conservation value ranking and the individual land management roles of each of the following target groups has been identified in the separate Strategy documents:

- Council Management;
- Council Departments;
- General public / landholders / Landcare groups / fire prevention agencies;
- Road maintenance and construction contractors/service providers.

This Strategy aims to guide the responsible land manager in taking the required action to address a particular issue. It has been designed so that Council is able to distribute to a specific group only the applicable sections to act as targeted working documents. This format allows for a clear distinction to be made between the strategic (management), tactical (planning, engineering and local laws) and operational levels of decision making.

The data used in the Roadside Conservation Values Assessment Map has been incorporated into the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS). This data, in conjunction with more detailed assessments and other available biodiversity information, can be used as a guide when determining appropriate roadside management. The general public can access roadside conservation values information by contacting council.

Compliance and Implementation

Compliance with this Roadside Management Strategy will be achieved by proposed changes to the planning scheme, local laws, additional clauses in tender documentation and performance works contracts. The Strategy implementation will require ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure appropriate direction of funding, compliance with reporting requirements and the achievement of Council's goals.

Section 1.0

Council's Role in Roadside Conservation

1.0 COUNCIL'S ROLE IN ROADSIDE CONSERVATION

1.1 Strategic Direction and Objectives

The key direction for environment as set out in Greater Shepparton 2030 is:

Conservation and enhancement of significant natural environments and cultural heritage.

This has been incorporated as a strategic objective in the 2006 - 2010 Council Plan. Deriving from this direction, the Council Plan lists specific objectives as:

Ensure that Greater Shepparton has an environmentally sustainable future.

Protect remnant native vegetation and maintain biodiversity across Greater Shepparton.

To achieve these it will be necessary to:

- Work with key groups on environmental issues;
- Demonstrate best practice in our relationships with all environmental agencies. Work together with them to ensure we are proactive on environmental issues and take a leadership role where appropriate;
- Advance community awareness of environmental issues.

Under the *Management of Resources* in the Local Planning Policy Framework, Council supports through its policy and planning decisions, the responsible and long-term management of natural resources.

The development of this Roadside Management Strategy is a key component of the sustainability aspect of the Council's strategic vision encapsulated in the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS).

1.2 Municipal Strategic Statement

The Municipal Profile within the MSS highlights the significant landscape modification from pastoral and irrigation activities that has led to the loss of 97 per cent of native vegetation. Most remnant native vegetation is now in poor condition, with the most significant stands being primarily limited to the confines of creek and road reserves.

A central focus of the MSS is the preservation and management of areas of remnant native vegetation and natural floodplains.

This current Roadside Management Strategy revision has been prepared to reflect all levels expressed within the MSS:

- Objectives: To maintain and enhance biodiversity of native flora and fauna communities.
- Strategies: Protect remnant areas of native vegetation, streamlines, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive features.
- Implementation: Utilise this Strategy and Roadside Conservation Values Assessment Map.

Through these mechanisms, Council aims to provide long-term commitment to ensure that there is a visible and measurable improvement to roadside reserves throughout the municipality in terms of:

- Safety;
- Quality, viability and quantity of flora and fauna;
- Aesthetics;
- Land degradation;
- Best management practices.

1.3 Roadside Conservation Values Assessment

An assessment has been completed of all rural roadsides within the municipality. Each roadside has been given a rating based on a range of indicative attributes - the proportion of remnant native vegetation including grasslands, percentage of weed cover, degree of site disturbance, potential habitat value, width of road reserve and the presence of any threatened species of flora or fauna. The roadside conservation values within the municipality have been plotted on a map (the *Roadside Conservation Values Assessment Map*) which is designed to be used in conjunction with management guidelines.

1.3.1 High Conservation Value

May include some but not necessarily all of the following:

Relatively lower level of disturbance (may have been subjected to disturbance historically, but has since regenerated), various vegetation layers present although not necessarily all, native vegetation occurs across much of the area, low weed levels (may be seasonally high due to annual weeds), supports a range of habitats, may form a wildlife corridor, is linked to other native vegetation (adjoining), provides habitat for rare or threatened flora and fauna species.

May benefit from carefully managed weed control and or revegetation, the latter should only be considered if the activities do not adversely impact existing biodiversity values. Opportunities should be explored for vegetation and or habitat enhancement works to be conducted on adjacent land to increase biodiversity values.

1.3.2 Medium Conservation Value

Moderate disturbance and weed levels (levels could be high at times if annual grassy weeds dominate seasonally), native vegetation occurs mainly in patches, some capacity for natural regeneration, few other habitat features, potential to improve conservation values by changes to management and or revegetation. Probably should be a higher priority for investment in enhancement works than 'low' areas.

1.3.3 Low Conservation Value

Poor condition, substantially disturbed and or modified, predominately non-native vegetation, little if any native vegetation on site or adjacent, low natural regenerative capacity and few habitat features. May have some potential for revegetation and habitat improvement however investment in these areas should only be undertaken if there is a clear biodiversity gain.

1.4 Council's Responsibility

Under the *Road Management Act 2004*, Council is the responsible authority for all local roads within the municipality. Council is also responsible for the management of third party activities on those roads. VicRoads is the responsible authority for state highways, freeways, main roads and tourist roads and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) manages the majority of forest roads.

It is also Council's responsibility under Section 43 of the *CFA Act 1958* to 'take all practicable steps to prevent the occurrence of fires on, and minimise the danger of the spread of fires on, any road under its care and management'.

Council will, in consultation with other reserve authorities, manage road reserves to:

- Provide safe transport corridors;
- Ensure safe property access;
- Protect service assets;
- Minimise fire impact;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity values;
- Protect cultural, amenity and heritage values.

1.5 Objectives of the Roadside Management Strategy

This Roadside Management Strategy aims to:

- Ensure that key stakeholders are aware of this Strategy and to encourage their participation and commitment to its implementation;
- Increase the adoption of best practices by all land managers;
- Control and reduce the spread of, and where possible, eradicate priority pest plants;
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity;
- Ensure the safe function of roads for vehicle transit;
- Protect the road formation;
- Prevent the further spread and control existing soil borne fungal pathogens;
- Protect service assets located on roadsides;
- Identify and protect cultural and heritage values;
- Prevent further land degradation on linear reserves;
- Improve water quality;
- Maintain and enhance the visual amenity and landscape quality of roadsides;
- Minimise the risk and impact from fire;
- Control pest animals and vermin.

1.6 General Principles for the Protection of Conservation Values on Roadsides

1.6.1 Vegetation Communities and Revegetation

The principle objectives and guidelines in Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy, 1997, Victoria's Native Vegetation Framework, 2003 and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) Native Vegetation Management Strategy, 2003 will be recognised:

- The highest priority is to **retain** existing native vegetation by avoiding clearance where feasible, minimising disturbance to flora and fauna while installing and maintaining service assets, ensuring the safe functioning of roads and protecting community assets from fire. Where removal is unavoidable the principle of 'Net Gain' will be applied. Net Gain simply requires that land managers responsible for losses in the extent or quality of native vegetation redress these losses by producing gains elsewhere - overall gains to be greater than overall losses;
- The second priority is to **prevent the decline** of indigenous vegetation communities and fauna habitat by actively managing roadsides to protect remnants and to maintain visual amenity, landscape qualities and cultural and heritage values;
- The third priority is to **enhance priority habitats** by targeting action for designated priority ecosystems to protect endangered species;
- The fourth priority is to **improve connectivity** by revegetating potential wildlife corridors which form a link between isolated habitats;
- Remnant vegetation including grasslands will be identified, protected and enhanced;
- Grasslands will not be restored with trees and shrubs, unless it is ecologically justified;
- The importance of understorey and species composition will be recognised.

1.6.2 Regeneration

Natural regeneration of indigenous vegetation will be protected and encouraged except where:

- It imposes a safety risk (including the preservation of sight distances);
- Exotic plants of historical or cultural significance create a feature;
- It is located within a fuel reduced corridor;
- It interferes with the road, table drains, sign posting, road widening and road construction or where overhead power lines exist.

Greater Shepparton 2030 focuses on the need for regeneration of native vegetation in recognition of the damage caused by decades of vegetation removal and ecological degradation of natural landscapes.

1.6.3 Wetlands

- Wetlands will be identified, protected and enhanced and the status will be recorded.
- Artificial wetland areas on roadsides will be retained if they do not have a detrimental effect on native flora and fauna.
- Prior to any works being undertaken consultation will take place with GBCMA and DSE where works may change a natural wetland, including the interruption or diversion of flows into wetland areas.

1.6.4 Wildlife habitat

- 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.

1.6.5 Rare, Threatened or Locally Significant Flora and Fauna

- DSE will provide base data on the locations of significant sites, which will be incorporated into Council's GIS system. DSE are to be contacted for the status and specific management actions for these sites prior to approval being given for any works.
- Council contractors, Government Agencies, Service Providers, Landcare Groups, Landowners and road workers will comply with management recommendations appropriate for the conservation of any identified species.

1.6.6 Weed Management

- Weed removal activities will be co-ordinated with community weed management activities and will comply with the Goulburn Broken Weed Action Plan.
- A risk management approach will be developed so that response is consistent with the risk posed.
- Training is to be provided in weed identification skills and knowledge of control methods, using locally produced weeds pamphlets.
- Training will continue to be provided to Council staff and contractors to promote work practices that minimise the risk of weed spread during road maintenance works.

1.6.7 Roadside Marking of Special Environmental Areas

- Many high conservation value roadsides have been marked with 'Significant Roadside Area' signs.
- Where appropriate, strategic wildlife corridors will be marked with a 'Wildlife Area' sign.
- These locations need to be monitored and the appropriateness of signage reviewed by management.
- All tender documentation will incorporate information specifically related to the conservation values of these roadsides.

1.6.8 Unused Road Reserves

- The identification and conservation value of all unused road reserves is currently being assessed.
- Where unused road reserves are of High Conservation Value or have the potential to be a wildlife corridor, consultation with DSE will occur to ensure they are protected or restored and options for involving Landcare considered.

1.6.9 Road Maintenance & Road Construction and Widening & Service Installation and Maintenance

- The principles and guidelines in the *Roadside Environmental Code of Practice Handbook* will be included in tender and contract documentation. The principle of Net Gain including the requirement for offsets will apply to all works.
- The map of Council designated locations will be used to site stockpiles.

1.6.10 Fire Management

Reviews of the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan and the Roadside Management Strategy will ensure there is consistency between both documents.

1.7 Implementation

The existing Roadside Management Plan (2001) is a '*Reference Document*' in the Greater Shepparton City Council Planning Scheme. To ensure public acceptance and understanding of this current revision - the Roadside Management Strategy (2008) - it was placed on public exhibition prior to Council adoption.

To continue the implementation of this Strategy, the following actions and amendments to the Planning Scheme are suggested. These amendments to the Planning Scheme would need to be placed on public exhibition in order to comply

with the *Local Government Act, 1989* and the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*:

- Amend the Greater Shepparton City Council Planning Scheme to introduce the Roadside Management Strategy (2008) as a '*Reference Document*' to replace the existing Roadside Management Plan (2001).
- Consider amending the Greater Shepparton City Council Planning Scheme to apply planning controls such as a new Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) to roadside areas of high significance. The VPO could incorporate the Roadside Conservation Values and the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC), Victorian Rare or Threatened Species (VROTS) and Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) information.
- Cross-reference all tender and contract documentation to the *Roadside Environmental Code of Practice Handbook*.

In addition to these actions, implementation of the Roadside Management Strategy has been assisted by the recent amendment of Council's Local Law No.1, '*Community Living*', to incorporate many roadside relevant issues such as stock crossing, storage, bee keeping and pest animal management.

The Strategy will be managed by the Director of Development and Infrastructure (DDI). Unless specified otherwise, all actions in this 'Council's Role in Roadside Conservation' section and the 'Council Department Responsibilities' section, will be overseen by the DDI. The *Roadside Conservation Values Assessment Map* and the *Roadside Environmental Code of Practice Handbook* will be distributed to the Regional Offices of all service providers, contractors and road maintenance staff. Council staff will undertake training to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy, with refresher training to be undertaken to ensure Strategy implementation is effective.

Landcare Groups are to be provided with the *Community Roadside Management Handbook* and the *Roadside Conservation Values Assessment Map*. Support to Landcare Groups will continue through the Council tree planting program and assistance will also be provided with long term corridor development.

In order to reflect changes to existing management practices which contribute to a loss or to an improvement to conservation rankings and to meet changing community expectations, this document will be reviewed every three years to coincide with the review of the Planning Scheme and Municipal Fire Prevention Plan. Roadside Management Strategy recommendations and principles will need to be incorporated into Greater Shepparton 2030 when that document is next reviewed.

Actions specified in the Strategy will be reported against annually. The results of this benchmarking procedure will dictate funding priorities for the future.

1.7.1 Actions HIGH PRIORITY

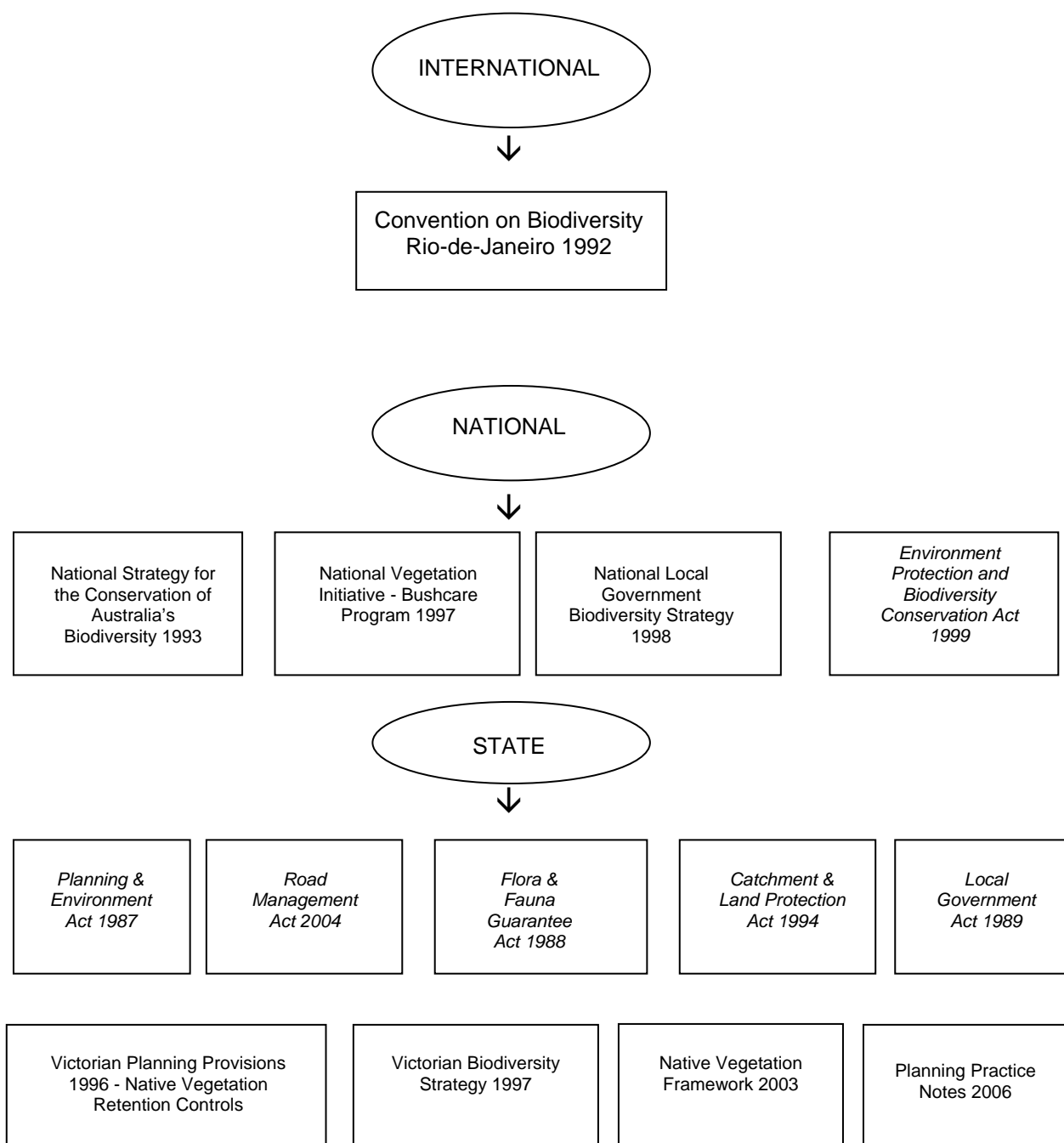
No	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Costs
1	Distribute the relevant sections of this Strategy to the appropriate organisations, agencies and groups.	Manager S&E	2008	\$500
2	Review roadside conservation values and incorporate VROTS, EVC and BAP information into the Council GIS system.	Manager S&E, DSE, CMA	2008	\$1,000
3	Consider amending the Planning Scheme to introduce a new VPO.	Manager S&E, CMA, Manager Planning	2009	\$10,000
4	Review locations of Significant Roadside Vegetation signage.	Manager S&E	2008	\$5,000
5	Identify and assess the conservation value of unused road reserves, identify wildlife corridors and prioritise.	Manager S&E, DSE, Consultants	2008	\$10,000
6	Assist in the distribution of the 'Revegetation Guide for the Goulburn Broken' to Landcare Networks, contractors and Service Providers.	Manager S&E, CMA, DSE	Ongoing	\$0
7	Prepare strategic revegetation plans for priority roadsides, unused roads and strategic wildlife corridors.	Manager S&E, DSE, Landcare Groups	2009	\$20,000
8	Continue existing tree planting program and encourage Landcare Groups to extend roadside wildlife corridors on private land adjoining one chain roads.	Manager S&E, DSE, Landcare Groups	Ongoing	\$20,000 per annum
9	Review all plans submitted for restoration or revegetation works.	Manager S&E	Ongoing	\$0
10	Continue support of Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank.	Manager S&E	Ongoing	\$10,000 per annum

No	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Costs
11	Ensure that the appropriate sections of this Strategy are incorporated in all tender and contract documents for fire prevention, road construction and maintenance works.	Emergency Management Planning Committee, Manager S&E	2008	\$5,000
12	Ensure that compliance monitoring and auditing of on ground works is undertaken.	Manager S&E, Operations Manager	Ongoing monitoring Annual audit	\$0
13	Deliver a training package to Council and contractors staff promoting best works practices that minimise risk of weed spread during roadworks.	Manager S&E, DPI	2009	\$3,500
14	Deliver a training package to Council staff and contractors (including GIS usage) to ensure effective implementation of this Strategy.	Manager S&E	2008	\$7,500
15	Deliver refresher training on Strategy implementation.	Manager S&E	2010	\$3,000
16	Report against actions in this Strategy.	Manager S&E, Council	Annual	\$0
17	Adopt the Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols (BRMP).	Manager S&E	2008	\$0
18	Review the Routine Roadside Maintenance Flowcharts.	Manager S&E	2009	\$0
19	Review this document every three years to coincide with Planning Scheme and MFPP reviews. Ensure no conflict with MFPP and compliance with the Council Plan.	Manager S&E, MFPO, Manager Planning	At MFPP and MSS review	\$20,000
20	Incorporate RMS recommendations into Greater Shepparton 2030.	Manager Planning	At GS2030 review	\$0
	TOTAL COST			\$115,500

1.7.2 ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT REVIEW

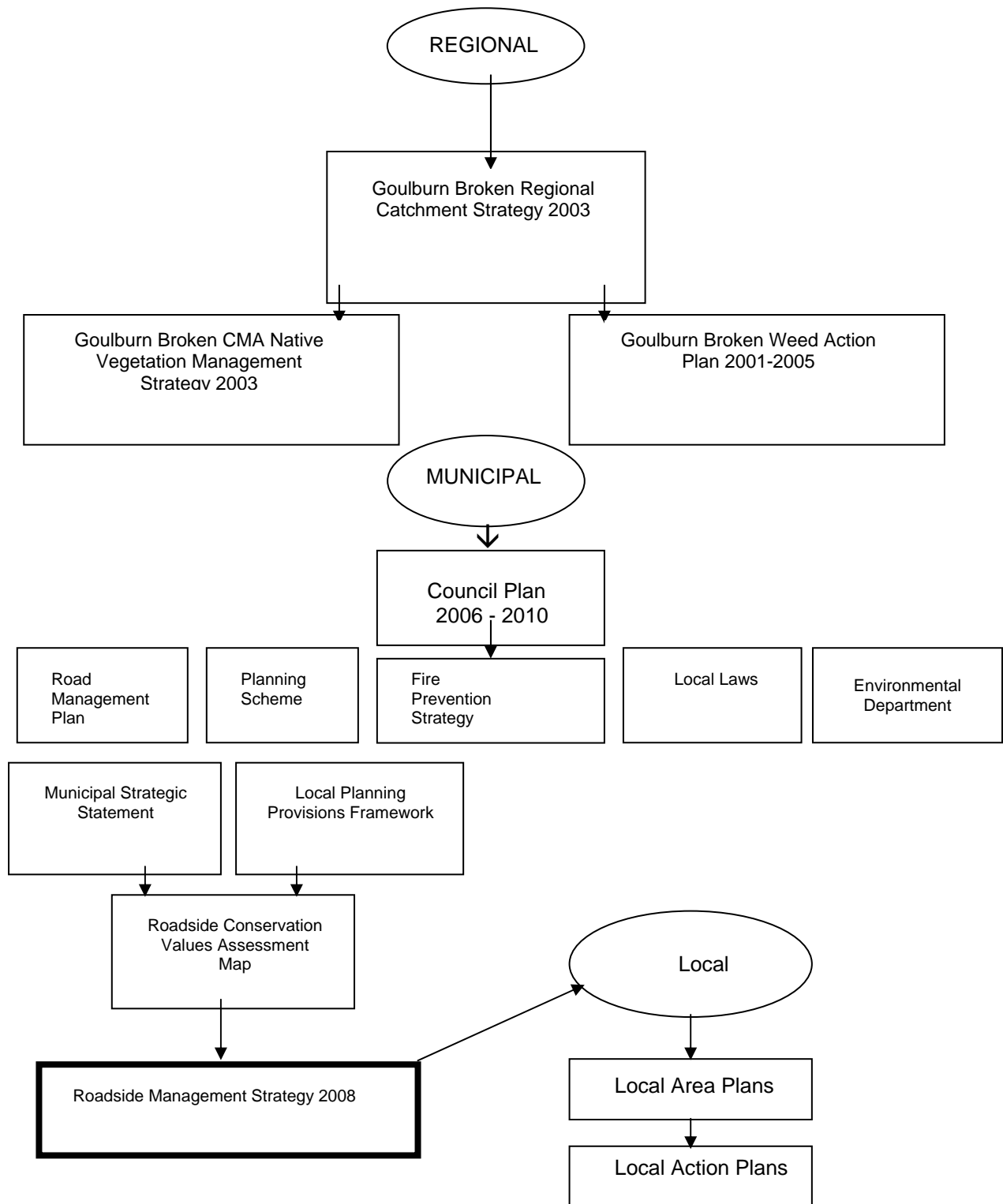
No	Action	Responsibility
1	Identify the Land Manager responsible where High and Medium Conservation value roadsides adjoin easements. Council to hold records.	Manager S&E, GMW
2	Review adequacy of environmental training for GSCC staff in recognition skills for significant flora and fauna / threatening processes / GIS usage / weed identification and management. Relevant staff to include Planning, Local Laws, Asset Management, Infrastructure.	Manager S&E, DSE, Operations Manager, Manager Planning
3	Assess the effectiveness of the risk management approach for weeds such that response is consistent with the risk imposed.	Manager S&E, CMA, DSE, Operations Manager
4	Consider amending Local Law No.1 to include fire control lines, haymaking and cropping on roadside reserves.	Local Laws Officer, Manager S&E

1.8 Context & Legal Framework for Roadside Management Strategy



1. *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
2. *Conservation, Forests & Lands Act 1987*
3. *Crown Land [Reserves] Act 1978*
4. *Forests Act 1958*
5. *Land Act 1958*
6. *Litter Act 1964*
7. *Extractive Industry Development Act 1995*
8. *CFA Act 1958*
9. *Environmental Protection Act 1970*
10. *Summary Offences Act 1996*
11. *Telecommunications Act 1997*
12. *Transport Act 1983*
13. *Road Safety Act 1986*
14. *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*

1.8 Context & Legal Framework for Roadside Management Strategy [Cont]:



1.9 Legislation Designating Management Responsibilities

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. Prosecution for unauthorised cutting of timber.	The Minister for Environment and Climate Change and DSE.
<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. Local Government has responsibility for fire prevention maintenance of roads in their charge.
<i>Forest Act 1958</i>	Control and management of all trees, saplings, shrubs and underwood.	The Secretary of DSE has the control and management of all matters of forest policy, licences, royalties and plans and works relating to State Forests. Local Government has responsibility for vegetation on any road except those in or adjoining a State Forest.
<i>Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975</i>	The Australian Heritage Commission considers nomination and approved 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.	The Minister for Environment and Climate Change & DSE.
<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.

1.9 Legislation Designating Management Responsibilities (Cont.):

Legislation	Function Related to Road Reserves	Management Responsibilities
<i>Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Protection Act 1984</i>	Recording and protection of sites of significance. Issuing of consent to carry out activities which will have an impact on Aboriginal place or object.	Powers allocated to the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs are in turn delegated to the Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
<i>Planning & Environment Act 1987</i>	Development and administration of Planning Schemes and Native Vegetation Retention.	Minister for Planning Local Governments.
<i>Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>	Conservation and management of Victoria's flora and fauna and management of potentially threatening processes. Listing and preparation of Action Statements, Critical Habitat, Determination and Management Plans and Public Authority Management Agreements. Making of interim Conservation Orders to conserve critical habitats of listed taxa or communities. Controls about handling of protected flora.	DSE subject to direction of the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.
<i>Local Government Act 1989</i>	Assigns powers to Councils including the care and management of roads.	Local Government.
<i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990</i>	Covers ownership, searching and mining or mineral resources. Issuing of a Mining Licence. Lodgement of Work Plan and Rehabilitation Plan.	Minister for Energy and Resources and DPI.
<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i>	Identifies responsibilities for the control of proclaimed noxious weeds and pest animals.	VicRoads and Local Municipalities are responsible for pest plants and animals on highways and declared roads. State Prohibited weeds are the responsibility of DSE. The adjacent landholder is responsible for Regionally Controlled weeds on all roads except Declared Roads.

1.9 Legislation Designating Management Responsibilities (Cont.):

Legislation	Function Related to Road Reserves	Management Responsibilities
<i>Extractive Industry Development Act 1995</i>	Covers extraction of stone. Issuing of a Search Permit on Crown Land. Issuing of Work Plan and Rehabilitation Plan.	Minister for Energy and Resources and DSE in consultation with the Minister administering the <i>Conservation, Forest and Lands Act 1987</i> .
<i>Heritage Act 1995</i>	Protection and conservation of places and objects of cultural heritage significance. Nomination of a place or object onto the Heritage Register. Enforcement of provisions which prohibit removal, damage or destruction of place or object on the Heritage Register. Issuing of Permits to carry out works in relation to a registered place or object.	Minister for Planning, Minister for Local Government and appointment of an Executive Director responsible for the management and enforcement of the Act.
<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.	Federal Minister for Communications and the Australian Communications Authority.
<i>Electrical Safety Act 1998</i>	Prescribes the regulation of powerline safety. It establishes clearances between powerlines and vegetation through the Code of Practice for Powerline Clearances.	Chief Electrical Inspector.
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>	Provides for the protection of Aboriginal culture including the prescription for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
<i>Road Management Act 2004</i>	Assigns Council as the responsible authority for local roads.	Minister for Roads and Ports.
<i>Road Safety Act 1986</i>	Provides for safety for road users.	Minister for Roads and Ports.

Section 2.0

Council Department Responsibilities

2.0 COUNCIL DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

NOTE: This section has been prepared to assist planning, environment and local laws staff. Current applicable Acts, Codes and Local Laws are cited at the start of each topic.

2.1 Goals

- To utilise the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme and other planning mechanisms as tools to help ensure best practice in the management of municipal roadsides.
- To protect biodiversity, cultural and recreational values while ensuring the safe functioning of the road.

2.2 References

- Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy - 2003.
- Goulburn Broken Native Vegetation Management Strategy - GBCMA 2003.
- Goulburn Broken Weed Action Plan 2001-2005.
- Revegetation guide for the Goulburn Broken Catchment - 2001.
- Native Vegetation Retention Controls - Regional Guidelines for the Goulburn Broken Catchment - 2003.
- Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP's) 1996.
- Planning Practice Notes - DSE 2006.
- Manual for the Victoria Planning Provisions - Department of Infrastructure - 1997.
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
- Format of Municipal Strategic Statements – VPP's Practice Note - Department of Infrastructure 1999.
- Victoria's Biodiversity – Our Living Wealth, Department of Sustainability and Environment - 1997.
- Roadside Conservation Values Assessment Handbook – Roadsides Conservation Advisory Committee - 1996.
- Code of Practice for Powerline Clearance (Vegetation) - Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector - 1999.
- Greater Shepparton City Council, Local Laws No.1 - 2008, No.5 - 2007.
- Municipal Fire Prevention Plan - 2007.
- Greater Shepparton Road Safety Plan - 2003.
- Parliament of Victoria Road Safety Committee - Report on the Inquiry into Crashes Involving Roadside Objects - 2005.

2.3 Vegetation Management

2.3.1 Harvesting Wild Flowers and Foliage and the Collection of Seed

- Planning approval is required – *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
- Consent for works in a road reserve required if undertaken by a third party - *Road Management Act 2004*.
- Planning application requires referral to DSE – VPP's Clauses 66.04 and 67.03.
- Planning approvals must also include a licence issued by DSE – *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.
- Sites for the collection of seed are to be determined on a rotational basis to ensure roadside degradation is avoided and seed supply is protected.

2.3.2 Vegetation Removal

- Councils have control of clearance of vegetation on road reserves under the *Forest Act 1958* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and General Provisions – Clause 65.01 VPPs' 1996.
- Consent for works in a road reserve required if undertaken by a third party - *Road Management Act 2004*.
- The destruction, removal or lopping of native vegetation is governed by the State Section of Planning Schemes (1989) and VPP's Cl. 52.17 Native Vegetation, Particular Provisions. Refer to the Regional Guidelines for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2003.
- A permit is required, however exemption clauses enable a wide range of potentially threatening activities to vegetation values to occur. For example, the State Emergency Service has powers to fell dangerous trees after a storm.
- A condition of permits being issued will be that any vegetation loss will be offset as required by the Native Vegetation Framework, according to the Net Gain principles in the Planning Practice Notes.
- At time of printing a review of the exemptions included in the current legislation is in progress and this review may result in alterations to the exemption provisions.
- DSE is the Referral Authority for applications relating to roadsides (Clause 66.02 of the VPP's).
- If a new VPO is introduced for significant roadsides, the schedule to the overlay could include the following:
 - New permits are required for additional work;
 - Allow only for the removal of the minimum vegetation necessary to meet works requirements;
 - The principle of Net Gain will require the proponent to include offsets to compensate for any loss of native vegetation. Offsets will be as specified in the DSE Planning Practice Notes.

2.3.3 Firewood Collecting and Timber Harvesting

- No collection of firewood is permitted on roadsides.

2.3.4 Unused Road Reserves

- DSE issues licences for use of unused road reserves subject to existing conservation values being maintained.

2.3.5 Site Rehabilitation

- Permit not required under any Act, but under this Strategy, plans of the proposed works should be submitted to Council prior to any restoration or revegetation works being undertaken. Plans will be referred to all relevant agencies to determine compliance with relevant codes of practice. If no response is received within 28 days it will be assumed that the agency has no objection to the project and plans may be approved providing proposed works comply with guidelines.
- Consent for works in a road reserve required if undertaken by a third party - *Road Management Act 2004*.

2.4 Functional Issues

2.4.1 Fire Management

- Appropriately planned fire prevention works undertaken on roadsides in accordance with the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan are exempt from permit requirements.
- Fire prevention activities by others (including the CFA) require Council consent (*CFA Act* and *Road Management Act*) and must be in accordance with the MFPP. An exception to this is the felling of dangerous trees in a roadside fire.
- The removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation associated with the following works is exempted under the V.P.P.'s Cl. 52.17:
 - *In accordance with a fire prevention notice under Section 65 of the Forests Act 1958, Section 41 of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, Section 8 of the Local Government Act 1989.*
- All prevention works will have regard for this Strategy and the CFA Guidelines for biodiversity protection.
- Under Sect. 43 of the *CFA Act 1958* it is the Councils responsibility to 'take all practicable steps to prevent the occurrence of fires on, and minimise the danger of the spread of fires on, any road under its care and management'.

2.4.2 Service Providers

- Utility companies are required to obtain a planning permit when undertaking major works, but the removal of vegetation to '*the minimum extent of native vegetation necessary to maintain utility services*' is exempted under CI 52.17 of the VPP's. New works require a planning permit for native vegetation removal.
- Consent for works in a road reserve required if undertaken by a third party - *Road Management Act 2004*.

2.4.3 Maintenance of Tree Clearance by Electrical Distribution Companies and their Contractors

- Council is responsible for maintaining powerline clearances in urban (or declared) areas and electrical distribution companies are responsible in rural (or undeclared) areas.
- Councils and electrical distribution companies are exempted from requiring a permit to remove native vegetation providing the Code of Practice prepared under Section 65 of the *State Electricity Commission Act 1958* is complied with. Note: under the Code of Practice they are required to recognise the need to manage 'important vegetation' and treatment of the canopy. It is important that distribution companies and their contractors are also made aware of issues relating to understorey, the general vegetation community and particularly the importance of protecting High Conservation Value roadsides. This requires a close working relationship between Council and the distribution companies and their contractors.
- Any damage to understorey or vegetation outside the clearance space recognised under the Code (for powerline clearance) requires a permit. These permits will require offsets in line with Net Gain principles.
- If the obligations of the electrical distribution companies under the code are not met, concerns with non compliance can be lodged with the Chief Electrical Inspector, and also with the Electrical Ombudsman.

2.4.4 Land Subdivision and Associated Access Points, Table Drains and Culverts

- According to the Road Zone Clause 36.04 of the Greater Shepparton City Council Planning Scheme, planning approval to construct new culverts and table drains is required.
- Consent for works in a road reserve required if undertaken by a third party - *Road Management Act 2004*.
- On High and Medium Conservation Value roadsides consult with DSE and interested parties on site to determine how to design the subdivision to minimise impacts on remnant vegetation. Net Gain principles will require offsets for any vegetation loss.
- Encourage developers to incorporate and to enhance roadside native vegetation in subdivision design.

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- Seek to minimise erosion from the site and trap eroded material.
 - Council's development manual for the construction of culverts and table drains incorporates reference to any impact on vegetation.
 - Develop standard Planning Permit Conditions for planning approvals.

2.4.5 Road Maintenance and Road Construction and Widening

- Councils and VicRoads are required to obtain a permit to remove, lop or destroy native vegetation unless a schedule to Clause 52.17 of the VPP's is included to specify where the provisions do not apply.
- Routine maintenance activities are exempt under Clause 52.17 of the VPP's.
- The Routine Roadside Maintenance Tree Branch Lopping and Sapling Removal Flowcharts (Appendix 3) has been developed to assist in decision making on lopping and tree removal where no planning permit is required.
- At time of printing a review of the exemptions included in the current legislation is in progress and this review may result in alterations to the exemption provisions.
- Performance contracts are usual and this Strategy which incorporates the *Roadside Environmental Code of Practice Handbook* will be complied with, to ensure that best works practices are observed via tender and contract documentation.
- Permit conditions including offsets will enable more stringent controls to be applied to works. Monitoring and annual auditing are required to ensure adherence to permit conditions.

2.4.6 Stockpile and Dump Sites

- Permit not currently required.
- Should only be sited at the mapped Council designated locations.

2.4.7 Sand, Soil and Gravel Extraction

- Permit applications require referral Clause 66.04 and 67.03 of the VPP's. Approval is required from DPI for sites where extraction occurs to depths greater than two metres and for areas greater than 2000 square metres.
- Local government requires a Work Authority from DPI for any such extraction.
- Best practice should be ensured via performance contracts.
- Individuals are not permitted to extract sand, soil or gravel from roadsides.
- Sand, soil and gravel must not be removed from sites infested with declared noxious weeds.

2.5 Farming and Associated Activities

2.5.1 Stock Movement

- The relevant legislation is: (i) *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (ii) Native Vegetation Controls VPP's Clause 52.17 (iii) Road Zone Clause 36.04 (iv) Greater Shepparton City Council Planning Scheme (v) Greater Shepparton City Council Local Law No.1, Part 8.
- **Movement** of livestock does not require a permit, however conditions apply to such movement (Local Law No.1, Part 8, Clauses 8.8 - 8.11).
- **Droving** requires a livestock droving permit. An authorised officer shall apply appropriate conditions on the permit (Local Law No.1, Part 8, Clauses 8.4 - 8.6, 8.11).
- **Grazing** requires a grazing permit from Council (Local Law No.1, Part 8, Clauses 8.7, 8.11). Grazing will only be permitted on Low Conservation Value roadsides unless the Fire Management Plan or weed control plans allow for limited grazing on Medium Conservation Value roadsides.
- Refer to the register of droving licences, grazing permits and stock crossings to assist with enforcement issues.

2.5.2 Discharge of Water onto Roadsides

- Discharge of water, including irrigation water, is prohibited under Local Law No.1, Part 4, Clause 4.8, with the exception of stormwater which drains to a legal discharge point provided by Council.
- It is the landholder's duty to prevent farm irrigation water from flowing onto the roadside.

2.5.3 Drainage of Land

- Landholders require a permit to take, use, pollute, obstruct, divert or in any way interfere with the passage of water in a drain or drainage works (Local Law No. 5 '*Drainage of Land*' – Section 14).

2.5.4 Cropping and Haymaking

- Under the *Planning and Environment Act*, planning approval is generally required for agricultural uses but crop raising is excluded.
- Consent for works in a road reserve required if undertaken by a third party - *Road Management Act 2004*.

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- Cropping and haymaking are permitted where exotic grasses present a fire risk, subject to:
 - Assessment of conservation status;
 - The absence of native vegetation or grassland communities;
 - Direction in the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan;Haymaking is not permitted when annual weeds, for example Paterson's Curse, are flowering.

 - Consideration may be given to amending Local Law No.1 to include:
 - No new roadside cropping programs to be permitted except as a strategic component of a staged revegetation project;
 - No cropping or haymaking is permitted on High or Medium Conservation Value roadsides;
 - Any infringements will require offsets to compensate for biodiversity losses;
 - Existing cropping and haymaking programs to be phased out if they are not demonstrating community benefit. The following criteria constitute a community benefit:
 - Roadside maintenance in some areas of Low Conservation Value and where native vegetation is absent and where this is a traditional practice;
 - Fire prevention benefits on existing strategic or tactical fire control lines;
 - Provision of feed during periods of drought;
 - Maintenance of sight clearance to ensure the safe operation of a road;
 - Interim management as part of a long-term revegetation strategy;
 - Control or prevention of the spread of exotic weed species to adjacent remnant vegetation.

2.5.5 Bee Keeping

- A Planning Permit is not required under the *Planning and Environment Act* but a permit is required under Local Law No.1, Part 2, Clause 2.11.

2.5.6 Fencing

- Council consent is required for fencing works being undertaken by a third party working within a road reserve (*Road Management Act 2004*).
- Council consent is required for any fencing works requiring vegetation removal which shall be subject to environmental assessment and conditions if necessary.
- A permit is required for works to fence off any section of a road reserve under Local Law No.1, Part 3, Clause 3.3 (a) (ii).

2.5.7 Ploughing and Cultivation

- Ploughing of roadsides must not damage or remove native vegetation under Local Law No.1, Part 3, Clause 3.6 (a).
- Ploughing and cultivation of roadsides requires Council permission and consent for works in a road reserve if undertaken by a third party - *Road Management Act 2004*.
- Cultivation of roadsides requires a permit under Local Law No.1, Part 3, Clause 3.3 (a) (iii).

2.6 Cultural and Recreational Issues

2.6.1 Cultural Heritage

Indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage provides a sense of community identity. Victoria's heritage includes archaeological sites, buildings and structures, created landscapes and community values and beliefs.

As activities on roadsides have the potential to impact on heritage sites, it is important to identify heritage issues to enable impacts to be avoided, minimised or mitigated.

All registered and unregistered Victorian Aboriginal archaeological sites are protected by the State *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and the Commonwealth *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*. All Victorian historical sites are protected by the State *Heritage Act 1995*. These Acts prohibit the wilful destruction or disturbance of any cultural heritage site, place or object, whether on private or public land.

Heritage Victoria and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria are the Victorian State Government instrumentalities that administer these Acts. The Heritage Services Branch, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Department for Victorian Communities must be advised of any proposed works that may affect Aboriginal sites, or if any new sites are located.

- If the proposed works are a *high impact activity* (such as building a road) and are in an area of *cultural heritage sensitivity*, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. This plan will be evaluated by Registered Aboriginal Parties operating under the auspices of the Aboriginal Heritage Council.
- If a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required, other statutory authorisations can not be given before the Plan is approved.
- Cultural Heritage Permits are required for activities that may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage, but are not subject to a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.
- In consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties, a voluntary Cultural Heritage Agreement may be prepared, which will formalise long-term cultural heritage management partnerships.

In addition to the above, the '*Co-operative Management Agreement between Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and The State of Victoria*' also deals with proposed works in designated areas specified in the agreement.

Roadside workers and contractors would benefit from training to increase awareness of heritage issues and to increase recognition skills of indigenous artefacts such as mounds, middens, surface scatters, tools, stone quarries, burial sites and scar trees to assist in the identification and subsequent protection of new sites.

2.6.2 Significant Landscapes

- In addition to protection of vegetation, the Planning Scheme provisions can also be applied to protect environmental values in areas of landscape significance. An Environmental Significance Overlay or Significant Landscape Overlay may be considered to address these issues.

2.6.3 State Forests, Parks and Reserves

- Responsibility for works does not rest with Council. Where necessary refer to DSE, Parks Vic and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority for works on roadsides that abut or cut through State or National Parks or flora and fauna reserves.

2.6.4 Horse Riding and Recreational Vehicles

- Planning Permits are required to use roadside reserves as trails for club and commercial horse riding activities. Permits require referral under Clauses 66.04 and 67.03 of the VPP's.
- Consult with any commercial trail ride operators proposing to utilise roadsides before any trail riding activities take place.
- Discourage trail riding and recreational vehicle usage along High Conservation Value roadsides. Refer to Local Law No.1, Part 2, Clause 2.15.
- Liaise with horse riders, trail ride operators, recreational vehicle users and clubs to protect significant roadsides.

2.6.5 Wayside Stops

- A permit is required to construct tourist lookouts and wayside stops under the *Planning and Environment Act*. Permit application requires referral to DSE in accordance with Clauses 66.04 and 67.03 of the VPP's.
- Consider the natural, cultural or historical features of the roadside when selecting locations for wayside stops.
- Locate new wayside stops on sites that will have minimum impact on surroundings.
- Meet on site with community and conservation representatives, facility designers and DSE to determine the suitability and location for wayside stops.
- Wayside stops will not be located on High Conservation Value roadsides, except in exceptional circumstances.
- Ensure the areas are maintained at a minimal fire risk.

2.7 Pest Plants and Animals

- Regionally Controlled Weeds and established pest animals on a roadside are to be managed by landholders adjacent to roadsides under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. Refer Part 3.20.
- Cl. 52.17 of the VPP's exempts - the removal of proclaimed noxious weeds and the removal of animal harbours, eg. burrows, to the **minimum extent** of native vegetation necessary - from requiring a permit. This can lead to the removal of unnecessarily large areas of native vegetation.
- There is no legislative requirement for the removal of environmental weeds. This Strategy alerts landholders to the potential problem of weed spread and for roadside maintenance and construction activities the Strategy makes provision to incorporate their removal in works contracts.
- Pest removal procedures involving harbour destruction can result in a conflict with habitat conservation for native fauna. The GBCMA has established training programs for Landcare to achieve better balanced outcomes.

Weed Category [and Level of Control]	Area of Land	Responsibility
State Prohibited [Eradication and prevent growth or spread]	All land including private	DPI
Regionally Prohibited [Eradication and prevent growth or spread]	Private land	Landowner
	Freeway or Arterial Roads	VicRoads
	Local Roads	DPI
	Unlicensed Unused Road Reserves	DPI
	Licensed Unused Road Reserves	License holder or Lessee
Regionally Controlled [Prevent Growth or Spread]	Private land	Landowner
	Freeway or Arterial Roads	VicRoads
	Local Roads	Adjacent Landowner or Lessee (under review)
	Unlicensed Unused Road Reserves	Adjacent Landowner
	Licensed Unused Road Reserves	License holder or Lessee

Additionally, Local Law No.1, Clause 2.2 (c) requires removal of unsightly weeds.

2.8 Actions

No	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Costs
1	Determine sites for seed collection on a rotational basis to ensure roadside degradation is avoided and seed supply is protected.	Manager S&E Manager Planning and Development	2009	\$0
2	Encourage developers to incorporate and to enhance roadside native vegetation in subdivision design.	Manager S&E, Manager Planning and Development	On-going	\$0
3	Ensure all processes are updated to accommodate the outcomes of the native vegetation review process.	Manager S&E Manager Planning and Development	On-going	\$10,000
4	Develop standard Planning Permit Conditions for planning approvals.	Manager S&E Manager Planning and Development DSE	2009	\$0
5	Liaise with horse riders, trail operators, recreational vehicle users and clubs to protect significant roadsides.	Manager S&E	2009	\$1,000
6	Implementation and education for the introduction of the new Local Law No.1 ' <i>Community Living</i> '.	Manager S&E Local Laws Officer	2009	\$4,000
	TOTAL COST			\$15,000

Section 3.0

Appendices

Appendix 1 GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Glossary of Terms

Best Practice	The practices that result from decisions made on the best available information.
Biodiversity	The variety of all lifeforms; the plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part.
Biolink [zones]	Broad regional or landscape area within which there is a high priority to manage existing native vegetation for conservation and, where possible, increase the cover of native vegetation. (<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Strategy – Department of Sustainability and Environment, Government of Victoria 1992</i>).
Bioregions	A national system of biogeographical regions that depict the patterns of ecological characteristics in the landscape and provide a meaningful natural framework to address landscape management and biodiversity issues. Bioregions reflect underlying environmental features such as topography, soil type and rainfall and so they often reflect patterns of land use and natural resource-based activities (including conservation).
Bushcare	The program name for the National Vegetation Initiative that is part of the Natural Heritage Trust established by the Commonwealth Government in 1996.
Catchment Strategy	Goulburn Broken Catchment Strategy. A Regional Catchment Strategy produced as a requirement of the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> .
Code of Practice	Defines the <i>minimum</i> standards to be followed.
Connectivity	The degree to which native vegetation is connected in terms of the ecological function of the remnants.
Declared Road	Roads declared under the <i>Transport Act</i> , i.e. freeways, State highways, main roads, tourist roads and forest roads which are managed by VicRoads.
Degradation	Any human-induced decline in the quality of natural resources or the viability of ecosystems.
Droving	Moving of stock to a specific destination usually outside the Municipal boundary and often taking longer than a day. See <i>also feeding, grazing and moving of stock</i> .

Glossary of Terms (Cont.):

Duty of Care	The term used to explain what a community generally accepts as reasonable and fair within a region. It defines the point at which the “ <i>polluter pays</i> ” principle ends and the “ <i>beneficiary pays</i> ” principle begins. In principle, an intervention to do something that the duty of care defines is unreasonable should not be at the expense of the duty holder – but those who benefit from the intervention.
Ecological Sustainable Development	Development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.
Ecosystem	The dynamic inter-relationships between all forms of living organisms and their abiotic (non-living) environment. Ecosystems function as a complex, interconnected system and, if maintained in a healthy condition, provide free ecosystem services such as the production of oxygen, soil formation, maintenance of water quality, etc.
Endangered	Species in danger of extinction whose survival is not likely in the absence of threat abatement.
Enhancement	Introduction to a place of additional individuals of one or more organisms, species or elements of habitat or geodiversity that naturally exist there. (Australian Heritage Commission 1997).
Environmental Weed	A plant that colonises natural vegetation and threatens conservation values. It can be an exotic or native plant that is not indigenous to the area. They are so called, because their presence is in some way detrimental to the natural environment.
Feeding	Where stock is confined or moved along roadsides without a destination, for the primary purpose of feeding.
Grazing	Where stock is confined for an extended period by means of a barrier [e.g. electric fencing] for the purpose of depasturing the road reserve. <i>See also droving, feeding and moving of stock.</i>
Indigenous/Endemic Vegetation	Native vegetation that occurs naturally in a particular district.
Land Manager	The person or organisation responsible for managing the land, Land tenure could be private, public or leased public land.
Livestock	Includes any type of horse, cattle, ox, sheep, ass, mule, camel, goat or pig.

Glossary of Terms (Cont.):

Local Area Plan	A strategic planning process that involves a community in describing where it wants to be in the future and how it intends to get there in relation to issues of environment including biodiversity, land, water and community. Elements include present status, future vision, intended works, evaluation process and negotiation and funding needs.
Moving of Stock	Routine or occasional shifting of stock from one paddock to another during a day in association with the everyday farming practices. <i>See also droving, grazing and feeding.</i>
Native Vegetation	Any local indigenous plant community containing throughout its growth the complement of native species and habitats normally associated with that vegetation type or having the potential to develop these characteristics. It includes vegetation with these characteristics that has been regenerated with human assistance following disturbance. It excludes plantations and vegetation that has been established for commercial purposes.
Native Vegetation Retention Controls	Introduced into the State Section of the Planning Schemes of Local Government in 1989, a permit is required to remove, lop or destroy native vegetation (subject to some exemptions).
Nature Conservation	The protection and enhancement of individuals, populations and communities of plants and animals, their habitats and the ecosystems which they form. Nature conservation activities aim to maintain the natural processes that sustain ecosystems and to reduce the risk of threats that may affect ecosystems.
Net Gain	Net Gain is where, over a specified area and period of time, losses of native vegetation and habitat, as measured by a combined quality-quantity measure [habitat-hectare], are more than offset by commensurate gains.
Protection	Taking care of a place by maintenance and by managing impacts to ensure that natural significance is retained (Australian Heritage Commission 1997).
Rare	A species that characteristically has a limited distribution and/or abundance due to the specificity of their habitat requirements or that has a limited distribution and abundance because habitat resources have been modified or lost. The terms is used to describe taxa that are not threatened or vulnerable by definition, but are at risk due to the small population size and/or limited distribution.
Regeneration	The natural regeneration of vegetation contributes to vegetation cover when the dominant species of the pre-existing vegetation type re-establish, but are less than 10 years of age.

Glossary of Terms (Cont.):

Regionally Controlled Weeds	Weeds gazetted under the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> , are widely distributed in the region; are capable of spreading further; and are difficult to eradicate, i.e. ongoing control measures are need.
Regionally Prohibited Weeds	Weeds gazetted under the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> , are not widely distributed in the region; are capable of spreading further; and are expected to be eradicated.
Remnant Vegetation	Areas of existing native vegetation that have not been planted, where the dominant species still remain and is greater than 10 years of age.
Revegetation	The deliberate planting of vegetation. Revegetation contributes to vegetation cover when the species composition and structure, i.e. all vegetation strata, is similar to pre-existing vegetation types for that area.
Road Formation	That portion of the road reserve along which vehicles travel. It includes the road pavement, shoulders and the area to the outermost side of the roadside drain, at least to where the drain batter meets the natural surface.
Road Reserve	The total strip of land reserved for transportation purposes from fenceline to fenceline or boundary to boundary if unfenced. The road reserve includes the roadside.

Glossary of Terms (Cont.):

<p>Roadside Conservation Values Assessment Categories</p>	<p>High Conservation Value May include some but not necessarily all of the following: Relatively lower level of disturbance (may have been subjected to disturbance historically, but has since regenerated), various vegetation layers present although not necessarily all, native vegetation occurs across much of the area, low weed levels (may be seasonally high due to annual weeds), supports a range of habitats, may form a wildlife corridor, is linked to other native vegetation (adjoining), provides habitat for rare or threatened flora and fauna species. May benefit from carefully managed weed control and or revegetation, the latter should only be considered if the activities do not adversely impact existing biodiversity values. Opportunities should be explored for vegetation and or habitat enhancement works to be conducted on adjacent land to increase biodiversity values.</p> <p>Medium Conservation Value Moderate disturbance and weed levels (levels could be high at times if annual grassy weeds dominate seasonally), native vegetation occurs mainly in patches, some capacity for natural regeneration, few other habitat features, potential to improve conservation values by changes to management and or revegetation. Probably should be a higher priority for investment in enhancement works than 'low' areas.</p> <p>Low Conservation Value Poor condition substantially disturbed and or modified, predominately non-native vegetation, little if any native vegetation on site or adjacent, low natural regenerative capacity and few habitat features. May have some potential for revegetation and habitat improvement however investment in these areas should only be undertaken if there is a clear biodiversity gain.</p>
<p>Service Provider</p>	<p>Utility distribution companies - communications, water, electricity, gas.</p>
<p>Stockpiles</p>	<p>On-site storage of materials for roadworks.</p>
<p>Threatened</p>	<p>The generic term used to describe taxa that are rare, vulnerable, endangered or insufficiently known and are subject to threatening processes.</p>
<p>Timber Collection</p>	<p>The collection and removal of fallen timber. It does not refer to the felling of standing timber (alive and dead).</p>
<p>Vegetation Storeys</p>	<p>Includes the dominant overstorey of trees, the understorey of shrubs, and the lower ground cover or grasses.</p>
<p>Vulnerable</p>	<p>Species likely to become endangered in the short term (approximately 25 years) if threatening processes continue.</p>
<p>Works</p>	<p>Includes any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land including the removal, destruction or lopping of trees and the removal of vegetation or topsoil (<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>).</p>

Abbreviations

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CaLP	Catchment and Land Protection
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CMA	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA)
DDI	Director of Development and Infrastructure
DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment
DPI	Department of Primary Industry
ESO	Environmental Significance Overlay
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Classes
GAV	Greening Australia Victoria Inc.
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMW	Goulburn Murray Water
GSCC	Greater Shepparton City Council
LAP	Local Area Plan
MFPO	Municipal Fire Prevention Officer
MFPP	Municipal Fire Prevention Plan
MSS	Municipal Strategic Statement
RCAC	Roadsides Conservation Advisory Committee
S&E	Sustainability and Environment
VicRoads	Roads Corporation
VPO	Vegetation Protection Overlay
VPP's	Victorian Planning Provisions
VROTS	Victorian Rare or Threatened Species

Appendix 2 WORKS CHECKSHEET

Checksheets for rural roadworks Job No:

Works:	Chainage:
Road:	Contractor:

Pre-commencement

Item	Responsibility	Completed
Conservation significance assessed (available on GIS)		
Significant flora and fauna assessed (available on GIS)		
Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) identified (available on GIS)		
Cultural heritage issues assessed		
Weed infestations noted		
Planning / other permits obtained (WoW, Aboriginal)		
Entire site photographed		
Limit of works marked		
Wetlands / waterways marked		
Parking and turning areas marked		
Stockpile and storage areas marked		
Vegetation pruning and removal marked		
Vehicle hygiene requirements stipulated		
Erosion / siltation devices specified		
Staff induction and site walk performed		
Seed for revegetation collected		

Works in progress

Item	Responsibility	Completed
Planning / other permit conditions satisfied		
Vehicle hygiene undertaken		
Weed free material imported		
Vegetation protection intact / adequate		
No works within tree driplines		
Defined limits of works observed		
Vegetation removal techniques appropriate		
Weeds monitored		
Site litter removed		
Erosion / siltation structures cleaned / monitored		
Water quality monitored		
EPA requirements (noise, dust suppression) met		

Post-completion

Item	Responsibility	Completed
Planning / other permit conditions satisfied		
Vegetation debris disposal adequate		
Weeds monitored for defect liability period		
Revegetation monitored for defect liability period		
Vehicles cleaned down		
Site litter removed		
Erosion / siltation structures removed / monitored		
Entire site photographed		

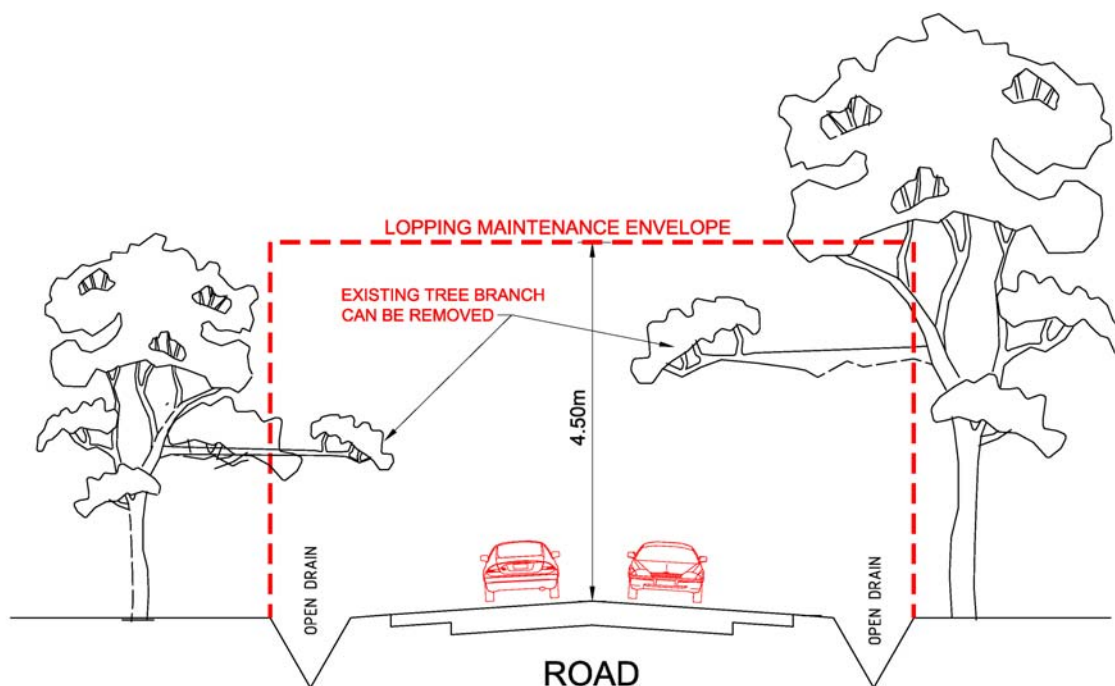
Routine Roadside Maintenance Tree Branch Lopping Flowchart

This flowchart applies to **tree branches** that are deemed to be a **road safety issue**.

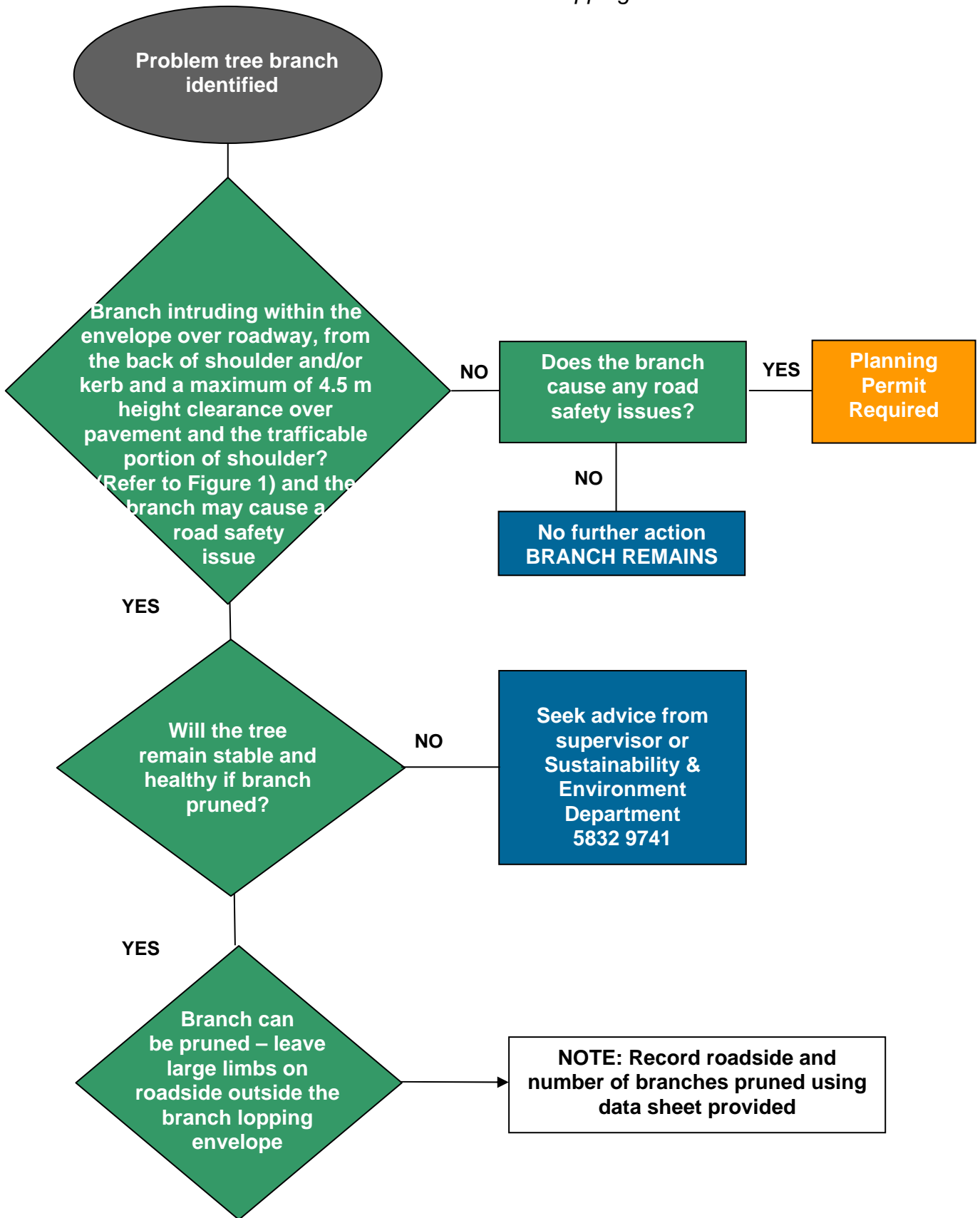
Only tree branches **within the specified lopping maintenance envelope** can be pruned.

Branches are to be pruned with **minimum disturbance**.

Figure 1. TREE BRANCH LOPPING MAINTENANCE ENVELOPE



*For removal of trees, saplings and shrubs refer to the
Routine Roadside Maintenance Sapling Removal Flowchart.*



This flowchart has been developed as a guideline to assist council officers to undertake routine roadside maintenance. If any issues are encountered please contact Councils Sustainability and Environment Department (5832 9741) or Department of Sustainability and Environment Native Vegetation Officer (5761 1611). This flowchart should be reviewed annually to assess performance.

Routine Roadside Maintenance Sapling Removal Flowchart

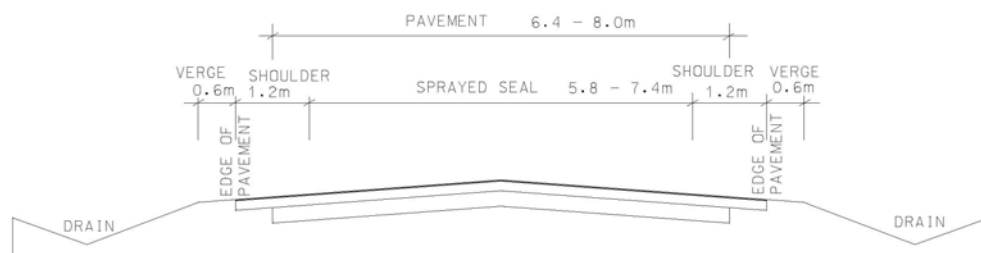


This flowchart applies to any **saplings** that have been deemed to be a **problem** to road safety.

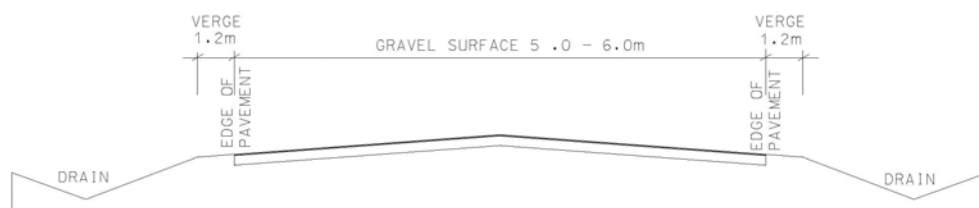
Only saplings and shrubs **within the road maintenance envelope** can be considered for removal.

Saplings are to be removed with **minimum disturbance** – hand saw as close to ground as possible and paint with glyphosate.

ROAD MAINTENANCE ENVELOPES



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION
SEALED ROAD

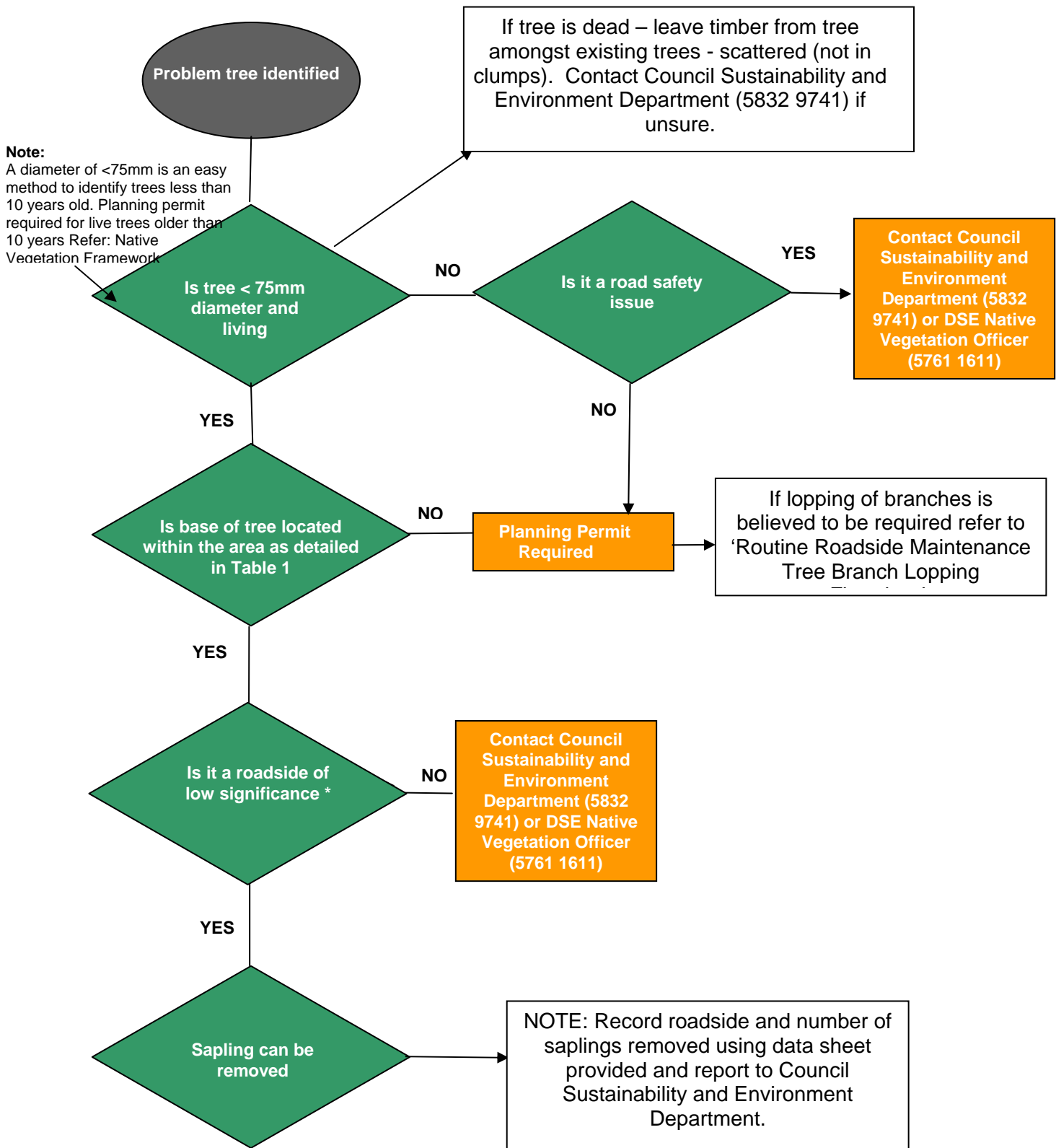


TYPICAL CROSS SECTION
GRAVEL ROAD

Table 1: Width of road maintenance envelope for 4 categories of roads - the road category can be identified on the 'Municipal Map' attached.

1. Rural Collector	Edge of pavement to 2.5m
2. Rural Sub collector	Edge of pavement to 2.0m
3. Rural Access	Edge of pavement to 1.5m
4. Unformed Track (Unused Reserve)	Edge of pavement to 0.5m

Routine Roadside Maintenance – Sapling Removal



***The roadside significance rating can be identified on the 'City of Greater Shepparton Roadside Conservation Values Assessment Map'.**

This flowchart has been developed as a guideline to assist council officers to undertake routine roadside maintenance. If any issues are encountered please contact Councils Environment Officer (5832 9816) or Department of Sustainability and Environment Native Vegetation Officer (5761 1611). This flowchart should be reviewed on a regular basis (annually) to assess performance.