



BERRIGAN SHIRE COUNCIL

# ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN



Adopted  
17<sup>th</sup> January 2001

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# **BERRIGAN SHIRE COUNCIL ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The aims of Berrigan Shire Councils Roadside Vegetation Management Plan is to:-

- Maintain, and where necessary, enhance roadside conservation value roadsides.
- Increase public awareness of the importance of roadside vegetation
- Encourage community involvement in roadside conservation projects
- Provide management guidelines for roadside vegetation.

## **1. Revegetation**

To ensure that revegetation projects on roadsides and travelling stock reserves recreate or mimic nature and reflect conservation priorities, the following conditions shall apply:

- a) Approval must be obtained from the Rural Lands Protection Board or Council, as appropriate, and subject to the following conditions being met.
- b) Equivalent areas of planting/direct seeding or enhancement be carried out on adjoining or adjacent sites on private land.
- c) Do not plant trees in native, or primary, grasslands.
- d) Plant or direct seed trees and shrubs at appropriate densities, eg. Approximately 28 trees/hectare for woodlands.
- e) Minimise disturbance to ground layers during site preparation.
- f) Only revegetate high conservation value ground layers using tubestock/direct seeding, with plantings in patches.
- g) Where possible, plant or direct seed trees in the weediest or most disturbed patches.
- h) Plant shrubs and ground layer plants as well as trees.
- i) Use species adapted to the site conditions, such as soil type, flood regimes and drainage, ensuring that the choice of species reflects any changes in site conditions within the revegetation area.
- j) Use local species from local seed, unless the site conditions prevent it, eg water tables within 1 metre of the surface.
- k) If no local seed is available, use non-local seed from plants growing in similar environmental conditions.

- l) High conservation value roadsides and vegetation types be enhanced as a high priority.
- m) High conservation value areas and vegetation types be linked as a high priority. Any links are to be revegetated with species appropriate to the site conditions, even if they are of a lower conservation value vegetation type.
- n) Medium-low conservation value roadsides and vegetation types be enhanced as a medium priority unless used as links.
- o) No existing native trees or shrubs are to be removed in the development of a tree plantation.
- p) Trees not to be planted closer to the centreline of a road than a distance determined by Council.
- q) Trees not to be planted within 2 m of Telstra's underground cables or adjoining property fence.
- r) Planting near or under power lines should be in accordance with Great Southern Energy Policy.
- s) Plantations proposed near road intersections and corners shall obtain approval from the Council to ensure suitable sight distance is provided.
- t) Council will accept public liability for authorised fences around tree plantations.
- u) Developers of tree plantations will be responsible for the control of noxious weeds within the plantation.

## **2. Grazing**

In order to maintain and enhance conservation values on roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves by appropriate grazing regimes, it is recommended that the Rural Lands Protection Board, in consultation with Councils:

- a) Restrict grazing on high conservation value roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves between August and November.
- b) Restrict grazing on high conservation value roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves when soils are wet.
- c) Restrict grazing on high conservation value roadsides and Travelling Stock reserves during droughts.
- d) Restrict grazing on narrow public roads within the irrigation areas and districts and manage to encourage tree regeneration.

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- e) Do not allow stock to camp on high conservation value roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves
- f) Continue to enforce Rural Land Protection Board permit conditions, including conditions relating to stock travelling rates.
- g) Monitor for tree and shrub regeneration, avoid grazing such areas where possible, and manage any grazing to maximise regeneration.
- h) Where possible, use grazing to control weeds in fire sensitive vegetation types, such as Cypress Pine and Buloke Woodlands and Chenopod shrublands, subject to the above conditions
- i) Avoid grazing Hoary Scurf-pea (*Cullen parvum*) sites between November and March
- j) Where appropriate, use grazing in early winter to reduce fuel loads.
- k) Ensure gates are placed at each end of any fenced plots on roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves to allow for future management by grazing.
- l) Maintain records on grazing history of each roadside and Travelling Stock Reserve, including dates, stock type and numbers, for use in determining appropriate grazing regimes.
- m) Do not allow stock movement through Spiny Burr Grass sites when seed is present
- n) Where possible, ensure that high conservation value grasslands are grazed at least once every 3-4 years, at the equivalent of a low stocking rate and subject to the above conditions
- o) Where possible, implement any specific management recommendations listed in the assessments of Travelling Stock Reserves carried out by Rick Webster.

### **3. Fire**

#### **A. Strategic Firebreaks Identified in Bushfire Risk Management Plans**

Strategic Fire Breaks are wide breaks, the location of which are identified in Bushfire Risk Management Plans.

- a) where possible, strategic fire breaks identified in a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan not be located on roadsides or Travelling Stock Reserves.
- b) where a strategic fire break must be located on roadsides or Travelling Stock Reserves, that the strategic break be located from table drain to table drain.

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- c) Where strategic fire breaks must be located other than between table drains, that Greening Australia first be contacted to co-ordinate the assessment of the vegetation conservation value.

### ***B. Other Firebreaks***

- a) Construction of cultivated firebreaks on high conservation value roadsides and Travelling Stock reserves is prohibited.
- b) Maintenance of existing cultivated firebreaks on other roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves by permitted, in the short term, subject to:
- The issue of a Council permit, detailing firebreak width and the landowners responsibility for weed control.
  - Council only issuing the permit after assessment of the site by both the Fire Control Officer and Greening Australia or its nominee.
  - The payment of the applicant of an annual fee of \$55.
- c) The construction of new firebreaks on other roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and subject to:
- The issue of a Council permit, detailing firebreak width and the landowners responsibility for weed control.
  - Council only issuing the permit after assessment of the site by both the Fire Control Officer and Greening Australia or its nominee.
  - The payment by the applicant of an annual fee of \$55.
- d) in the long term ploughed firebreaks on roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves should be phased out, and management regimes which favour native vegetation at the expense of weeds be used, where possible, to reduce fuel continuity and fuel loads.
- e) roadsides between the table drains may be sprayed, slashed or graded to minimise fuel loads and prevent the spread of fires from vehicles.
- f) Slashing between the table drain and the fence line is permitted provided only low or nil conservation value vegetation is present.

### ***C. Protection of fences***

Landowners be permitted to create a chemical firebreak up to 1.0m wide along fence lines on roadsides and travelling Stock Reserves, provided they do the same on their property.

### ***D. Public Education***

It is recommended that:

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- a) The Bush Fire Management Committee include a section on the importance of roadside vegetation in Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.
- b) Council undertake a public education campaign on the management of roadside vegetation.

### **4. Weeds**

To protect native vegetation from the harmful effects of weeds and weed control methods, it is recommended that:

- a) That Council and the Rural Lands Protection Board endeavour, within the limits of their resources to control or eradicate the following environmental weeds from roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves within the Shire.

Chilean Needle Grass, *Nassella neesiana*

Pepper Tree, *Schinus molle* (unless the tree is of historic or local significance)

African Lovegrass, *Eragrostis curvula*, except for the cultivar Consol Lovegrass

Caltrop, *Tribulus terrestris*, and

Patersons Curse, *Echium plantagineum*

- b) Continue to pursue more funding for environmental weed control as opportunities arise.
- c) Council support the use of Biological control of Noxious Weeds where available and effective.
- d) Other Noxious Weed control methods be used as follows.
- e) Trials of environmental weed control methods by Council, the rural Lands Protection Board and Landcare Groups be encouraged.

### **5. Road Construction and Maintenance**

- a) Council adopts as standard procedure the guidelines contained in "Roadside Handbook – Environmental Guidelines for Road Construction and Maintenance Workers, published by the NSW Roadside Environment Committee in 1996.
- b) Trees and shrubs which pose a safety hazard be removed when young to reduce removal costs and minimise soil disturbance.
- c) Council provide training to appropriate staff in the management of roadsides to achieve the objectives of this Plan.

### **6. Commercial Wildflower Harvesting**

Permits issued by Council or the Rural Lands Protection Board shall contain the following conditions:

- a) No permits for the commercial collection of the flowers or foliage of threatened and protected species, such as Drumsticks, be granted, unless a permit from the National Parks and Wildlife Service is produced by the applicant.
- b) A significant royalty fee be collected to allow monitoring of the activity.
- c) No collecting of flowers or foliage is permitted in declared drought years.
- d) Conditions for the collection of annuals and short-lived perennials that are not subject to permit from NPWS should include:
  - No more than 10% of flower heads be collected from any site, each plant be left with at least one flower head flower heads be cut at the base of the stem, and no roots or leaves be removed or disturbed.
- e) Collection of flowers from woody plants not subject to a permit from NPWS be collected subject to the following conditions:
  - No more than one stem be taken from each plant stems must be less than 2cm wide at the base for tree material and less than 0.5cm for shrub material.
- f) Where wet soils are likely to become compacted, no vehicular access to Travelling Stock reserves be permitted.

### **7. Seed Collection**

In order to ensure that seed collection does not reduce regeneration or local gene pools, it is recommended that any permits issued by Council or the Rural Lands Protection Board be subject to the following conditions:

- a) Applicants consult with Greening Australia to determine whether the required seed is already held in adequate quantities in a Regional Seed Bank, and, if so, use this seed.
- b) No permits for the collection of the seeds of threatened or protected species be granted, unless a permit from the National Parks and Wildlife Service is produced by the applicant.
- c) Royalties be charged to allow monitoring of collecting and protection of seed sources.



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- d) Unless in conflict with an NPWS permit condition, permits be given for seed collection from woody plants subject to the conditions laid out in FloraBank Guidelines.
- e) Unless in conflict with any NPWS permit condition, permits be given for the collection of non woody perennials and annual plants subject to no more than 10% of seed being collected from a site.
- f) Seed collection in declared drought years is minimised.

### **8. Sand Removal**

Sand removal on roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves be prohibited.

### **9. Firewood Collection**

Firewood collection on Roadsides and Travelling Stock reserves be prohibited except when the Council approval is obtained to remove excessive windfall timber.