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ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT POLICY

This policy applies to all roadsides throughout the Shire.

Policy Basis

Roadsides are an integral part of maintaining biodiversity in the Shire of Nillumbik. Vegetation on roadsides provides wildlife with corridors for movement between larger areas of habitat, and can be the remaining refuge for many native floral and faunal species.

In many parts of the Shire, land clearing and urban expansion have left roadsides as the only areas of relatively intact habitat where ground, middle and upper storey vegetation still remain. Council therefore has considerable investment in maintaining and protecting the vegetation on roadsides, whilst aiming to achieve this in the face of a growing weed problem, economic constraints, and under increasing pressure for more services.

Nillumbik Shire Council's Roadside Management Plan has categorised the conservation values of roadsides, based on the degree of intact indigenous vegetation, level of weed invasion and other signs of disturbance.

Objectives

- To maintain and enhance the environmental, historical and landscape values of roadsides in the Shire, through the implementation of the Nillumbik Roadside Management Plan.
- To protect roadside vegetation for its habitat value.

Policy

It is policy that:

- The conservation values of roadsides as identified in the *Nillumbik Roadside Management Plan*, be fully considered.
- Roadside vegetation be removed in accordance with the box clearance guidelines in the *Nillumbik Roadside Management Plan* and with minimal impact and disturbance to the roadsides conservation values. The relocation of buildings on vehicles and other oversized loads may not be able to be accommodated along roads in the Shire where box clearances cannot be met.
- Roadside vegetation should not be adversely affected by water diversion into dams from roadsides or overflows from dam construction near property boundaries.
- Fire protection works should have consideration for the protection of roadside vegetation values wherever possible.
- Cross-over proposals/access points to roadsides are minimised in all areas, although especially in areas identified as Category A, B and C in the *Nillumbik Roadside Management Plan*.

Policy Reference

- Nillumbik Roadside Management Plan