



SHIRE OF YORK

YORK ROADScape PLAN

1. SUMMARY

A "Roadscape Plan" identifying desired objectives and strategies for the management of Shire roads.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This Roadscape Plan applies to all local roads within the Shire of York.
- 2.2 Main roads including Great Southern Highway, York-Merredin Road, and Northam-York Road are not included in the Roadscape Plan.
- 2.3 Roads are defined as road reserves, inclusive of pavement, shoulders, drains, bridges, fords and verges.

3. STAKEHOLDERS

Recognised stakeholders in this policy shall include:

- Shire of York.
- York Landowners and residents.
- Main Roads Western Australia.
- Roadside Conservation Committee.
- Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- York Landcare and Catchment Groups.
- Local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.
- Service Agencies, as defined in the Utility Providers Code of Practice.
- Department of the Environment.
- Avon Catchment Council.
- Other Conservation Interest Groups.
- Department of Agriculture.
- York Visitor Centre
- Conservation Groups

4. OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Provide a safe, efficient and effective road transport network.
- 4.2 Provide a safe, efficient and effective service corridor.
- 4.3 Develop and maintain sustainable flora and fauna corridors in, and adjacent to road reserves.
- 4.4 Protect, preserve and enhance remnant native vegetation.
- 4.5 Provide a visually appealing road landscape for the benefit of road users and the community.
- 4.6 Control and eradicate weeds.

5. STRATEGIES

5.1 Land and Planning Requirements

- 5.1.1 Designate and adopt a Shire of York Road Hierarchy, including the designation of regionally significant roads, major and minor roads, heavy haulage routes, conservation category roads, tourist routes, and other special roads,
- 5.1.2 Plan for the development, extension, upgrading and construction of new roads, as required to meet the needs of the community.
- 5.1.3 Achieve 40 metre wide (minimum) for all road reserves throughout the Shire to meet the sustainable requirements of flora corridors.
- 5.1.4 Obtain, as a condition of subdivision on all major developments, free of cost a 10 metre road reserve widening and require a revegetation programme if it is cleared land.
- 5.1.5 To promote aesthetically pleasing vistas from roads, in order to promote tourism, environmental and social values.
- 5.1.6 Restrict or prohibit the taking of gravel, sand and other material from roadside borrow pits.
- 5.1.7 Adopt best financial planning, budgeting and management practice, including whole of life valuations, and best financial efficiency for management of all road infrastructure assets.
- 5.1.8 Develop a sustainable plan for the ongoing management of all road infrastructure assets, including roadside vegetation.
- 5.1.9 Critically analyse the need of unmade road reserves in the context of land use planning and projected development and where appropriate have the reserves changed from roads to wildlife corridors.

5.2 Engineering Standards

- 5.2.1 To design and construct roads and intersections in accordance with current Australian engineering standards as designated by Austroads.
- 5.2.2 To design and construct all structures in the road reserve in accordance with current Australian engineering standards (Austroads).
- 5.2.3 To design and construct all bridges and drains in accordance with current Australian engineering standards (Austroads).
- 5.2.4 To provide signs, line marking, crash barriers and guide posts to all roads in accordance with current Australian engineering standards (Austroads).

- 5.2.5 To provide clear and safe directional signs.
- 5.2.6 To provide pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian facilities in response to community need, and in accordance with current Australian engineering standards (Austroads).
- 5.2.7 To provide and maintain appropriate parking and lay by areas throughout the Shire network, in accordance with current Australian engineering standards. (Austroads).
- 5.2.8 To provide and maintain School bus stop facilities throughout the Shire, in accordance with current Australian engineering standards (Austroads).
- 5.2.9 To liaise with Main Roads WA in relation to road improvements and vegetation management for intersections of local roads with state roads.

5.3 Road Maintenance

- 5.3.1 To maintain all road pavements and shoulders in a safe and serviceable condition.
- 5.3.2 To maintain all drainage in a safe and serviceable condition.
- 5.3.3 To maintain all bridges and fords in a safe and serviceable condition.
- 5.3.4 To maintain all road structures in a safe and serviceable condition.
- 5.3.5 To maintain all signs, guide posts and line marking in accordance with current Australian Standards.
- 5.3.6 To prune, slash and maintain all roadside vegetation in accordance with adopted vegetation management plans and the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act.
- 5.3.7 To carry out annual inspections of all roads, bridges, fords, drains, paths, bridle trails and structures in the road reserve.
- 5.3.8 Adopt sustainable and uniform road maintenance practices.
- 5.3.9 To comply with the Environmental Protection (Clearance of Native Vegetation). Regulations 2004 and the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act.
- 5.3.10 To develop and implement vegetation management plans to compliment and support the Road Hierarchy detailed in Item 5.1.1.

5.4 Underground and Overhead Services

- 5.4.1 Liaise with service agencies and Main Roads WA to limit and minimise the impact of new service installations on native vegetation.
- 5.4.2 Comply with Western Power guidelines with respect to the planting and maintenance of trees under power lines.

5.5 Vegetation Management

- 5.5.1 Identify, prioritise and map significant remnant roadside vegetation including rare and priority flora.
- 5.5.2(a) Identify, prioritise and map strategic vegetation corridors incorporating roadside vegetation.
- 5.5.2(b) Protect native remnant vegetation, and rare and priority flora.
- 5.5.3(a) Prepare roadside vegetation management plans in accordance with the Regulations.'

- 5.5.3(b) Prepare Vegetation Management Plans which have a clear objective of maintaining or enhancing the conservation values of roadside vegetation with priority given to roadsides of high conservation values.
- 5.5.4 Promote the regrowth, replanting and re establishment of native local vegetation, including promoting biodiversity of revegetation.
- 5.5.5 To enter into partnerships with Landcare, and other environmental organisations for the rehabilitation of road reserves immediately following road and service installation works.
- 5.5.6 To work with Landcare, other environmental organizations and developers to revegetate road widening ceded from developments.
- 5.5.7 To promote road safety by utilising “soft” vegetation (shrubs, bushes, etc) adjacent to the road pavement, and in areas at high risk of vehicle impacts.
- 5.5.8 To promote road safety by removing dead and dangerous vegetation which constitutes an unacceptable hazard, including hard” vegetation (trees over 150mm diameter) adjacent to the road pavement, and in areas at high risk of vehicle impacts.
- 5.5.9 To maintain vegetation clear trafficable envelopes for the safe movement of “as of right” vehicles.
- 5.5.10 To encourage the harvesting of seed and plants from areas to be cleared, subject to the approval of appropriate government agencies.
- 5.5.11 To encourage the mulching of cleared and pruned vegetation.
- 5.5.12 Manage and Control the fire risk, and risk of fire of roadside vegetation.
- 5.5.13 Obtain approval for seed collection and plant relocation for areas to be cleared for roadworks.
- 5.5.14 To develop and implement a rabbit control programme which does not adversely impact on roadside vegetation.
- 5.5.15 To develop and adopt a Roadside Burning Policy that provides for the conservation of roadside vegetation.
- 5.5.16 To instigate a community education programme to reduce the incidence of verge burning for weed control.

5.6 Weed Control

- 5.6.1 Develop an integrated weed management plan for Shire Roads.
- 5.6.2 Identify and map weed infestations on Shire road reserves and adjoining lands.
- 5.6.3 Liaise with the local community, Department of Agriculture, Main Roads WA, Landcare, and other organisations to promote the control and eradication of weeds.
- 5.6.4 Prioritise Specific weeds and specific areas for control and eradication.
- 5.6.5 Identify and implement measures to prevent reinfestation of weeds on Shire Roads.
- 5.6.6 Liaise with Main Roads WA to include State roads in the weed management plan.

5.7 Adjacent Properties

- 5.7.1 Encourage adjoining land owners to revegetate adjoining property boundaries with local native species.
- 5.7.2 To encourage adjoining property owners to institute appropriate weed control.

5.8 CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

- 5.8.1 Undertake appropriate training in vegetation management for the Shire of York works staff and contractors.
- 5.8.2 Develop and implement construction and management standards & practices which meet all requirements and provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004.
- 5.8.3 Undertake annual monitoring and inspection programmes of roadworks in liaison with the Roadside Conservation Committee to develop and deliver ongoing training to staff and contractors.

6. COMPLIMENTARY POLICIES, STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

The following documents are yet to be prepared:

- Shire of York Design Standards
- Shire of York Road Construction Specification
- Shire of York Road Hierarchy Plan
- Shire of York Vegetation Management Plan
- Shire of York Vegetation Mapping
- Shire of York Roadside Weed Management Plan

YORK ROADScape PLAN

ACTION & RESOURCE PLAN

1. ROAD VERGE MAPPING

OBJECTIVES:

- 4.3 Develop and maintain sustainable flora and fauna corridors in and adjacent to road reserves.
- 4.4 Protect, preserve and enhance remnant native vegetation.
- 4.5 Provide a visually appealing road landscape for the benefit of road users and the community.
- 4.6 Control and eradicate weeds.

STRATEGIES:

- 5.1.5 To promote aesthetically pleasing vistas from roads in order to promote tourism, environmental and social values.
- 5.1.8 Develop a sustainable plan for the ongoing management of all road infrastructure assets, including roadside vegetation.
- 5.3.6 To prune, slash and maintain all roadside vegetation in accordance with adopted vegetation management plans.
- 5.5.1 Identify, prioritise and map significant remnant roadside vegetation including rare and priority flora.
- 5.5.2(a) Identify, prioritise and map strategic vegetation corridors incorporating roadside vegetation
- 5.5.2(b) Protect native remnant vegetation, and rare and priority flora.
- 5.5.3 Prepare roadside vegetation management plans.
- 5.5.4 Promote the regrowth, replanting and re establishment of native local vegetation, including promoting biodiversity of revegetation.
- 5.5.9 To maintain vegetation clear trafficable envelopes for the safe movement of "as of right" vehicles.
- 5.6.1 Develop an integrated weed management plan for Shire Roads.
- 5.6.2 Identify and map weed infestations on Shire road reserves and adjoining lands.

COMMENT

This needs to be undertaken as a high priority to identify flora and fauna locations, weed areas, rehabilitation areas, rare flora sections and other factors.

The Roadside Conservation Committee has trained 30 local community volunteers to carry out roadside surveys of conservation values and 5 nominated weeds. Maps will be produced to reflect the information determined from the surveys.

ACTION

- 1. Obtain up to date mapping depicting all areas of rare and endangered flora and fauna.

2. Ensure that all sections of roads with rare and endangered species are appropriately and adequately marked.
3. Liaise with the Roadside Conservation Committee, Universities, Green Corp, Landcare Groups, the community, Main Roads WA and environmental agencies and organisations to prepare and maintain a comprehensive mapping system (digitised/GPS) of all roads and streets in the Shire of York.
4. Incorporate road verge mapping details in the induction process for new employees.

RESOURCE ESTIMATES

There may be opportunities for volunteers and students to undertake field studies potentially for the cost of fuel and meals. A fuel subsidy to defray out of pocket expenses may attract more volunteers.

Main Roads WA State of construction maps may provide the best mapping option.

2004/05 \$10,000

2005/06 \$6000

ongoing \$1500 per annum

COMMENT

The Roadside Conservation Committee will provide digital and hard copy roadside vegetation mapping values at \$3500 to the Shire of York at no cost to Council.

2. WEED MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES:

- 4.4 Protect, preserve and enhance remnant native vegetation.
- 4.5 Provide a visually appealing road landscape for the benefit of road users and the community.
- 4.6 Control and eradicate weeds.

STRATEGIES:

- 5.1.5 To promote aesthetically pleasing vistas from roads, in order to promote tourism, environmental and social values.
- 5.3.9 To comply with the Environmental Protection (Clearance of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 and the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act.
- 5.6.1 Develop an integrated weed management plan for Shire Roads.
- 5.6.2 Identify and map weed infestations on Shire road reserves and adjoining lands.
- 5.6.3 Liaise with the local community, Department of Agriculture, Main Roads WA, Landcare, and other organisations to promote the control and eradication of weeds.

- 5.6.4 Prioritise Specific weeds and specific areas for control and eradication.
- 5.6.5 Identify and implement measures to prevent reinfestation of weeds on Shire Roads.
- 5.7.1 Encourage adjoining land owners to revegetate adjoining property boundaries.

COMMENT

Weed control at present is reactive and not proactive. It is done as a winter project on selected roads and streets only and a much higher recognition of weed control and management is required.

ACTION

1. To develop and implement formal whole of year weed spray programmes.
2. To identify and control / eradicate specific designated weeds / pest plants.
3. To map all weed infestations on roads and streets in the Shire of York at least once in five (5) years to provide information on weed spread and to determine the effectiveness of weed control measures.
- 4(a). To serve notice on landowners where specific weeds are encroaching / spreading from their property onto the road reserve to eradicate or control the designated weeds and pest plants.
- 4(b). To provide landowners with the appropriate information for weed identification and best practice methods of weed eradication / control.
5. To utilise contractors and Shire Staff in a co-ordinated approach to weed management.
6. Encourage verge registration whereby the landowners accept responsibility for the maintenance of road and street verges so these sections can be deleted from weed spray programmes subject to the conditions applicable to verge registration complying with Environmental Legislation and Occupational Health & Safety requirements.

RESOURCE ESTIMATES

The Shire of York budget does not currently have a specific allocation for weed control under Schedule 13 – Economic Services with any spray costs being allocated to weed and street maintenance.

2005/06 \$25,000 (re-allocated from road maintenance)
2006/07 \$20,000
ongoing \$20,000

OTHER ACTION & RESOURCE

These will be developed for matters such as:

- Revegetation Programmes
- Mulching
- Rare Flora Sites
- Parking Bays
- Other matters associated with the objectives and strategies

RAY HOOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

History

draft 1 October 2004
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