

## S-O6 Roadside and Road Reserve Vegetation Management Policy

<b>Department</b>	Works and Services	
<b>File No.</b>	WOR/1500	
<b>Council Meeting Date</b>	14 December 2021	
<b>Minute Number</b>	258.12.2022	
<b>Next Review Date</b>	Four (4) years from Council Resolution Date	
<b>Review History</b>	005.01.03	16 January 2003
	372.11.10	18 November 2010
	279.09.2012	20 September 2012
	245.12.2021	14 December 2021

### 1 Objective

To maintain optimum driving conditions for user safety and to protect road surfaces, the environment and aesthetic amenity, through careful management of roadside and road reserve vegetation.

### 2 Scope

This policy covers all roadside and road reserve vegetation under council's jurisdiction.

### 3 Definitions

Outdoor staff - a Council Officer tasked with roadside and road reserve vegetation management.

Council - the Flinders Council.

Landowner – a person who owns land.

Contractor - a person or firm that undertakes a contract to provide labour or machinery to perform a service or do a job.

Legislation - any statute, regulation or rule for which Council has administration and enforcement functions and powers.

### 4 Policy

It is the Policy of Council that:

- 4.1 Vegetation is kept low and away from road edges to give good lines of sight on road corners, to allow guideposts to be easily seen and to allow maximum visibility of wildlife, thereby reducing collisions and minimising damage to persons and vehicles.
- 4.2 Vegetation is controlled to allow ample ventilation and sunlight to penetrate road surfaces, which are required to be kept as dry as possible to extend their condition and useable duration.
- 4.3 Roadsides will be maintained free of laden vegetation as a means of firebreak in the event of wildfire.
- 4.4 An integrated policy of vegetation control is used including slashing, trimming, tree clearing, herbicide spraying and steam weeding. The choice of vegetation control is determined by consideration of economic, environmental and health and safety

factors, the type and size of vegetation, as well as the minimisation of the spread of weeds, and the specific requirements of the site.

- 4.5 Rare and endangered species are protected as far as practicable and disturbance of vegetation in identified areas will be avoided as much as possible.
- 4.6 Rare and endangered species sites are not identified with signage. Only signage necessary for the direction, safety and guidance of road users is placed within the road reserve.
- 4.7 Privately owned trees that protrude onto Council roadsides will be cut back for sight distance or safety reasons, and the work will be done at the cost of the landowner.
- 4.8 Planting of any species of tree or shrub on roadsides is not to be carried out without first obtaining the written permission of Council, and any trimming or removal of approved plantings will be done at the cost of the landowner.
- 4.9 Work Practices are planned and undertaken in a manner to stop the spread of declared weeds, non-declared agricultural and environmental weeds listed in the Natural Resources and Environment website and parramatta grass.

## **5 Procedure**

This Policy should be read in conjunction with Council's Roadside and Reserve Vegetation Management Procedure and the Furneaux Regional Weed Management Strategy 2022-2037 and 5-year Action Plan.

## **6 Legislation**

*Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995* and regulations under this Act

*Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and regulations under this Act

*Dangerous Goods Act 1998* and regulations under this Act

*Workplace Health and Safety Act* and regulations under this Act

*Biosecurity Act 2019*

*Weed Management Act 1999*

*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*

*Australian Weeds Strategy 2016*

Code of Practice for Ground Spraying

Flinders Council Procedure

General 12 - Herbicide Spraying

## **6 Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure this policy is adhered to.