

**EDWARD RIVER COUNCIL  
ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**COMMUNITY ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK**

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Handbook

This handbook is designed to provide some general information to help local landholders and community groups to be more aware of the range of issues relevant to roadside management within the Edward River Council area. This publication is intended to be of assistance to all people involved in management of roadsides and comes under the overarching *Edward River Council Roadside Vegetation Management Plan*.

This handbook seeks to encourage best practice which:

- Avoids damage to remnant vegetation through adherence to improved road maintenance and construction works practices.
- Protects and enhances the environmental, amenity and cultural values of roadsides.
- Accommodates functional values of road safety, fire management and utility provision.
- Enhances awareness and knowledge of roadside issues.
- Promotes minimum disturbance techniques.
- Minimises pest plant and animal invasion and spread.
- Minimises land degradation and enhances water quality.

### 1.2. Edward River Council Landscape

The Edward River Council area falls into the Riverina Biogeographic region. Prior to European settlement a diverse range of native vegetation types existed across these bioregions. The original vegetation was diverse with shrubs, wildflowers and native grasses present. These woodlands and grassy areas have been extensively cleared for agriculture and this has led to a significantly modified landscape contributing to a significant decline of some native vegetation types. Some of these are now officially listed as being Threatened Species and Endangered Ecological Communities. Many remnants now only remain on road reserves, which represent the few remaining examples of ecosystems where the remnant vegetation provides fauna habitat corridors and connections between isolated areas of bushland. The Federal Government has developed 'Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030' to address this decline in biodiversity, while the NSW government similarly has the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Local Land Services Act 2013* and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* to address these issues. Local government is a key player in the conservation and management of biodiversity and threatened species in NSW, as Councils manage large areas of public land, much of which contains important biodiversity values.

## 2. Road Reserves

### 2.1. Roadside values

Road reserves were established to provide a safe and effective network for vehicle movement. They also provide a route for stock movement, access for utility services and fire management. Recently roadsides have also been recognised as being very valuable for the conservation of native plants and animals. Roadsides also provide amenity value for both the local community and tourists who visit the area and contain sites of cultural heritage. As remnant vegetation on roadsides tends to be narrow and linear, it is usually more susceptible to threats – including clearing and

fragmentation of native vegetation, pest plants and animals, firewood collection, fire prevention activities, agricultural activities and roadworks.

Native vegetation that occurs on roadsides is valuable and important to protect for the following reasons:

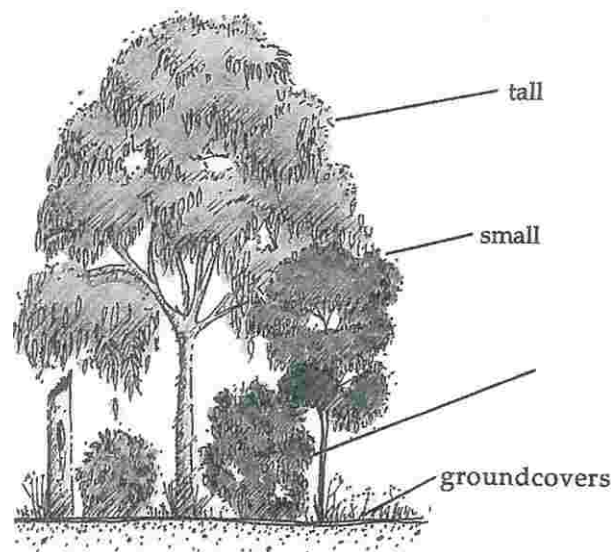
- It provides food and shelter for native wildlife.
- It is often easier to maintain than introduced vegetation.
- It reduces the impacts of erosion and salinity.
- It provides a seed source for revegetation.
- Roadsides now contain some of the last remnants of the vegetation that was originally widespread throughout the Murray region.
- Roadsides often contain endangered native plants and animals.
- Roadsides with native vegetation are important wildlife corridors, linking other areas of native vegetation.
- Native grasses have lower fuel loads and fire risk than introduced species.

## 2.2. The value of Native Vegetation on Roadsides

Native vegetation includes trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers. In some cases, not all these types of plants are present. For example, native grasslands that contain no shrubs or trees are still *very* important as habitat. In the Murray region, high priority should be given to the protection of native grasses due to their rarity.

Native vegetation that occurs on roadsides is valuable and important to protect because:

- Roadsides now contain some of the last remnants of the vegetation that was originally widespread throughout the Edward River Council.
- Roadsides can contain endangered native flora and fauna.
- It provides food and shelter for native wildlife. Provides an important seed source for revegetation
- Native grasses have lower fuel loads and fire risk than introduced species
- Roadsides with native vegetation provide the foundations and framework for landscape connectivity and restoration (including wildlife corridors).
- Roadside vegetation cover minimises erosion and provides for improvement in water quality.
- Links for fauna movement as well as providing shade and wind breaks (for adjoining landholders as well), and;
- Aesthetic and spiritual values



*Native Vegetation is made up of several vegetation layers including groundcovers, grasses, shrubs and trees. Fallen timber, leaves and other debris are also important within the vegetation*

Protection of native vegetation and fauna is a key goal of roadside management. It is also a legislative and planning requirement. The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* gives special protection to rare species. Roadsides contain rare or threatened flora species and communities. The Murray Local Land Services should be consulted to provide management advice if a rare species is known to be on a site. It is an offence to disturb or destroy species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, 1999*. Heavy penalties apply for breaches of the EPBC Act.

The best way to protect native vegetation is to minimise disturbance. This includes minimising soil disturbance and damage to all native plants, including native grasses and groundcover plants, which are particularly easy to damage. Native vegetation reduces weed infestation. Following disturbance weeds will invade a site. Weeds compete with native plants, increase maintenance costs and can lead to higher fire risk. Disturbance can also significantly increase the risk of soil erosion.

### **2.3. Significant Roadside Environmental Areas**

Roadside vegetation signage is used to highlight significant vegetation and prevent unnecessary damage. If working at a signed area, contact the relevant Council for advice on appropriate management before commencing any works.



### Significant Roadside Environment Area

Alerts road workers, travellers, and local communities to the conservation value of the reserve

These markers are an initiative of the NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC) which was established in 1994 to promote and coordinate leading practice in roadside environmental management. The committee can be contacted at:

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/environment/roadsideenvironcommittee/>

## 2.4. Conservation Value of Roadside Native Vegetation

All councils in the Murray region have Roadside Management Plans to assist in the management of their roadside areas. Roadsides have been identified as having high, medium or low conservation value.

### High Conservation Value

Fairly undisturbed native vegetation with most expected vegetation layers present and low levels of weed invasion. Supports a range of habitats.



### Medium Conservation Value

Moderately disturbed native vegetation with one or more vegetation layers absent or modified. Moderate levels of weed invasion.



### Low Conservation Value

Highly disturbed native vegetation. High levels of weed invasion. Also includes scattered or clumps of trees and shrubs over an exotic (introduced) understorey.



## 2.5. Protect Native Fauna and Wildlife Habitat

Roadsides contain habitat for a range of native fauna. In particular scattered large old remnant trees contain hollows that are vital habitat for many species including gliders, possums, birds and bats. Other elements such as fallen timber, coarse woody debris, leaf litter and native understorey form equally important habitat for other species including lizards, insects, etc. Minimise or, where possible, avoid any impacts on native fauna and habitat for native fauna.

### Guidelines:

#### *Protecting habitat for wildlife:*

- Natural regeneration on roadsides will be encouraged where they form wildlife corridors, and these are to be given 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 Local Emergency Management Fire Prevention Plan.
- Check for nests or other fauna habitat and avoid disturbance to those areas.
- Retain all habitats such as rocks, dead standing trees, fallen timber and leaf litter unless they pose an identifiable risk in terms of road safety.
- Ensure that large old trees are protected from activities such as firewood collection, agricultural activities, and fire prevention measures.
- Do not slash or disturb regeneration, unless for safety.
- Encourage regeneration by undertaking weed and rabbit control, and fencing (where appropriate).
- Leave native vegetation undisturbed. Do not 'tidy up' areas of native vegetation on roadsides.

## 2.6. Avoid the Spread of Weeds

Council's key responsibility in weed control is to avoid contributing to the spread of weeds. During road construction and maintenance works, weeds can be easily spread within a site and between different sites. Noxious weeds are declared under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. Weeds may be declared all over the state or in a particular local government area. A complete list of declared weeds is available at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/noxweed](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/noxweed).

The *Weeds of the Riverina Identification and Control Guide* is an excellent resource for identifying weeds from photographs with descriptions. This publication can be sourced at: [www.riverinaweeds.org.au](http://www.riverinaweeds.org.au)

Red guideposts are being installed along roadsides throughout NSW to identify known locations of noxious weeds that have a high risk for further spread. By installing the red guideposts, it alerts road users and council staff to avoid these areas so we can help prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

What can you do?

- Avoid pulling over in these areas
- Inspect and clean clothing, vehicles and equipment if you enter these areas
- Report suspicious plants



*Red guideposts to identify locations of noxious weeds*



*Tractor driven slasher – radiator loaded with weed seeds*

**Guidelines:**

### *Avoid the Spread of Weeds*

- Ensure weed management is included in the works program Minimise disturbance.
- Learn to identify weeds of the region.
- Schedule works to move from the least weed infested areas to the most weed infested areas.
- Practice vehicle hygiene to avoid spread of weeds especially following works in weed contaminated areas. A person needs to ensure they maintain vehicle hygiene when moving any equipment or machinery onto or along a roadway. Transport of weeds or weed seeds is an offence.
- Clean vehicles and machinery of all material capable of spreading weeds before undertaking activities on or near high or medium conservation sites or weed free sites.

- Drain spoil is generally rich in weed seeds and should be removed offsite in areas of significant vegetation. Approval is required to dispose of noxious weeds capable of germinating, or to deposit on land noxious weeds or weed seeds, other than in landfill.
- Obtain soil and gravel from weed free sites. Approval is required to use soil, sand or gravel which could result in the transfer of noxious weeds.
- Dispose of any weeds likely to set seed or re-shoot by burning on site (subject to fire prevention) or at a designated dump site (cover during transport).

#### *Slashing of Weeds*

- Contact the Shire of Campaspe before undertaking any slashing on roadsides to determine if any native vegetation is present.
- Avoid regenerating indigenous vegetation during slashing as indigenous vegetation not only offers greater biodiversity value, weed invasion can be a more fire hazardous vegetation.
- If native grasses are present, blades on slashers should be set no lower than 150-200mm above ground level to prevent damage.

## **2.7. Protect Wetlands and Waterways**

### Guidelines:

#### *To protect waterways*

- Wetlands and waterways should be protected by appropriate works practices, including minimising the use of herbicides.
- Roadside drainage systems should ensure that water levels of wetlands are not altered.
- Ensure that runoff is not directed into wetlands.
- Road discharge should be filtered through native vegetation to reduce erosion and potential pollution problems.

## **2.8. Protect Cultural Heritage**

Indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage provides a sense of community identity. New South Wales' 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 Aboriginal archaeological sites are protected by the State National Parks and Wildlife (NPW) Act 1974, the Heritage Act 1977, The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984. These Acts prohibit the wilful destruction or disturbance of any cultural heritage site, place or object, whether on private or public land.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment works in partnership with other government agencies and communities to identify, care for and promote the cultures and the heritage of NSW. Under the NPW Act, it is an offence to do any of the following things without an exemption or defence:

- A person must not knowingly harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object
- A person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place



An important aspect of the legislation is what is known as 'due diligence'. Before commencing works on a roadside conduct an Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System search to help identify any registered sites. If someone is planning an activity, they must show that they have taken steps to avoid damaging or harming any Aboriginal site. Refer to the NSW *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects*.

Not all sites are recorded so care must always be taken when undertaking the site assessment to look for possible Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. 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.



*Aboriginal Scar Trees and middens. Scarred trees are often found on roadsides. Roads closer to waterways and wetlands have a higher chance of containing sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage such as middens.*

### 3. Guidelines Summary for Roadside Activities

Written consent is required by the Council before undertaking works in a road reserve. Mowing nature strips by adjoining landholders does not require consent. Table 1 summarises the approvals required for activities on a roadside.

Table 1. Activity, Approvals Required, and who to contact when seeking to undertake activities on roadsides that may disturb the area.

| Activity            | Approval Required                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Point of Contact                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fencing</b>      | Working on roadside permit required, if working from the road reserve.<br>Planning permit if overlays present for removal is beyond exemption.<br>If vegetation is protected, require Protected Flora permit as well. | Council<br>Phone: (03) 5898 3000<br>E: council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au<br>LLS<br>Phone 1300 795 299<br>E: <a href="mailto:admin.murray@lls.nsw.gov.au">admin.murray@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> |
| <b>Revegetation</b> | Working on roadside permit required.                                                                                                                                                                                  | Council<br>LLS                                                                                                                                                                        |

|                                                                                      |                                                                                                                          |                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Collection of firewood</b>                                                        | Not permitted on roadsides.                                                                                              | Council<br>LLS                                        |
| <b>Droving</b>                                                                       | Local Law permit is required                                                                                             | Council                                               |
| <b>Grazing</b>                                                                       | Local Law permit is required                                                                                             | Council                                               |
| <b>Ploughing</b>                                                                     | Not permitted on roadsides                                                                                               | Council<br>LLS                                        |
| <b>Grazing</b>                                                                       | Grazing permit required from LLS with concurrence from Council.                                                          | Council<br>LLS                                        |
| <b>Mowing /Slashing</b>                                                              | Permit required from LLS with concurrence from Council.                                                                  | Council<br>LLS                                        |
| <b>Haymaking</b>                                                                     | Not permitted on roadsides.                                                                                              |                                                       |
| <b>Fire Prevention</b>                                                               | Permit required                                                                                                          | Council                                               |
| <b>Spraying</b>                                                                      | Working on roadside permit required                                                                                      | Council                                               |
| <b>WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS</b>                                                        |                                                                                                                          |                                                       |
| <b>Any Works on the banks or bed of a waterway</b>                                   | Works on Waterways permit. Planning permit if native vegetation being removed.                                           | Council<br>LLS                                        |
| <b>CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>                                                             |                                                                                                                          |                                                       |
| <b>Any works or activities that may disturb or damage site of cultural heritage.</b> | Notification or approval, depending on the nature of the works.<br>A permit is required for work on or near a scar tree. | Registered Aboriginal Party (for advice see Council). |

### 3.1. Firewood and Timber Removal

Firewood collection is not permitted on roadsides. Dead and fallen timber is very important habitat for many native mammals, birds, bats, reptiles and insects. Firewood collection is listed as a threat to many native vegetation types, contributing to the decline of some species of fauna. Given the highly altered landscape of the Edward River Council Area, few roads contain enough native vegetation to require biomass removal through firewood collection.

### 3.2. Fire Prevention and Management

Only works in accordance with the Emergency Management Fire Prevention Plan are permitted on road reserves. Any fire prevention works on roadsides, including burning or slashing, require written consent from LLS and Council (provided as a works on roadside permit). The objectives of roadside fire management, after road user safety, are to:

- Prevent fires on roadsides (which includes education, regulation and provision of fuel free areas including fuel free shoulder).
- Contain roadside fires and manage safety of road users.
- Provide control lines (on designated roads, not all roads).
- No new ploughed or graded firebreaks should be constructed by landholders.

- Landholders are encouraged to undertake fire prevention works, including new firebreaks on their own property.
- Existing ploughed or graded firebreaks can be maintained, provided they are specified in the Local Emergency Management Prevention Plan.

### **3.3. Farming and Associated Activities**

#### *Stock Movement, Droving and Grazing*

Livestock are an important economic factor within the Edward River Council Area. However, the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan seeks to address the impact of livestock activities on roadsides such as the potential spread of weeds. Grazing can destroy areas of significant high conservation value native vegetation. Permanent livestock crossing (livestock regularly crossing a road at a particular location) is only permitted with an LLS permit and Council concurrence. Livestock droving (the movement of livestock either by driving them into, or by driving them along any roads throughout, the local government area a distance greater than can be achieved by travelling in one day between the hours of sunrise and sunset) or grazing (livestock held in an area for the purpose of feeding off roadside vegetation) requires a permit. In granting a permit Council must consider whether damage to plants of conservation value is likely and may impose permit conditions.

Movement of livestock (livestock which are being moved on any Council controlled road other than droving or grazing or regular movement) requires a permit from LLS

#### **Guidelines**

##### *Movement of Stock*

##### *Guidelines:*

- An application for a permit from Council is required for all proposed droving on roadsides.
- Droving or grazing is not permitted on High Conservation Value roadsides, unless approved by LLS for ecological management.
- Limited droving or grazing on Medium Conservation Value roadsides may be permitted where ecological benefits such as weed control can be demonstrated, or to reduce fuel in accordance with the Local Emergency Fire Prevention Plan.
- Droving on Low Conservation Value roadsides will only be permitted when soils are not saturated or prone to compaction.
- Supplementary feeding of stock is not permitted on any roadsides.
- Avoid weed prone areas when moving stock.

#### *Cultivation and Ploughing*

Ploughing, grading or cultivation on roadsides requires written consent for works on roadsides. A planning permit from Council is also required. Landholders are required to install firebreaks for private benefit on private land. Firebreaks for community benefit can only be constructed on public land on sites listed in the Local Emergency Management Fire Prevention Plan. Any infringement will result in prosecution under the EPBC Act and/or rehabilitation works to compensate for any biodiversity loss.

### *Slashing*

Slashing of native vegetation with very high or high conservation value requires written consent from Council and a permit and consultation with Murray LLS. Exceptions are provided to authorised Council staff and contractors for undertaking works to improve traffic safety, i.e. at intersections to improve line of sight. Slashing of native grasses should not occur between November and January to allow native seed set, and blades on slashers should be set no lower than 150mm above the ground.

### *Cropping and Haymaking*

Is not permitted.

### *Machinery Movement*

Due to the value placed on remnant vegetation, Council is reluctant to approve machinery movements requiring vegetation removal beyond normal road clearance distances.

### *Drainage of Land*

Landholders require a permit to use, pollute, obstruct or in any way interfere with the passage of water in a

drain or drainage works. Landholders need to ensure water is retained on-farm through improved irrigation practices. Penalties may be imposed for irrigation water falling onto roadsides.

### *Farm Storage*

Subject to approval by Council, storage of stockfeed on Low Conservation Value roadsides may be permitted for periods of less than two months. Storage of farm equipment, refuse, fencing materials or chemicals is prohibited on roadside reserves. The leading principle for all the activities in Table 1 is that approval to remove native vegetation requires a planning permit. Secondly, consent from Council is required to work on a Council road reserve.

## **3.4. Landcare and revegetation Activities on Roadsides**

Landcare Groups are encouraged to become involved in protecting and enhancing remnant vegetation on roadsides, including 'adopting' roadsides for ongoing involvement in management. Expanding areas of native vegetation onto private property is even better!

Priorities for managing native vegetation at a State and regional level are:

- Retain and Protect Existing Remnants
- Enhance Existing Remnants
- Connect Existing Remnants by Biolinks (Wildlife Corridors)

Permission from the land manager of the roadside (either Council, TfNSW or LLS) is required prior any roadside planting. Most activities associated with revegetation on roadsides are considered as works under the Road Roads Act 1993 and thus require written consent from Council (which is provided as a permit for Works Within a Road Reserve). As roads are primarily for safe transit, revegetation works must not compromise road safety. Contact Council's Environmental Services Department to discuss further.



## Guidelines

### *Planting or Direct Seeding along Roadsides*

- Contact Council to assess suitability of planting.
- Adjacent landholders must be consulted.
- Plantings should not be undertaken on Fuel Reduced Corridors or within the cleared areas of Priority Access Roads designated in the Emergency Management Fire Prevention Plan.
- Only use indigenous species grown from locally collected seed. Aim to re-establish the relevant Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) where possible.
- Allow adequate planning time, up to 12 months, to ensure indigenous plant species can be sourced. Trees or shrubs should not be planted in native grasslands.
- Encourage natural regeneration where possible, e.g. by guarding plants or remove grazing pressures and weed control. Plantings should aim for a natural appearance (avoid rows). Plant shrubs and understorey species in dense clumps.
- Plantings under powerlines should adhere to the guidelines recommended in 'Planting Trees Near Power Lines' by Citipower and Powercor November 2008. Plantings within 5 metres of powerlines should be no more than 4 metres in height. Plantings within 5 to 8 metres of powerlines should be no more than 9 metres in height. Plantings further than 8 metres from powerlines have no height restrictions.
- Set back plantings metres from fences to allow for maintenance.

### *Seed Collection on Roadsides*

- Seed collection is encouraged to ensure that seed supplies are available for appropriate revegetation purposes on roadsides.
- Seed collection or removal of cutting material on roadsides requires a permit and written consent from LLS, Council (or NSW RMS on arterial roads). Commercial collection requires a license.
- Ensure ecologically sustainable seed collection practices are used and disturbance to sites is avoided. For detailed guidelines for seed collection, contact Murray LLS. Large-scale collections are not permitted, except if larger quantities of seed are required for direct seeding of appropriate sites.

#### 4. Guideline Summaries for Roadside Activities

Table 1. The foremost principle for the activities in Table 1 is that approval to remove native vegetation requires a planning permit. Secondly, consent from Council is required to work on a Council road reserve.

| Action                           | High Conservation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Moderate Conservation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Low Conservation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Native Vegetation Removal</b> | Avoid removing native vegetation beyond the road formation where possible. Apart from exempt works a permit is required to remove native vegetation from roadsides. Council will provide priority and support to any proposal aimed at creating a vegetation link for a wildlife corridor. | Avoid removing native vegetation beyond the road formation where possible. Apart from exempt works a permit is required to remove native vegetation from roadsides.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Avoid removing native vegetation beyond the road formation where possible. Apart from exempt works a permit is required to remove native vegetation from roadsides.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Firewood collection</b>       | No firewood collecting permits are issued for roadsides.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No firewood collecting permits are issued for roadsides.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No firewood collecting permits are issued for roadsides.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Weed management</b>           | No broadacre spray applications to be conducted on these roadsides. Use hand weeding, rope wick applicator or spot spraying to remove isolated weeds in areas of native vegetation. Dispose of at a licensed waste depot or landfill.                                                      | Identify location of prominent weeds. Inform adjacent landholders of proposed weed control and encourage their involvement. Plan to slash weeds in late spring. To ease slashing consult with Council prior to removing stumps and fallen timber. Implement a program to remove woody weeds between March and July (except Blackberries, which require control during November to March). If additional weed slashing is necessary for fuel reduction, the area should be checked, and all regenerating native plants identified with a stake or other appropriate methods | Identify location of prominent weeds. Inform adjacent landholders of proposed weed control and encourage their involvement. Plan to slash weeds in late spring. To ease slashing consult with Council prior to removing stumps and fallen timber. Implement a program to remove woody weeds between March and July (except Blackberries, which require control during November to March). |

|                             |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                             |                                                                                                                                                  | [temporary fencing].<br>Burn weeds on site or on cleared area or dispose of at a Council approved disposal site.                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Grazing on Roadsides</b> | Droving or grazing is not permitted on High Conservation Value roadsides, unless approved by the relevant authorities for ecological management. | Limited droving or grazing may be permitted where ecological benefits such as weed control can be demonstrated, or to reduce fuel in accordance with the Mid Murray Zone Bushfire Management Plan. | Droving will only be permitted when soils are not saturated or prone to compaction.                                                                         |
| <b>Slashing</b>             | If slashing is unavoidable, plan works to occur during early spring or autumn to minimise disturbance to native grasses and groundcovers.        | If slashing is unavoidable, plan works to occur during early spring or autumn.                                                                                                                     | Check all sites prior to slashing operations and identify regenerating native vegetation with a stake or other appropriate method [e.g. temporary fencing]. |

**For further information:**

**Contact Edward River Council.**

**Phone: (03) 5898 3000**

**Email: [council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au)**

**[www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au)**