



<b>Policy Title</b>	Roadside Vegetation Management Policy
<b>Policy Category</b>	Public
<b>Number &amp; Version</b>	SVC – RDS – PO - 066
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Asset Planning and Design
<b>Approval by</b>	
<b>Effective date</b>	
<b>Date for review</b>	September 2020

### 1. STRATEGIC PURPOSE

Is to ensure the environment is protected during roadside project work and regular roadside maintenance. This is required to protect and revitalise areas of recognised ecological significance (Conservation Value) in the LGA. This aligns with Council's Strategic Plan (3.5 *Partner and support other agencies to protect local fauna and biodiversity ecosystems*).

### 2. POLICY STATEMENT

The Roadside Vegetation Management Policy aims to ensure:

- correct identification of areas of low, medium and high conservation risk in roadside corridors
- implementation of environmental risk checks to be conducted before regular maintenance works in order to conserve ecological significance
- clear guidelines for particular activities in each conservation risk category to avoid and/or mitigate possible environmental damage
- clear responsibility of each Council employee undertaking field works to check Conservation Value and mitigate any risk to an acceptable level

### 3. DEFINITIONS

**Employee** - refers to a person employed by Council and whose conditions of employment are covered by the Local Government (State) Award 2017 and includes persons employed on a permanent, temporary or casual basis. Employees also include Senior Officers whose conditions of employment are covered by a written agreement or contract with Council.

**Linear or Road Reserves** – refers to public land contained in long, narrow stretches like rail and road corridors and travelling stock routes.

#### 4. CONTENT

##### 4.1 THREATENED AND MIGRATORY SPECIES KNOWN FROM SVC AREA

Information regarding the locations of threatened flora and fauna are protected by Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). If this information is required a sensitive species data licence can be obtained from OEH. No information from this licence can be publically displayed. For further information on threatened flora, fauna, threatened ecological areas and migratory species please refer to Appendix 1.

##### 4.2 CONSIDERATIONS IN ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The council infrastructure and asset management team, road construction crews and contractors have a responsibility to undertake works within a suite of guidelines aimed at minimising any deleterious impacts on the landscape and environment within the immediate road project footprint and adjacent areas.

- Council's design team to undertake a review of environmental factors (REF) for non-routine project works
- A RVMP in the field assessment to be undertaken before all routine road maintenance jobs to establish whether the area has Low, Medium\* or High\* conservation value and to detail activities that are to occur and relevant strategies to mitigate damage. For further example of permissible / non-permissible activities refer Table 4-1.

*\*Where areas are deemed to be of Medium or High conservation value and the planned maintenance works will occur outside of the existing footprint, an environmental assessment is required to be completed and all recommendations followed, where practical.*

- Machinery, plant and equipment should be regularly maintained in order to avoid spills or leakages, emission of excessive fumes, or transportation of exotic or invasive plant/weed seed or unwanted pathogens entering the surrounding environment.
- Similarly, the construction and maintenance processes should be planned in compliance with relevant policies and procedures and ensuring that due consideration is given to design so as to limit the impacts of high volume water and velocity associated with road drainage.

For further information on the following, please refer to the RVMP:

- Construction activities
- Clear zone maintenance
- Stockpile management
- Erosion and sediment control
- Pathogen and Weed management
- Fire Management
- Public Utilities

### 4.3 CONSERVATION VALUE AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1650 kilometres of roadside were assessed during the RVMP (2018) and follow a traffic light Conservation Value system. Employees working on roadsides are required to check provided maps for any available information denoting the conservation value they may have works planned in.

#### 4.3.1 High Conservation Value (HCV)

Activities within areas of HCV should be highly restrictive, but where deemed necessary by council, should be subject to detailed environmental assessment. See table 4-1.

#### 4.3.2 Medium Conservation Value (MCV)

Activities within areas of MCV should be highly restrictive, as with areas of HCV, but where deemed necessary by council, should be subject to detailed environmental assessment. See table 4-1.

#### 4.3.3 Low Conservation Value (LCV)

Activities within areas of LCV are subject to no special requirements under this RVMP. However, activities as defined by Part 5 of the EP&A Act and within the Infrastructure SEPP, provide guidance for council whether approval for activities is required. These locations while holding low conservation value, should have limited clearing and be maintained to minimize the spread of weeds and exotic species, fire and erosion. See table 4-1.

**Table 4-1: Recommendations for management of high, medium and low conservation roadsides within Snowy Valley Council**

Activity	HCV Roadsides	MCV Roadsides	LCV Roadsides
Road construction and maintenance	Disturbance only permitted within the existing road footprint and existing disturbed area (ie, road verge and mowed clearzone if present). Disturbance outside of the existing road footprint and mowed cleared zone subject to detailed environmental assessment	Disturbance only permitted within the existing road footprint and existing disturbed area (ie, road verge and mowed clearzone if present). Disturbance outside of the existing road footprint and mowed cleared zone subject to environmental assessment	Activities undertaken to minimise any damage or introduction of an exotic or invasive plant/weed species to the area.
Ancillary works (stockpile sites, machinery parking)	Not recommended without detailed environmental assessment	Not recommended without detailed environmental assessment	Permissible
Public utilities (water,	Not recommended without detailed environmental	Permissible Retain existing	Permissible

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Activity	HCV Roadsides	MCV Roadsides	LCV Roadsides
electricity, phone, footpath)	assessment	vegetation and utilise existing disturbed/degraded areas Revegetate impact areas	
Firewood collection	Not recommended	Not recommended	Not recommended
Grazing	Not recommended	Permissible for travelling stock and when compatible with management aims (eg weed control, hazard reduction). Avoid camping and corralling Avoid during spring seeding and heavy rain periods	Permissible
Weed control	Minimal impact methods including spot hand spraying, selective herbicide use, hand removal, controlled burning	Minimal impact methods including spot hand spraying, selective herbicide use, hand removal, controlled burning, light grazing	Permissible

## 5. RESPONSIBILITIES /ACCOUNTABILITIES

Accountability for conserving ecological significance of roadside shall be the responsibility of all Employees conducting work in the area. A specific responsibility is delegated to Team Leaders to conduct environmental risk assessments

### 5.1 Enforcement

Instances where there has not been appropriate management of the roadside vegetation will result in supervising staff receiving a warning and further training. Where breaches of RVMP are identified by government bodies, this may result in significant fines for Council for breaching legislative conditions.

## 6. ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION

Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)

NSW Coastal Management Act 2016

NSW Biodiversity Act 2016 (BC Act)

NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994 (FM Act)

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act)

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NSW Heritage Act 1997  
 NSW Biosecurity Act 2015  
 NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 No. 156 (POEO Act)  
 NSW Roads Act 1993  
 NSW Rural Fires Act 1997 (RFS Act)  
 NSW Water management Act 2000 (WM Act)  
 State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Infrastructure 2007)  
 State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Coastal Management) 2018  
 State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Vegetation in Non-rural areas) 2017  
 NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995  
 NSW Native Vegetation Act 2003  
 For a comprehensive explanation of each Act please refer to Local Government NSW  
 "Council Roadside Environmental Management Framework".

#### 7. ASSOCIATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

SVC Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2018 SVC – RDS – Pln – 004 - 01  
 Training documentation and Environmental Risk Assessment Scaffold

#### 8. HISTORY

Date	Action	Name	Policy Number	Resolution Date	Resolution Number
EG	Superseded	Tumut Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2012	Road.17 v1.0		
	Superseded	Tumbarumba Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2003			

**APPENDIX 1****1. THREATENED AND MIGRATORY SPECIES KNOWN FROM SVC AREA****Threatened flora**

29 species of threatened flora are identified within the SVC LGA (A full list with locations is found in the RVMP 2018). These include the Tumut Grevillea (*Grevillia wilkinsonii*) and Silky Swainson-pea (*Swainsona sericea*).

*\*Accurate locations of threatened species is withheld from Office of Environment & Heritage to protect against illegal collection.*

**Threatened fauna**

71 species of threatened fauna are identified within the SVC LGA (A full list with locations is found in the RVMP 2018). They include:

- 44 species of bird
- 16 species of mammal, including an endangered population
- species of frog
- species of reptile
- One species of insect

*\*Accurate locations of threatened species is withheld from Office of Environment & Heritage to protect against illegal collection.*

**Migratory species**

Five species of migratory bird have been identified, including:

- White-throated Needletail
- Common Sandpiper
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- Latham's Snipe
- Rainbow Bee-eater

*\*Accurate locations of threatened species is available upon request from GIS and Assets.*

**Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC)**

Four TEC are known from within SVC LGA. Including:

- White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum Woodland (BC Act and EPBC Act)
- Tablelands Snow Gum, Black Sallee, Candlebark and Ribbon Gum Grassy Woodland (BC Act)
- Natural Temperate Grassland (EPBC Act)
- Coolac – Tumut Serpentine Shrubby Woodland (BC Act).

*\*All four TEC were detected during the site assessments carried out for the RVMP (2018).*

**Site Managed Species**

A number of threatened biota known from the SVC LGA are listed as site-managed species under the Saving our Species (SOS) as part of the BC Act. However, site-managed species also have management sites allocated to them, and only those which include roadsides of SVC managed roads are detailed below:

- Booroolong frog
- Kelton's leek orchid
- Tumut grevillea

While not listed as a site managed species, the Silky Swainson-pea is listed as vulnerable under the BC Act and occurs within the roadside of Gocup Road (near Meadow Creek). It is significant as it is the only known instance of this species within the LGA.

**Important Habitat for Migratory Fauna**

Rainbow Bee-eater: Horse Creek Road and River Road, in the southern portion of the SVC LGA. In the case of any roadside cuttings and/or embankments along River Road, and the incised creek bank on Horse Creek Road, both would constitute important habitat on the following basis:

- Rainbow Bee-eater as it the southern limit of its range
- The habitat present is of critical importance to Rainbow Bee-eater at a particular life-cycle stage (nesting habitat)

Any action carried out by SVC along River Road or Horse Creek Road may constitute a significant impact under the EPBC Act. Further investigation by a suitability qualified and experienced ecologist in the form of an environmental assessment and a referral to the Commonwealth Environment Minister is recommended for any work in these areas.

\*Further information for this migratory fauna can be found in the RVMP (2018)