

Managing roadsides across Tumut Shire Council

COUNCIL NAME

Tumut Shire Council

WEB ADDRESS

<http://www.tumut.nsw.gov.au/>

SIZE

4567 square kilometres

POPULATION

11480

Overview

Tumut Shire Council was a successful recipient of a Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project (RVIP) grant funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. This project undertook environmental weed eradication, revegetation on roadsides with high conservation values and provided education to Council, staff and the community.



The Roadside Environment Committee (REC) inspecting a site in Tumut.

Background

Tumut Shire Council prepared a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan in 1991, and while this document has been valuable in determining the existing vegetation on roadsides, council has also identified the need to update this work with further assessment work undertaken in 2010. The plan has identified, and categorised roadsides as low, medium and high conservation value to assist in determining priority areas for activity.

Through the project Council has promoted the RVMP to the wider community in an attempt to provide clear information on the value of roadside environment areas.

Implementation

The implementation of the project covers three key objectives. These include:

1. To undertake works associated with the eradication of environmental weeds and promote native habitat in areas of high conservation value,
2. Train and educate staff and the community, on the importance of high ecological value conservation areas and sustainability works using best management practice,

3. Promote the “value” and “sustainability” of these sites to the greater community using a multimedia approach.

Council has conducted weed eradication using a local environmental contractor employing local aboriginal contractors. Areas of high conservation value along Goobarragandra Road, Back Kunama Road, Old Tumbarumba Road and Yaven Creek Road were weeded and treated, and planting in areas was undertaken to enhance the connectivity of the ecological community.

Significant Roadside Environment Area (SREA) signage was also erected and mapped (GIS Co-ordinates) to identify the value of these sites. Council has also produced a ‘Tree Trail Brochure’ which maps the location of Goobarragandra Road, Back Kunama Road, Old Tumbarumba Road and Yaven Creek Roads. The brochure is used to promote the value of roadside vegetation and promote greater awareness among the wider community, including both residents, visitors to the region and thirty tourist information centres in NSW .

Three training sessions were held to increase the knowledge of council’s staff in how to manage roadside environments. These were well received and included a session run by Dr Peter Spooner, Charles Sturt Universtuiy who presented on the historical aspects of roads as well as the value of these linear reserves across the landscape. This training was well received by all involved, including the works staff from Tumut Shire Council Snowy Works and Services, who are faced with the day to day issues associated with roadside management.



Tumut Shire Council

TREE TRAILS

Are you looking for a scenic drive to take? Tumut Shire offers a variety of destinations where the roadside vegetation is bursting with biodiversity.

The area encompassed by the Tumut Shire contains a diverse mix of terrain, altitude, and vegetation communities, ranging from lush riverine flood plains to high, stoney ridges – some within the snowline.

A number of roads cross these areas showing marked changes in vegetation along their length, particularly those that climb from valley to mountains.



Outcomes

- Across the project sites, over 80,000 square metres of weed management was undertaken and a further 1500 trees established to improve the quality of the existing vegetation and enhance the ecological connectivity of these key sites,
- Training was conducted with 26 people participating in these sessions,
- Six articles on the project appeared in the local papers both the ‘Tumut and Adelong Times and the Wagga Daily Advertiser’,
- Tree trail brochure produced and distributed, and
- Map of SREA signage installed is now [available](#).

Key Learnings

The RVMP needs continual update as access to more vegetation assessment data becomes available. Council will continue to seek opportunities to build on their current RVMP.

The grant funding made available through the RVIP has renewed interest in roadside environmental management in the Shire. The activities undertaken by Tumut were recognised with council winning the Division A (population <20,000) Roadside Environmental Management Award, a category of the Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards for Local Government, 2012.

Contact

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