

Tweed Shire Council Roadside Field Reference Notes and Maps

COUNCIL NAME

Tweed Shire Council

WEB ADDRESS

www.tweed.nsw.gov.au

SIZE

1307.4 square
kilometres

POPULATION

91,210

Overview

Tweed Shire Council (TSC) adopted a comprehensive Roadside Vegetation Management Plan in 2013. The field reference notes and maps have been created to assist council staff to make informed decisions when planning and undertaking works in council's road reserves.

Implementation

Prior to undertaking roadside works the field reference notes specify three steps to be followed:

Step 1: Use the provided maps to identify management zones (high, medium or low) and the location of any threatened species or endangered ecological communities,

Step 2: Check the guidelines for activities applicable for the management zone in which the works are being undertaken,

Step 3: Consult with a supervisor to ensure there are no other relevant restrictions such as:

- registered "no spray" zones
- heritage areas
- significant or noxious weed infestations



Example of map segment showing multiple zones, threatened species and EEC

Council staff must complete a site management environmental checklist before commencing works. Hard copies of the field reference notes and maps are provided in each council vehicle and form a key component of toolbox meetings and/or contractor induction.

The process links to higher order plans including:

- Roadside Vegetation Management Plan
- Work Health Safety System
- Contractor Management System
- Council Environmental Plans

REFERENCES

Roadside Vegetation
Management Plan
2013

RVMP Guidelines,
2013

RVMP Field
reference notes and
maps

Examples of the management actions for a high conservation value area are in the table below:

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS WITHIN HCV ZONES

ACTIVITY	HCV
Slope mower	Yes – Limited to table drain as per Fig 1 below and Fig 2 in Guidelines
Slasher	Yes- Limited to gaps in vegetation; one slasher width; avoid native vegetation
Weed spray	Yes – Spray only directed at table drain; roadside markers, guardrails, culverts, header walls, etc.
Stockpiles and parking	No stockpiles or parking
Road works and drain maintenance	No pushing spoil onto native vegetation or over embankments; no tree trunk or root damage
Tree prune	Within 'clearing' zones only as per Fig 1 below and Figs 2 and 3 in Guidelines
Tree prune - threatened species	Consult Council ecologist
Tree removal	Consult Council ecologist

Outcomes

- Improved roadside management
- Protection of threatened species and endangered ecological communities
- Compliance with legislation

Key Learnings

The approach was adopted to ensure council compliance with legislative requirements and protection from potential legal exposure or fines and also to ensure that the environmental outcomes defined within the RVMP are implemented. To ensure this process is effective there is a need for ongoing field staff awareness and training, and integration into existing systems for work health safety and contractor management.

Contact

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