

**22.19 ROADSIDE CONSERVATION**

This policy applies to remnant vegetation located on road reserves in the Mount Alexander Shire, which are managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, VicRoads and the Mount Alexander Shire Council.

**Policy Basis**

Roadside vegetation is a major contributor to the character of a road and to its conservation value. Mount Alexander provides a number of opportunities to realise the important relationship that these linear reserves have with the natural environment. With the clearing of native vegetation on private land, many of the last remaining stands of trees and examples of plants are represented along the roadsides, therefore the protection of these areas is essential for future regeneration.

**Objectives**

- To protect and restore indigenous vegetation.
- To protect rare, vulnerable and significant species of flora and fauna on roadsides.
- To protect the service function of the road and service assets located within the roadside reserve.
- To maintain and enhance the habitat, visual, landscape and cultural qualities of roads and roadsides.
- To retain vegetation for streetscape, landscape and cultural heritage values.

**Policy**

It is policy that, before deciding on an application to use and develop land or carry out works, the responsible authority may consider:

- any Roadside Conservation Plan / Roadside Management Plan for the whole or part of the Shire,
- the need to retain remnant vegetation, and conserve flora and fauna habitats and wildlife corridors,
- the need to control noxious and environmental weeds in accordance with approval from the responsible authority and a Municipal Fire Prevention Plan,
- fire prevention works in accordance with Municipal Fire Prevention Plan,
- the need to refer all applications to remove, destroy or lop indigenous vegetation (for works not exempt under the Native vegetation Retention Controls) to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment,
- the need to minimise vegetation loss when vegetation removal is proposed on roadsides as identifies as having high or medium conservation value,
- the appropriateness of locating new services on low conservation value roadsides or cleared adjacent land when appropriate,
- the need to keep works to a minimum that is required for road safety,
- the need to retain dead trees for habitat value,
- any comments from the responsible authority and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment for firewood collection and timber harvesting.

**Reference documents**

Mount Alexander Roadsides Management Strategy, Mount Alexander Roadsides Management Working Group and Gilbert Consulting 1997

Mount Alexander Environmental Strategy Plan, Conservation and Advisory Committee, Jan 1997