

# Summary of Updates – Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

**District Council of the Copper Coast**

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## 1 UPDATES SUMMARY

This document highlights Rural Solutions SA (RSSA) response to comments provided by District Council of the Copper Coast (DCCC) for updating the DRAFT Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) submitted to DCCC in 2008.

It also includes some additional information relevant to the document update.

Note that the RVMP is still in draft form. Once the document and the changes/updates there in has been endorsed by the elected members of the DCCC, the document will then be provide to the Native Vegetation Council for further review.

### 1.1 RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

This document highlights Rural Solutions SA (RSSA) response to comments provided by District Council of the Copper Coast (DCCC) for updating the DRAFT Roadside Vegetation Management Plan submitted to DCCC in 2008.

The only comments received by RRSa where by Stewart McIntosh (CLGR Nat. Res & Sustainability Project Officer) and where compiled in June 2009. Included in Appendix 1 are Stewart's comments. The Table below outlines which of these comments were completed and provides explanation for those that were not.

Table 1. Summary of response to comments submitted by Stewart McIntosh.

Reference to Stuart's comments in Appendix 1	Completed?	RSSA Comments
31, Paragraph 2	✓	
31, Paragraph 4	✓	
31, Paragraph 6	✓	
32, Paragraph 3	✓	
32, Dot Point 2	✓	
33, Paragraph 3	✓	
33, Paragraph 5	✓	
35, Table 2	✓	This table has been updated as requested. A reference to the full lists of declared species a) listed under the NRM Act, b) occurring on the YP and c) found in the DCCC (Appendix 15) has been included in the text.
57, Paragraph 2	✓	
Appendices, no reference to significant sites	✓	Significant site information provided by Stuart for inclusion has been inserted as Appendix 16 and referred to in section

		2.19 within the guidelines.
Appendices, add copy of DTEI document Guidelines for livestock movement	✘	I have been unable to locate this document, may no longer be in publication
Appendices, add copy of original drive-by-survey data	✘	The original data is a huge file. Therefore rather than including as an Appendix a CD with the electronic version of the data is included with the RVMP (see section 1.3 below)
Appendices, add list of proclaimed weeds under NRM Act, N&Y Board Short listing for weeds within the N&Y region.	✓	Also included is a short listing for those declared species found within the DCCC. Yorke Peninsula and DCCC lists were supplied by the N&Y NRM Board. Full declared list was sourced from <a href="http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/ntm/Biosecurity/weeds/declared_plants_in_South_australia_august_2008">www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/ntm/Biosecurity/weeds/declared_plants_in_South_australia_august_2008</a>

## 1.2 OTHER INFORMATION

Listed in Table 2 is further information relating to the update of the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan.

Table 2. Further update information.

Item	Comments
NVC Fact Sheets	The latest versions of the NVC fact sheets and information sheets have been included (as sourced from their website).
New template	The document has been inserted into our current Rural Solutions SA template.

## 1.3 FILES INCLUDED ON THE CD

Accompanying the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan is a CD with electronic files on it. The CD includes the following files:

- The updated (but still draft) Roadside Vegetation Management Plan
- A copy of this report
- Mapping, GIS and raw data files (from the roadside vegetation survey)
  - Shape files
  - Excel file of the raw data collected during the roadside vegetation survey
  - Excel file of the descriptions of the codes included within the raw data sheet
  - DEH/DENR code sheet used during the roadside vegetation survey
  - Map showing extent of each vegetation category (JPEG – A3)
  - Map showing extent of road types (JPEG – A3)

## APPENDIX 1 – STEWART MCINTOSH'S COMMENTS



**Central**  
Local Government Region of South Australia  
Proposed under section of the Local Government Act



Document prepared by:  
Stewart McIntosh  
CLGR Nat. Res. & Sustainability Project Officer

6/6/2009

### Roadside Vegetation Management Plan Review 2009

The Roadside vegetation Management Plan for the District Council of the Copper Coast (RVMP of DCCC) is a draft document prepared by a contractor (Rural Solutions SA) in 2008. Due to the document being both recently produced and as a draft format it is easy to make some minor adjustments to comply with relevant authorities. Tabulated below is a list of changes necessary for this document to be compliant, once changes are made, endorsement by the elected members is necessary before lodgement with the Native Vegetation Council. Essentially the process will allow council within the guidelines of the document to perform any number of works and authorisations, as long as compliant with the RVMP of DCCC.

 Represent changes recommended to the draft.

Page No.	Paragraph No. Adjusted Text
31	Paragraph 2 Past animals include birds or mammals. . . . . Although rabbits are targeted by the NRM Board in the DCCC, control programs are not consistently run (by basis of annual program) due to the determination that rabbits are not a major issue by comparison of other pest and plant control priorities.
31	Paragraph 4 Under the NRM Act the enforcing of control of declared animals on road reserves is the responsibility of the Northern and Yorke NRM Board, where the cost of control may be recovered from the adjoining landholder.
31	Paragraph 6 If a landowner request the NRM board to undertake. . . . . landholder to do so, where they do not, the NRM Board will organise the work to be done and potentially recover the cost of control from the adjoining landowner.
32	Paragraph 3 Prior to undertaking any pest animal control within the road reserve, organisations and individual landowners / occupiers require permission from local councils and the Northern and Yorke NRM Board ; advice should be sought from RAO.
32	Dot Point 2 Council is to develop a formal application form and process for landowners wishing to undertake pest animal control on roadsides adjacent to their property, within the guidelines of Northern and Yorke NRM Policy

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33	Paragraph 3 Under the NRM Act the enforcing of control of declared plants on road reserves is the responsibility of the Northern and Yorke NRM Board, where the cost of control may be recovered from the adjoining landholder. The RAO..... request that they do so.
33	Paragraph 5 If a landowner request the NRM board to undertake..... landholder to do so, where they do not, the NRM Board will organise the work to be done and potentially recover the cost of control from the adjoining landowner
35	Table 2 Declared Plants list to be attached, number of mistakes in regard to status of weeds under the NRM Act and variations under the Northern and Yorke NRM Board Plan and Policy. Refers to Plants recorded during the Veg Survey, need cross reference with data from N&Y NRM Board to display weeds present within the DCCC area
57	Paragraph 2 The DCCC has limited bushcare sites (essentially old landcare project sites), and there are currently no organisations (such as trees for life) that arrange Bushcare programs operating within the DCCC area. ....
Appendices	No reference to 'Significant Sites' – add as appendice (as per below)
Appendices	Add copy of Guidelines for livestock movement as per DTEI
Appendices	Add Copy of Original Drive-By Survey Data.
Appendices	Add List of proclaimed weed under the NRM Act – with N&Y NRM Board shortlisting for weeds with in the N&Y Region.

The tabulated alterations are a recommended guide for the DCCC to adopt as a policy for future roadside management, and with the endorsement of both elected members and the Native Veg Council should improve efficiencies within the council.

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### 1. Roadside Significant Sites

All over South Australia, councils and TransportSA are identifying areas of roadside that are of environmental or cultural significance. These 'Roadside Significant Sites' include: areas of remnant native vegetation; significant trees; threatened plant species; habitat for rare animal species; European heritage sites such as bridges, monuments and stone walls; Aboriginal heritage sites; and geological features. At this stage Council is marking only sites with remnant native vegetation, but sites of cultural significance could be marked in the future.

The Sites are marked with discreet signage to assist road authorities, utility contractors and landholders in the recognition and protection of the sites. Roadside Significant Site Markers are used primarily to identify sites, which may be difficult to recognise in the field, such as native vegetation. Roadside markers do not alter the responsibility for managing and protecting roadsides.

At the start of each site is a sign with a blue shield with a number identifying the Roadside Significant Site and a code for the authority managing the road ('DCCC' District Council of Copper Coast; 'TSA' TransportSA etc). At the end of each site is a blue sign with a diagonal white bar across it. The marker specifications and details of how to mark sites are in the Resources section of this manual.

50 sites have been marked thus far. There is likely to be a further 100 sites with high quality remnant vegetation that should be marked in the future.



At the start of each site is a marker with a blue shield and a site identifier number.

The end of the site is marked with a blue sign with a diagonal white bar across it.



The key principle for protecting remnant native vegetation on roadsides is **minimum disturbance**. Roadwork activities should be modified to avoid disturbance to the sites. The following actions are also important.

#### Weed Control

- Avoid boom spraying roadside vegetation.
- Avoid spreading weeds by cleaning down vehicles before moving into a site

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- Slash introduced grasses and weeds in winter or early spring - before introduced seed is set and before native grasses have begun to flower.
- Handpull weeds and use 'cut and swab' techniques in high quality native vegetation.

#### **Disturbance and removing native vegetation**

- Keep vehicles on formed roads or existing tracks and do not park on native vegetation.
- Do not plough, burn or graze roadside vegetation.
- Remove only the minimum branches necessary for fence line clearance.
- Retain dead trees and logs for habitat for animals.

#### **Revegetation**

- Avoid planting trees and shrubs in native grassland - they tend to shade out the grasses.

### **1.1 Significant Site Database**

Council has a Significant Site Database which supports the marker scheme and catalogues the information about the sites. The database includes details of location, site description and management recommendations required for protection of the sites.

The database has been designed to be as simple to use as possible. When more sites are marked in the future, this information will need to be added into the database and also into the Council Road Inventory and the Significant Site Reports.

The **Significant Site Database** is a Microsoft Access database. It contains a main table called 'Significant Site Information' that stores site details such as location, description, main site impacts. Data can be entered efficiently using the table which allows cutting and pasting of earlier data to speed up data entry.

This same data is easily viewed through the Significant Site Information form. The form is structured for easy reading and editing of individual site details. There are also Significant Site Reports with all the information for a site given on an individual page. Scroll through these reports and print out the current page to create a hard copy of a Site Report.

The data is also being integrated into Council's **Road Inventory** which describes the hundred, road classification, and presence of any significant sites, or special road uses for each road.

### **1.2 Significant Site reports**

The Significant Site Reports (printed from the Significant Site Database) describe the location, the feature, the threats to the site and protect actions required for each site. The reports will be modified when any management action occurs at a site.

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