



Shire of Denmark

FINAL

Declared Flora Roads Management Plan



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DECLARED FLORA ROADS MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Declared Flora Road is defined as "...those roads which have conservation value owing to the vegetation growing within the road reserve. A Declared Flora Road contains vegetation of special conservation, cultural or scenic value and also provides an attractive tourist drive route within a Shire or region." (Roadside Conservation Committee).

A Flora Road is an area of high conservation flora and is considered a tourist asset to local communities.

As at March 2012 the Shire managed declared Flora Roads are:

- Ficifolia Road
- Tindale Road
- Scotsdale Road; and
- Mount Lindesay Road.

This Declared Flora Roads Management Plan (DFRMP) has had due regard to the Shire of Denmark's Code of Practice for Roadside Conservation and Road Maintenance (CoP), however due to their high conservation value there are additional management implications to ensure protection, enhancement, and promotion of the values within these road reserves.

Aim:

The aim of the DFRMP is to minimise any disturbance to the roadside flora, consistent with the provision of a safe and efficient roadway.

Objectives:

The objective of the DFRMP is to encourage best management practice, enhance the biodiversity values of the road(s) and to promote and raise the profile of the road(s) as having high conservation value.

Identified objectives are:

- Ensure the safe function of the road.
- Minimise disturbance to the roadside vegetation while providing a safe and efficient roadway.
- Prevent the introduction, or spread of weeds and soil borne pathogens within the roadside.
- Where rehabilitation is contemplated, local native species should always be used.
- Minimise the risk and impact from fire (fire management should be undertaken in such a way so as to take into account the ecological needs of the flora).
- Discourage the installation of utilities, such as telecommunications, water, power and gas, from being located within the road reserve of Flora Roads.
- Protect the cultural and heritage values of the roadside.
- Maintain and enhance the visual amenity and landscape quality of the road and roadside.
- Educate the community in regards to Flora Roads and their value.
- Ensure compliance with all legislative requirements.



Conservation Values:

The principle conservation values of Flora Roads include:

- The roadside must contain a significant population of native vegetation.
- Introduced trees and grasses are not important for conservation.
- The native vegetation must be in as near to its natural condition as possible. In undisturbed vegetation, several layers of plants occur – trees, shrubs and herbs are present in woodlands, for example. If one or more of the expected layers are missing, the conservation value is reduced.
- The roadside may be the only remaining example of original vegetation within a cleared area. It thus:
 - assists in vegetation mapping and distribution studies;
 - may provide a benchmark for study of soil change during agricultural development;
 - provides a source of local seed for revegetation projects;
 - acts as a wildlife habitat for the protection of fauna;
 - may harbour rare or endangered plants in the roadside;
 - may provide nest sites and refuges for native animals; and
 - may act as a biological corridor.
- The Flora Road should be a decent length (e.g. more than 2km), and may link up with main roads, tourist routes or other significant features within an area.



Best Practice Management and Guidelines for Implementation

1.0 Roadside Maintenance – Best Practice Management

- 1.1 That the Shire ensures that works being undertaken on the road allow for optimum protection and enhancement of the indigenous vegetation, having due regard for:
- (a) Road safety;
 - (b) fire prevention;
 - (c) minimising disturbance; and
 - (d) the introduction, or spread of, weeds and soil borne pathogens
- ensuring a commitment to best management practice of road management and maintenance of declared Flora Roads.
- 1.2 That local native vegetation beyond the road formation not be disturbed during road maintenance works.
- 1.3 That the Shire ensures all staff involved in road construction, maintenance and management are aware of the values of the Flora Roads and provided with the correct information/techniques/equipment for minimising disturbance to indigenous roadside vegetation.

1.0 Roadside Maintenance – Guidelines for Implementation

- (a) Road construction supervisors and relevant staff will be encouraged to attend seminars or courses related to roadside management and conservation conducted by TAFE, the RCC or other organisations as approved by the Director/Supervisor.
- (b) Persons undertaking works will be advised that native vegetation beyond the road formation are not to be disturbed, except where a permit has been issued or other Acts and/or exceptions override this requirement.
- (c) Telstra, Western power, local fire brigades and other relevant agencies will be made aware of the DFRMP, the location of the road itself and shall act in accordance with the Shire's CoP.
- (d) The boundary of works should be clearly identified prior to commencement. The managing authority will be expected to take into consideration the high conservation values present, and take special care when working within the Flora Road reserve and the surrounding area.
- (e) Plant, equipment and stockpiles are not to be parked amongst indigenous vegetation on the roadside.



2.0 Fire Management – Best Practice Management

- 2.1 Fire management should be undertaken in such a way so as to take into account the ecological needs of the flora.
- 2.2 That the Shire encourages its staff, the Bush Fire Advisory Committee, relevant fire management authorities (Fire and Emergency Services Authority) and private property owners to consider:
 - (a) Significance of a fire hazard;
 - (b) vegetation type;
 - (c) conservation value of the roadside; and
 - (d) maintenance of clear sight distances.

2.0 Fire Management– Guidelines for Implementation

- (a) The local fire authority and stakeholders will be advised of the location of the Flora road.
- (b) The local fire authority and stakeholders will be encouraged to utilise other alternatives for strategic fire breaks to avoid disturbing the Flora road.

3.0 Special Environment Areas – Best Practice Management

- 3.1 That any rare, priority and significant flora and fauna within the road reserve be recorded and clearly identified and protected prior to any works being carried out.
- 3.2 That the Shire consult with the Roadside Conservation Committee and or the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) about the appropriate management of roadside areas where a rare, priority or significant flora species has been located.
- 3.3 That the procedure outlined by the Roadside Conservation Committee for management of special environment areas be adopted where appropriate.

3.0 Special Environmental Areas – Guidelines for Implementation

- (a) A register will be prepared and held in the Shire's GIS system showing the location of all declared Flora Roads and associated values. The register will contain information on the name of the road, the location, length/distance of the road, width of the road, a list of the dominant plant species, threats such as weeds disturbances and significant values. This information, in an appropriate format is to be provided to the Shire's operational staff for use.



4.0 Rehabilitation and Revegetation – Best Practice Management

- 4.1 That regenerating native vegetation be protected where practicable and managed in such a way to prevent interference with the structure of the road or other important activities. See Guideline 4(b).
- 4.2 That prior to any approval being given for revegetation or natural regeneration projects, plans must be submitted to the Shire to ensure that:
- (a) The project is compatible with various roadside Codes of Practice and Guidelines;
 - (b) They will not interfere with any current service provision;
 - (c) The type of weed control is appropriate to the site;
 - (d) Local native vegetation is being used;
 - (e) The group initiating the planting or regeneration is able to maintain the plants until they are large enough to look after themselves; and
 - (f) Long term maintenance of the site has been adequately considered.
- 4.3 That the Shire consults with all relevant agencies including the Roadside Conservation Committee and the Department of Environment and Conservation prior to approving revegetation or regeneration projects.

4.0 Rehabilitation and Revegetation– Guidelines for Implementation

- (a) Plans of revegetation projects will be referred to the relevant agencies and community groups to determine compliance with relevant Codes of Practices.
- (b) Indigenous vegetation will not be permitted to regenerate if it is likely to grow in the clearance space required by maintenance activities (i.e. drains), or obstruct the visibility of traffic.



5.0 Removal of Vegetation – Best Practice Management

5.1 That where permission has been granted to remove, destroy or prune any indigenous vegetation, council ensures that no native vegetation other than that specified is destroyed or disturbed. *NB: Removal of fallen timber from any roadside requires permission from Council and a permit from the DEC.*

5.0 Removal of Vegetation– Guidelines for Implementation

- (a) Flora Roads should be subjected to specific planning and management considerations to ensure their conservation.
- (b) Prune offending branches rather than removing the whole tree. Cut branches off close to the limb or tree trunks.
- (c) Any request to remove fallen timber from a Flora road will be inspected prior to granting permission to assess the accessibility of the timber and the presence of other ground level features to provide habitat for small native animals.

6.0 Pest Plants and Animals – Best Practice Management

- 6.1 That the Shire conducts a maintenance program to control environmental weeds within the Flora Road.
- 6.2 That where pest animals are present, the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) and or DEC be contacted to give appropriate advice on control measures.
- 6.3 That control of pest plants and animals on a Flora Road has regard to the pest and pest animal strategies developed by the DAFWA and the DEC.
- 6.4 Threats such as fire wood collection, gravel extraction and weed invasion should be managed carefully so as not to impact negatively upon the roadside vegetation.

6.0 Pest Plants and Animals– Guidelines for Implementation

- (a) Where pest plants and animals are to be eradicated from a Flora Road, work will be carried out in a manner which will cause minimal damage to the native vegetation. The area will be reinstated in such a manner that it will discourage reinfestation.
- (b) The weeds GIS spatial layer(s) is to be utilised as a guide to prevent the spread of targeted weeds.



7.0 Community Education – Best Practice Management

- 7.1 That Council highlights the importance of protecting Flora Roads consistent with the objectives of:
- (a) Road safety;
 - (b) Fire prevention;
 - (c) Wildlife habitat requirements;
 - (d) Landcare objectives;
 - (e) Local tourism; and
 - (f) Biodiversity sustainability,

as part of its community information initiatives.

- 7.2 That the Shire educates and involves adjoining landholders in the protection of the Flora Road.
- 7.3 That the Shire should encourage individual and community restoration and revegetation projects with special emphasis on enhancing wildlife corridors.

7.0 Community Education – Guidelines for Implementation

- (a) The community will be made aware of the Flora road, particularly adjoining landholders. Community engagement sessions can be conducted with the assistance of RCC to ensure conservation and safety needs of Flora Roads are catered for.
- (b) Raising the profile of the roadside vegetation as a Flora Rd to both community and road management authorities elevates awareness of those travelling through and working within a road reserve where high conservation values are present.
- (c) A recommendation for more appropriate management could include undertaking maintenance work outside of the spring flowering period – as tourists visiting these roads will be encouraged to see them when they are looking their best in spring - and pruning and clearing of these areas at this time can be unappealing to tourists.
- (d) Promote the Flora Road as a tourist icon. Flora Roads may also form part of a tourist drive or scenic wildflower route. Declared Flora Roads will, by their very nature, be attractive to tourists, and would often be suitable as part of a tourist drive network.

Consideration should be given to:

- promoting the road by means of a small brochure or booklet;
 - eventually showing all Flora Roads on a map of the region or State;
 - using specially designed signs to delineate the Flora Road section; and
 - constructing roadside flora rest areas where people can get out and enjoy the flora.
- (e) Walk trails could be designed and information brochures produced to assist in raising awareness of Flora Roads in the wider community. Walk trails could be made from these, and information brochures produced. The RCC has established links with Tourism WA for inclusion on wildflower tourist publications.



REVIEW OF DOCUMENT

Document is to be reviewed annually, or as required, jointly by the Planning & Sustainability Directorate and Infrastructure Services Directorate.

USEFUL REFERENCES

- Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004
- Shire of Denmark Local Law Activities on Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places 2001
- Shire of Denmark Local Law Relating to Pest Plants 1997
- Town Planning Scheme Policy No. 1 for Dieback Disease Management
- Operational Roadside Reserve Plan - Shire of Denmark Weed Strategy and Action Plan 2005-2010
- Code of Practice for Roadside Conservation and Road Maintenance (Shire of Denmark)
- Shire of Denmark Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist
- Biodiversity Conservation and Fire in Road and Rail Reserves: Management Guidelines (Roadside Conservation Committee, 2011)
- Denmark Greening Plan
- Assessing Roadsides: A Guide For Rating Conservation Value (Roadside Conservation Committee, 2002)
- Special Environmental Areas in Transport Corridors (Roadside Conservation Committee, 2000)



Appendix 1: Ficifolia Road

1.0 Road Formation

Ficifolia Road is a two chain or 40 metre road reserve that runs the length of 6.5km. Much of the road is unsealed, formed gravel with a 3.5% crossfall. The drainage channel is largely unformed due to the presence of sandy soils at the edge of the shoulders which are sufficient to pull water away from the form.

2.0 Environmental Values

Ficifolia Rd roadside vegetation is described as predominantly weed free with intact structure. The vegetation within Ficifolia Road Reserve has been mapped by the RCC as having a high conservation value for the majority of the declared Flora Road. The vegetation within the reserve is Agonis, Ficifolia and Sheoak woodland and shrubland. Species include endemic *Corymbia ficifolia*, as well as *Agonis juniperina*, *Acacia myrtifolia*, *Allocasuarina sp.*, *Melaleuca sp.*, *Banksia sp.*, *Kunzea sp.*, *Homalospermum sp.*, *Callistemon sp.*, *Anigozanthos sp.*, and heath and sedge species. *Corymbia ficifolia* is endemic to this area - distribution occurs from Peaceful Bay to Walpole however the main population occurs along Ficifolia Road and Conspicuous Cliffs Road.

Weed infestation is generally low (0-30%) and most of the vegetation shows little sign of vegetation decline. All sections of the Flora road have a complete compliment of structural levels (Groundcover, Shrubs, Trees) and the length of vegetation acts as a corridor to other remnants of native vegetation in the local area.

Ficifolia Rd is surrounded by the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, is near the Bibbulmun Track, Environmentally Sensitive Area's (ESA's), Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's), threatened flora and threatened fauna populations are within proximity, Aboriginal heritage registered sites, and north of the South Coast highway is the iconic Valley of the Giants tourist road.

3.0 Specific Management Requirements

1. In line with the declaration of this road as a Flora Road the Shire has installed 2 Flora Road signs received from the Roadside Conservation Committee which it will maintain at the following locations (or near abouts) along Ficifolia Road Reserve:
 - a. Left hand road shoulder (if travelling east) at intersection of Conspicuous Beach Road and Ficifolia Road. Design plate facing west.
 - b. Right Hand road shoulder (if travelling east) at 6.4km from point a. with design plate facing east.
2. Surveys of this Flora Road indicated that utility services are present within the road reserve, namely Western Power and Telstra utilities. Management of these utilities within the road reserve should be sensitive to the significant conservation values of this vegetation. The Shire should advise utilities of the declaration of this road as a Flora Road and provide a copy of the Shire's Management Plan for this Flora Road to ensure utility providers undertake works appropriately in this reserve.
3. Surveys of this Flora Road identified 5 weeds invading the native vegetation within the road reserve namely, various Annual Grasses, Capeweed, Sowthistle, Dock and another unidentified Thistle. In order to preserve the conservation values of this road reserve the Shire will focus weed management efforts along Ficifolia Road Reserve for these species where possible.



Appendix 2: Tindale Road

1.0 Road Formation

Tindale Road is a one chain or 20 metre road reserve that runs the length of 11.6km. Much of the road is unsealed, formed gravel with a 3.5% crossfall. The drainage channel is largely unformed either due to soil type or slope of the landscape where the road is situated. Some road works to construct drains may be required in the future and should not be hindered by the declaration of this road as a Flora Road.

2.0 Environmental Values

Tindale Rd roadside vegetation is described as comprised of sections that are weed free with intact structure to sections that are weed infested with little to no supported native vegetation. The vegetation within Tindale Road Reserve has been mapped by the RCC as having a high to medium-high conservation value for the entirety of the declared Flora Road. The vegetation within the reserve has small pockets of *Agonis* shrubland however is predominately Jarrah/Marri/Karri forest. Species include Marri, Jarrah, Karri, *Eucalyptus patens*, *Melaleuca* sp., *Allocasuarina fraseriana*, *Kunzea* sp., *Agonis parviceps*, and locally endemic *Eucalyptus staeri*.

Weed infestation has generally low (0-30%) to medium (30-70%) levels of infestation and none of the vegetation within the reserve showed signs of vegetation decline. All sections of the Flora Road have a complete complement of structural levels (Groundcover, Shrubs, Trees) and the length of vegetation acts as a corridor to other remnants of native vegetation in the local area.

Tindale Rd provides access to Mt Roe National Park, and the northern section of the road is in a designated ESA. Threatened flora (*Dryandra serra* (P4), *Billardiera* sp. (P3), *Leucopogon polystachyus* (P2), *Spyridium riparium* (P2) (as identified in 2002 road reserve survey) and threatened fauna populations within proximity. Kent River catchment – the road parallels the Kent River.

3.0 Specific Management Requirements

1. In line with the declaration of this road as a Flora Road the Shire has installed 2 Flora Road signs received from the Roadside Conservation Committee which it will maintain at the following locations (or near-about) along Tindale Road Reserve:
 - a. Left hand road shoulder (if travelling north) at intersection of South Coast Highway and Tindale Road. Design plate facing south.
 - b. Right Hand road shoulder (if travelling north) at intersection of Tindale Rd and Northumberland Rd with design plate facing south.
2. Surveys of this Flora Road indicated that utility services are present within the road reserve, namely Water Corporation and Telstra utilities. Management of these utilities within the road reserve should be sensitive to the significant conservation values of this vegetation. The Shire should advise utilities of the declaration of this road as a Flora Road and provide a copy of the Shire's Management Plan for this Flora Road to ensure utility providers undertake works appropriately in this reserve.
3. Surveys of this Flora Road ten weeds invading the native vegetation within the road reserve namely, *Oxalis carnata*, flatweed, fleabane, pelargonium, artichoke thistle, lotus, apple tree, blackberry nightshade and mint. In order to preserve the conservation values of this road reserve the Shire will focus weed management efforts along Tindale Road Reserve for these species where possible.



Appendix 3: Scotsdale Road

1.0 Road Formation

Scotsdale Road is generally a two chain or 40 metre road reserve with some areas widening out to 4 chain (80m) and one location widening out to 120m. The road from the Denmark township to McLeod Rd runs the length of approximately 20km. The road surface is sealed bitumen with formed drainage channels and a standard crossfall of 3.5%. The drainage channels generally have mature vegetation established within them and in places vegetation (some mature) has established on the road shoulder.

This road is a significant tourist route within the Shire of Denmark.

2.0 Environmental Values

Scotsdale Rd roadside vegetation is described as comprised of sections that are predominantly weed free with intact structure to sections that are showing native vegetation decline with some understorey structure loss and weeds. The vegetation within Scotsdale Road Reserve has been mapped by the RCC as having a high to medium-high conservation value for the majority of the declared Flora Road, some areas fall to medium low conservation value where the road formation is close to Fencelines adjoining predominantly cleared land. The vegetation within the reserve has been identified as some Acacia mixed shrubland with dominant Jarrah/Marri/Karri forest. Species include Marri, Jarrah, Karri, *Agonis flexuosa*, *Agonis juniperina*, *Agonis parviceps*, *Allocasuarina decussata*, *Eucalyptus patens*, Bullich, and *Hakea varia*.

Scotsdale Rd has significant roadside riparian vegetation as it runs parallel to Scotsdale Brook in some sections. There is also a significant population of *Banksia seminuda* near Harewood Rd. This species distribution is from Dwellingup to Denmark, however it is usually yellow in flower and to 3m in coastal environs, whereas the more rare red-flowering variety is restricted to this area and grows to 20m. There is also significant diversity of vegetation communities along the 20km section of road from karri forest to wetland communities. The adjacent Harewood forest an example of 100 year natural regeneration after clear-felling logging.

Weed infestation ranges from 0-100% generally trending with the land use adjoining the road reserve. Some of the vegetation is showing signs of vegetation decline however surveys were inconclusive of the cause. The length of vegetation acts as a corridor to other remnants of native vegetation in the local area.

Scotsdale Rd is a major tourist drive accessing many wineries and galleries from the Denmark townsite in a loop to McLeod Rd and then back to South Coast Highway. The 2km Harewood walk trail and picnic site is accessed from Scotsdale Rd. The proposed Munda Biddi trail, and Bibbulmun Track are within proximity, ESA's, TEC's, threatened flora and threatened fauna populations are within proximity, Aboriginal heritage registered sites.



3.0 Specific Management Requirements

1. In line with the declaration of this road as a Flora Road the Shire has installed 2 Flora Road signs received from the Roadside Conservation Committee which it will maintain at the following locations (or near abouts) along Scotsdale Road Reserve:
 - a. Left hand road shoulder (if travelling west) at intersection of Barry Road and Scotsdale Road. Design plate facing east.
 - b. Right hand road shoulder (if travelling west) at intersection of McLeod Rd and Scotsdale Rd with design plate facing west.
2. Surveys of this Flora Road indicated that utility services are present within the road reserve, namely Western Power and Telstra utilities. Management of these utilities within the road reserve should be sensitive to the significant conservation values of this vegetation. The Shire should advise utilities of the declaration of this road as a Flora Road and provide a copy of the Shire's Management Plan for this Flora Road to ensure utility providers undertake works appropriately in this reserve.
3. Surveys of this Flora Road identified four weeds invading the native vegetation within the road reserve namely, various Annual Grasses, Watsonia, Victorian Tea Tree and Kikuyu. In order to preserve the conservation values of this road reserve the Shire will need to focus weed management efforts along Scotsdale Road Reserve for these species where possible.



Appendix 4: Mt Lindesay Road

1.0 Road Formation

Mt Lindesay Road is a one chain or 20 metre road reserve, at one point widening out to 50m where revegetation works have occurred. The road runs the length of 11.5km. Much of the road is unsealed, formed gravel with a 3.5% crossfall. The drainage channel is largely unformed which may require future clearing in areas where heavy rainfall can compromise the road formation.

2.0 Environmental Values

Mt Lindesay Rd roadside vegetation is described as comprised of sections that are weed free with intact structure to sections that are weed infested with little to no supported native vegetation. The vegetation within Ficifolia Road Reserve has been mapped by the RCC as having a high to medium-high conservation value for the majority of the declared Flora Road. The vegetation within the reserve is identified as Agonis woodland and Jarrah Marri forest with some areas of Karri forest. Species include Marri, Jarrah, Karri, *Agonis sp.*, *Eucalyptus patens*, *Pimelea sp.* and sedges.

Weed infestation is generally low (0-30%) however some areas were surveyed with weed extents between 70-100% weed coverage. These areas of high weed infestation are associated with old gravel pits and are currently under revegetation. All sections of the Flora road have a complete compliment of structural levels (Groundcover, Shrubs, Trees) and much of the vegetation acts as a corridor to other remnants of native vegetation in the local area.

Mt Lindesay Rd is accessed off Scotsdale Rd which is a major tourist drive circuit to many wineries and galleries in the area. Mt Lindesay Rd provides access to Mt Lindesay National Park, adjacent State Forest, Scotsdale tourist drive, ESA's, TEC's, threatened flora (*Chorizema reticulatum* (P3)) and threatened fauna populations within proximity, Aboriginal heritage registered sites, Denmark River catchment – the road parallels the Denmark River.

3.0 Specific Management Requirements

1. In line with the declaration of this road as a Flora Road the Shire has installed 2 Flora Road signs received from the Roadside Conservation Committee which it will maintain at the following locations (or near-about) along Mt Lindesay Road Reserve:
 - a. Left hand road shoulder (if travelling north) at intersection of Scotsdale Road and Mt Lindesay Road. Design plate facing south.
 - b. Right Hand road shoulder (if travelling north) at 11.4km from point a. with design plate facing north.
2. Surveys of this Flora Road indicated that utility services are present within the road reserve, namely Western Power and Telstra utilities. Management of these utilities within the road reserve should be sensitive to the significant conservation values of this vegetation. The Shire should advise utilities of the declaration of this road as a Flora Road and provide a copy of the Shire's Management Plan for this Flora Road to ensure utility providers undertake works appropriately in this road reserve.
3. Surveys of this Flora Road identified 13 weeds invading the native vegetation within this road reserve namely, various Annual Grasses, Capeweed, Nighshade, Bridal Creeper, Eastern States Wattles, Wild Oats, Freesias, Wild Pine, Kikuyu, Agapanthus, geraniums, large periwinkles and another unidentified Thistle. In order to preserve the conservation values of this road reserve the Shire will need to focus weed management efforts along Mt Lindesay Road Reserve for these species where possible.



4. The Shire should continue to monitor the health of revegetation works along Mt Lindesay Rd and conduct a survey of the needs for weed management in this area.
5. At the northern end of the declared Flora Road the road formation narrows substantially.