Tweed Shire Council
Roadside Field Reference Notes and Maps

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

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

### SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS WITHIN HCV ZONES

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

**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.

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