

Council Roadside Reserves Environmental Grants

The Council Roadside Reserves (CRR) project is a three year project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust and managed by Local Government NSW to help councils towards best practice roadside environmental management. It will build the capacity of councils to enable the value of natural assets in roadside reserves to be embedded into councils planning, reporting and asset management systems (Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) systems).

CRR has awarded the following local government organisations a total of \$1,205,206 in grants for projects to be delivered during 2017-2019.

Project	Applicant	Grant Amount
<p>Ballina's Roadside Vegetation Network – Managing for Ecology and Road Safety. This project will provide a vegetation superhighway for native species into the future. Roadside vegetation is a resource in Ballina Shire, where historic clearing has meant that roadside verges retain seed stock and provide refuge to native species. Maintaining a safe road network is also very important. Balancing the need for safety with an ecological imperative is the subject of the update of the Ballina Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, and making it simple to implement operationally is the target.</p>	Ballina Shire Council	\$50,000
<p>BVSC Significant Vegetation Mapping and Conservation. This project will identify significant native vegetation within Bega Valley Shire Councils' roadside reserves using the Rapid Assessment Methodology (RAM). High value sites will be identified through signage, and mapping layers will be produced and integrated into council roadside work processes, allowing field staff to access these layers. Staff training will be provided to increase awareness of roadside vegetation and to explain how to interpret and use the roadside vegetation layers. Use of the RAM will also facilitate the identification and prioritisation of conservation works, both in the road corridor and adjacent land, ensuring maximum conservation gains.</p>	Bega Valley Shire Council	\$47,200

<p>Bellingen Shire Council Roadside Environmental Management Plan. The project will apply the rapid assessment methodology (RAM) to identify areas of environmental significance within Council's Roadside Reserves. Key Council staff will be trained to trial the RAM and provide input to the state-wide framework. It will include incorporating assessment proformas into Council's tablet-based data capture system 'Reflect', as well as map the conservation status. The project will link to guidelines for roadside management, road construction and maintenance, which will be prescribed in Council's Roadside Environmental Management Plan using the LGNSW template. This plan will identify management actions, priorities, resourcing and alignment with Council's IP&R framework for endorsement by Council and implementation.</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire Council</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>
<p>Outback Shires Alliance Roadside Corridors - an Environmental Asset. The Outback Shires Alliance will expand its roads management strategy to include the entire roadside reserve along approximately 7,120 km of roads within the shires. This will be achieved by explicitly including roadside reserves in all relevant policies, strategic and operational plans, and by ensuring all relevant staff are trained in the practical application of roadside reserve management principles. The environmental and cultural values of this asset will be maintained or improved, and a formal connection will be established with other land managers including Local Land Services to enhance biosecurity and pest management outcomes.</p>	<p>Bourke Shire Council (regional project with Brewarrina Shire Council and Walgett Shire Council)</p>	<p>\$96,000</p>
<p>Roadside Vegetation as a Natural Asset - A Pilot for Coffs Harbour City Council. The Coffs Harbour LGA supports biodiversity important from national, state & local perspectives. Roadside vegetation heavily contributes to the aesthetic quality of the LGA and represents the LGA's natural values. Although Council has fine scale vegetation mapping, roadside reserves aren't recognised within asset management systems. Council is reviewing its Asset Management System and seeks to incorporate natural assets for three key roads into its Asset Management as a pilot leading towards an LGA-wide Roadside Environmental Management framework.</p>	<p>Coffs Harbour City Council</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>

<p>Edward River Council Roadside Vegetation Management. This project will review and implement a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan for all Council's activities, including maintenance and capital works. This will include GIS mapping of significant road vegetation throughout the LGA , preparation of a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, training of staff on implementing the plan, and formalising a Review of Environmental Factors process for Council's activities that incorporates consideration of roadside vegetation into the design and documentation process as well as the construction process.</p>	Edward River Council	\$48,000
<p>Valuing Glen Innes High Country Roadside Environments. The project will undertake a survey using the Rapid Assessment Methodology of high conservation value roadside environments in the Glen Innes LGA, building on previous surveys and the Glen Innes Severn Council Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) that was implemented in 2002. The project will review the RVMP and upgrade the plan to include current best practice based on the findings of the review and to align with Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. The project will also upgrade Council's Geographical Information System roads vegetation layer.</p>	Glen Innes Severn Council	\$45,000
<p>An Innovative Solution to Measuring & Revaluing Griffith's Roadside Reserves. Griffith City Council currently has limited knowledge of roadside vegetation in the LGA. Council proposes to undertake comprehensive surveys of vegetation communities and condition to address this issue and prepare a RVMP including prioritised rehabilitation goals. Roadside reserve best practice will be embedded into council's overall management and operational culture, providing a tool to meet aims 9 & 10 of Council's Community Strategic Plan document, Guiding Griffith 2040. Council plans to develop tablet-based field guides and mapping for council staff, and an app that explains the values and responsibilities for landholders in the roadside environment.</p>	Griffith City Council	\$46,500
<p>County Council Roadside Vegetation Management - Integrating Biodiversity with Biosecurity. Hawkesbury River County Council (HRCC) is the Local Weed Control Authority for Blacktown, The Hills Shire, Hawkesbury and Penrith LGAs. This represents over one-third of the geographic area of Greater Sydney, an area of 3,823 km². In 2015/16, HRCC completed over 375ha of weed control. Over 80% of this was conducted on roadsides (300ha). The project will raise staff awareness of the value of roadside environments and develop staff capacity to assess, rank and prioritise 300km of roadside reserve assets. This will facilitate the transition of HRCC into an organisation that improves roadside vegetation management practices to enhance biodiversity outcomes.</p>	Hawkesbury River County Council	\$44,000

<p>Roadside Assessment and Mapping of Environmental Values in the Upper and Lower Hunter Region. The project will involve - 1. Reviewing operational gaps in current procedures. 2. Piloting CREMF and Hunter Councils tools and resources. 3. Mentoring/training and council technical support to embed new systems, tools, processes into the IP&R framework. 4. Features of the Hunter Councils Regional Roadside Environment Program will contribute towards embedding roadside management into council's IP&R. 5. Several assessment approaches will be developed, implemented and evaluated to reflect the diversity of council's needs in roadside environment management. 6. A Roadside Policy will be developed for both Muswellbrook Shire Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council.</p>	<p>Hunter Councils Inc. (regional project – includes Upper Hunter Shire Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council and Port Stephens Council)</p>	<p>\$99,306</p>
<p>Integrating Roadside Management into Everyday Practices. This project is about building on the work already done with the Roadside Environmental Management Plan and integrating it into the everyday practices of the organisation. This will be achieved through developing documentation and practices that are implemented at the ground level and ensuring that staff and contractors are appropriately trained. All documentation and practices will link back to the Council's asset and information management systems which are key elements of IP&R.</p>	<p>Moree Plains Shire Council</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>
<p>Council Roadside Reserves Environmental Grant. This project will improve the implementation of best practice in management of roadside reserves. Steps to achieve this include building skills and processes to an acceptable level, developing policies and procedures, training staff, and making a start on assessing known significant areas.</p>	<p>Narrandera Shire Council</p>	<p>\$41,000</p>
<p>Develop and Trial Roadside Vegetation Management Plan for Oberon Council. The Oberon Roadside Vegetation Management Project will mainstream roadside environmental management into Council's overall service delivery and asset management by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing current status of Council's roadside reserves using Rapid Assessment Methodology and GIS Mapping • Developing a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) for the Oberon LGA and embedding it into Council's IP&R Framework • Building capacity of Council staff to implement RVMP into the management of roadside reserves • Raising Awareness of stakeholders of the conservation value of roadside reserves • Trialling and evaluating the RVMP into a capital works project on the Abercrombie Road 	<p>Oberon Council</p>	<p>\$47,580</p>

<p>Developing a New Roadside Vegetation Management Plan for the Parkes Shire. This project will involve developing a new Roadside Vegetation Management Plan for Parkes Shire Council (last edition 1997) that will be integrated into Council's IP&R framework through its Delivery Program. Vegetation mapping will be undertaken using the Rapid Assessment Methodology (RAM) and maps and GIS layers of roadside vegetation will be produced. Once finalised, roadside vegetation best practice management training and resources will be provided to Council staff to ensure long-term project benefits are sustained. The wider community will be engaged through information handouts, media releases and new roadside signage in areas of high conservation value.</p>	<p>Parkes Shire Council</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>
<p>Managing Vegetation in Penrith Roadside Reserves. Almost all vegetation within the Penrith LGA is endangered. However, Council has no formal process to ensure that vegetation within roadside reserves is managed appropriately and also has limited understanding of vegetation condition and the individual threatened species present. This project will undertake an assessment of roadside reserves and identify high priority reserves. Council will then prepare a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan to guide future works and inform environmental assessment. A cross-Council team will guide the project and ensure that the plan is owned by the relevant areas of council and integrated into our IP&R.</p>	<p>Penrith City Council</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>
<p>Environmental Management System Deployment for Roadside Reserve Activities. Port Stephens Council has recently developed an integrated Environmental Management System, which is also embedded into the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IP&R framework) for council. Council is currently deploying the new EMS Framework for all operational activities including management of roadside reserves. Through the deployment of the EMS for roadside reserves management activities, data and knowledge gaps were identified, these in turn will inform the implementation of standard operating procedures. This project addresses these identified gaps to successfully implement and deploy the new EMS framework for activities in roadside reserves for the Port Stephens Local Government Area.</p>	<p>Port Stephens Council</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>

<p>Integrated Roadside Asset Management Supported by Drone Imagery. The project will trial high resolution drone imagery of roadsides to improve integrated management outcomes within environmental protection zones. Customised tablet-based software will incorporate the new imagery to enable more precise identification and mapping of roadside vegetation and other assets. Vegetation type, significance and condition will be verified using on-ground survey, including trials to evaluate the CREMF rapid assessment method in comparison with other methods. Natural asset data will be incorporated into Council’s asset management register for the pilot area and will be used to inform strategic land use planning and operational procedures within the newly amalgamated council IP&R framework.</p>	<p>Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council</p>	<p>\$80,000</p>
<p>Updating & Integrating Natural Assets into Council Asset Management. Roadside Vegetation is one of the most valuable plant communities, and Snowy Valleys Council will utilise the previous Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) to create a current RVMP using correlated state GIS data that reaffirms the value of the linear reserves to be employed in the field with the Rapid Assessment Methodology (RAM). We will also develop a Roadside Environmental Policy, while aligning the RVMP outcomes to Council strategic documents. Following this Council will develop environmental impact assessment procedures and tools for works on roadsides and conduct Environmental awareness/ecological assessment training to increase knowledge and integration across the organisation.</p>	<p>Snowy Valleys Council</p>	<p>\$79,620</p>
<p>Temora Shire Roadside Vegetation Management Plan Implementation Project. Responding to the recommendations of the Temora Shire Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, this project will be used to deliver specific actions that benefit the environment. This will involve developing a Council policy approach towards protecting and managing roadside vegetation. The project will also develop procedures for staff involved with considering proposals that may impact upon roadside vegetation, train managers, supervisors and staff involved with roadworks and drainage projects, improve mapping knowledge of existing roadside vegetation within Temora Shire and increase community awareness and appreciation of the value of roadside reserves.</p>	<p>Temora Shire Council</p>	<p>\$47,000</p>

<p>Best Management Practice of Roadside Reserve Corridors. Wagga Wagga City Council and Lockhart Shire Council are adjoining local government areas that have similar landscape features and vegetation communities as well as rural and urban land use activities. The partnership between the two Councils will ensure that the project provides value for money as well as opportunities to develop complimentary management strategies which will facilitate vegetation connectivity across political boundaries enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale. The project will include an assessment of roadside vegetation using the Rapid Assessment Methodology (RAM) and the development of a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, which will then be integrated into councils IP&R systems.</p>	<p>Wagga Wagga City Council (joint project with Lockhart Shire Council)</p>	<p>\$88,000</p>
<p>Wingecarribee Integrated Roadside Environmental Management Framework. This project will finalise the development of an integrated roadside management framework for Council. It will result in the production of a Roadside Management Plan (RMP) containing agreed position statements and guidelines for works and approvals, integrated with a refinement of Council's existing roadside prioritisation GIS model and ArcGIS Collector app for field data collection. This project will build Council's capacity in understanding roadside values and provide tools for a central point of reference for roadside management. The Council adoption of the RMP and linkages to Council's Environment Policy will ensure the outputs are sustained into the future.</p>	<p>Wingecarribee Shire Council</p>	<p>\$46,000</p>