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|  | GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGY NO.3 ROADSIDE VEGETATION REDUCTION STRATEGY | | |
| | Adopted | 20 April 2011 | Minute Ref: 247/11 |
| | Amended | | |
| | Next Review Date | As required | |

1. TITLE

Roadside Vegetation Reduction Strategy.

2. PURPOSE

The aim of this strategy is to outline Council's standards in relation to the management of roadside vegetation reduction and the protection and enhancement of the environmental value of roadsides throughout the George Town Council municipality.

Although the conservation of endangered and threatened species of flora is the primary objective of this strategy, road safety is the principal consideration for Council.

3. INTERPRETATION

For the purpose of the strategy, the following definitions shall apply:

- *Roadside* "the area from the back of the road reserve to the adjoining property"
- *Significant Roadside Environmental Area* "area known where listed endangered or threatened flora species populate"

Legislation relating to the protection of roadsides and roadside management:

- *Local Government Act, 1995*
- *Crown Land Act*
- *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*
- *Forest Practices Act 1976*

4. STRATEGIC PLAN

Key Area 4 – Environment & Heritage

5. ANNUAL PLAN

4.4 Environmental Services

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Objective:

To provide services and programs which enhance our natural environment and encourage good environmental practices in the community.

6. STRATEGY STATEMENT

Roadsides provide a number of uses including:

- Service corridors for the implementation and maintenance of telecommunications, power, water and sewerage
- Fire protection;
- Enhanced visibility and safety; and
- Nature conservation areas.

In accordance with its “*Policy No. 14, Road Hierarchy & Municipal Map*”, George Town Council currently undertakes slashing, grading and the spraying of weeds along its roadsides at least once per year.

This Strategy assists Council staff, contractors and the community in understanding and appreciating the need to protect vulnerable species of flora during programmed roadside maintenance and vegetation reduction.

7. OBJECTIVE

Matters of national environmental significance which are relevant to the George Town area include nationally listed endangered and threatened flora species.

Roadsides identified as having special environment values should be subject to specific management considerations to ensure the continued conservation of their value.

The following statements form part of Council’s Roadside Vegetation Reduction Strategy to maintain roadsides within the George Town Council municipality to effectively minimise fire risk, eradicate weeds and enhance visibility and safety whilst preserving populations of vulnerable and endangered flora.

7.1 Identification of Significant Roadside Environmental Areas

The following list of significant flora species have either been identified as occurring within a specific area or could presumably be found in road reserves and other council reserves with a predominant cover of native vegetation. Accordingly to the *EPBC Act Protected Matters Report: Coordinates*, these species are likely to occur within a 10km buffer of George Town.

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| Name | Status | Nominated Place |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Species or species habitat KNOWN to occur within the area | | |
| Shiny Grass Tree (Xanthorrhoea bracteata) | Endangered | (Aerodrome Road, Low Head) |
| Species or species habitat MAY occur within area | | |
| Native Wintercress, Riverbed Wintercress (Barbarea australis) | Critically Endangered | |
| Grassland Greenhood, Cape Portland Greenhood (Pterostylis ziegeleri) | Vulnerable | |

| Name | Status | Nominated Place |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Sand Grasstree (Xanthorrhoea arenaria) | Vulnerable | |
| Species or species habitat LIKELY to occur within area | | |
| Tailed Spider-orchid (Caladenia caudata) | Vulnerable | |
| Pretty Heath, Dan Hill Heath (Epacris virgata) | Endangered | |
| Clover Glycine, Purple Clover (Glycine latrobeana) | Vulnerable | |
| Tapered Leek-orchid (Prasophyllum apoxychilum) | Endangered | |
| Northern Leek-orchid (Prasophyllum secutum) | Endangered | |
| Creeping Dusty Miller (Spyridium obcordatum) | Vulnerable | |
| Shy Susan (Tetratheca gunnii) | Critically Endangered | |
| Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania | Critically Endangered | |

7.2 Signage of Significant Roadside Environmental Areas

Conservation areas should be clearly marked with the installation of signage. These signs are intended to inform Council staff and the community that significant species or species habitat are known to populate the area.

An example of appropriate signage would be:



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7.3 Fire and Weed Management

Roadsides should be slashed and sprayed annually to achieve fire management, and enhance visibility and safety. Threatened and endangered populations of flora are to be clearly marked or fenced off prior to commencing programmed roadside vegetation reduction works.

7.4 Use of Machinery on Roadsides and Road Shoulders

The movement of machinery during roadside vegetation reduction works and road shoulder maintenance on Significant Roadside Environmental areas should be confined to the designated work area and tracks to avoid damage to vulnerable species.

7.5 Damage or Removal of Listed Endangered or Threatened Species of Flora on Significant Roadside Environmental Areas

Where any such action, such as slashing, spraying of weeds, land development or road construction on SRAs is likely to have an effect on species listed as endangered or threatened, Council is to refer the matter to the Minister for assessment and approval. Failure to refer the action may render the person responsible for the action liable to substantial penalty.

Related Documents:

Council Policy No. 14: (Road Hierarchy & Municipal Map)