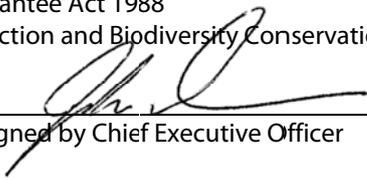




TREE CLEARING AND PLANTING ON ROAD RESERVES POLICY

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RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES:	Application for Works Within Road Reserve Permit Procedure Road Management Plan Road Asset Management Plan Infrastructure Design Manual VicRoads Traffic Engineering Manual
RELATED LEGISLATION:	Planning & Environment Act 1987 Road management Act 2004 Local Government Act 1989 Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	 Signed by Chief Executive Officer
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This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.

1 PURPOSE

This policy specifies Council's position on requests from the public for undertaking clearing or planting of roadside trees and vegetation.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to Council's Infrastructure staff and applicants for clearing or planting of roadside vegetation.

3 POLICY

Loddon Shire Council is the coordinating road authority for all local roads within the municipality, and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the local road network and associated roadsides. Council often receives enquiries or requests for vegetation planting or clearing on roadsides.

3.1 Tree planting

Other than part of a programmed streetscape improvement project, Council will not undertake any tree planting along roadsides.

Council will consider applications for tree planting along roadsides from individuals, conservation groups or state government authorities. Any request or proposal for tree planting within the roadside, regardless of whether the road is used or not, must be submitted via Council's Works within Road Reserve Permit Application process.

In considering applications for tree planting, Council will apply appropriate assessment tests to determine if the proposal will adversely impact upon the function of the road, third party assets or access to nearby private properties. Conditions on any approval for tree planting will be determined on a case by case basis and included within the permit issued.

3.2 Vegetation clearing

Council has responsibilities under the Planning and Environment Act to ensure that the removal of native vegetation along roadsides is minimised.

Council also maintains responsibilities under the Road Safety and Road Management Acts to preserve the safe and efficient movement of the travelling public.

Council will consider requests for tree clearing via:

- private application for vegetation removal as part of development of an unused road reserve, maintenance/operation of third party infrastructure or establishment of new property crossovers into the road reserve. Such proposals will require an approved Works within Road Reserve Permit, and in most circumstances, will also require an approved planning permit. All costs associated with the vegetation clearing will be borne by the applicant.
- requests for Council to address safety concerns associated with vegetation impact on vehicle transit or sight distance. In situations where roadside trees or vegetation is proven to be impacting upon the transit of vehicles along the roadway or impacting upon intersection sight distances and where Council is the responsible authority, consideration will be given to the removal of those trees or vegetation.

Such requests will be investigated by Council. Based upon the outcome of a risk assessment considering the appropriate engineering standards, Council may undertake the necessary vegetation removal works as the coordinating road authority.



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In determining the extent of vegetation which may be removed, Council will apply the design and maintenance standards for carriageways in its Road Management and Road Asset Management Plans or other associated road management standards e.g. VicRoads Traffic Engineering Manual.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights Act (2007). Loddon Shire Council is committed to consultation and cooperation between management and employees. The Council will formally involve elected employee Health and Safety Representatives in any workplace change that may affect the health and safety of any of its employees.

5 REVIEW

The Director Operations will review this policy for any necessary amendments no later than 4 years after adoption of this current version.