

WILDFLOWERS ON ROADSIDE RESERVES — CONSERVATION

1922. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Transport

What management plans or strategies are in place to ensure roadside reserves are properly maintained, to ensure the conservation of wildflower areas and effective management of weed encroachment?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The roads of Western Australia are managed mostly by local government, with Main Roads having responsibility for the primary road network. Management of a road includes the management of the roadside.

Main Roads approaches maintenance of roadsides for conservation purposes in a comprehensive manner. Firstly at the highest policy level Main Roads is committed to "Protecting and enhancing the environmental values of road reserves", which drives environmental endeavour throughout the organisation via an independently certified environmental management system.

Mapping and monitoring of the condition of roadside vegetation across the primary network is undertaken at a broad strategic level, and more recently on a site specific quantitative basis in the Wheatbelt where vegetation can be scarce.

Approximately 400 threatened flora locations along roadsides are protected by a marking system and protocol for maintenance works.

Weeds are managed by Main Roads' term maintenance contractors, who are required to implement their own environmental management plans that conserve vegetation, including control of roadside weeds.

Main Roads also has strategic revegetation plans for southern regions that aim to improve degraded areas along roadsides.

Local governments develop their own individual approach to roadside management. The Roadside Conservation Committee assists local governments through mapping of conservation values, preparing management guidelines, providing advice and training officers.