

Roadside Environment Policy

Date Adopted: 17 February 2026

Version: 4.0

Policy Objectives

The objective of this policy is to enable Council:

- a. To promote the environmental, social and economic values provided by roadside environments across council and to the broader community.
- b. To recognise roadside environments as an important asset that require active management in order to maintain and improve the values and services they provide.
- c. To promote consistency across council to the environmental assessment of roadside environments when planning and undertaking works in these locations.
- d. To promote consistency across council to the management, maintenance and rehabilitation strategies implemented within and adjacent to roadside environments so as to maintain and improve the ecosystem services and values they provide.
- e. To facilitate and encourage the sharing of experience, expertise and resources within council in relation to planning and implementing activities that aim to protect, maintain and rehabilitate roadside environments.

Policy Scope

This policy provides the framework necessary to provide:

- A consistent approach to the environmental assessment of roadside environments in a manner that meets relevant legislative requirements.
- A consistent approach to the design and implementation of works that are consistent with protecting and enhancing the environmental, social and economic values and services provided by roadside environments.
- The appropriate level of skills and resources required by council staff to effectively implement the objectives of this policy.

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to promote a consistent management and remediation of roadside environments. The policy will contribute to maintaining and improving the environmental, social and economic values roadside environments provide whilst continuing to provide safe efficient transport, communication and utility networks within the local government area.

1. Policy Principles

Well-managed roadside environments across council will:

- Reduce the impact of roads on the natural environment by providing an effective buffer to adjacent and/or downstream environments (e.g. wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat and corridors).
- Protect the built environment from damage and degradation caused by water, wind and soil pollutants.
- Continue to provide an important repository of the natural remnant vegetation.
- Continue to provide and maintain important linkages between larger patches of remnant vegetation that are integral to fauna movement and conservation.
- Directly provide habitat for a number of threatened flora and fauna species.
- Contribute to the consideration of items of cultural, historical and Aboriginal significance.
- Contribute to the protection of the amenity and aesthetic values provided by roadside environments.

2. Policy Responses

- Council will apply GIS mapping information available for key regional natural resource management issues to identify potential issues / constraints and the necessary management strategies required to address these when planning and undertaking works within roadside environments. Council will also consider and apply additional GIS information and data for this purpose as it becomes available.
- Council will apply the regional Review of Environmental Factors templates developed in association with this policy as the basis for assessing the impact of proposed activities on roadside environments.
- Council refer to principles and practices outlined within the Hunter Joint Organisation Roadside Environment Management Resource kit as a guide to minimise the impacts of council works and other activities on roadside environments within the region. These management guidelines include:
 - Water Crossings
 - Wetlands
 - Protected Areas
 - Fauna
 - Threatened Flora
 - Vegetation Management During Road Construction
 - Vegetation Management During Road Maintenance
 - Re-establishing Vegetation
 - Salinity
 - Acid-sulfate soils
 - Erosion & Sediment
 - Control – Road Construction
 - Grazing
 - Environmental Law
- Council will support the provision of training to its staff to improve their capacity to implement the appropriate environmental assessment and management practices required to achieve the objectives of this policy.

Policy Definitions

Roadside Environment: For the purpose of this policy, a Roadside Environment is defined as ‘the entire width of the road reserve between the edge of the road pavement and the adjacent property boundary’

Roadside Environment Activity: For the purposes of this policy, a Roadside Environment Activity is defined as ‘any maintenance, construction or rehabilitation task undertaken within the roadside environment’. Examples of activities include grading, shoulder grading, slashing / mowing, weed control, road reconstruction or upgrading, revegetation, drainage and utility works.

Land to which the policy applies: This policy applies to all roadside environments that are under the care, control and management of council.

Policy Administration

Business Group:	City Services
Responsible officer:	Director City Services
Council reference:	12.1
Policy review date:	Three years from date of adoption
File number:	35/1
Relevant legislation	Contaminated Lands Management Act 1997 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 Fisheries Management Act 1994 Heritage Act 1997 Local Government Act 1993 Biosecurity Act 2015 Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 Biosecurity Regulation 2017 Biodiversity Regulation 2017 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 Local Land Services Act 2013 Maitland Local Environmental Planning 2011

	<p>State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2021</p> <p>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</p> <p>Roads Act 1993</p> <p>Rural Fires Act 1997</p> <p>Waste Management Act 2000</p>
Related documents	

Policy History

VERSION	DATE APPROVED	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
1.0	12 August 2014	New policy adopted
2.0	28 August 2018	Policy reviewed
3.0	22 February 2022	Reviewed Policy adopted
3.1	-	Updated to new branding and alignment to organisation structure. No change to content.
4.0	17 February 2026	Management guideline naming changes to reflect naming changes in current Regional Roadside Environment Resource Kit