



## The REC Newsletter

August 2011 Edition 7

The aim of this newsletter is to profile the NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC) and share information about the management of NSW linear reserve environments. For more information on the REC, including how to create roadside vegetation management plans, go to: [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/rec](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/rec)

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### Latest news from the REC

- ❖ The REC is sponsoring a new **Roadside Environmental Management Award** as part of the LGSA's 2011 Excellence in Environment Awards to be announced on 29 November 2011. NSW local councils are encouraged to apply for the Award. Further details about the Award can be found at <http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/511-environment-awards.asp>. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 31 August 2011.
- ❖ The REC has released its Annual Report for 2010-11. Copies of the Annual Report are available from the REC Executive Officer (contact details below).
- ❖ Mr Martin Driver representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW was recently elected as Chairperson of the REC for 2011-12.
- ❖ The REC provided financial support to the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy (HCCREMS) for a pilot training roadside environmental training program. The training targets staff across operational areas and management levels of local councils to ensure a consistent, organisation-wide approach to roadside environmental management at all stages of road planning, construction and maintenance. The pilot training was recently delivered to staff from Wyong, Gloucester and Singleton Councils. Following completion of the initial pilot, HCCREMS is aiming to refine and extend delivery of the training to its remaining 11 member councils.

### \$1.3 million to implement NSW Councils' Roadside Vegetation Management Plans



An opportunity exists for NSW councils to receive funding to undertake on-ground roadside vegetation projects in identified high priority roadside locations.

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) have been funded by the NSW Environmental Trust to provide grants to councils to support the implementation of priority roadside vegetation management projects. A total of \$1.3 million will be provided to

NSW councils to undertake these works.

Councils are encouraged to start scoping possible projects to ensure they are ready to respond to the call for applications, once announced. Projects can be for a period of up to twelve months. Priority will be given to projects that have been identified in Roadside Vegetation Management Plans or other relevant council policies and plans.

The LGSA is in the process of recruiting a part-time project officer to administer the grants program. Once recruitment is complete, work will commence on developing the funding guidelines prior to a call for project applications.

It is anticipated that a call for applications will be made around October 2011, with successful project funding announcements to be made by the end of the year and projects ready to commence early in 2012.

**For more information about this project, please contact: Kirsty McIntyre, Senior Policy Officer – NRM, [kirsty.mcintyre@lgsa.org.au](mailto:kirsty.mcintyre@lgsa.org.au) phone: 9242 4055 or 0404 861 724.**

### **African Olive in the Hunter region – a significant threat to roadside environments**



Over the past 10-15 years African Olive (*Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata*) has become a significant problem in the Hunter Valley, where it has become well established along roadsides, in particular along the New England Highway where it has formed dense monocultures.

*Image: African olive growing along a roadside (Hunter CMA)*

African Olive has a significant impact on remnant bushland areas as its dense canopies shade out surrounding areas, resulting in bare soil, soil erosion and loss of biodiversity resilience as native seed banks become unviable. It also invades pasture areas impacting on grazing lands. Trees can survive for over 100 years and are extremely hardy.

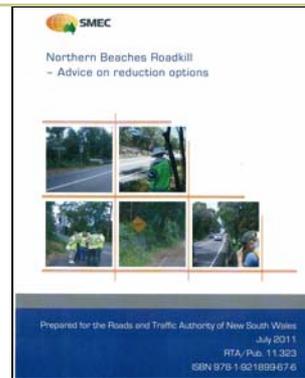
It is mainly spread by birds, so is mostly found growing under roosting spots such as telegraph wires, along fences and under and around trees and larger shrubs, which makes it a significant threat to roadside environments. Dense seedling 'halos' appear around the base of large roosting trees ready to develop when conditions are right.

The Hunter region has some of the worst infestations of African Olive in Australia predominantly in the Maitland and Singleton local government areas. The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has been working over the past five years to support agencies in the Hunter tackle African Olive along roadsides and on public and private land.

Treating mature fruiting trees can significantly reduce the seed source as a single semi-mature tree can produce 25,000 fruits. Control trials conducted by Maitland City Council have identified effective ways to treat mature African Olive trees and have led to a state-wide permit for an effective dosage rate and application method for basal bark spraying, which is less labour-intensive and more efficient than foliar spraying.

**To find out more about African Olive control in the Hunter region contact the CMA's Lorna Adlem on (02) 4930 1030.**

### **Northern Beaches Roadkill Reduction Options Report Completed**



The Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (RTA) in association with the Northern Beaches Roadkill Prevention Committee, recently commissioned consultants SMEC Australia to prepare a report recommending options that could be considered for reducing wildlife roadkill on McCarrs Creek Road, Mona Vale Road and the Wakehurst Parkway.

The report provides recommendations for short- and long-term options to reduce wildlife roadkill such as the use of seasonal electronic message signs, detailed investigations on local fauna movement, driver education campaigns and the extension of existing fauna-proof fencing along Wakehurst Parkway.

The RTA will consider and investigate the feasibility of the proposed recommendations. The investigation will include consultation between the Northern Beaches Roadkill Prevention Committee, local councils, the Office of Environment and Heritage, scientific advisors and NSW Police.

The RTA recently installed four variable message signs along McCarrs Creek Road and Mona Vale Road to raise driver awareness in locations of high fauna activity. The strategic use of such signs has been recommended in the report and their ongoing use will be considered by the RTA.

'The Northern Beaches Roadkill – Advice on Reduction Options Report' (SMEC 2011) is available on the RTA website:

[http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/sydney\\_region/northern\\_sydney\\_region/nth\\_beaches\\_roadkill\\_study/index.html](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/sydney_region/northern_sydney_region/nth_beaches_roadkill_study/index.html)

❖ **The RTA welcomes submissions on ideas and issues related to the report.**

### Myrtle Rust Update: New community mapping tool



Myrtle Rust continues to spread up and down the coast of NSW with detections known from Tathra to the QLD border. The current natural host list now sits at 107 species across 30 genera.

The mild winter conditions may have aided continued spread of the rust with fresh lesions still visible in many regions.

A new community mapping initiative is being developed through the Atlas of Living Australia [www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au) and will give concerned members of the public the chance to log cases of Myrtle Rust on an interactive map.

The data generated through the ALA mapping project will be available to the public, and will be utilised by a range of stakeholders, from government to private individuals, to manage Myrtle Rust into the future.

**Source: NSW Plant Biosecurity News**

**Do you have an article on Linear Reserve Environmental Management to share?**

The REC encourages readers to share ideas and information through the REC newsletter. If you have a project, idea or any other piece of news regarding linear reserve environmental management that you would like to share with others from around the State, we would love to hear from you. Email your ideas or articles to [akarwaj@molinostewart.com.au](mailto:akarwaj@molinostewart.com.au)

**For more information or if you wish to be added to the REC newsletter mailing list contact:**

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**Links:**

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