



The REC Newsletter

November 2011 Edition 8

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

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Latest news from the REC

- ❖ The REC held its August meeting at Bathurst. Bathurst Regional Council hosted the meeting which included presentations from the Central West CMA, Mid-Western Regional Council and Bathurst Regional Council about their initiatives for managing linear reserve environments. The meeting program also included a field trip to investigate issues relating to the management of Travelling Stock Reserves and roadside reserves in the Bathurst district.
- ❖ REC Chairperson Martin Driver and Executive Officer Neil Dufty presented about the REC and discussed local linear reserve environmental management at a meeting of the Central West CMA Local Government Reference Forum held at Wellington on 17 August. This followed a presentation by Mark Arrow, RTA Western Region, on 'the RTA Review of Environmental Factors Process'.
- ❖ Martin Driver also gave a presentation about the REC and discussed local linear reserve environmental management at the Lachlan Local Government Reference Group meeting held at Condobolin on 3 November.

Grant funding now available for Roadside Vegetation Projects



An opportunity exists for NSW councils to apply for funding to undertake on-ground roadside vegetation projects in identified high priority roadside locations. Applications are due by **2 December 2011**

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) have been funded by the NSW Environmental Trust to deliver the Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project (RVIP)

which provides funding to NSW councils to undertake priority roadside vegetation management works.

The objectives of the RVIP are:

- to allow for the protection, revegetation and regeneration of large areas of linear reserves across the State;
- to improve environmental condition and enhance ecological corridors in NSW;
- to provide funds to regional councils and help regional economies; and
- to add value to a considerable investment already made by the Environmental Trust which funded councils to prepare RVMPs in 2005.

Projects to be funded must be identified as priority works through council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP), or other equivalent approved NSW council plan. More detail on eligible projects is available in the RVIP - Guideline for Applicants available on the LGSA website: www.lgsa.org.au/roadgrants.

A total of \$1.3 million in funding will be available to NSW councils. Projects can be for a period of up to 12 months and must commence by 29 February 2012.

Individual councils may apply for grants of up to \$50,000. Two or more councils may wish to apply for a regional project. Grants of up to \$100,000 are available for such projects.

Grant applications will be assessed against applications from other similarly sized councils (based on LGA population). The following categories apply:

- Less than 20,000 people
- 20,000 – 60,000 people
- Over 60,000 people

For regional/joint applications from two or more councils, the category will be determined by the combined populations of the applicant councils.

Application forms and more detail on applying for a grant is available at: www.lgsa.org.au/roadgrants with all applications due by **2 December 2011** via email to: RVIP@lgsa.org.au.

This is an exciting opportunity for NSW councils to secure additional resources to assist in the implementation of some of their key roadside vegetation management priorities.

For further information please contact:

Kirsty McIntyre, Project Manager - Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project, LGSA on 9242 4055 or kirsty.mcintyre@lgsa.org.au.

Finalists in the Roadside Environmental Management Award announced



The Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards were initiated by the LGSA in 1998 and are held annually. The Awards are open to all councils in NSW and aim to recognise outstanding achievements by NSW Local Government in managing and protecting the environment.

This year includes 13 sponsored categories, with a new category - the Roadside Environmental Management Award - sponsored by the NSW Roadside Environment Committee.

The 2011 Awards will be presented at a showcase/awards function on the morning of Tuesday 29 November at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Circular Quay, Sydney.

The finalists in the 2011 Roadside Environmental Management Award are:

- Cooma-Monaro Shire Council: *Cooma-Monaro Shire Council Native Vegetation Roadside Vegetation GIS Layer*
- Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy (HCCREMS): *Regional Roadside Vegetation Marker Scheme*
- Mid-Western Regional Council: *Roadside Corridor Management Project*

Mapping of linear reserves that are high risk pathways for weeds



The REC this year has sponsored a project with the Sydney Weeds Committee, focusing on the spread of invasive grasses along linear reserves and transport corridors. The first step towards better management of weeds along these linear reserves is an understanding of where the main problem areas are geographically located.

*Image - Working with the weeds officers to identify high risk pathways and weedy hot spots in Sydney North region.
Photo: Sydney Weeds Committee Inc*

Over the last five months, the Sydney Weeds Committee has facilitated several interactive mapping activities as a way of drawing out the knowledge and expertise of the weed management officers working on the ground all over the Sydney and Blue Mountains region. The officers, working for local councils and state government agencies, were asked to identify the main problem areas where they are aware of serious weeds spreading along linear reserves and posing threats to areas of high conservation value.

The funding provided through the REC has enabled the Sydney Weeds Committee to employ a specialist GIS officer to transfer the information gathered by the weeds officers (using colour paper maps, textas and sticky dots!) to a GIS layer. Whilst it may appear a "clunky" method of collecting data, it is in fact very real and powerful information provided by approximately 60 weeds officers from throughout the Sydney region and Blue Mountains who are familiar with the land managed by their organisations (so the information is already "ground-truthed").

The GIS map will be added to and updated regularly as more information becomes available. It will be used as an ongoing strategic tool by the Sydney Weeds Committee, to work with the REC, specifically with government agencies such as the RTA and Railcorp. The map will assist in highlighting the specific areas of concern where the highest priority weeds need to be controlled. Examples of this are Coolatai Grass growing along the F3 corridor and infestations of Boneseed found along the M5 corridor. Both of these road corridors transect large areas of valuable bushland managed by national parks and councils.

It is also hoped that the GIS map, once it becomes available in early 2012, can be used by other regional stakeholders such as the REC, Catchment Management Authorities and local councils to assist with forming partnerships and attracting more funding for the management of weeds in these high priority areas.

For more information, contact Rosanna Luca, Sydney Weeds Committee Executive Officer on 9895 7488 or email Rosanna.Luca@cma.nsw.gov.au

Travelling Stock Reserve Conference held in Orange



On 28 July this year, 100 people came together in Orange to discuss the Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR) network. The aim of the conference, hosted by the National Parks Association of NSW, was to begin developing a framework of management principles for the shared and sustainable use of the TSR network.

Image – TSR between Nyngan and Bourke. Photo: Anthony O'Halloran

Delegates represented a wide range of stakeholders in the TSR network, including NSW Government agencies, Federal Government agencies, Aboriginal groups, recreational user groups, environmental groups, farmers, educators and other interested individuals and groups.

The day began with welcomes and presentations highlighting the cultural, environmental and economic importance of TSRs. Delegates then moved into discussion groups to share their knowledge and workshop management priorities for the TSR network.

There was general consensus at the conference that TSRs have great cultural, environmental, recreational and economic importance to NSW and Australia, and that communication and connection amongst groups and people with an interest in TSRs needs to be increased. Delegates at the conference also agreed on five key requirements for effective management of the TSR network. They were:

1. An authority with oversight of TSRs that has stable and adequate resourcing for the task. This could build on existing institutional arrangements such as the LHPAs.
2. Accessible data, providing more information than is currently available and in a more coordinated and streamlined format.
3. Representative management that brings together the various values and interests and facilitates networking and information sharing.
4. Educational programs to raise awareness of the wide importance of TSRs and their permitted uses, and help recognise and protect their Aboriginal and droving cultural heritage.
5. An assessment of the economic significance of TSRs using a framework (such as Total Economic Value) that incorporates their full range of economic, social, cultural and environmental values.

A working group is being formed from conference participants representing the broad range of groups with an interest in TSRs. This group will further develop a management framework in light of the conference outcomes.

Report from Kirstin Proft, Biodiversity Conservation Officer, National Parks Association of NSW

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 ndufty@molinstewart.com.au

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

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[REC Website](#)

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