

MEDIA RELEASE



Subject: **Roadside Vegetation Management Plan Community Consultation**

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The Rural City of Murray Bridge is seeking community feedback on the draft Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. This Plan outlines comprehensive guidelines aimed at preserving the ecologically significant vegetation in the region with the need for unobstructed roadways and enhanced visibility.

Native roadside vegetation in South Australia is recognised as a vital component of the region's ecological landscape. These areas often host threatened plant species and unique vegetation communities, serving as critical habitats for native wildlife. To protect and nurture this invaluable resource, South Australia enforces stringent regulations under the Local Government Act 1999 and the Native Vegetation Act 1991. These acts emphasise the significance of native roadside vegetation while acknowledging the occasional need for vegetation clearance to mitigate road user hazards.

The draft guidelines provide an intricate framework for The Rural City of Murray Bridge and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport to responsibly manage native vegetation within road reserves. Safety remains paramount, and the Plan clarifies where, when and how to secure approval from the Native Vegetation Council (NVC) for vegetation removal. Furthermore, a dedicated pathway for clearing native vegetation posing safety risks is outlined, ensuring that clearance is conducted with utmost care and consideration.

Mayor Wayne Thorley said, "This Plan will guide Council to manage our roadside reserves in a sustainable manner.

It is a crucial step towards implementing a wide range of environmental initiatives, which will help us to achieve continuous improvements towards environmentally sustainable development within our region."

The Rural City of Murray Bridge stands at the forefront of preserving biodiversity within its road reserves. These reserves represent crucial sanctuaries for remnant native vegetation, often situated in fragmented and isolated pockets. Council's commitment to conserving these areas emphasises our dedication to a harmonious coexistence between human infrastructure and our valued environment.

The Draft RCMB Roadside Vegetation Management Plan survey is available on the Council's Facebook page, Council's consultation portal letstalk.sa.gov.au and paper copies can be found at the Local Government Centre and the Murray Bridge Library.

The consultation opens today and closes on Thursday 22 February 2024.