

**Murrindindi**

Shire Council

# Rural Roadside Management Plan

2014 - 2018



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## **PART A: Introduction**

### **1. Purpose**

Municipal councils, property owners, service authorities and various other stakeholders have responsibilities to carry out a range of roadside management functions to protect roadside values. The purpose of the Plan is to draw together the different objectives, interests, legislation, policies and programs relating to rural roadside management into an easily understood and practical format.

The intention is to address the lack of clear definition, understanding and agreement across Council departments and the wider community about how roadside management activities should be carried out.

#### **1.1. Strategic Context**

The Rural Roadside Management Plan provides the strategic direction for rural roadside management in Murrindindi Shire.

The Plan sets out Council's position for managing rural roadsides including:

- Governance arrangements specifically the scope, lifespan, reviewing and reporting process.
- Context for roadside management including functions and values of roadsides.
- Environmental condition of Council's rural roadsides including conservation values.
- Roles, responsibilities and legal duties.
- Council's approach to managing roadsides, including principles and aims for roadside management.
- Standards to be achieved during the implementation of this Plan.
- Relevant legislation to consider when conducting management activities on roadsides.

#### **1.2 Operational Context**

A set of operational documents have been designed to support the implementation of this Plan. They include:

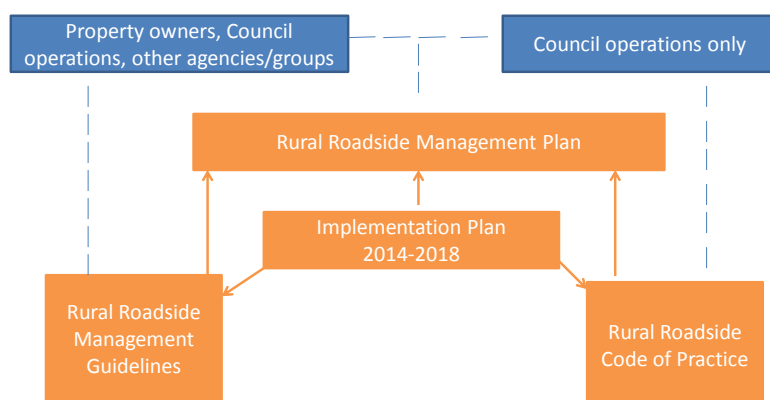
- Rural Roadside Management Implementation Plan 2014 - 2018
- Rural Roadside Management Guidelines 2014
- Rural Roadside Code of Practice 2014

The Implementation Plan has been developed to ensure that Council staff, other agencies and the community work together to achieve the aims of Council's Rural Roadside Management Plan. The Rural Roadside Management Guidelines (for community and Council) and the Code of Practice (for Council only) are resources to assist stakeholders in this task.

The Implementation Plan will assist Council staff communicate what Council's role is, and what can and cannot be done on rural roadsides. It also articulates what needs to be done to improve roadside management with the inclusion of a four year action plan.

This action plan will be reviewed in line with the Rural Roadside Management Plan's strategic review process. A key component of this review will be to assess how rural roadside management is fairing against aims of the Plan.

**Figure 1: Interaction between the strategic and operational context of the Rural Roadside Management Plan**



## 2 Scope

This Plan will pertain to all rural roadsides, trails and pathways throughout Murrindindi Shire which are the direct responsibility of Council as the responsible road, trail or pathway manager. The inclusion of urban roadsides, trails and pathways will commence at a later date.

Roads and roadsides although joined are managed as two separate entities. A road management zone is the road pavement and shoulders inclusive of 1.5 meters behind the road shoulder edge and a minimum 5 m height clearance over road pavement and shoulders. A roadside on the other hand starts generally at the outer edge of the table drain and ends at the adjacent property line or boundary.

## 3 Lifespan, reviewing and reporting processes

The Plan is scheduled to be formally reviewed every four years to provide an opportunity to validate its principles, aims and standards and ensure it is aligned with the Council Plan as well as relevant legislation. The Implementation Plan 2014 - 2018 contains actions for implementation over the next four years. This will be reviewed and updated at the end of each four year cycle.

## 4 Users

The primary users of this Plan; and its operational documents will be Murrindindi Shire Council (MSC) staff and interested stakeholders. The content of the Plan is of interest to a wide range of stakeholders who, at various times, need to access Council roadside reserves to carry out specific works. The Plan and its operational documents are a resource for Council officers and other stakeholders about what can and cannot be done on Council-managed roadside reserves.

## **PART B: Roadside Management**

### **1. Managing Roadsides**

Due to their narrow linear nature, roadsides are susceptible to conservation value decline due to: invasion by pest plants and animals; encroachment of farming activities and urban development; firewood collection; road maintenance and construction works; inappropriate fire prevention activities (i.e. slashing, grading, spraying, grazing); and the installation and maintenance of utility services.

These activities, when managed inappropriately, have the potential to negatively impact roadside vegetation and habitat and reduce the quality of roadside environments.

Landholders across Murrindindi Shire and in other areas of Victoria hold divergent views about the management of roadsides including:

- Managing the risk of fire.
- Recovering fire affected areas.
- Addressing land management issues including erosion and the spread of pest plants and animals.
- Using roadsides for agricultural or horticultural purposes including livestock grazing, droving, cropping, haymaking, fencing etc.
- Collecting dead or living plant-based materials from roadsides (e.g. firewood, seeds etc.)
- Using herbicides for the control of weeds or the spraying of road edges and drains.
- Tidying up or gardening on roadsides reserves.
- Conserving heritage and cultural values.
- Constructing or maintaining assets on roads or roadsides.
- Recreational use (e.g. off road tracks for walkers, horse riders and mountain bikes)

Table 1 summaries the above-listed activities in terms of the values they provide to community.

**Table 1: Roadside Functions and Values**

FUNCTION	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Native Vegetation</li> <li>❖ Fauna</li> <li>❖ Significant Environmental Areas</li> <li>❖ Unused Road Reserves</li> <li>❖ Wildlife Corridors</li> <li>❖ Visual Amenity</li> <li>❖ Heritage</li> </ul>	<p><b>Environmental Values</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Weed and Pest Animal Control</li> <li>❖ Good Agricultural Management</li> <li>❖ Soil Erosion and Sediment Control</li> <li>❖ Firewood Collection</li> <li>❖ Fire Management</li> </ul>	<p><b>Land Management Values</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Wayside Stops</li> <li>❖ Recreational Activities e.g. horse riding, 4WD, mountain biking, walking</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recreational Values</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Construction &amp; Maintenance</li> <li>❖ Stormwater Drainage &amp; Run-off</li> <li>❖ Litter Control</li> <li>❖ Dust Control</li> <li>❖ Stockpiles &amp; Dump Sites</li> <li>❖ Utility Services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Infrastructure Values</b></p>

## 2. Environmental Context

Before European settlement a diverse range of vegetation types existed across Murrindindi Shire including dominant species of Mountain Ash, River Red Gum, Grey Box, Red Box and Yellow Box with occurrence ranging from river flats to sub-alpine forests. Understory plants within forests, woodlands and grasslands consisted of a mosaic of shrubs, wildflowers and native grasses. In some areas of the Shire, landscapes have been significantly modified and extensively cleared following European settlement. Over 60% of the Goulburn Broken Catchment has been cleared; and incremental loss is still occurring for a range of reasons including permitted and illegal removal of vegetation.

There are some 2,168 recorded native plant species, and 393 recorded native fauna species in the Murrindindi Shire. Around 49 of these species are protected under state and federal environmental legislation. Appendix 2 of the Murrindindi Shire Council Environment Strategy provides a list of Ecological Vegetation Classes and flora and fauna species of Murrindindi Shire. The Strategy is available via [www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au).

### Figure 1: A simple aerial illustrates the importance of our roadside corridors.

Aside from national parks, native vegetation and animal habitat (across the landscape) is predominately restricted to roadsides and waterways. As 'biolinks' or wildlife corridors they provide vital connectivity for native species - enabling them to move from scattered paddock trees into bigger parklands and reserves.



## 3. Roles

### 3.1 Council

Council is the responsible road authority for municipal roads and their roadsides. Under the *Road Management Act 2004*, Council, among other roles, has a role in determining its own asset management policies, standards, plans and maintenance procedures. Murrindindi Shire Council's Road Management Plan articulates Council's role in managing the following assets:

- Road structure including earth formation, road pavement and road surface.
- Road drainage such as table drains, kerbs, culverts, pits etc.
- Road signs, guideposts and pavement markings.
- Bridges and major culverts.
- Constructed pathways (sealed or unsealed).
- Sealed and unsealed car parks.
- Planted street trees in urban areas.
- Vegetation control to maintain line of sight, visibility of guideposts and road signs and suitable clear zones (i.e. trimming or removing potentially dangerous limbs and trees).
- Weed control.

Council is also the land manager of municipal roadsides and is required to provide services to community under the *Local Government Act 1989*, and other Acts of Parliament. These can be broken down into proactive management and reactive management services and are summarised in Table 2:



**Table 2: Council’s roadside management services**

<b>Proactive</b>	<b>Reactive</b>
Road inspections and audits	Customer requests (hazardous trees, signage, potholes and other road hazards, fuel load, etc.)
Annual maintenance plans as defined in MSC Road and Road Asset Management Plan also inclusive of Great Victorian Rail Trail.	Emergency response (cutting and removing fallen vegetation and debris after extreme weather events)
Annual capital works projects including renewal, upgrades or new roads	Statutory planning or local laws referrals (i.e. permit, consent for works in a roadside reserve or building applications)
Declared weeds and pest animal control works in accordance with MSC Roadside Weed and Pest Animal Control Plan (as defined by the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> )	Capital works or maintenance referrals (i.e. environmental impact assessments)
Native vegetation protection in accordance with Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme and MSC Environment Strategy	
Annual fire management works in accordance with <i>Murrindindi Shire and Lake Mountain Municipal Fire Management Plan</i>	

### **3.2 Property Owners**

Under legislation, Council in partnership with the State Government is responsible for managing municipal roadsides, while VicRoads is responsible for roads under its control which including main arterial roads and highways.

While this is the law, it is financially impossible for Council to fully maintain every roadside in the municipality and to achieve the same outcomes as are achieved through the work that property owners do on roadsides adjacent to their land.

Council acknowledges a long held convention in Murrindindi Shire that where possible, property owners maintain roadside ‘frontage’ in areas where the Council’s maintenance program does not.<sup>1</sup> Many property owners maintain their property access points, fences, drains, weeding, spraying, or mowing.

### **3.3 Utility Service Authorities**

Utility service authorities such as water, power and telephone companies need to install and maintain facilities and equipment for their customers. Utility service authorities are responsible for ensuring reliable service provision to customers and achieve this through regular inspections and maintenance.

<sup>1</sup> Council’s *Road Management Plan, Road Asset Management Plan*, and maintenance policies and procedures determine what and when ‘something’ gets maintained on a road or roadside. These decisions are prioritised on road function and role in the broader road network, constructions standard, road use (number and types of vehicles), level of risk (in terms of potential road or fire hazards/incidents) and biodiversity conservation value.

## PART C: Legal Duties and Responsibilities

### 1. Legal Duties

Roadside management is governed by a wide range of local, state and federal legislation to ensure the safety of road users, control and maintain property/assets and protect heritage and environmental values.

Appendix 1 details a suite of legislative responsibilities that Council staff and other stakeholders are obliged to following when carrying out their road management roles. These laws apply to areas such as fire management, community safety, cultural heritage, water, land and catchment management and flora and fauna protection.

The implementation of this Plan must, at all times, be consistent with the legislation listed in Appendix 1.

#### 1.1 Council

Murrindindi Shire Council is the responsible road authority for approximately 1,238 kilometres of municipal public roads within its boundaries. It is important to note this does not include every government road or public highway within the Shire, but only those which fit the definition of a 'Public Road' as described in the *Murrindindi Shire Council Road Management Plan*.

Under the *Road Management Act 2004*, the Council has a legal duty to manage the following roads:

- Local municipal roads that are on Council's *Register of Public Roads*
  - The whole road reserve as defined under the *Road Management Act 2004* and associated regulations.
- Some parts of arterial roads of Vic Roads controlled roads within the 60km zones of townships<sup>2</sup>:
  - Any part of roadway not used by through traffic
  - Any service road
- Fuel reduction corridors and fire access roads (that are a local municipal road as defined on the Council's Register of Public Roads).

All roads under Council's management responsibility are listed in the Murrindindi Shire Council Register of Public Roads. Council's level of service for these roads is described in the Murrindindi Shire Council Road Management Plan; the Murrindindi Shire Council Road Asset Management Plan; and, the Murrindindi Shire and Lake Mountain Municipal Fire Management Plan. All these documents are available via [www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au).

Murrindindi Shire Council is also the responsible land manager for municipal roadsides. In this role, Council is legally responsible for protecting land and environmental values while at the same time managing fuel loads for fire preparedness. Such responsibilities must be done in accordance to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme and its associated provisions, as well as state and federal legislation such as the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*, the *Emergency Management Act 1986*, the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

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<sup>2</sup> These roads are excluded from this Plan, and will be managed under the guidance of an urban road document to be produced at a later date.

## 1.2 VicRoads

Vic Roads are responsible for managing 13 Arterial Roads (highways, main roads & tourist roads) in Murrindindi Shire including:

- Arterial roads
  - The section of the roadway used by through traffic
  - The roadside in any area that is not an urban area

VicRoads is the responsible land manager of arterial roadsides, and shares the same responsibility for protecting land and environmental values and managing fuel loads for fire preparedness as Murrindindi Shire Council.

## 1.3 Department of Environment and Primary Industries and other agencies

A number of roads exist on Crown Land, for which the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI), Parks Victoria and/or Goulburn Murray Water have management responsibility. Management of these roads will not be included as part this Plan, except where a maintenance agreement exists between Council and DEPI or another responsible road authority.

## 1.4 Utility service authorities and their contractors

There is legislation that governs the way utility services are designed and delivered primarily the *Electrical Safety Act 1998*, Electrical Safety Regulations, and *Telecommunications Act 1997*. Parts of such legislation require utility service authorities to manage vegetation obstructing the path of effective utility provision.

Under the *Road Management Act 2004*, any utility service authority or contractor wishing to undertake minor or major utility works on a municipal roadside needs to inform Council and may need to obtain consent from Council as the responsible road authority. The proponent of the work is also required to notify Council as the land manager.

### *Consent for works approval from responsible road authority*

'Consent for Works on a Roadside' approval enables a third party to access the roadside reserve in accordance with the requirements of the *Road Management Act 2004*. A fee is payable for an application for consent based on road classification and work type. The *Road Management Act 2004* requires:

- Notification to the coordinating road authority of any proposed installation of non-road infrastructure and related works; and/or
- Obtaining consent from the coordinating road authority prior to commencing work; and/or
- Notification to the coordinating road authority following completion of works.

Consent for works does not provide direct authorisation for works to proceed as there may be requirements for other permit approvals such as municipal planning permits<sup>3</sup>. The Road Management (Works & Infrastructure) Regulations 2005 define the classification of work types into minor works, traffic impact works (major) and supply extension works.

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<sup>3</sup> For example additional permits may be required from different local or regional planning authorities (Council, Goulburn Murray Water, DEPI, and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority) or the Federal Government (in the case of permitting work in the habitat of species protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*). Council can assist identify whether this is required.

Consent will be required for any works that have traffic impacts. Council can assist utility service authorities to identify whether this is required.

General exemptions for seeking Consent for Works on a Roadside approval include works that are not 'traffic impact works'. These include:

- Driveway maintenance works
- Mowing the roadside (e.g. mowing nature strips)
- Emergency works
- Works conducted in an emergency by, or with the authority of the relevant infrastructure manager e.g. utility, or provider of public transport.

Other exemptions apply depending on the type of organisation and nature of the work.

#### *Notification to and approval from land manager*

'Approval from the land manager' means written approval from Council to allow a utility service authority or its contractors to work on Council-managed land. As part of this approval, Council has a right to negotiate with a third party on particular standards that Council would expect to be observed, especially in terms of public liability (i.e. road safety) and minimising impacts on flora and fauna habitat.

Utility service authorities and their contractors have a duty to comply with relevant regulations such as the *Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme, Community Local Law 2012* and any other legislation relating to the management of roadside vegetation such as the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958, the Emergency Management Act 1986, the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, and the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.*

### **1.5 Property Owners**

Any property owner wishing to undertake minor or major non-utility works on a municipal roadside must inform Council and may need to obtain written consent from Council as the responsible road authority. Separately and in addition, the proponent of the work is also required to notify Council as the land manager. The rules around this consent process remain the same as the rules for utility service authorities. For further detail, please read the section pertaining to utility service authorities as outlined above.

Private property owners have a duty to comply with relevant regulations such as the *Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme, Community Local Law 2012* and any other legislation relating to the management of roadside vegetation such as the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958, the Emergency Management Act 1986, the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, and the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.*

## **2. Responsibilities**

In addition to legal duties are a range of responsibilities, some but not all governed by regulation. Council encourages staff, contractors, other agencies, property owners, and utility service authorities to meet these responsibilities by understanding and demonstrating best practice. These responsibilities can be summarised across five key areas as defined in Table 3:

**Table 3 Rural roadside management responsibilities**

<b>Asset maintenance and construction</b>	Maintaining road space and safety such as height clearance, line of sight, surface, drainage, signage, etc. as well as other assets such as property access points, drains/pipes/culverts, water points, fences, powerlines, telecommunication lines etc. These responsibilities are governed by legislation.
<b>Fire risk</b>	Implementing fuel reduction strategies to reduce fire risk. These responsibilities are governed by legislation.
<b>Environmental protection</b>	Protecting and enhancing environmental values such as native vegetation, flora and fauna habitat, waterways, weed and pest animal control. These responsibilities are governed by legislation if they fall under national or state significance.
<b>Visual amenity</b>	Protecting roadside amenity by maintaining the diversity of vegetation types providing distinctive landscape character in Murrindindi. In most cases these responsibilities are governed by legislation.
<b>Heritage protection</b>	Protecting sites of archaeological significance (aboriginal heritage, fossil sites etc.) These responsibilities are governed by legislation if they fall under national or state significance.

These responsibilities are articulated further in a range of non-statutory documents such as policies, guidelines, plans and strategies. There are a number of these relevant to this Plan, as outlined in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Non-statutory controls relating to roadside management**

<b>Victorian and Regional strategies</b>	<b>Murrindindi Shire Council strategies, plans and policies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Management Strategy 2013-2019</i></li> <li>• <i>Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy 2013 - 2021</i></li> <li>• <i>Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animal Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Goulburn Broken Biodiversity Strategy 2010 - 2015</i></li> <li>• <i>Goulburn Broken Catchment Local Government Roadside Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities 2010-2020</i></li> <li>• <i>Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy 1997</i></li> <li>• <i>Victorian Bio-Security Strategy 2009</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>MSC Vision 2020</i></li> <li>• <i>MSC Environment Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>MSC Environment Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>MSC Asset Management Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>MSC Asset Management Plans</i></li> <li>• <i>MSC Economic Development Strategy</i></li> </ul>

### 3. Council's Requirements

#### 3.1 Council's requirements of Council staff and/or contractors

There are specific legislative requirements that Council staff and/or contractors must observe which are listed in Appendix 1. All Council officers and contractors have a duty of care to comply with the legislation relating to roadside management. The standards laid out in this Plan are mandatory and must be followed by staff and/or contractors. In doing so, staff and/or contractors must use the *Rural Roadside Management Guidelines and Rural Roadside Code of Practice* and wherever practicable apply the key recommendations of these reference documents.

#### 3.2 Council's requirements of utility service authorities and other agencies

Authorities primarily responsible for constructing or maintaining assets on Council owned roadsides are listed in Table 5.

**Table 5: Service authorities**

Asset Type	Responsible Authority
Town Water Supply and Sewerage – Alexandra, Yea	Goulburn Valley Water Yarra Valley Water
Rural Water Supply	Goulburn-Murray Water
Rural Drainage (Open drains, channels & associated structures)	Goulburn-Murray Water Melbourne Water
Telecommunications	Telstra
Streetlights (lights and poles)	S P Ausnet - Council pays fee for operation and maintenance by SP Ausnet
Electricity for streetlights	Electricity retailer - Council pays for electricity use.

Other agencies commonly needing access to Council roadsides for specific works include:

- Department of Environment and Primary Industries
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
- Country Fire Authority
- State Emergency Services

Council is the coordinating authority under the *Road Management Act 2004* in relation to the use of its road reserves by utility service authorities wishing to install various road or utility infrastructures. Utility service authorities and other agencies have an obligation to notify council for minor works or to apply for consent from Council for major works prior to conducting works on a road reserve. There is also a requirement to observe adequate standards and practices in protecting environmental values and to fully reinstate any disturbed roadside reserve back to the conditions that existed prior to works commencing.

It is Council's requirement that utility service authorities and other agencies adhere to the standards set out in this Plan, as a minimum. Council recognises that utility authorities and other agencies have their own systems, codes of practice and policy requirements, but encourages their staff to reference Council's *Rural Roadside Management Guidelines and/or Rural Roadside Code of Practice* for further guidance.

### **3.3 Council's requirements of property owners**

All property owners of Murrindindi Shire have a duty of care to comply with the legislation relating to roadside management listed in Appendix 1. As with utility service authorities, any property owner and/or their contractors wishing to carry out minor and/or major utility or non-utility works has an obligation to notify council and may need to apply for consent to conduct works on a road reserve. There is also a requirement to observe adequate standards and practices in protecting environmental values and to fully reinstate any disturbed roadside reserve back to the conditions that existed prior to works commencing.

It is Council's requirement that property owners follow, to the best of their ability, the standards laid out in this Plan. Property owners can also refer to Council's Rural Roadside Management Guidelines and/or Rural Roadside Code of Practice for assistance.

## PART D: Roadside Conservation Value

### 1. Roadside Conservation Value

The challenge for local government is to balance the protection of environmentally significant roadsides with its obligation to provide safe passage on roads and address municipal fire prevention and road safety issues associated with vegetation.

A roadside assessment has been conducted to determine sections of Council-managed roads which contain intact, remnant vegetation providing fauna and flora habitat, and areas where the Department of Environment and Primary Industries has recorded rare, threatened or endangered flora and fauna species and/or threatened ecological communities.

This assessment began in 2007, and was completed in 2010. It is Council's intention to revise the assessment to improve its accuracy, as the state of the environment is ever changing. As a result, existing conservation value should be treated as a guide to alert stakeholders to the significance of Murrindindi's roadside environments. Any proponent wishing to undertake works on a roadside should contact Council's Environmental Programs Unit for an on-site assessment.

Over 280 roadsides reserves were assessed using the recognised methodologies of Roadside Assessment Criteria (Roadside Conservation Committee) and Rapid Habitat Assessment (Department of Environment and Primary Industries). Roadside conservation value was assessed in two different ways: a site specific assessment, and a landscape assessment.

Conservation value was scored in accordance to a range of attributes. According to their scores, roadsides were split into four classifications depending on points accrued from the assessment undertaken: Very High (VH), High (H), Medium (M) or Low (L).

**Table 5: Roadside classification scoring**

<b>1-7</b>	<b>8-14</b>	<b>15+</b>	<b>20+</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very high</b>

Definitions for the two are described as:

- **Roadside 'Site Specific' Assessment (For Operational Level)**

Site specific assessments focused on immediate fauna habitat values such as: presence of trees (including those with hollows), shrubs, ground covers, grasses, leaf litter, logs, rock crevices and whether the roadside is a wildlife corridor. Other attributes considered include roadside width, vegetative regeneration, site disturbance, and weed cover. Also considered are ecological vegetation class, type and status, and records and/or incidence of rare, threatened and endangered species.

- **Roadside 'Landscape' Assessment (For Strategic Level)**

Landscape assessments focused on the roadsides in the context of a broader landscape. Some of the site-specific attributes were considered in this methodology with the addition of other broader attributes such as how far the roadside is from a 50 hectare block of native



vegetation, and how much remnant vegetation occurs within a one kilometre radius of the roadside.

**Table 7: Conservation value of Murrindindi Shire municipal rural roadsides (by number of reserves, and corresponding percentage)**

Site Specific Value				Landscape Value			
VH	H	M	L	VH	H	M	L
15	59	89	126	10	47	77	155
5.2%	20.4%	30.8%	43.6%	3.5%	16.3%	26.6%	53.6%

Communicating habitat quality assessments is complex. A simple approach to communicating conservation value will better support implementation of this Plan. For example, this Plan will ask for stricter environmental management protocols to be applied on roadsides that scored 15 or more in site specific and landscape value assessments.

As a result the four tier classification system has been consolidated into three basic categories:

**Table 8: Simple classification definition**

Category	Simple Classification				Description
A	<b>Highly Significant Roadside (15+)</b>				Roadsides rated as Very High or High, have been grouped to form Category A Roadsides “Highly Significant Roadsides”
	<b>Very High</b>		Overall value		
	<b>High</b>		Overall value		
B	<b>Significant Area on a Roadside (15+)</b>				Roadsides rated as Medium or Low that have areas or pockets of high or very high conservation value have been grouped to form Category B Roadsides - “Significant Area on a Roadside”
	<b>Low</b>		Overall value		
	<b>Medium</b>		Overall value		
	<b>Very High</b>	Areas or Sections	<b>High</b>	Areas or Sections	
C	<b>Lower Significance Roadsides (1-14)</b>				Roadsides rated as Medium or Low along ‘whole of roadside’ have been grouped to form Category C ‘Lower Significance Roadside’.
	<b>Low</b>		Overall value		
	<b>Medium</b>		Overall value		



### Highly Significant Roadside (HSR)

**Figure 1: Frees Road, Terip Terip**

These roadsides have high conservation value and exhibit near natural site values or are only moderately disturbed. They are characterised by most of the following:

- Fauna habitat is high.
- Roadside exhibits most of the following attributes: trees, trees with hollows, shrubs, grasses, logs, leaf litter, rocks, crevices, wet marshy land.
- Extensive or moderate

regeneration.

- Fully vegetated or partly vegetated wildlife corridor.
- Low weed cover.
- Status of Ecological Vegetation Classes are endangered or vulnerable.
- Suitable habitat for and/or records of rare, threatened or endangered species.

### Significant Areas on a Roadside (SAR)

**Figure 2: Old Fawcett Road, Koriella**

These roadsides exhibit sections of significant habitat value. They are assessed as having been moderately disturbed to substantially modified and are characterised by some or all of the following:

- Fauna habitat is moderate.
- Roadside may exhibit some of the following attributes: trees, trees with hollows, shrubs, grasses, logs, leaf litter, rocks, crevices, wet marshy land.
- Moderate to slight regeneration.
- Partly vegetated or unvegetated wildlife corridor.
- Moderate weed cover.
- Site moderately disturbed to substantially modified.
- Status of Ecological Vegetation Class may be endangered, vulnerable, depleted or rare.
- Rare, threatened or endangered species may be present.



## Low Significant Roadsides (LSR)

**Figure 3: Allandale Road, Strath Creek**

This category covers value classifications for site specific assessments that are low or medium in conservation value. These roadsides have been substantially modified or highly degraded and are characterised by some or all of the following:

- Fauna habitat is low.
- Roadside exhibits few or none of the following attributes: trees, trees with hollows, shrubs, grasses, logs, leaf litter, rocks, crevices, wet marshy land.
- No regeneration.
- Not a wildlife corridor.
- High weed cover.
- Site substantially modified to highly degraded.
- Status of Ecological Vegetation Class generally of Least Concern.
- Presence of rare, threatened or endangered species is highly unlikely.



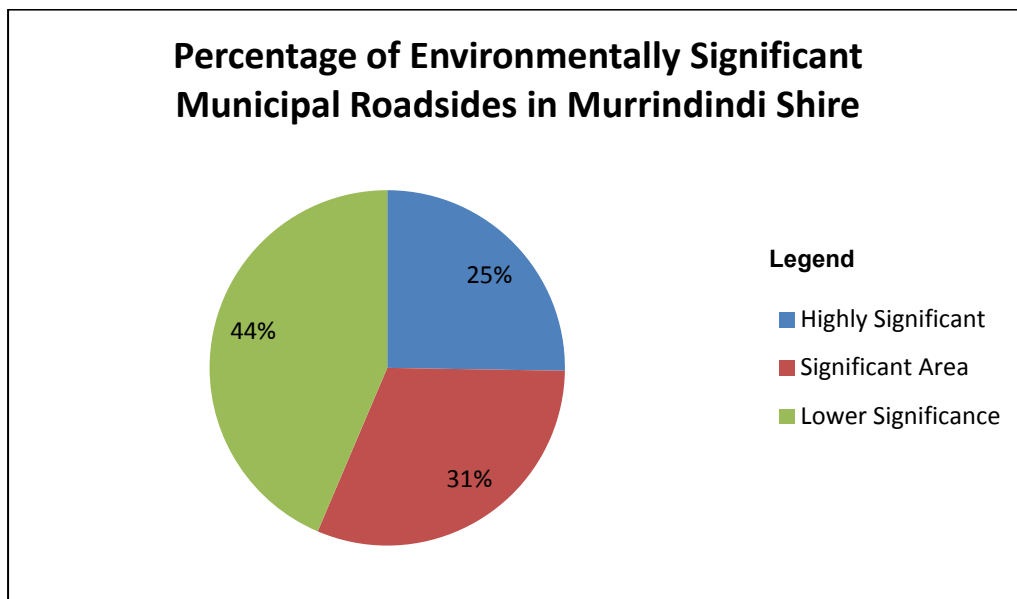
Council's management standards are stricter for the higher classification levels. For roadsides classified as low significance the management standards are more flexible; however this should not encourage poor environmental practice.

To assist in deciding which management regimes are appropriate on roadsides, the Roadside Conservation Value Assessment has been overlaid with road asset and fire management data.

This assessment, in a summarised version, is available as a booklet and through Council's geographic information system and will help identify and prioritise treatment regimes for more significant roadsides. Please refer to Council's Roadside Conservation Value Booklet or contact the Environment Programs Unit for further information.

Figure 1 indicates the percentage of municipal roads with a significant classification.

**Figure 1: Murrindindi roadside conservation values**



## **PART E: Council’s Approach to Roadside Management**

Council’s approach to roadside management is articulated in the sections below. The principles, aims and standards are ambitious and Council acknowledges it cannot achieve them alone. Roadside management is everybody’s business and while Council has responsibility for local municipal roads, there are a variety of people, groups and agencies using roadsides for different reasons. This approach to roadside management requires cooperation and support from our community and a variety of agencies and groups involved in roadside management.

### **1. Roadside Management Principles**

Council has developed a set of principles for rural roadside management that are required as part of Council’s road management roles and highlight the importance of conserving environmental values when carrying out activities on roadsides.

**Table 8: Murrindindi Shire Council’s Roadside Management Principles**

<b>Principle 1</b>	<b>Principle 2</b>	<b>Principle 3</b>
“The biodiversity, cultural and broader landscape values on roadsides are important to protect because they provide a rich and vibrant environment appreciated by all people living and visiting Murrindindi”.	“Activities that occur in roadsides (such as fuel reduction works, road safety works, utility maintenance, agricultural activities and recreation) must be appropriately balanced with conserving environmental values.”	“Any impacts of Council and third party-led construction and maintenance works must be minimised through proper planning, budgeting and management.”

### **2. Roadside Management Aims**

To address these principles, Council aims to manage rural roadsides in the following way:

- Manage fire risk through a considered and sensitive approach to fuel load reduction.
- Maintain the function of rural roads as a safe and reliable corridor for traffic movement.
- Preserve and enhance flora and fauna habitat.
- Manage the impact of recreation, agriculture, asset maintenance and construction activities in roadside environments.
- Ensure Council, other agencies and property owners meet their legislative responsibilities.
- Promote the range of values provided by roadsides to the community through engagement and education.
- Monitor the effectiveness of this Rural Roadside Management Plan and its associated standards.

### 3. Roadside Management Standards

It is Council's requirement that any party working in a rural roadside abides by the standards outlined in Table 9 and **where practicable**, follows these in conjunction with Council's Rural Roadside Management Guidelines and/or Rural Roadside Code of Practice. The standards set are minimum standards for planning and implementing any activity or works regime on rural roadsides and apply to activities lead by Council and to third party activities (those undertaken by property owners, other agencies, or utility service authorities).

Some standards have been in place for some time, well before the introduction of this Roadside Management Plan. Other standards will be new standards set by the Council.

**Table 9: Roadside Management Standards**

Standard	Status	Key Compliance	Compliance			
			Council	Utility	Property Owner	Other Agency
<b>1. All activities requiring removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation must be conducted in accordance to the Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme. This requires a planning permit to be issued by Council unless exempt under the Planning Scheme<sup>4</sup>.</b>	Existing	By Law (under the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> ).	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
<b>2. Any activity requiring removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation (dead or alive but not including the removal of standing trees) that does not trigger the need for planning permits or consent for works on a roadside must be done in accordance with the Community Local Law 2012.</b>	New	By Law (under the Community Local Law 2012).	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
<b>3. Council's infrastructure works must avoid and/or minimise the impacts on roadside conservation value – both in planning, delivery and finalisation. If offsets are required they must be budgeted for and legally secured prior to works commencing.</b>	New	Policy and Procedure	Δ			
<b>4. Fire prevention works included in Murrindindi Shire</b>	Existing	By Law (under the <i>Country Fire</i>	Δ	Δ		Δ

<sup>4</sup> A number of exemptions apply under the Victorian Planning Provision including: road maintenance, bushfire management, fencing, etc.

Standard	Status	Key Compliance	Council	Utility	Property Owner	Other	Agency
and Lake Mountain Municipal Fire Management Plan are to be carried out based on an understanding of roadside conservation value.		<i>Authority Act 1958, Emergency Management Act 1986)</i>					
5. Fire prevention works <u>not included in the Murrindindi Shire and Lake Mountain Municipal Fire Management Plan</u> (for example CFA brigade-led) are to be carried out in consultation with Council, and in accordance with this Plan. Specific treatments such as slashing and spraying must be based on an understanding of roadside conservation value and follow Council's Rural Roadside Management Guidelines where practicable.	New	By Law (under the <i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958, Emergency Management Act 1986)</i>	Δ	Δ	Δ		Δ
6. The guidelines for "Managing vegetation after extreme weather or storm events" should be followed to assist clean up of vegetation or debris following an extreme weather event.	New	Guideline	Δ				Δ
7. Activities to preserve and enhance biodiversity values must be delivered in accordance with Council's Environment Strategy and other environmental plans.	Existing	By Law (under the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999, Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994)</i> .	Δ				
8. Under <i>the Road Management Act 2004</i> , written consent for utility and non-utility works in a roadside reserve may be required, and if so, must be obtained from Council as the	Existing	By Law (under the <i>Road Management Act 2004)</i> .	Δ <sup>5</sup>	Δ	Δ		Δ

<sup>5</sup> Unless exempt under the Road Management Act 2004

Standard	Status	Key Compliance				
			Council	Utility	Property Owner	Other Agency
public road authority/manager before works commence.						
9. Where applicable, Council's Rural Roadside Management Guidelines and/or Rural Roadside Code of Practice should be adhered to by any customer seeking consent from Council under the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i> (to conduct either non utility or utility major works).	New	Guideline	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
10. The Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme and Community Local Law 2012 must be observed at all times including compliance with all of its provisions and permit systems.	Existing	By Law (under the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> ; & <i>Community Local Law 2012</i> ).	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
11. Any request to Council for major or minor utility or non-utility works in a roadside reserve should be referred to the appropriate department(s) if the application reaches internal referral triggers. Permitted approvals must be issued in consideration of the referred department(s) recommendations.	New	Procedure	Δ			
12. Any revegetation activities in a Council roadside reserve, rural trail or pathway should follow Council's <i>Revegetation Guidelines</i> .	New	Guideline	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
13. Council will communicate roadside values to community including environmental, land and cultural management values.	Existing	Communication	Δ			



## **4. Further Resources**

### **4.1 Rural Roadside Management Guidelines and Code of Practice**

The MSC Rural Roadside Management Guidelines are a useful resource for understanding how to conduct roadside activities sensitively such as: native vegetation removal, firewood collection, livestock grazing, fencing, utility service provision etc. The Guidelines are more general in nature and offer a range of best practice tips. The document has been designed to share externally with stakeholders such as property owners, utility service authorities, and other agencies.

The MSC Rural Roadside Code of Practice has been developed with the same intention in regard to understanding how to conduct roadside activities sensitively; however the Code applies specifically to Council led infrastructure works such as asset construction and maintenance. This may involve activities such as road grading, re-sheeting, drainage, vegetation control, spraying, and/or slashing.

While the document is designed for Council staff and/or contractors, utility service authorities and/or property owners (who have consent to undertake major or minor utility/non utility works in a roadside reserve) may wish to reference it.

Both documents can be read as stand-alone documents. They assist users of this Plan understand how activities can be conducted with minimal impact to environmental values.

### **4.1 Rural Roadside Management Implementation Plan**

A 'Rural Roadside Management - Implementation Plan' has been developed to ensure this Plan is implemented by the Council. The Implementation Plan is roughly divided into two main sections.

The first section is designed to help staff deal with issues and/or customer requests concerning roadside management in a consistent and appropriate way. The second section is an action plan, outlining the different projects and tasks that need to be resourced to improve Council's capacity to manage roadsides better.

Actions in this plan will be earmarked and delivered each year through Council's annual business planning process.

## 5. Bibliography

Cardinia Shire Council, City of Casey, Mornington Peninsula Shire (2004) *Sediment Control On Unsealed Roads: A Handbook of Practice Guidelines for Improving Stormwater Quality*

Country Fire Authority (2011) *Fire Ecology Guide to Environmentally Sustainable Bushfire Management in Rural Victoria*

Country Fire Authority (2001) *Roadside Fire Management Works – Guidelines and Procedures*

Corangamite Shire Council (2012) *Rural Roadside Management Plan*

Energy Safe Victoria (2010) *Electricity Safety (Electrical Line Clearance) Regulations*

Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group (2007) *Goulburn Broken Catchment Roadside Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols,*

Indigo Shire Council (2010) *Roadside Management Plan*

Murrindindi Shire Council (2010) *Environment Strategy*

Murrindindi Shire Council (2010) *Road Management Plan*

Murrindindi Shire Council (2012) *Road Asset Management Plan*

Shepparton City Council (2008) *Roadside Management Strategy*

Terramatrix (2011) *Road Bushfire Risk Assessment Guideline*

VicRoads (2006) *A Guide to Working in the Road Reserve* VicRoads, Victoria

VicRoads (2006) *Roadside Handbook: An Environmental Guide for Road Construction and Maintenance*

Yarra Ranges Council (2000) *Code of Environmental Practice for Works on Council Controlled Land (including Roadside)*

## **Glossary of Terms**

We acknowledge there may be different meanings for the terms used throughout this document. In the interest of clarity, this glossary provides a set of definitions for terms used in this Plan.

### **Asset Construction Activities**

Any works that involve road re-sheeting, sealing, widening or upgrading, bridge repair and upgrade, and major culvert and drainage upgrades. Works may be instigated by Council, utility service authorities and/or property owners and could include: power line clearance, maintenance or connection; telephone poles/lines; reticulated water and sewage pipeline works and/or private connections to sewer/water; driveway and access points; fencing etc.

### **Asset Maintenance Activities**

Any works that involve tree removal pruning, lopping, or other vegetation control works such as spraying, slashing and mowing. Maintenance activities could also include fencing, grading, drainage maintenance, signage and guidepost installations etc.

### **Council**

Any reference to Council refers to Murrindindi Shire Council.

### **Council Land**

Roads and land vested in Council or owned by Council or under the care and management of Council that are not set out on Crown Land.

### **Council Requirements**

Mandatory and/or encouraged (i.e. best practice) behaviour that the Council requires of its own staff, contractors, and stakeholders including other agencies, utility service authorities and property owners, working on Council-managed roadsides.

### **Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC)**

A component of a vegetation classification system, these are groupings of vegetation communities based on floristic, structural, and ecological features. The Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment has defined all of the EVCs within Victoria.

### **Landholder**

A person who holds responsibility for the way land is used irrespective of whether they own, lease or manage the land.

### **Legal Duties**

A work function that must be undertaken by Law in relation to a person(s) and/or organisation(s) legal responsibility.

### **Municipal Roads**

Roads that Council is responsible for managing.

### **Other Agencies**

Agencies other than Council that have roles, responsibilities and legal duties in relation to roadside management e.g. Department of Environment and Primary Industries, VicRoads, Country Fire Authority etc.

### **Rural Pathways**

Walking tracks that have been constructed along rural roadsides for the purpose of recreational use.

**Property Owner**

A person who may own, lease or manage a private property in Murrindindi Shire (inclusive of dwelling and/or land). Definition is also inclusive of a contractor or employee engaged to do works on behalf of a property owner.

**Public Road**

Includes only those which fit the definition of a 'Public Road' as described in the *Murrindindi Shire Council Road Management Plan*.

**Responsibilities**

A type of duty or obligation for which a person and/or organisation is voluntarily accountable for in regard to demonstrating best practice.

**Regeneration**

The restoration and regrowth of vegetation, which may include trees, shrubs or grass covers.

**Remnant Vegetation**

A remnant patch of native vegetation is measured in hectares and is defined as: an area of native vegetation with or without trees, where at least 25% of total perennial understory plant cover is native plants; and/or, an area (i.e. a patch measured in hectares) with three or more indigenous canopy trees where the tree canopy is at least 20 percent (of total area).

**Roadside Conservation Value**

A value which is determined by an ecological assessment of 'natural' attributes present on a roadside e.g. tree canopy, grass covers, fallen logs, weed cover etc.

**Roadside Management Aims**

Council's intention and objectives for the management of the rural roadsides for which Council is responsible.

**Roadside Management Functions**

Functions of a roadside describe the specific roles of roadsides, such as wildlife corridors, areas of weed and pest animal movement, wayside stops, stormwater run-off etc. Each function results in a positive (i.e. value or benefit) or negative (i.e. degrade, loss) impact on the environment and/or community.

**Roadside Management Principles**

Describes the 'lens' through which Council requires roadside management decisions to be made.

**Roadside Management Standards**

Describes the rules to be observed by Council staff, its contractors and any other stakeholder working in a Council-owned and/or managed roadside reserve.

**Roadside Management Values**

Describes the "public goods" provided by roadsides and gives them the importance and worth they deserve. These "goods" provide multiple benefits to community such as scenic appeal, cultural connections to place, as well as transport and access routes for people, goods and services. Roadsides are also recognised for their habitat value for native flora and fauna.

**Roles**

An overall function that a stakeholder has in rural roadside management, whether Council, another agency, a property owner, a contractor, utility authority etc.

**Rural Roadside**

Describes the roadside of any municipal road within the Murrindindi Shire that has a speed limit of more than 60 kilometres per hour, whether or not it is located within a particular planning zone such as a rural living or farming zone.

**Rural Roadside Code of Practice**

A code to identify and recommend best practice standards for the way Council and other stakeholders undertake works on rural roadsides.

**Rural Roadside Management Guidelines**

A set of guidelines that assist Council staff, contractors and external stakeholders to understand and adhere to Council's principles, aims and standards for rural roadside management.

**Rural Roadside Management Implementation Plan**

An operational document for Council staff that describes how to implement the principles, aims and standards for rural roadside management and to manage customer requests in a consistent and efficient manner.

**Rural Roadside Management Strategic Plan**

A term that describes this document: i.e. a strategic approach to managing rural roadsides in Murrindindi Shire that brings together various legal duties and responsibilities, principles, aims and standards to ensure best practice and legislative compliance.

**Rural Trails**

Refers to all sections of the Great Victorian Rail Trail throughout Murrindindi Shire, including those sections adopted by Landcare groups and/or maintained/leased by adjacent property owners.

**Special Protection Zones**

Special Protection Zones are zoning areas associated with Forest. While they have formal policy application in State Forest, they are a useful guide to identifying values in the landscape. For example no herbicide use is allowed within the Special Protection Zone of the Spotted Tree Frog in the Taponga River. Zones can be viewed on the DEPI external website in MapShare Forest Explorer or Biodiversity Interactive Maps < <http://mapshare2.dse.vic.gov.au/MapShare2EXT/imf.jsp?site=bim>>.

**Urban Roadside**

Describes the roadside of any road within the Murrindindi Shire that has a speed limit of less than 60 kilometres per hour, whether or not it is located within a particular planning zone such as residential or low density residential.

**Utility Service Authority**

An authority responsible for power, water, or telecommunication service provision.

**Utility Works**

Works that involve the maintenance or construction of utility assets (i.e. power, water, sewer or telecommunications).

**Non-Utility Works**

Works that involve in any maintenance or construction of non-utility assets such as driveway or property access points, private drains, fences, tree removal, etc.

**Vegetation/Vegetated**

Relates to all plant life including trees, shrubs and ground covers.

**Wildlife Corridor**

An area of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures which enables the movement of wildlife from one patch (or habitat area) to another.

**Appendix 1 – Relevant Legislation**

Environmental Legislation		Asset/Infrastructure Legislation		Emergency Management Legislation		Heritage Legislation		Other Legislation	
<b>Environment and Biodiversity Protection Act, 1999 (Federal)</b>	Federal government legislation protecting and managing nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. All land managers must comply with this Act. As a land manager Council has a duty to comply with this Act in cases where our land has matters defined in this Act as nationally or internationally important.	<b>Road Management Act, 2004 (Vic)</b>	The main Victorian legislation relating to road management in Victoria. The purpose of the Act is to establish a coordinated management system for public roads that will promote safe and efficient State and local public road networks and the responsible use of road reserves for other legitimate purposes, such as the provision of utility services. All road users and road authorities must comply with this Act. As a road authority, Council is allocated powers, functions and a range of provisions that must be complied with when managing roads under its control.	<b>Country Fire Authority Act, 1958 (Vic)</b>	Victorian government legislation in relation to fire management in Victoria. All land managers have a responsibility to manage the risk of fire on their land. As a local government, Council must comply with this Act and is required to develop a Municipal Fire Management Plan that manages the risk of fire on Council land, including requirements to improve community safety. Council is designated certain powers through provisions under this Act to manage fire prevention within its municipality under other regulatory mechanisms such as the Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme and Community Local Law.	<b>Aboriginal Heritage Act, 2006 (Vic)</b>	Victorian government legislation that provides for the protection and management of Victoria's Aboriginal heritage with processes linked to the Victorian Planning System. As a planning authority Council is responsible for ensuring compliance with this Act through administration of Victorian and Local Planning Provisions under the Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme.	<b>Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)</b>	Victorian government legislation that provides a framework for the establishment and operation of Councils. It is the main legislative instrument that drives Council operations describing purpose, objectives and functions of Council, as well as a range of provisions.
<b>Catchment and Land Protection Act, 1994 (Vic)</b>	Victorian Government legislation governing pest plant and animal management. The Act defines roles and responsibilities and regulates the management of noxious weeds and pest animals – all landowners have legal obligations regarding the management of declared noxious weeds and pest animals on their land.	<b>Road Safety Act, 1987 (Vic)</b>	Victorian Government legislation that aims to provide for safe, efficient and equitable road use. The Act defines general obligations of road users in relation to responsible use of roads.	<b>Emergency Management Act, 1986 (Vic)</b>	The purpose of this Act is to provide a framework for the organisation of emergency management in Victoria. The Act describes the need for effective planning, preparation, risk mitigation, emergency response and provision of immediate relief services, as well as recovery - assisting persons affected by emergency events. Under this Act, Council plays an important role in coordinating municipal emergency management planning.	<b>Heritage Act, 1995 (Vic)</b>	This Act provides for the protection and conservation of places and objects of cultural heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects. The Act establishes the Heritage Council of Victoria, and the Heritage Register. As a planning authority, Council is responsible for ensuring compliance with this Act through administration of Victorian and Local Planning Provisions under the Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme. Examples include application of heritage overlays.	<b>Crown Land Reserves Act 1978 (Vic)</b>	This is the principle legislation dealing with reservation and management of Crown Land in Victoria. Crown land is set aside for the use and benefit of the general public for a range of purposes. Under the Act, Committees of Management are appointed to manage their reserve on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Climate Change. Committees have responsibility for managing, improving, maintaining and controlling their reserve. Council is a Committee of Management on a number of parcels of land owned by the Crown.
<b>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988 (Vic)</b>	This Act is the key piece of Victorian legislation for the conservation of threatened species and communities and for managing potentially threatening processes which could put these species at risk. The Act provides for the listing of species and requires action statements to ensure their survival.	<b>Telecommunications Act, 1997 (Federal)</b>	This Act provides the regulatory framework in which telecommunications services are provided in Australia. It covers the distribution and supply of telephone services including the performance of these services and the competitiveness of the industry. Other	<b>Murrindindi Planning Scheme</b>	Victorian planning schemes are administered at the local government level. Planning schemes set out policies and provisions for use, development and protection of land.				

<p>provisions include promoting responsible practices in relation to placement of lines underground, sending commercial messages, telemarketing calls and marketing faxes.</p>	<p><b>Electrical Safety Act 1998 (Vic)</b></p>	<p><b>Community Local Law (Council)</b></p> <p>Councils establish their own local laws to exercise their powers under various State and Federal Government laws. They are design to maintain public health, safety, and/or amenity in a municipality. A Council can take enforcement action if a local law is breached. Council has a series of Local Laws which are listed in detail in Community Local Law 2012.</p>
<p>This Act provides delegation powers to the Minister and Secretary for public participation in codes of practice. It applies to catchment management, coastal management, crown land management, fisheries management, flora and fauna, forests management, heritage rivers, land, national parks, reference areas and wildlife management.</p>	<p><b>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987 (Vic)</b></p>	<p>This Act provides for the safety of electricity supply and use, reliability and security of supply, and efficiency of electrical equipment. Among other provisions, the Act provides for the responsibility for maintenance of electrical lines, bushfire mitigation requirements for certain operators and electrical line clearance.</p>
<p>The purpose of this Act is to establish a framework for planning the use, development and protection of land in Victoria. The Act provides for the administration of the Victorian Planning Provisions and enables a municipal Council to act as a responsible planning authority and administrator of planning schemes. Decisions made by Council in relation to land use planning and development must be in accordance with this Act.</p>	<p><b>Planning and Environment Act, 1987 (Vic)</b></p>	<p><b>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992</b></p> <p>Relevant Victorian legislation that places controls over the use of agricultural chemicals. It applies to any chemical defined under the Act as an 'agricultural chemical product'. The Act is administered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. It imposes controls on the use, application and sale of agricultural and veterinary chemical products, fertilisers and stock foods. It prescribes records to be made and kept by both users and sellers, equipment and other matters authorised by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.</p>
<p>This legislation provides for the protection and conservation of wildlife through measures to protect all species of wildlife from becoming extinct, promoting sustainable use of and access to wildlife and prohibiting and regulating conduct of persons engaged in activities concerning or related to wildlife. It provides for, among other things, measures to enforce illegal activities such as hunting and requires licenses to conduct certain activities.</p>	<p><b>Wildlife Act, 1975 (Vic)</b></p>	<p>This Act provides for the protection and conservation of wildlife through measures to protect all species of wildlife from becoming extinct, promoting sustainable use of and access to wildlife and prohibiting and regulating conduct of persons engaged in activities concerning or related to wildlife. It provides for, among other things, measures to enforce illegal activities such as hunting and requires licenses to conduct certain activities.</p>
<p>This legislation provides for the protection of the environment through regulatory measures including maintaining standards around clean water, clean air, noise, solid waste and land pollution control, resource efficiency, litter etc.</p>	<p><b>Environment Protection Act, 1970 (Vic)</b></p>	<p>This legislation provides for the protection of the environment through regulatory measures including maintaining standards around clean water, clean air, noise, solid waste and land pollution control, resource efficiency, litter etc.</p>
<p>This Act establishes that all forest produce in state forests is</p>	<p><b>Forests Act, 1958 (Vic)</b></p>	<p>This Act establishes that all forest produce in state forests is</p>



<p>the property of the Crown. The Act prohibits the removal of resources or produce from State Forest except in accordance with its regulations.</p>
<p><b>Land Act, 1958 (Vic)</b></p>
<p>This piece of legislation makes provision for sale and occupation of unreserved Crown lands and authorises the issuance of various types of leases and licence.</p>
<p><b>Litter Act, 1964 (Vic)</b></p>
<p>This legislation provides for the prohibition and regulates the deposit of litter in the environment of Victoria. The Act also provides for enforcement.</p>

\*Summaries obtained from Australian Legal Information Institute <http://www.austlii.edu.au/> May 2013 with exception of locally-based regulations.