

# WALGA Workshop: Management of Road Reserves



**Date:** Thursday, 15 August  
**Time:** 10:00am – 3:00pm (Registration from 9:30am)  
**Venue:** Eaton Softball Pavilion, 1 Recreation Drive, Eaton

## WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Local Governments are responsible for maintaining safe roads that are built to meet transport demands, while managing impacts on the environmental and other values of roadside vegetation. This workshop will provide attendees with practical information on the management of road reserves, including when and how to apply for a clearing permit, tools to increase the efficiency of roadworks planning, and best practice maintenance operations in roadsides.

## PROGRAM

- 10:00am**      **Welcome and introduction**  
*WALGA*
- 10:05am**      **Local road networks – challenges and opportunities for Local Government**  
*Mark Batty, Executive Manager Environment and Waste, WALGA*
- 10:15am**      **Regulation of roadside clearing**  
*Samara Rogers, Acting Manager, Native Vegetation Regulation, DWER*
- 11:00am**      **Morning Tea**
- 11:20am**      **Beneficial maintenance practices in road reserves**  
*Veronica Newbury, Executive Officer, Roadside Conservation Committee*
- 12:00pm**      **Pruning and trimming in road reserves - guidance and demonstration**  
*Ben Jorgenson, Certified Arborist, Kings Tree Care*  
*Toby King, Advanced Tree Surgeon, Kings Tree Care*
- 1:00pm**      **Lunch**
- 1:45pm**      **Protection of Conservation Significant Roadside Vegetation**  
*Kay Lehman, Environmental Management Officer, City of Busselton*
- 2:15pm**      **Roadworks planning using WALGA's Environmental Planning Tool (EPT)**  
*Renata Zelinova, EPT Business Development Officer, WALGA*
- 3:00pm**      **Close of Workshop**

## PRESENTATION OVERVIEWS

**Mark Batty, Executive Manager Environment and Waste, WA Local Government Association (WALGA)**, will discuss how roads dominate the asset portfolio of most Local Governments in Western Australia, with \$904 million invested by the sector on the local road network in 2016/17. Mark will discuss external drivers that impact changes to the road network, and the challenges they may present for Local Governments in the maintenance and renewal of existing roads, or construction of new roads. Mark will also discuss WALGA's advocacy work to ensure that the road network is safe and efficient, and how roadside vegetation is considered as part of road asset management. Initiatives include the recent establishment of a Roadside Clearing Regulations Working Group, to work with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on roadside clearing regulation and issues.

**Samara Rogers, Acting Manager, Native Vegetation Regulation, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)**, will discuss the approvals process for clearing of native vegetation in road reserves as per the provisions of the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*, exemptions that may apply, considerations for Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and timelines for a decision and appeals. Samara will discuss what information is required to be submitted in support of a clearing permit application. The Department is also working with WALGA and Main Roads WA to facilitate a more strategic, long-term plan for clearing requirements, and Samara will outline the benefits this approach. Samara will also discuss the procedure for vegetation clearing offsets in WA, and instances where these may be applicable.

**Veronica Newbury, Executive Officer, Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC)**, will discuss what is meant by biodiversity, and the ecological values of remnant roadside vegetation. Maintenance works in roadsides must be carefully planned and targeted to protect remnant vegetation and avoid off-target damage. Veronica will discuss information available to managers to help plan their management operations to minimise the impact on native vegetation.

**Ben Jorgenson, Certified Arborist, and Toby King, Advanced Tree Surgeon, Kings Tree Care**, will provide pruning principles as per Australian Standard 4373-2007, to ensure tree health, form and vigour are maintained. Ben will discuss examples of where pruning or trimming is most appropriate in road reserves, and suitable equipment to use. Ben will also discuss how to manage damaged trees, avoid impacting the root zone of trees during maintenance works, and hygiene controls to minimise the spread of disease. A practical demonstration of best practice pruning techniques will be provided.

**Kay Lehman, Environmental Officer, City of Busselton**, will detail initiatives the City of Busselton is undertaking to manage the remnant vegetation in road reserves, some of which contain declared rare flora and threatened ecological communities. Kay will provide a case study on how conservation significant vegetation was managed in three sections of roadsides by completing fencing, weed and feral animal control, and revegetation works in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Kay will also provide examples of widening and realignment projects, which utilised location specific road safety measures to avoid clearing of roadside vegetation. Kay will also discuss working with landholders to reduce the impact of clearing for fencing and crossovers.

**Renata Zelinova, EPT Business Development Officer, WA Local Government Association (WALGA)**, will demonstrate ways to use WALGA's Environmental Planning Tool (EPT) in planning and delivery of road projects. The EPT allows for early identification of matters subject to environmental regulations within local road reserves, and its unique reporting functions and mapping tools facilitate strategic and efficient roadworks planning.