

# Roadside Vegetation Management - Field Day

29 September 2022

WALGA

# Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

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WALGA's work regularly takes us across the State and as such we would like to acknowledge the many traditional owners of the land on which we work throughout Western Australia.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

*Pictured right: Artwork by Jade Dolman, a young Whadjuk/Ballardong Nyoongar, Eastern Arrernte, Irish woman from Perth.*

# Local Roads – challenges and opportunities

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WALGA

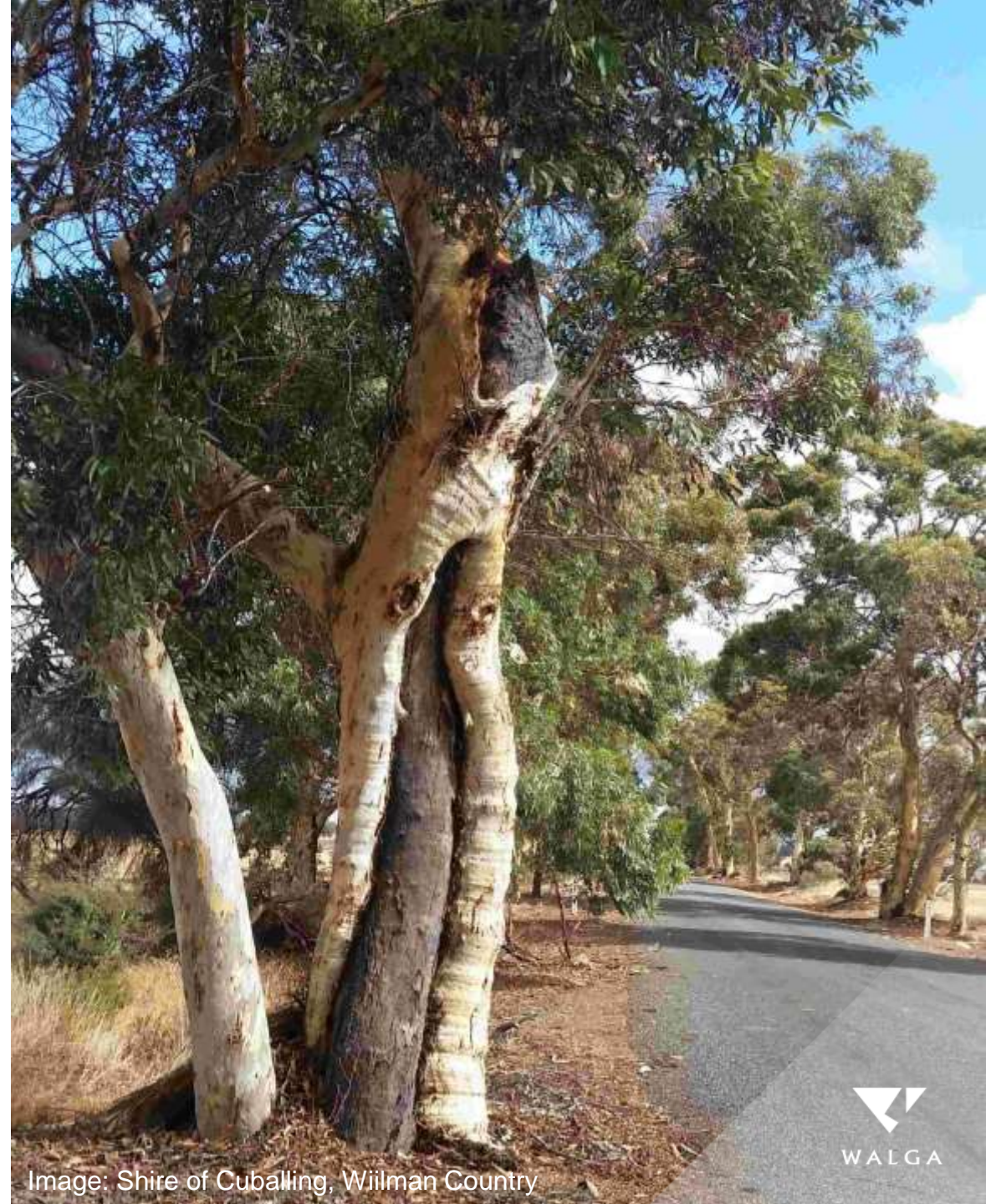


Image: Shire of Cuballing, Willman Country



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# Overview

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Challenges – increasing road network demand in fragmented and biodiverse landscapes

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Community expectations

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Opportunities – changes in native vegetation clearing regulations and policy

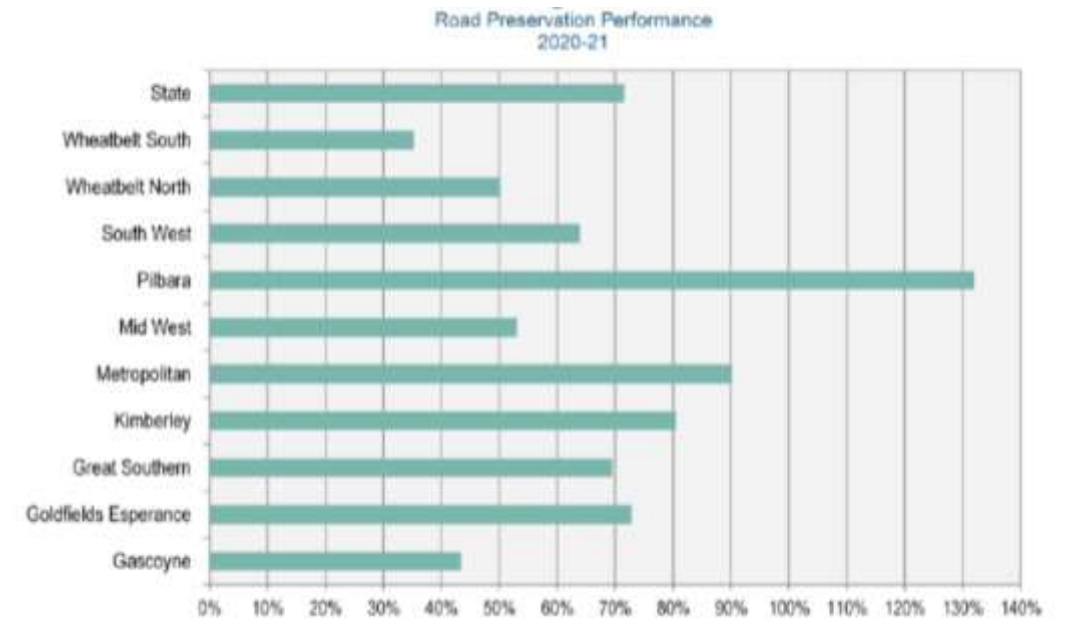
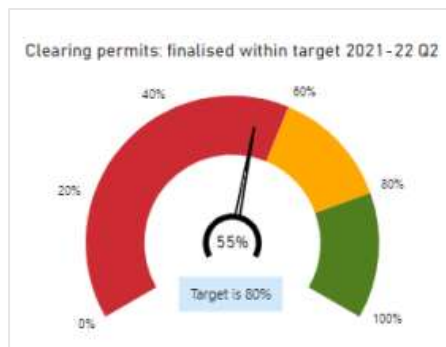
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Resources and support for Local Government

# Challenges

## Increasing demands on the local road network

- Current funding arrangements do not adequately recognize the road needs of the Wheatbelt South and Wheatbelt North Regions ([Road Assets and Expenditure Report 2020-21](#))
- Cost of consulting work, surveys and offsets represent a significant proportion of total project funds
- Delays with securing environmental approvals are a key reason grant funded Local Government road projects are not acquitted in line with budget in the Wheatbelt



Source: Road Assets and Expenditure Report 2020-21 (WALGA, 2022)

# Challenges

## Community expectations:

### On-going community concerns over loss of native vegetation within road reserves

- Loss of vegetation and habitat – due to clearing or due to weed and bushfire risk management practices
- Loss of amenity, sense of place
- Loss of tourism opportunities

### Managing the expectations of adjoining landowners and access to local road reserves by third parties

- Protection of private assets – boundary fences
- Bushfire risk
- Installation of non-Local Government infrastructure

Safe & Scenic Toodyay Roads is at Town of Toodyay.  
20 July 2023 · Toodyay, WA · 🌐

Have you signed our petition yet to halt major roadworks along Toodyay Road that will see major clearing of hectares of vegetation?  
<http://www.change.org/SaveToodyayRoad>

If not, here's a beautiful poem by Toodyay local, Greg Warburton to help spur you on... See more



**Daviesia cunderdin** Crisp & G.Chandler  
 Austral Syst. Bot. 10:323-324, Fig 1 (1997)

Conservation Code: **Threatened Flora (Declared Rare Flora — Extant)**  
 Naturalised Status: Native to Western Australia  
 Name Status: **Current**

**Grevillea phanerophlebia** Diels Prominent Vein Grevillea  
 Roc. Jahrb. Syst. 35:157-161 (1906)

Conservation Code: **Threatened Flora (Declared Rare Flora — Extant)**  
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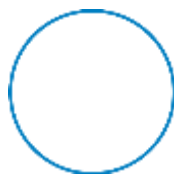
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# Importance of roadside vegetation

- 1 Transects of past plant communities, last remnants of native vegetation in a landscape with high species turnover
- 2 Wildlife habitat and corridors, vital landscape connectivity – important regardless of how much vegetation remains in a bio-region
- 3 Refuge for some rare plants – WA plants are unique at global scale
- 4 Sense of place

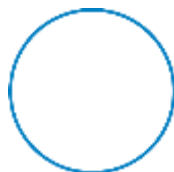
# Opportunities – regulations

Project	Area to be cleared (ha)	Purpose Permit in ILUZ	
		Fee for a single permit covering 11 projects	Fee per project
1	1.428		\$2,600
2	2.358		\$2,600
3	0.797		\$2,400
4	4.24		\$2,600
5	1.315		\$2,600
6	2.37		\$2,600
7	1.4		\$2,600
8	0.54		\$2,400
9	1.77		\$2,600
10	0.121		\$2,400
11	0.466		\$2,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.805</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$27,800</b>



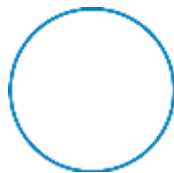
## Referrals for native vegetation clearing

- No application fee
- Significantly shorter time frame for outcomes/decisions



## Clearing permits for multiple projects

- Increased certainty around timing of project delivery
- Simplified administration – one permit vs multiple permits for individual projects
- Significant cost saving on clearing permit fees



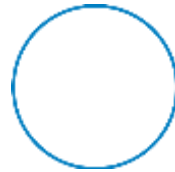
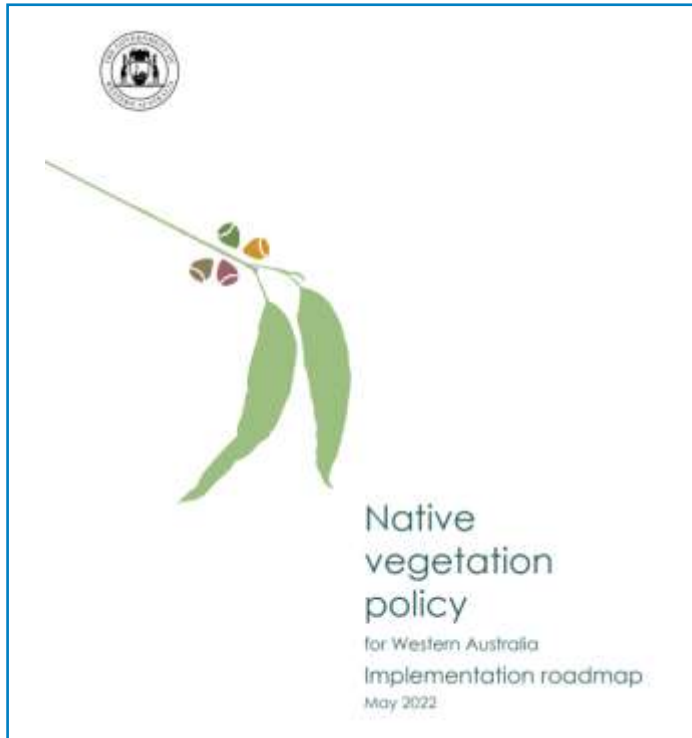
## Better guidance on clearing permit exemptions

- Local Governments identified priority guidance documents to be updated by DWER



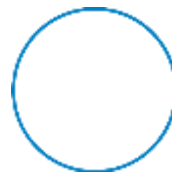
# Opportunities – policy

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## Regional Planning – Wheatbelt

- Wheatbelt native vegetation mapping (2023)
- Wheatbelt roadside vegetation interagency group (2023)
- Wheatbelt restoration plan (2022-2026)
- Wheatbelt native vegetation strategy (2026)



## Environment On-line

- For Part V of EP Act - potential to improve the efficiency in administering clearing applications

# Opportunities

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## Capacity building

- Networking events – Local Government case studies – via [WALGA website](#)
- [Guidelines](#) and templates e.g. how to manage third party activities in road reserves
- Road condition survey for regionally significant Local Government roads
- Funding support to undertake vegetation assessments and development of biodiversity strategies/policies – WALGA's new grant program to be announced in October-November 2022

## Advocacy

- Via DWER's Local Government Roadside Clearing Regulation Working Group (Includes 3 Local Government representatives and WALGA)
- Participating in consultation for the implementation of WA Native Vegetation Policy strategies

## Research

CSIRO pilot on ecosystems accounting for agricultural and mixed-use landscapes – Wheatbelt one of two pilot regions for this project, started in September 2022 – potential for establishing environmental markets such as valuing on-farm actions for water quality improvement and biodiversity protection

# Questions

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