

Vegetation Management – Update

Fact Sheet - Update

River Road

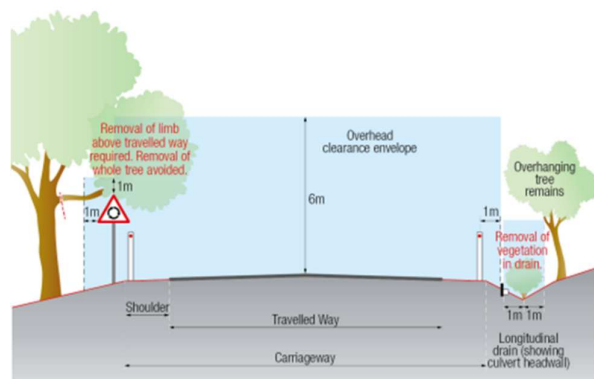
A standard clearance envelope is being established by pruning vegetation along the road corridor in accordance with best practices, as defined by the Australian Standards.

Vegetation assessments undertaken

We engaged an independent Native Vegetation Council accredited surveyor to undertake an assessment of the vegetation along River Road.

The vegetation assessment has identified locations where vegetation has encroached into the 'vegetation clearance envelope'.

Australian standards aim to ensure that tree health, structure and shape are maintained in a viable condition while providing an envelope clear of vegetation over the road carriageway of up to 6 metres in height.



Vegetation clearance envelope

Some of these trees would become unstable or unsafe once pruned to the level required, as such these trees have been identified for removal.

Determining the vegetation required for removal

Factors considered when identifying a tree for removal included:

- amount of tree trunk located within the clearance envelope
- ability to retain a balanced tree canopy shape and form
- prevention of structurally unsound regrowth from cut limbs
- likelihood of tree regrowth encroachment within the clearance envelope
- ensuring safe access for maintenance activities within the road corridor

Trees being removed generally have a larger portion of the trunk encroaching into the clearance envelope that cannot be suitably pruned without impacting the health and structural stability of the tree.



Australian Government



Government of South Australia

Department for Infrastructure and Transport



Example of a tree protruding into vegetation clearance envelope that must be removed

Minimising impacts – protecting large trees within the road shoulders

In some locations we understand there are very large trees along the roadside.

These trees will not be impacted as it has been possible to achieve the height clearance required for the vegetation clearance envelope, through pruning activities, without comprising the long-term health of the tree.



Example of large tree being retained

Minimising impacts – adjusting the methodology of maintenance activities

The vegetation assessment also identified locations where road maintenance shoulder sealing activities are in close proximity to vegetation.

At these locations, low impact activities are being undertaken to protect the trees and their root systems. Activities include:

- hydro-vacuum investigations to identify the likely depth of structural tree roots if present
- reducing the depth of excavation to keep work activities above the likely depth of structural tree roots
- adopting alternative pavement materials that require less depth.

Protecting wildlife

Wildlife considerations form part of our standard environment assessment processes.

Native vegetation assessments, like the one recently completed for River Road, take into account fauna habitat and ecological communities as part of the data that is captured.

We understand the ecological importance of roadside native vegetation and will continue to prioritise minimising the potential impacts to native vegetation and fauna associated with these works.