Overview

• Colac Otway Shire Council Profile
• Environmental Assets
• Legislative Protections
• Cressy – Shelford Road
  – Site Rehabilitation
  – Internal Process Improvements
  – External Awareness Raising
• Summary
Colac Otway Shire Council

PROFILE

• 3,433 sq kilometres
• 1,632 km of Roads:
• 14,405 Rateable Properties
• Operating Budget = $32M
• Two major centres – Colac and Apollo Bay
• Approx. 30% Crown Land
• Industries include:
  – Agriculture (cropping and dairying);
  – Tourism (Great Ocean Road)
  – Timber Production

Bioregions
Environmental Assets

EPBC Act Protected Matters Reporting Tool for Colac Otway Shire:

- 56 Threatened Species
- 49 Migratory Species
- Two Threatened EVC’s
- Two RAMSAR Wetlands

Assets found on Private and Public land, including Local Roads
EPBC listed Fauna & Invertebrate – Colac Otway

Growling Grass Frog - Vulnerable

Striped Legless Lizard - Vulnerable

Australian Grayling - Vulnerable

Golden Sun Moth – Critically Endangered

EPBC listed Flora – Colac Otway

Tall Astelia – Vulnerable

Spiny Pepper-cress – Vulnerable

Spiny Rice-flower – Critically Endangered
EPBC listed Communities – Colac Otway

Grunny Eucalypt Woodland – Critically Endangered

Natural Temperate Grasslands - Critically Endangered

Other Protected Species

Otway Black Snail
http://places.rnr.id.au/Great_Ocean_Road/7.html

Swamp Antechinus

Slender Tree Fern
Legislative Protection

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Cressy-Shelford Road

• Council contracted works for the Cressy-Shelford Road in May 2008
• Traffic movement and stockpiling on the roadside reserve
• Approx. 2.07 hectares of plains grassland removed
• Alleged to have impacted upon the Spiny Rice Flower (e.g. destroyed, damaged)
• Alleged to have impacted upon the Striped Legless Lizards.
Works Methods
Reactive Process

• Notification from local DSE Officer
• Onsite meeting with DSE and Council Staff
• Council then notified DEWHA of the incident
• Council convened a key stakeholder group (DSE, CCMA, Australian Government State Biodiversity Officer)
Consequences

- Breached the EPBC Act, FFG Act and Wildlife Act (total $690,000)
- Signed EU with then DEWHA (now SEWPAC)
- Signed MoU with DSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Rehabilitation</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Procedure Improvements</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Awareness Raising</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<td>Payment to DSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordination and Reporting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$690,000</strong></td>
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Remedial works
“Overall, the disturbed areas are regenerating well and because of the timely rehabilitation works, are unlikely to suffer permanent damage”
Internal Process Improvements

• Internal procedure improvement
  – Project Development and Delivery Processes
  – Currently apply to Maintenance and Capital Works

• Internal Training and Awareness

• Roadside Mapping and Management Plan
Project Development

Completed & Approved Project Brief

Creation of Project File

Project Investigation (by Project Manager)

Comments/Advice received through referral process

Draft Detailed Design

Review by Project Review Group

Final Design/ Technical Specification Preparation

Endorsement for Implementation

Includes –
Project Brief; Project Notes Record; Locality Plan, etc

INFRASTRUCTURE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

INTERNAL REFERRALS

EXTERNAL REFERRALS

Included in Environmental Information in quote and tender docs

Pre Start Meeting with Contracts Co-ordinator

Following documents submitted:
- Environmental Management Plan
- Site specific Environmental Risk Management Plan
- Safe Work Method/JSA
- Traffic Management Plan

Reviewed and approved

Site Inspection of high conservation sites

Environmental considerations complete
Internal Training and Awareness

- Importance of biodiversity conservation
- Councillors, General Managers, Managers and Officers.
Roadside Vegetation Mapping
External Awareness Raising

• Target wider community (CFA, farmers)
• Value and legislative protections of threatened species
• Workshops (e.g. Municipalities)
• Signage
• Mail outs

Summary

• Colac Otway Shire contains many EPBC protected species and communities
• Greater awareness of the EPBC Act and its requirements
• Additional resources to ensure compliance with EPBC Act
• Colac Otway Shire has improved project management systems
Questions?