

Driving vegetation management along linear infrastructure

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Background - Transport Corridor Management Conference

- Over 18 years ago in 1999...
- The first national forum to discuss the management of ecological values along linear infrastructure.
- 250 participants from every State in Australia attending the conference in Brisbane.





If the conference proceedings were a person it is now old enough to gain its driver's licence.

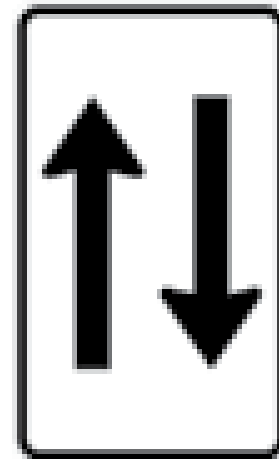
Outline	
1	Transport Corridor Management Conference - Key themes
2	Progress - have the issues been addressed?...(Exam)
3	Exam results - did we get our driver's license?





Key themes

- (1) Conservation
- (2) Vegetation management analysis
- (3) Communication





Exam...be wary

- Caution - Can't always compare 1999 directly to 2018...for example...
- Bananas.
- Mission Beach Cassowary roadkill:
 - Not all control measures identified at conference not been implemented.
 - Others have - including vehicle activated signage.
 - Cassowary roadkill at a hotspot area has ceased (since late 2016).
- Panama disease??
- Can't compare apples with bananas





(1) Conservation



<1% of native grasslands remain on the Darling Downs, most of which occurs in road reserves.

In 1999 Rod Fensham advocated:

- A better system of protection including signage.
- Better knowledge of managing these communities.





(1) Conservation



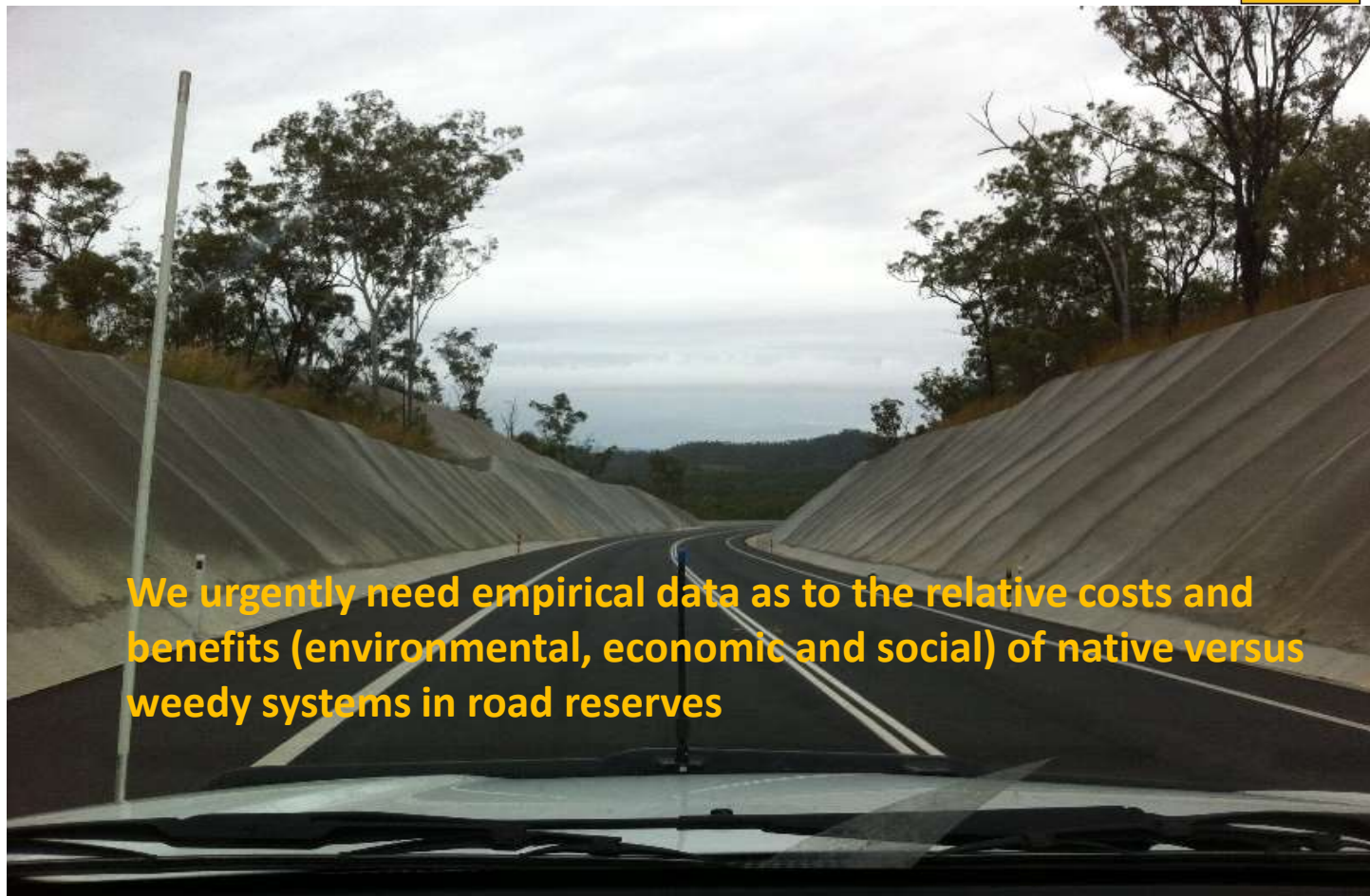
- The conference also saw the release of the Significant Environmental Area signage program. This has been steadily rolled out across the State.
- Management of subtropical grasslands: 'do nothing'.
- NB soil disturbance remains unacceptable – promoting weed growth.



* - Fensham, Roderick J., Butler, Donald W., Laffineur, Boris, Macdermott, Harry J., Morgan, John W. and Silcock, Jennifer L. (2017) Subtropical native grasslands may not require fire, mowing or grazing to maintain native-plant diversity. *Australian Journal of Botany*, 65 2: 95-102



(2) Vegetation management analysis



We urgently need empirical data as to the relative costs and benefits (environmental, economic and social) of native versus weedy systems in road reserves



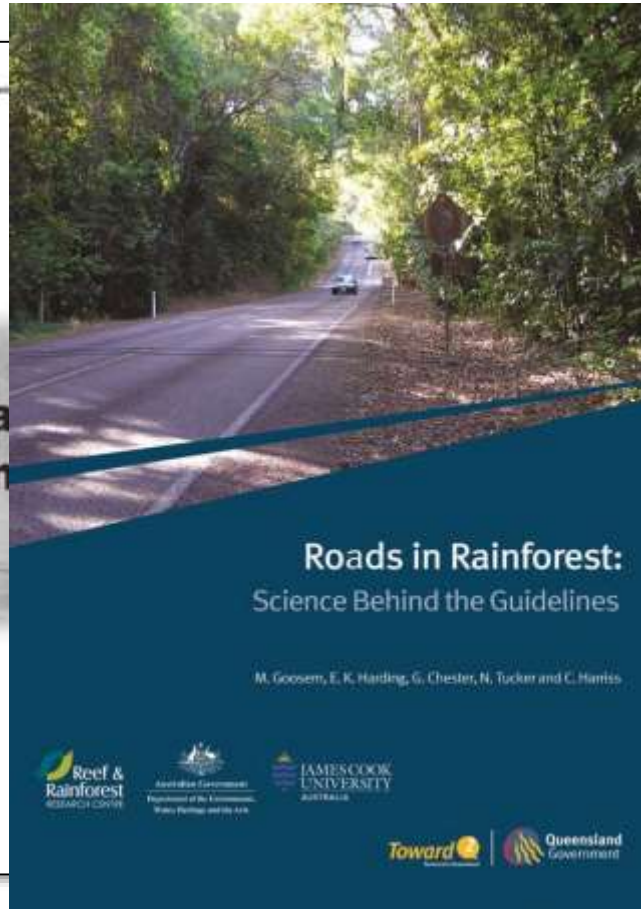
(2) Vegetation management analysis



State	Department	Document	Year	Considers costs of landscape design
Queensland	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Road Landscape Manual Edition 2	2013	Yes
NSW	RMS (formerly RTA)	Landscape guideline	2008	Yes
Victoria	VicRoads	Technical publications	?	?
		VicRoads Roadside Planting Guidelines	2010	?
		VicRoads Tree Policy	2016	Yes
South Australia	Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure	DPTI Technical Standards and Guidelines	2009	No
Western Australia	Main Roads Western Australia	Standards and Technical - Revegetation and Landscaping www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/BuildingRoads/StandardsTechnical/RoadandTrafficEngineering/RoadsideItems/Pages/Revegetation-and-Landscaping.aspx	2014	Yes
Tasmania	Department of State Growth - Transport	State Growth Specifications - Sec: 720 Landscape Works	2016	No

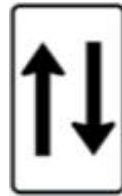


(2) Vegetation management analysis





Communication



1. The need for a Queensland Road Corridors Management Forum.
2. Development of a single location for the storage and retrieval of data identifying significant areas and significant flora and fauna.

Atlas of Living Australia
ala.org.au

Search the Atlas ...

Log In

Start exploring - Search & analyse - Participate - Learn about the ALA -

The Atlas of Living Australia is a collaborative, national project that aggregates biodiversity data from multiple sources and makes it freely available and usable online.

Occurrence Records	Species	Data downloads	Registered users
74,792,278	121,903	1,636,479	36,698

Australian iconic species
Browse some of our most popular species, or search over 100,000 species within the ALA.

Explore by location
Browse species by pre-defined region or by location.

Mapping & analysis
Explore species occurrence records using the Spatial Portal or search records for species occurrences.



Exam Results



1. Roadside conservation has significantly progressed in Queensland since 1999.



2. We promote good design in new projects, but still have much to learn about management of existing roadside vegetation.

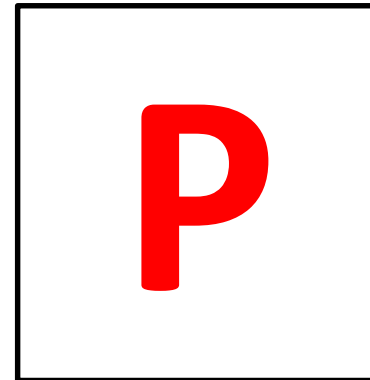
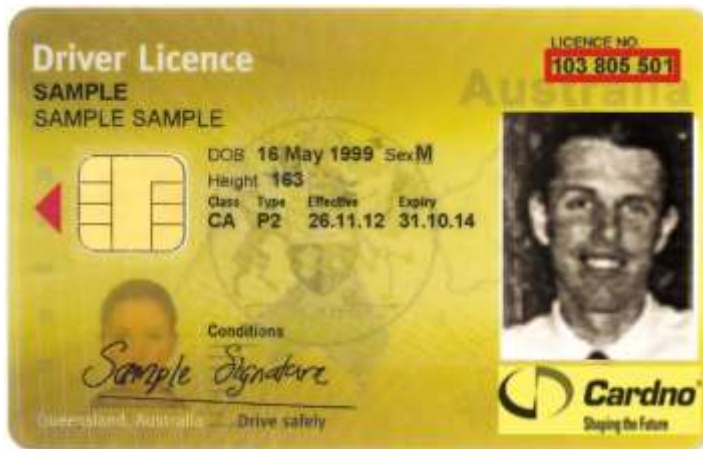


3. We are communicating better, but success is partly owing to ways not envisaged in 1999.





Exam Results



Thanks to

- Rod Fensham
- John Delaney
- Megan Francis
- Josie Stokes
- Ramses Zietek
- Murray Swales
- Scott Watson
- Tony O'Malley