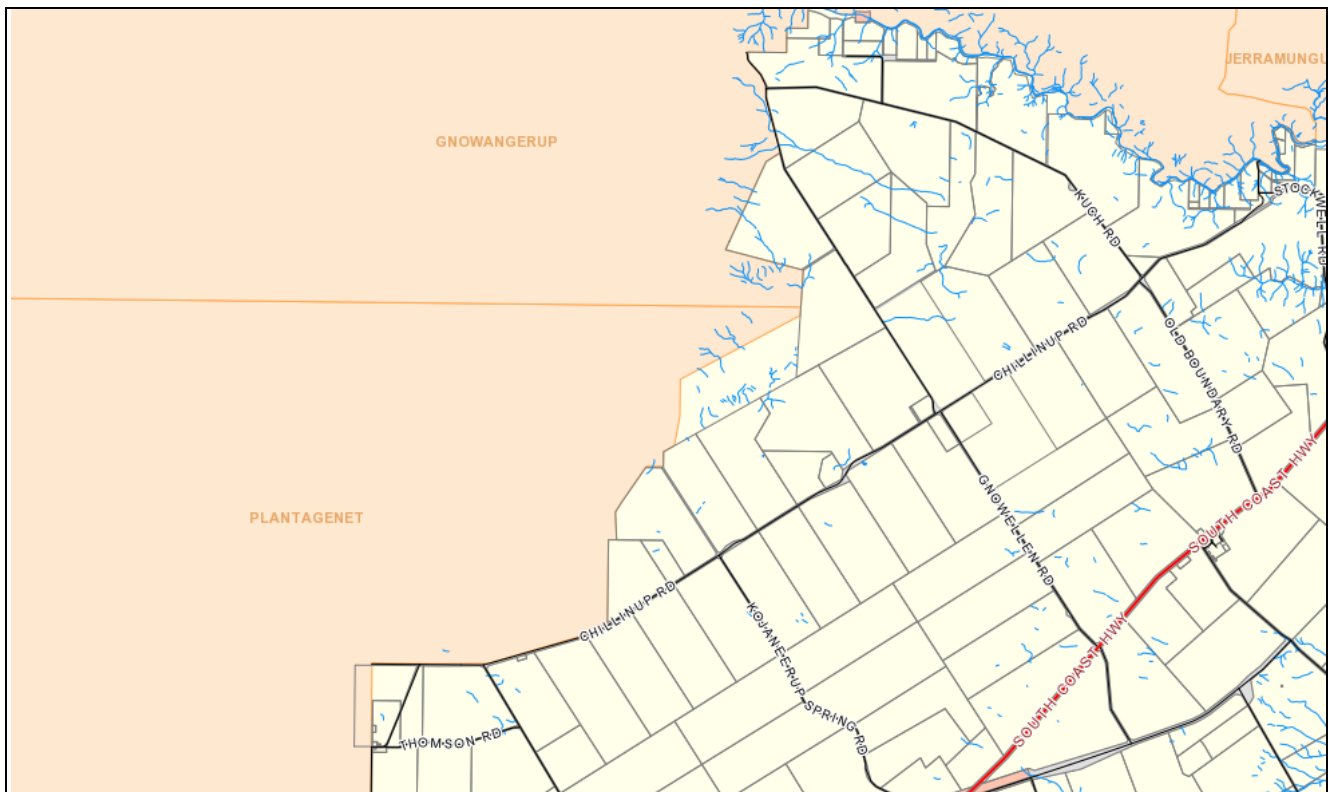


5.1: RECOMMENDATION OF THREE FLORA ROADS BY CONSERVATION COUNCIL.

Land Description : Chillinup Road, Kuch Road and Gnowellen Road
Proponent : Roadside Conservation Committee
Owner : Crown land managed by the City of Albany
Attachments : Letter from Roadside Conservation Committee
Responsible Officer(s) : Stephen Grimmer, Executive Officer Works and Services.

Maps and Diagrams:



IN BRIEF

- The Roadside Conservation Committee has recommended three Flora Roads within the City of Albany.
- Council is to consider declaring Chillinup Road, Kuch Road and Gnowellen Roads as Flora Roads.

ITEM 5.1: RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
VOTING REQUIREMENT: SIMPLE MAJORITY
THAT Chillinup Road, Kuch Road and Gnowellen Road be declared as Flora Roads.

CEO:	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:
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BACKGROUND

1. The City of Albany has received correspondence from the Roadside Conservation Committee requesting that the City consider declaring Chillinup Road, Kuch Road and Gnowellen Road as Flora Roads.
2. There are currently no Flora Roads within the City of Albany.
3. Only the managing authority of a road may formally declare Flora Roads.

DISCUSSION

4. On 16th November 2011, the Roadside Conservation Committee undertook a site inspection of Chillinup Road, Kuch Road and Gnowellen Road, which included surveying the conservation value of the roadside vegetation. A Roadside Conservation Value rating ranges from 0-12, with higher scores correlating with higher value attributes such as high species diversity and low weed infestation. The Roadside Conservation Commission rated the vegetation along Chillinup Road, Kuch Road and Gnowellen Road as having a high roadside conservation value rating.
5. As an outcome of this assessment, the Roadside Conservation Commission recommends that Chillinup Road, Kuch Road and Gnowellen Road are declared as Flora Roads.
6. The Shire of Plantagenet has also been approached about the portion of Chillinup Road that falls within its Local Government Area. Likewise, the Shire of Gnowangerup has been approached about the portion of Gnowellen Road in its Local Government Area.
7. Flora Road status raises the profile of the roadside vegetation and elevates the awareness of those travelling through, or working within, a road reserve where high conservation values are present.
8. Flora Roads may also form part of a tourist drive or scenic wildflower route.
9. With the declaration of a Flora Road, the Roadside Conservation Committee provides support and assistance to road managers to develop management procedures for Flora Roads and assist with community engagement sessions to ensure conservation and safety needs of Flora Roads are catered for.
10. The best practice management of roadside vegetation within the City of Albany is already covered in the *Environmental Code of Conduction for Works on Council Controlled Land*. However, more emphasis will be placed on the appropriate management of declared Flora Roads by City staff.
11. Should these roads be declared as Flora Roads, "Flora Road" signs will be erected at each approach to the nominated area, free of charge.

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

12. Chillinup Road and Gnowellen Road also extend into the Shire of Plantagenet and the Shire of Gnowangarup. Both of these Shires have also received recommendations from the Roadside Conservation Committee to declare these roads as Flora Roads.
13. Gnowangerup Shire has supported the Gnowellen Road as a Flora Road

PUBLIC CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

14. Nil.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

15. Part 5, Division 2, Section 5.3 of the City of Albany's *Activities on Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2011*, states the below with regards to Flora Roads:

Division 2—Flora roads

5.3 Declaration of flora roads

The local government may declare a thoroughfare which has, in the opinion of the local government, high quality roadside vegetation to be a flora road.

5.4 Construction works on flora roads

Construction and maintenance work carried out by the local government on a flora road is to be in accordance with the "Handbook of Environmental Practice for Roadside Construction and Road Maintenance Works" (April 2005) prepared by the Roadside Conservation Committee.

5.5 Signposting of flora roads

The local government may signpost flora roads with the standard MRWA "flora road" sign.

5.6 Driving only on carriageway of flora roads

(1) A person driving or riding a vehicle on a flora road shall only drive or ride the vehicle on the carriageway.

(2) Subclause (1) does not apply where—

(a) conditions on the thoroughfare do not reasonably permit a vehicle to remain on the carriageway;

(b) there is no carriageway; or

(c) an exemption from the application of subclause (1) has been obtained from the local government.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

16. This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Plan (2011-2021):

Key Focus Area

Life Style and Environment

Community Priority

Preservation of Albany’s Uniqueness

Proposed Strategies

Protect remnant vegetation (particularly in urban areas) to preserve Albany’s beauty and uniqueness

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

17. Nil.

RISK IDENTIFIATION & MITIGATION

Risk	Likelihood	Consequences	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
<i>Lack of community consultation</i>	<i>Low</i>			<i>Media to advertise the tourist benefits to have declared Flora Roads</i>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18. The cost to implement the recommendation, includes the poles, installation and maintenance of the “Flora Road” signs (provided by the Roadside Conservation Committee free of charge), will be undertaken by the Directorate using existing staff resources within existing budget lines.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

19. Nil.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

20. Nil.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION

21. The declaration of Chillinup Road, Kuch Road and Gnowellen Road as Flora Roads will raise awareness of the value of roadside vegetation, and be a draw card for tourists. The financial cost of the recommendation is minimal, as is any risk.

Consulted References	:	Nil
File Number (Name of Ward)	:	CP.MAI.33 (Kalgan)
Previous Reference	:	Nil