



February 2019 Edition 37

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Latest news from the REC

The REC is planning a state-wide forum on linear reserve environmental management for later this year. The forum will give participants the opportunity to learn about and discuss best practices from across linear reserve tenures. More details in the May newsletter.

Central Tablelands councils win 2018 NSW Roadside Environmental Management Awards

Mid-Western Regional Council and Bathurst Regional Council won the NSW Roadside Environmental Management awards (sponsored by the NSW Roadside Environment Committee) at the recent 2018 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards.

Winner Division A

Mid-Western Regional Council - High biodiversity roadside weed control and habitat creation

Mid-Western Regional Council conducted weed control across 300 ha along 624 km of high and moderate conservation value roadside reserve to improve and/or maintain ecological condition. An additional 16 ha of private property adjacent to high and moderate value roadside reserve was rehabilitated. The works on private property has resulted in 216 ha of improved habitat connectivity.



Cassie Liney with the award won by Mid-Western Regional Council

**Winner Division B and Overall Category Winner
Bathurst Regional Council - Bathurst roadside vegetation management plan**

In April 2018, Bathurst Regional Council adopted the Bathurst Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. The culmination of five years of work to assess the conservation value of more than 1,100 km of roadside vegetation and prepare a management framework, the plan aims to improve the management of roadside vegetation and integrate management of the roadside environment with other Council planning mechanisms.



Stevie Armstrong with the awards won by Bathurst Regional Council

More details at <https://www.lgnsw.org.au/events-training/environment-awards>

Rapid Assessment Methodology and EcoRoadside Training

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) recently held two training sessions on the Rapid Assessment Methodology (RAM) and [EcoRoadside App](#), in Penrith and Wagga Wagga. A positive response was received from participants and there was a strong interest in the continued use of these resources.

Participants in the sessions were provided with the opportunity to source and access existing information about roadside reserves including maps, reports and databases; use the RAM for their assessments; and undertake their own in-field assessments with guidance from the training provider.

Two additional sessions are planned for late March/early April 2019. Councils are invited to lodge an Expression of Interest to host one of these workshops.

Interested councils please contact: kathy.godfrey@lgnsw.org.au by 22 February 2019.

This project is being undertaken as part of the [Council Roadside Reserves](#) project, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust.



Training using the RAM and EcoRoadside App

Statewide TSR plan takes new approach to significant assets



Chair of Local Land Services, Richard Bull has announced a single statewide plan to allow consistent management of more than half a million hectares of travelling stock reserves (TSRs) across NSW.

The [draft TSR Plan of Management](#) was on public exhibition at the Local Land Services website until Friday 21 December 2018.

"A key component of this plan of management is the consistent classification of TSRs, regardless of which part of the state they are in," Mr Bull said.

"We have worked closely with Crown Lands staff and held extensive consultations with communities and stakeholders to develop a draft plan that is based on solid evidence about what TSRs are used and valued for today.

"This approach will allow us to work with local communities to determine how they should be used in the future and to look for other sources of funding to manage the reserves in the future."

It follows a comprehensive review of the state's TSR network, which found TSRs have a range of economic, cultural, recreational and environmental uses and values.

Local Land Services is responsible for approximately 534,000 hectares of TSRs, which represents almost 30 per cent of the TSR network across the state.

"Now that we have an understanding of TSR usage across NSW, we will be better placed to make sure that indigenous, conservation, livestock, production, recreation and community values are managed across the network."

Each regional Local Land Services local board will adopt a local annual operational plan to drive activities and spending on TSRs in their region. These operational plans will see the state plan implemented at the local level.

Local Land Services is currently reviewing the submissions made during the public exhibition of the statewide TSR plan of management. This plan will ensure that TSRs are consistently classified and managed, regardless of where they are in the state.

The plan will be adopted by Local Land Services early in 2019 and then implemented statewide.

Inland Rail construction begins

Construction has officially begun on Inland Rail, with a formal ground breaking ceremony in Parkes late last year.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure Michael McCormack turned the ceremonial first sod alongside executives from the Australian Rail Track Corporation, representatives from construction contractor INLink, and other dignitaries.

"This is truly a once-in-a-generation project and I'm proud to be part of this historic event, marking the formal start of construction," Mr. McCormack said.

"Inland Rail is game-changing infrastructure. It will deliver jobs, not just during the construction phase, but permanent jobs through increased freight. Farmers will be able to move food and fibre between Melbourne and Brisbane, in larger volumes and more cost-efficiently."

ARTC Chief Executive John Fullerton said the beginning of construction was an historic and important milestone, noting that Parkes was a fitting location for the first sod turning.

“When Inland Rail is operational, Parkes will be an important hub with double-stacked, 1,800-metre trains connecting west to Perth and Adelaide and along the east coast between Melbourne and Brisbane,” he said.

“Australia’s rail system has always been essential to the freight supply chain and once built, Inland Rail will enhance the national freight rail network.”

Inland Rail Chief Executive Richard Wankmuller agreed. “With Inland Rail we will have a more resilient rail network,” Mr. Wankmuller said. “Inland Rail is the safe, sustainable, integrated solution that will help address Australia’s current freight inefficiencies.”

Source: Roads and Infrastructure Australia Newsletter



Formal ground breaking ceremony in Parkes

Road building and ecology in Borneo

The Southeast Asian island of Borneo sustains some of the world’s most important surviving rainforests — among the oldest and biologically richest forests on Earth.

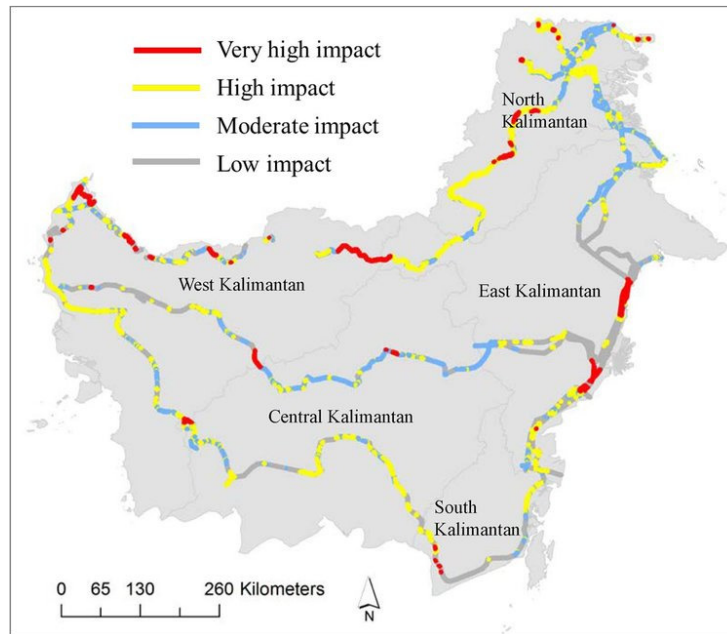
But an ambitious road-building spree by the Indonesian government will fragment and destroy vast areas of the island’s rainforests, according to an authoritative study (available [here](#) and also see this [compelling video](#)).

Despite suffering major forest loss since the 1960s, Indonesian Borneo — a region known as Kalimantan — still sustains one of the world’s largest expanses of tropical forest, spanning some 37 million hectares.

“For wildlife such as Pygmy Elephants, Sun Bears, Bearded Pigs, and Bornean Orangutans, this is the worst possible news,” said ALERT director Bill Laurance, a co-author of the research.

To find food and shelter, such wildlife species must move to survive. Their mass migrations to find food occur during frequent famines in the rainforest.

The research team used satellite images and computer models to estimate the impacts of the expanding road and rail network across Indonesian Borneo. It found the roads would reduce “forest connectivity”— the degree to which forests are spatially linked together — sharply, by 34 percent in total.



Map showing the most dangerous segments of the planned and ongoing projects, in terms of their likely impacts on forests and wildlife

More details at <http://alert-conservation.org/issues-research-highlights/2019/1/27/borneo-road-building-spree-among-worlds-scariest-environmental-threats>

The aim of this newsletter is to share information about the management of NSW linear reserve environments and profile the NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC).

For more information about the REC: <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/what-we-do/committees/roadside-environment-committee.html>

Please contact the REC Executive Officer if you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe.

NSW
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