



Australian Association
of Bush Regenerators
working with natural processes

AABR Position Statement

Management of Linear Corridors

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Background

Linear corridors have long been recognised as critical in maintaining ecological connectivity across landscapes as well as containing numerous endangered ecological communities and species. The ownership of these corridors across Australia is complex, with numerous government entities having ownership and management responsibilities. There are also many competing priorities and criteria for management, and their ownership, use and management is through many separate and often conflicting pieces of legislation and regulation.

Despite the recognition of the importance of these corridors by governments, the resourcing of their management is inadequate, active management of ecosystem values, when done, is predominantly carried out by inappropriately trained and qualified people carrying out inappropriate works, sites managed for conservation are generally not maintained and there is little coordination in their management.

During this United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and the recognition that Australia is in the midst of a biodiversity crisis brought about through land clearing, pest species and climate change, it is critical that linear reserves are funded and managed appropriately.

AABR's Position

1. Legislation and regulation relating to environmental management of transport and linear corridors, pest species management and biodiversity needs to be reviewed and amended to ensure consistency and to clearly define roles and responsibilities of local, state and Australian government entities.
2. Regular audits and assessments of the conservation values and threats relating to all linear corridors should be carried out, priorities set and measurable plans developed and implemented for their management.
3. Weed and biodiversity management along roadside and rail corridors needs to be adequately and consistently funded to minimise spread of invasive species into private land, conservation areas and adjacent agricultural areas.



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4. Management of biodiversity and pest species on linear corridors should be carried out in conjunction with education, compliance and grant programs targeted at adjacent landholders to maximise efficiency and effectiveness of management, encourage cross boundary management and restoration, reduce risk of reinfestation and to maximise positive biodiversity outcomes.
5. Maintaining natural areas and biodiversity and controlling weeds in linear corridors should, where appropriate, broadly involve working with fire, cultural and ecological burns and targeting weeds post fire.
6. Governments should not sell high conservation value linear corridors (including those areas necessary to reinstate connectivity) or give long term leases for activities that reduce their conservation and habitat values.
7. Governments should recognise that linear corridors with existing low or medium conservation values can be managed to improve habitat values and connectivity, and should identify low conservation value areas that should be restored.
8. Linear reserve managers should ensure that staff or contractors working on biodiversity management should be qualified and experienced in bush regeneration/assisted natural regeneration and that bush regeneration/assisted natural regeneration be the default approach to biodiversity management.