



## WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc)

25 April 2023

Editor  
Narrogin Observer  
49 Clive Street  
KATANNING WA 6317

Dear Editor

Re: TREE PRUNING CLAYTON ROAD NARROGIN

The Wildflower Society of Western Australia has been made aware of actions being taken by the Shire of Narrogin to prune trees along Clayton Road in Narrogin. All the vehicles present had number plates with a "NO" prefix so it is assumed the work was being conducted by or for the SHIRE OF Narrogin.

The Society accepts that pruning of roadside trees is sometimes necessary. However, we are concerned about the way this pruning has been carried out.

It appears the removal of branches on trees and shrubs has been carried out using pincers mounted on an excavator. This has resulted in the ends of the branches being broken and shattered into open fragments.

This procedure has left the trees in such poor condition that it will allow water to penetrate the wounds on the ends of the branches, badly affecting the strength in the branches and trunks of the trees.

Consequently, the trees may fall onto the road or over the adjacent farm fence creating a risk to human life and property.

A better alternative would have been to engage a trained arborist using the proper tools and methods to conduct the pruning and advise if the specific plants being pruned present a hazard or not.

The plants affected included marris that are over 100 years old down to small ground level shrubs and plants which would only present a visibility hazard if they are above eye height but typically do not require pruning.

The Society is concerned that much of our remnant vegetation within the South-West Biodiversity Hotspot is suffering 'death by a thousand cuts'.

The South-West has a very diverse flora and vegetation, and it is a biodiversity hotspot not because of that diversity but due to the number of species that are rare or extinct due to land clearing.



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As we attempt to address climate change in Western Australia, and meet the internationally agreed target of protecting 30% of our native vegetation by 2030, we need to stop clearing our natural vegetation find other ways make roads safe.

Sincerely



<http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/>