

Tuesday 9 August 2011

Roadside trees best left where they are

During long and cold winters, firewood can be in high demand, but the illegal cutting down of trees along roadsides in Indigo Shire has caused concern.

Indigo Shire Mayor Cr Ali Pockley said that unless you have permission from Council, this activity is illegal. "It is disappointing that standing trees are removed or disturbed along our roadsides because it damage areas that are significant to native plants and animals and also jeopardises the safety of people who use the road. Lately we have had reports of people cutting down trees onto the road itself, making the road dangerous to motorists," Cr Pockley said.

"We have been contacted by a number of concerned residents, who are frustrated at the illegal removal of trees on roads. Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia and roadsides are vital passages for wildlife, as well as often being the only remaining habitat for many locally native plants," Cr Pockley said.

"We frequently grant requests to remove this vegetation, generally from nearby property holders who want to maintain their fence-line or to request to gather firewood. Council's adoption of the updated Roadside Conservation Management Plan and a plan to develop a Local Law will clarify and streamline activities that occur on roadsides," Cr Pockley said.

For more information, or to receive a copy of the Roadside Conservation Management Plan please contact Indigo Shire Council Team Leader Natural Resources Shay Simpson on 02 6028 1100 or 1300 365 003.

****ENDS****

Caption: This tree was recently illegally cut down in Indigo Shire.