Mangement of verges to reduce forest fire risk in sensitive areas



INSPECTION TASKS To check

- No dead vegetation, particularly shrubs or trees, is present at verges close to circulation platforms.
- No plants particularly well-adapted to fire (pyrophytes) or any vegetation that could contribute to initiation or propagation of fire are found close to circulation platforms.



SPECIFIC MAINTENANCE TASKS To do

- → Keep verge vegetation tightly mowed in the strip close to circulation platforms to reduce risk of fire.
- Remove fallen trees, dried vegetation, debris and any other easily inflammable material from road verges.
- → Relocate or remove existing individuals of particular problematic species, that burn easily or even can contribute to spread the fire such as pine trees, eucalyptus, or rock roses (*Cistus* sp.).
- Work with forest fire authorities to identify potential firebreak sections where appropriate verge management, without trees, bushes or plants that burn fast, would assist in control of large forest fires.



- At least once a year, before periods of high risk of forest fire (usually end of spring).
- Additional inspections should be planned following weather conditions or events increasing forest fire risk.



Biodiversity and Infrastructure Handbook. Ch 7 Maintenance of ecological asset on transport infrastructure.