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EXISTING AND POTENTIAL NATURAL DIVERSITY RECOVERY CATCHMENTS INDICATIVE LIST

NOTE:

- This document is an attachment to and forms part of the Department of Conservation and Land Management's submission dated 6 July 2001 to the WA Salinity Taskforce. It should be read in conjunction with the text in that submission on the Natural Diversity Recovery Program.

- The areas with few proposed recovery catchments (north-eastern and eastern central wheatbelt) pose major challenges because of the scale of the drainage systems and the minimal amount of natural vegetation remaining. They will require the full biological survey results and workshopping to provide any feasible areas.

Locations are shown on the attached map.

NORTHERN WHEATBELT

(1) Yinniebatharra System and Hutt Lagoon

A sequence of mesas, slopes and clay-based valleys with a large coastal saline lake and numerous fresh to saline ephemeral wetlands at the northern end. Springs are a feature of the valleys; one of these (Yerina Spring) is a CALM reserve (in part) and has declared rare flora present.

The area is floristically diverse but poorly documented, being largely freehold land. Valleys and springs are under threat by salinity. Many springs are already impacted.

(2) Buntine to Marchagee Braided Saline Drainage Line

Already a natural diversity recovery catchment. Covers the northern gypsophilous communities of these drainage systems.

(3) Moore River System

There are major salinity threats to this region and major impacts on areas such as Watheroo, Yarra Yarra Lakes, Pinjarrega and the sandplain springs. Selection of possible recovery areas and actions is very difficult. Areas still in relatively good condition include Blum Gum Lake and some associated drainage lines.

BRAIDED SALINE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND LAKES OF THE CENTRAL WHEATBELT

The next six areas cover the geographic spread of these systems that drain west to the sea north of the Ravensthorpe Ramp

(4) Mollerin Lake System

An area of lowland woodlands and northern gypsophilous communities in very good condition. [Alternatively, or in addition, an area centred on Lake Campion could be considered.]

(5) Mortlock River System (northern branch)

A naturally saline/semi-saline drainage line. System appears to be less driven by gypsophilous soils, hence a very different flora. Many rare and potentially rare flora species. Largely freehold land. Has lost some fresh components, but much of the edging woodlands of Casuarina and York Gum are still relatively intact.

(6) Kondinin Salt Marsh

The best area of lowland Mallees and central gypsophilous communities in very good to good condition. Very difficult to protect because it is in a major paeleodrainage system.

(7) Cowcowing Lake System

Best area of extensive Atriplex shrublands with associated lowland woodland communities of the large lakes of this region.

(8) Kent Road Braided Saline Drainage Line

Possible alternative to the Kondinin Salt Marsh, as it is closer to the headwaters of the system.

(9) Dunn Rock/Lake King Chain

Headwaters of the drainage system, includes a large area of unallocated Crown land (UCL). Very extensive areas of lowland woodlands, mallees and gypsophilous communities , most are in excellent condition. Lake King gypsophiluos communities are floristically different from elsewhere.

LAKE MAGENTA AREA

These are four catchments (Magenta, Lake Bryde, Chinocup and Fitzgerald headwaters) involved that impinge on the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve. This involves protecting this very large and significant mallee and woodland reserve (including the UCL to the east). They need to be considered as a whole.

(10) Magenta Area

This is the reserve itself, including the UCL to the east. A very large and significant amount of Moort (*Eucalyptus platypus*)woodlands in the reserve. Significant areas of Mallee communities, Salmon Gum woodland and Flat-topped Yate. The UCL has gypsophilous woodlands, shrublands and the very rare "lawn" community. All in excellent condition.

(11) Lake Bryde

Already a natural diversity recovery catchment. Protecting fresh playa lakes with an endangered ecological community. Semi-saline playas, associated valley communities of Melaleuca shrublands, Flat-topped Yate, Salmon Gum, Kondinin Blackbutt and Mallees.

(12) Chinocup System

A diverse range of gypsophilous dune communities, lacking much of the lowland woodland communities but these are similar to those in the UCL at Magenta. Melaleuca and Mallee communities are potentially floristically distinct.

(13) Headwaters of the Fitzgerald River (covered by 10)

This is a more localised problem of impacts on riverine communities and associated areas on the southern boundary of the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve. It is not currently proposed as a natural diversity recovery catchment, but the problem will be dealt with under the Crown reserves program.

WESTERN WHEATBELT FRESHWATER TO SEMI SALINE WETLANDS AND WOODLANDS

(14) Drummond Recovery Catchment

Proposed recovery catchment to protect area of claypans (endemic flora) and associated lowland woodlands of Wandoo and Marri typical of the eastern margins of the northern Jarrah Forest.

(15) Darkin Swamp/ Dobbaderry Swamp System

Highly diverse range of freshwater wetlands with associated lowland communities.

(16) Boyup Brook – SE Collie area

Lowland southern Wandoo communities and associated freshwater wetlands.

(17) Muir–Unicup Lakes

Already a natural diversity recovery catchment. Lake Muir is Ramsar listed. Large and highly diverse range of basin wetlands and associated wetland woodlands, shrublands and heaths.

(18) Kojonup – Beaufort – Carrolup River Flats

Area contains a great diversity of lowland, alluvial and riverine communities, including rare communities such as Lowland Mallet. Also many south coastal species and communities at their northern limits (including Flat-topped Yate). Freshwater claypans along the Beaufort are still largely intact. Major impacts beginning to occur.

(19) Toolibin Lake

Already a natural diversity recovery catchment. Ramsar listed. Large basin wetland and associated woodlands.

(20) Coyrecup Nature Reserve

Highly diverse range of low lying communities (Moort woodlands, Melaleuca shrublands) and associated wetlands.

AREAS SOUTH OF THE RAVENSTHORPE RAMP

(21) NE of Stirling Ranges (Anderson Lake to Corackerup Nature Reserve)

Southern lowland woodlands and Mallee communities and associated wetlands.

(22) Upper Lort River (possibly including Pyramid Lake)

Riverine low woodlands, Mallee communities, woodlands of calcareous clays and salt lake rises of the Mallee and Esperance Sandplains.

(23) Lake Gore

Ramsar listed wetland, diverse habitat for wildlife, basin lake and drainage line communities.

(24) Esperance Lakes

Already a natural diversity recovery catchment. Ramsar listed.

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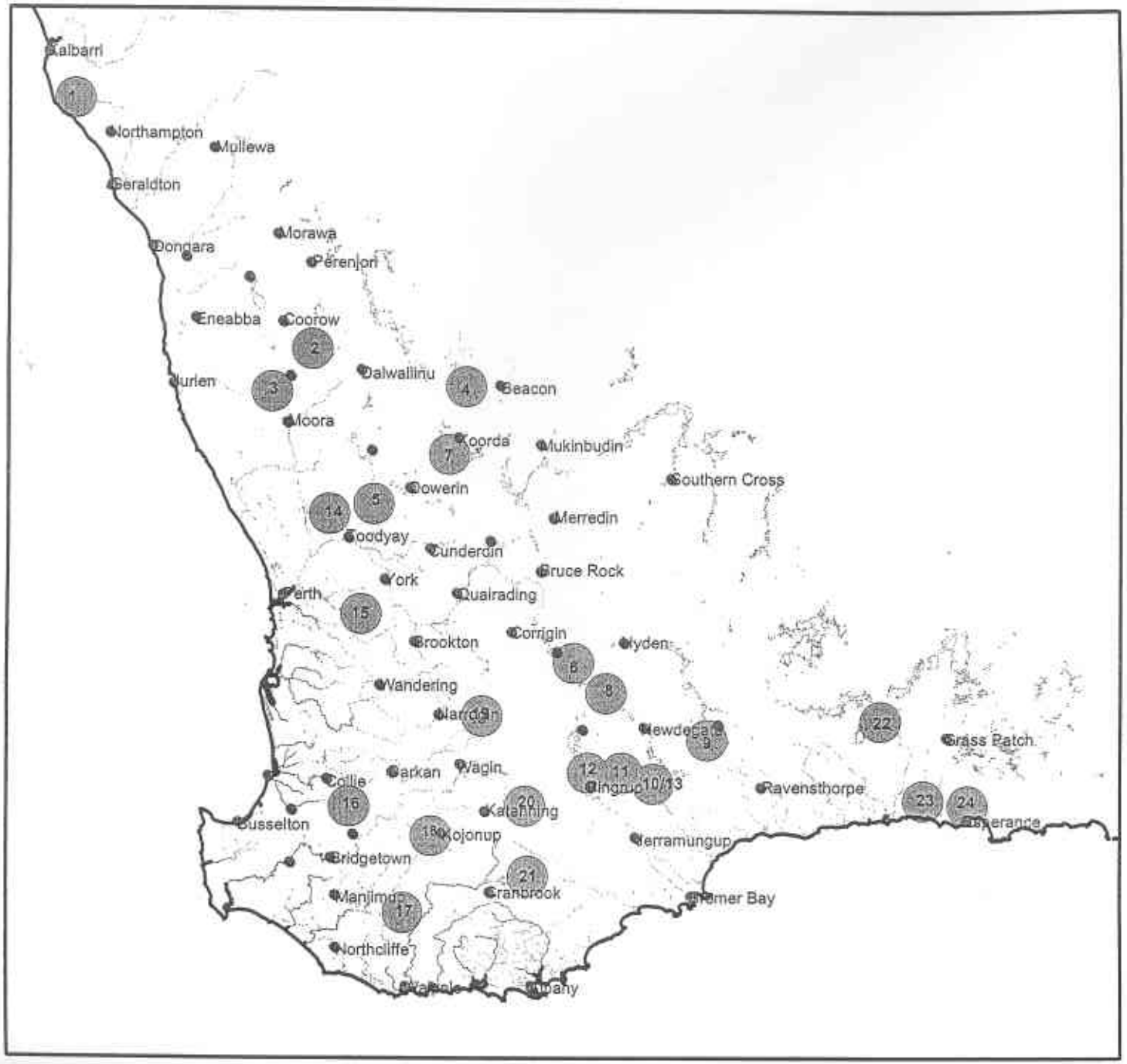
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