

BIODIVERSITY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



BIODIVERSITY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A guide for facilitators and co-ordinators
of natural resource management to assist landholders
with biodiversity conservation on private land,
including natural wetlands

MARCH 2009

Acknowledgments

This document is the result of a collaborative effort between the Department of Environment and Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food, National Trust of Australia (WA), World Wide Fund for Nature, and Greening Australia WA.

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Contents

Acknowledgments	ii
Recommended Reference.....	ii
Contents	iii
1 Introduction	1
How to use this document	1
2 What do you want to do with your bushland/natural wetland?	2
3 Summary of programs	3
4 Descriptions of programs available	6
Financial Assistance	6
Biodiversity Conservation Grants – City of Cockburn	6
Biodiversity Grants Program – City of Rockingham.....	6
Busselton Biodiversity Incentives Strategy – Shire of Busselton	7
Caring for our Country – Australian Government.....	7
Coastwest Community Support Grants – Western Australian Planning Commission	8
Conservation Zone Rate Rebate – Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	8
Denmark Conservation Appeal – National Trust of Australia (WA)	8
Environmental Community Grants – The Minister for Environment.....	9
Healthy Wetland Habitats – Department of Environment and Conservation	12
Landcare Australia Limited.....	12
Nature Conservation Covenant Program – Department of Environment and Conservation	12
Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) – Perth Region NRM Inc.....	13
Wetland Watch – WWF Australia	13
Labour Programs	14
Better Earth – Conservation Volunteers Australia.....	14
Earth Assist – Conservation Volunteers Australia.....	15
Employment Services – Green Skills	15
Green Corps – Greening Australia WA	16
Land Sale/Purchase or Donation.....	16
Bush Heritage Australia.....	16
Bush Bank – National Trust of Australia (WA)	17
Bush Brokers – WWF Australia, Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA), and the National Trust of Australia (WA)	17
Government Conservation Land Purchase Program – Department of Environment and Conservation ..	18
Land purchasing – Gondwana Link.....	19
Land Purchasing/Tax Deductible Donation – Australian Wildlife Conservancy.....	19
Subdivision for Conservation – Western Australian Planning Commission	19
Tax Deductible Donation – National Trust of Australia (WA)	20
Legal Protection.....	20
Covenancing Program – National Trust of Australia (WA)	20
Nature Conservation Covenant Program – Department of Environment and Conservation	21
Soil and Land Conservation Act Covenant – Department of Agriculture and Food.....	21
Management Agreements	22
CALM Act Section 16 – Department of Environment and Conservation.....	22

Healthy Wetland Habitats – Department of Environment and Conservation	22
Land for Wildlife – Department of Environment and Conservation	22
Wetland Watch – WWF Australia	23
Woodland Watch and Healthy Ecosystems – WWF Australia	23
Technical advice	24
Bush Brokers – WWF Australia, Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA), and the National Trust of Australia (WA)	24
Healthy Wetland Habitats – Department of Environment and Conservation	25
Land for Wildlife – Department of Environment and Conservation	25
Legal Advice – Environmental Defenders Office (WA) Inc.	26
Regional Biodiversity Coordinators – Greening Australia WA	26
Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA – NRM Regional Groups	26
Rivercare – Department of Water.....	27
Roadside Conservation Committee	27
Seed Management Services – Greening Australia WA	28
Urban Nature – Department of Environment and Conservation	28
Vegetation Survey Program – Wildflower Society of WA.....	29
Species and Communities Branch – Department of Environment and Conservation	29
Wetland Watch – WWF Australia	29
Woodland Watch and Healthy Ecosystems – WWF Australia	30
Training.....	31
Australian Association of Bush Regenerators.....	31
Green Skills	31
Land for Wildlife – Department of Environment and Conservation	32
Landskills.....	32
Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA – NRM Regional Groups.....	33
Rivercare – Department of Water.....	33
Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC)	34
Urban Nature – Department of Environment and Conservation	34
5 Programs listed by organisation	35
6 Relevant contacts	36
Natural Resource Management Councils	36
Department of Environment and Conservation	36
Department of Water	36

1 Introduction

This document is a collation of information on a number of incentive programs that are operating in Western Australia and are accessible by private landholders wishing to conserve biodiversity on their property or for community groups involved in conservation work on private lands. It is intended that staff working in natural resource management and related organisations use this document to provide information to private landholders about programs that aid in the management, protection and rehabilitation of bushland and natural wetlands on private land and adjacent public lands. It has been designed as an interactive digital document which can be accessed at www.dec.wa.gov.au.

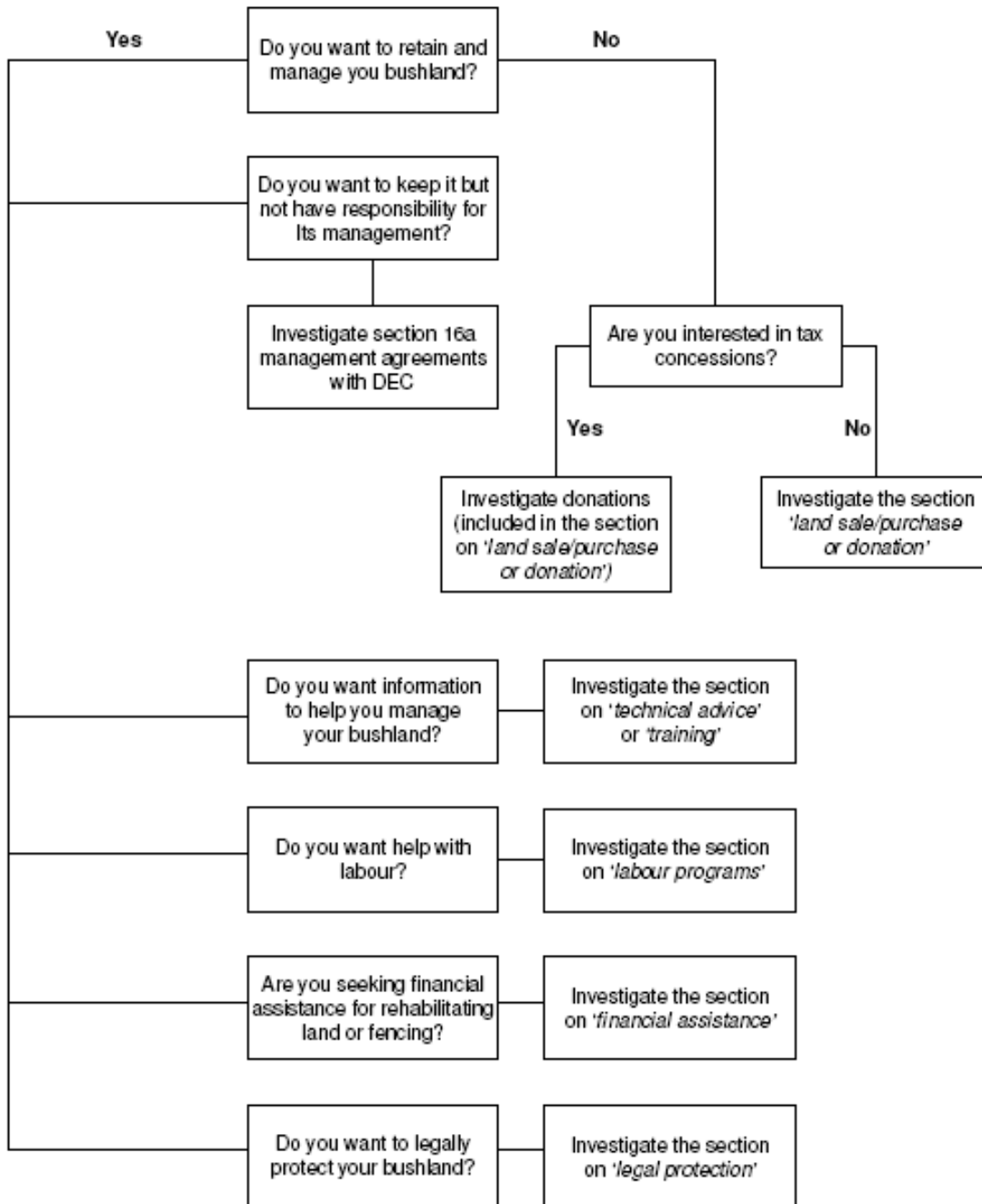
While every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate and up to date, the authors recognise that some of the information may become out of date as programs and organisations change. As such, please note that the information was correct at March 2009.

How to use this document

This document is divided into six sections:

1. Introduction and explanation of how to use this document.
2. The second section contains a [flow diagram](#). This diagram uses a series of questions that will lead the user to those sections of the document relevant to them.
3. Section three provides a [summary of the different biodiversity incentive programs](#) addressed and is presented in a matrix format. For each program the matrix outlines the natural resource management (NRM) regions where it is available and the natural resources to which the program applies.
4. Section four provides a brief description of each of the programs.
 - [Financial assistance](#)
 - [Labour programs](#)
 - [Land sale, purchase or donation](#)
 - [Legal protection](#)
 - [Management agreements](#)
 - [Technical advice](#)
 - [Training](#)
5. Section five provides a [listing of relevant programs](#) by organisation.
6. Section six provides [contact details](#) for NRM councils and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

2 What do you want to do with your bushland/natural wetland?



3 Summary of programs

The following matrix provides a summary of the different incentive programs outlined within this document. Programs are sorted under a main heading based on the incentive type, for example, technical advice. For each program the organisation offering the program, the geographical location and the land management type to which the program applies are provided. For a list of programs offered by specific organisations refer to Section 5.

X = MAJOR COMPONENT OF PROGRAM x = MINOR COMPONENT OF PROGRAM			Geographic Spread							Land Management									
INCENTIVE TYPE	INCENTIVE PROGRAM	CONTACT or PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION(S)	State-wide	Perth metropolitan area	Rangelands NRM Region	NorthAg CC NRM Region	Avon CC NRM Region	Perth NRM Region	South west NRM Region	South Coast NRM Region	Any natural area	Remnant vegetation	Roadside vegetation	Woodlands	Wetlands	Waterways	Coastal and marine	Salinity impacts	Threatened species
Financial assistance																			
	Biodiversity Conservation Grants	City of Cockburn						X				X			X				
	Biodiversity Grants Program	City of Rockingham		X								X							x
	Busseton Biodiversity Incentive Strategy	Shire of Busseton							X		X	X		X	X		x		x
	Caring for our Country	Australian Government	X								X								
	Coastwest Community Grants	WA Planning Commission	X														X		
	Conservation Zone Rates Rebate	Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale						X			X	X		X	X				x
	Denmark Conservation Appeal	The National Trust of Australia (WA)								X		X							
	Environmental Community Grants	The Minister for the Environment	X								X	X		X	X	X		X	X
	Healthy Wetland Habitats	DEC						X				x		X	x	x			
	Landcare Australia Limited	C/- Department of Agriculture and Food (WA)	X								X								
	Nature Conservation Covenant Program	DEC	x	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	x	x		X
	Swan Alcoa Landcare Program	Perth Region NRM inc.		X				X			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
	Wetlands Watch	WWF							X			X		X	x	x			x
Labour programs																			
	Better Earth	Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)	X								X								
	Earth Assist	CVA	X								X								
	Employment Services	Greenskills		X						X	X								
	GreenCorps	Greening Australia (WA)	x	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
Land sale/ purchase or donation																			
		Bush Heritage Australia									X	X		X	X	X			x

X = MAJOR COMPONENT OF PROGRAM x = MINOR COMPONENT OF PROGRAM			Geographic Spread							Land Management									
INCENTIVE TYPE	INCENTIVE PROGRAM	CONTACT or PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION(S)	State-wide	Perth metropolitan area	Rangelands NRM Region	NorthAg CC NRM Region	Avon CC NRM Region	Perth NRM Region	South west NRM Region	South Coast NRM Region	Any natural area	Remnant vegetation	Roadside vegetation	Woodlands	Wetlands	Waterways	Coastal and marine	Salinity impacts	Threatened species
	Bush Bank (WA revolving fund)	The National Trust of Australia (WA)	x	x	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		x		x
	Bush Brokers	WWF, REIWA, National Trust of Australia (WA)	x	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		
	Government conservation land purchase program	DEC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		x		X
	Land purchasing	Gondwana Link								X	X	X		X	X			X	
	Land purchasing Tax deductible donation	Australian Wildlife Conservancy	X								X	X		X	X				X
	Subdivision for Conservation	WA Planning Commission				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
	tax deductible donation	The National Trust of Australia (WA)	X								X	X		X	X		x		
Legal protection																			
	Covenancing Program	The National Trust of Australia (WA)	x	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	x	X		x
	Nature Conservation Covenant Program	DEC	x	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	x	X		X
	Soil and Land Conservation Act covenant	Department of Agriculture and Food	x	x	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Management agreements																			
	CALM Act Sect 16	DEC	x		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
	Healthy Wetland Habitats	DEC						X				x		X	x	x			
	Land for Wildlife	DEC	x	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		x		x
	Wetlands Watch	WWF							X			X		X	x	x			x
	Woodland Watch	WWF				X	X					X		X					
Technical advice																			
	Bush Brokers	WWF, REIWA, National Trust of Australia (WA)	x	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		
	Healthy Wetland Habitats	DEC						X				x		X	x	x			
	Land for Wildlife	DEC	x	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	x		x	
	Legal Advice	Environmental Defenders Office (WA) Inc.	x																
	Regional Biodiversity Coordinators/Officers	Greening Australia (WA)	x	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
	Ribbons of Blue	NRM Regional Groups			X	X	X	X	X	x				X	X		X		
	Rivercare	Department of Water	X		X	X	X	X	X	X						X		X	
	Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC)	RCC C/- DEC	x		x	X	X	X	X	X		X							
	Seed Management	Greening Australia					X				X	X		X	X			X	

X = MAJOR COMPONENT OF PROGRAM x = MINOR COMPONENT OF PROGRAM			Geographic Spread							Land Management									
INCENTIVE TYPE	INCENTIVE PROGRAM	CONTACT or PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION(S)	State-wide	Perth metropolitan area	Rangelands NRM Region	NorthAg CC NRM Region	Avon CC NRM Region	Perth NRM Region	South west NRM Region	South Coast NRM Region	Any natural area	Remnant vegetation	Roadside vegetation	Woodlands	Wetlands	Waterways	Coastal and marine	Salinity impacts	Threatened species
	Services	(WA)																	
	Urban Nature	DEC		X				X			X	X		X	X				
	Vegetation survey program	Wildflower Society of WA				X	X	X	X	X		X		X					
	Species and Communities Branch	DEC	X												X				X
	Wetlands Watch	WWF							X			X			X	x	x		x
	Woodland Watch	WWF				X	X					X	X						
Training																			
	Australian Association of Bush Regenerators																		
	Greenskills		X								X								
	Land for Wildlife	DEC	x	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	x		x	
	Landskills		x			X					X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Ribbons of Blue/ Waterwatch WA	NRM Regional Groups				X	X	X	X					X	X			X	
	Rivercare	Department of Water	X		X	X	X	X	X	X						X		X	
	Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC)	RCC C/- DEC	x		x	X	X	X	X	X			X						
	Urban Nature	DEC		X				X			X	X		X	X				

4 Descriptions of programs available

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance incentives offer landholders both assistance and incentive for preserving or managing bushland. These incentives are particularly important to landholders who feel that some form of compensation is appropriate, for example, where they have protected natural assets or for where the introduction of legislation has impacted on the landholders' perceived rights (e.g. clearing controls). These incentive programs aim to provide some financial assistance to those landholders who have initiated some form of bushland conservation activity. Financial assistance is provided through either direct monetary incentives, such as grants or subsidies to assist landholders with the costs of conservation works, or through reductions in rates, taxes or other charges normally incurred by the landholder. Many of the financial assistance programs outlined below are available to landholders State-wide, with some programs restricted to specific parts of WA.

Biodiversity Conservation Grants – City of Cockburn

The Landowner Biodiversity Conservation Grant program is a City of Cockburn initiative. It gives financial support to eligible Cockburn landowners living in the rural, rural living and resource zones who wish to conserve and enhance the natural bushland and wetland areas on their property.

Grants are limited to \$3,000 for individual landowners. However adjoining landowners are encouraged to make joint applications. Staff from the council's Environmental Services department assess applications, and grants are allocated in order of merit until the funding pool is exhausted.

Examples of activities that may be funded include, but are not limited to, weed control work, erection of fencing to exclude stock or feral animal control, revegetation to link bushland areas and erosion control. Projects must involve physical on-ground works and all revegetation work must use local plant species.

To be eligible, landowners must be in the rural, rural living or resource zone and have a sizeable area of remnant bushland or wetland area on their property. Projects must include a significant financial or in kind contribution by the landowner and benefit the natural environment on the property. Successful landowners must sign a simple 'conditions of funding and voluntary management agreement' that states that the bushland/wetland area for which the grant was obtained must be protected from activities likely to adversely impact on that area for a period of three years. Recipients are also required to attend environmental management training workshops. The City assists recipients to develop a Property Bushland/Wetland Management Plan.

Grant application packages can be obtained by contacting the council's Environmental Services Section on (08) 9411 3444 or visiting the website www.cockburn.wa.gov.au. Grants close 31 October each year.

Biodiversity Grants Program – City of Rockingham

City of Rockingham Rural and Special Rural landowners are eligible for a reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for on-ground conservation works that result in an improvement to the biodiversity of the region. Schools that abut rural land can also apply for the grant.

Landowners involved in the program are given training in implementing on-ground biodiversity conservation works. Landowners are also eligible for assisted grants, in which contractors can be employed to undertake the works.

For more information contact the City of Rockingham's Environmental Planning Officer on (08) 9528 0448.

Busselton Biodiversity Incentives Strategy – Shire of Busselton

The Shire of Busselton adopted the Biodiversity Incentive Strategy in 2002, which provides subdivision incentives and rate rebates to local landholders who conserve bushland and wetlands. The incentives are available to landholders who have areas of bush that meet the minimum size and condition requirements of the strategy.

In order to be eligible for the subdivision incentive, lots containing the bushland must be rezoned to Bushland Protection and be put under a conservation covenant that protects the bush and its values in perpetuity. The rate rebates are offered at two levels. The 50 per cent rate rebate is subject to a conservation covenant being put on the land title that protects the bushland and its values in perpetuity. The 35 per cent rebate is subject to signing a voluntary management agreement that requires the owner to join the Land For Wildlife program (see description in this document) and the bushland being managed in accordance with a Land for Wildlife Management Plan. The 35 per cent option is more flexible in that the Voluntary Conservation agreement is for 10 years and is not binding to future landowners.

For further information contact the Shire of Busselton on (08) 9781 0444.

Caring for our Country – Australian Government

Caring for our Country is an Australian Government initiative that seeks to achieve an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed and resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

Caring for our Country invites non-government organisations, landcare groups and other community groups, governments, industry and business to participate in a new approach to safeguarding Australia's natural resources and maintaining our sustainable farming systems.

Applicants are encouraged to form partnerships and collaborate in building lasting landscape-scale resilience in a changing climate.

Each year, a Caring for our Country business plan will be released seeking investment proposals for projects that address the national priority areas. The business plan provides a consolidated call for proposals, rather than a number of overlapping calls for grants throughout the year.

Each business plan will identify the priority targets for that financial year and will encourage proponents to submit proposals that will meet those targets. The targets are designed as stepping stones to achieve five-year outcomes across national priority areas.

Caring for our Country is focused on achieving strategic results in six national priorities:

- The National Reserve System
- Biodiversity and natural icons
- Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats
- Sustainable farm practices
- Natural resource management in northern and remote Australia
- Community skills, knowledge and engagement

Projects can be large, medium or small:

- Large-scale projects in the order of \$20 million over four years
- Medium-scale projects of up to \$3 million per annum (a value of \$2 to 3 million would be expected for most medium-scale projects)

- Small-scale projects of between \$20,000 and \$100,000 per annum.

Community groups and networks seeking smaller amounts of funding are encouraged to contact their [regional natural resource management organisation](#) to discuss local grants options or to identify potential partners with whom to submit a proposal.

For more information call the Caring for our Country Information line on 1800 552 008.

Coastwest Community Support Grants – Western Australian Planning Commission

The purpose of the Coastwest Community Support Grants is to encourage community groups to become involved in coastal and marine management and to maintain the momentum of community groups who have completed a project, but are yet to receive another project grant.

A rolling grants program with up to \$3,000 is available to provide support to community groups to undertake capacity building initiatives. Funds are allocated for the purchasing of materials, contracting of works, hiring of equipment, training courses and group establishment costs.

The proponent will need to provide \$1 in financial or in-kind support for each \$1 of Coastwest funding granted. Matching funding contributions may be in the form of volunteer labour.

Coastwest Community Support Grants guidelines and application forms are obtainable by contacting the State Coastwest Coordinator on (08) 9264 7834 or by email Coastwest@wapc.wa.gov.au.

Conservation Zone Rate Rebate – Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale

The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale has established a conservation zone initiative. Conservation zoning allows landowners with areas of high conservation value to receive substantial reductions in council rates. Council established the initiative to reward landowners who protect biodiversity values in bushland and wetland areas. Whole or portions of a property can be zoned conservation.

To be eligible for the rebate, landowners must demonstrate to the council that their bushland and/or wetland area is of high conservation value and is of an appropriate size (usually more than 10 hectares). They must also demonstrate their commitment to the ongoing protection and management of the area by preparing an environmental management plan.

Conservation zoning involves a formal amendment to the Town Planning Scheme. Once approved by State Government, areas zoned for conservation are rated at half the rate of previously rural zoned land (i.e. 50% rate reduction). Where the original zoning of the land was not rural, rate relief is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Landowners with areas of high conservation value can seek advice on environmental planning and management from the Shire Environmental Officer and the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Community Landcare Centre.

For further information contact the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale by telephoning (08) 9526 1127 or emailing info@sjshire.wa.gov.au.

Denmark Conservation Appeal – National Trust of Australia (WA)

The Denmark Environment Centre is working with the National Trust to facilitate more conservation covenanting of remnant bush on private land. Additionally, the centre is establishing other mechanisms to ease the financial burden of managing remnant bush on both private property and shire-managed land. The over arching aim is to increase the security of biodiversity in the region. Covenanting is used as a tool to meet the primary objectives of natural heritage conservation. Once a covenant is in place, funds from the appeal can be used to manage remnant bush through a management plan and ongoing management aimed at preserving the identified values.

The people at the Denmark Environment Centre recognise the potential of this scheme and have a vision for its use that will transform views of stewardship of remnant bush. With targeted use of appeal funds, remnant bush on private land can become a managed and sustainable reserve that positively contributes to the maintenance of biodiversity in the Denmark region to the benefit of all Western Australians.

In addition, the present paradigm of private ownership and management may shift to an understanding that management of special landscapes and ecosystems on private land can be a community concern.

For further information contact the Denmark Environment Centre on (08) 9848 1644 or The National Trust of Australia (WA) on (08) 9321 6088.

Environmental Community Grants – The Minister for Environment

Biodiversity conservation

Funding in this category (up to \$30,000) will be available for projects which rehabilitate, conserve, enhance or restore natural areas or values, predominantly on public lands.

Examples of suitable projects:

- Protection of threatened species
- Flora and fauna inventories leading to on-ground management actions; revegetation to rehabilitate or enhance natural vegetation, waterways, wetlands, wildlife habitat and/or wildlife corridors and linkages
- Weed and pest control in remnant bushland
- Protection for the habitat of a threatened species
- Establishment of facilities to reduce pressure on a natural area
- Associated environmental information and educational activities

Projects involving work on areas of bushland or wetland should include a map or aerial photograph that shows the value of the area. The bushland or wetland area and shape should be shown, as well as any linkages with other areas of bushland or wetland. A description of the bushland or wetland is also required.

Projects may cover areas of private land where this is integrated with a public land program to achieve a coordinated outcome.

Fauna rescue and rehabilitation

Funding in this category will be available for individuals or incorporated groups. Grants to individual wildlife rehabilitators are limited to \$500 per person per annum.

Grants to individuals will be restricted to fauna rescuers and rehabilitators who have been registered with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) as 'wildlife rehabilitators' for at least two years and who have operated continuously with a demonstrated commitment during this period.

Grants to incorporated groups will be restricted to groups which have suitably registered 'wildlife rehabilitators' with at least two years' experience in fauna rescue or rehabilitation and which include a commitment to rehabilitate native fauna in their area.

Examples of suitable projects:

- Purchase of specialist wildlife rescue or rehabilitation equipment
- Purchase of reference books and other materials

- Purchase of storage equipment for consumable supplies
- Purchase of specialty consumables such as special dietary or medical needs or specialty services, such as veterinary support
- Assistance with small publications (e.g. common treatment guidelines)

Fauna rescue and rehabilitation grants will not be provided for purchase or lease of office equipment or for major facility projects that are eligible for funding under the Animal Welfare Grants program administered by the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia.

Nature appreciation in natural areas

Funding in this category (up to \$30,000) will be available for projects that support and facilitate access to and sustainable use of natural areas for passive recreation. Projects should help visitors develop awareness, appreciation and understanding of natural areas, and preferably involve healthy physical activity.

Examples of suitable projects:

- Development and construction of recreational trails
- Development of brochures or trailside interpretive signs
- Upgrade of existing trails e.g. improved universal (disabled) access
- Development of interpretive activities or programs for natural areas

Projects involving development or improvements to existing trails will need to supply evidence of support from the relevant trail or land manager.

Protection of high value areas by landholders on private land

Funding in this category (up to \$15,000) will be available for projects undertaken by landholders on privately owned lands containing high value areas of remnant bushland or wetland. Such areas are often subject to restrictions on use through legislated controls on, for example, native vegetation clearing and the taking of rare flora.

Examples of suitable projects:

- Works such as restoration or revegetation of remnant bushland
- Protective fencing for remnant vegetation and wetlands

Projects that include the management of vegetation on private property will normally require the vegetation to be protected under a voluntary management agreement or a conservation covenant.

Regional parks and Bush Forever sites

Funding in this category (up to \$15,000) will be available for projects that rehabilitate, conserve, enhance or restore natural areas or values within areas that are designated as regional parks or Bush Forever sites, as well as for activities that raise public awareness for nature conservation within regional parks and Bush Forever sites.

Examples of suitable projects:

- Maintenance of rehabilitation sites
- Soil stabilisation and erosion control works
- Other projects similar to those listed in the 'Biodiversity conservation' and 'Sustainable catchment management' categories

Projects involving work in areas of bushland or wetland should also include a map or aerial photograph that shows the value of the bushland or wetland. The bushland or wetland area and shape should be shown, as well as any linkages with other areas. A description of the bushland or wetland is also required.

Groups applying for grants to purchase equipment that requires specialist operation will need to provide a copy of the operator's current certificate, or progression towards, or state the intent of the group to have a member undertake the required training to use the equipment. The cost of such training can be applied for under this grant process.

Support for major conservation/environment organisations

Funding in this category (up to \$25,000) will be available for major conservation/environmental organisations to enable them to facilitate and coordinate on-ground environmental projects by their members.

Examples of suitable projects:

- Major one-off initiatives that result in improved biodiversity conservation outcomes
- Development of resources that will be useful for and made available to a broad range of environmental groups
- Initiatives to increase community engagement in conservation/environment issues that have the potential to affect a large proportion of the population or of affiliate groups

State environment organisations which are acknowledged as a State umbrella body (representative of a broad range of environmental groups) or a resource centre for community environmental action will be given high priority for funding. Priority will otherwise be based on the level of community participation, demonstrated effectiveness and capacity to undertake or coordinate on-ground environmental improvement and/or conservation activities and the relationship to identified Government priorities.

Sustainable catchment management

Funding in this category (up to \$30,000) will be available to catchment authorities and landcare and natural resource management groups to work with industry, farmers and landholders to reduce salinity in rivers and wetlands and limit the amount of nutrients that flow into waterways.

Examples of suitable projects:

- Revegetation works that will reduce salinity and nutrient flows into waterways
- Integrated surface water management such as contour banks
- Protection and fencing of remnant vegetation within catchment areas

Priority may be given to projects in catchments of wetlands that are recognised as internationally (Ramsar listed) or nationally significant.

Applicants need to include a map or aerial photograph of the area where the work is to be undertaken together with the location number and land division for the property. A description of the vegetation is also required.

How to apply:

Applications must be made in writing on the relevant application form, which can be obtained by phoning (08) 9334 0455 or downloaded from www.dec.wa.gov.au. You have the option of submitting the form electronically or by emailing to grants@dec.wa.gov.au.

Further enquiries can be directed to the Environmental Community Grants Coordinator on telephone (08) 9334 0455, fax (08) 9334 0278, or email grants@dec.wa.gov.au.

Healthy Wetland Habitats – Department of Environment and Conservation

Healthy Wetland Habitats is a voluntary program giving technical and financial support to landholders who care for wetlands. The program is an initiative of the Western Australian Government and administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The focus of Healthy Wetland Habitats is to help landholders develop a wetland management plan to protect and care for their wetlands. The purpose of the management plan is to identify priority management actions, such as fencing and weed control, which will ensure the wetland's values are maintained and enhanced for future generations. Once a management plan is prepared, landholders can access funding of up to \$10,000 to carry out priority management actions identified in the management plan. If there is an existing management plan, landholders may also be eligible for funding assistance.

Any private landholder whose property contains a wetland with conservation value on the Swan Coastal Plain, and who would like to better manage his or her wetland to ensure its long-term conservation, can apply.

For more information please go to www.dec.wa.gov.au/management-and-protection/wetlands/healthy-wetland-habitats.html or contact the Healthy Wetlands Coordinator on (08) 9334 0570.

Landcare Australia Limited

Landcare Australia Limited (LAL) was established by government as a 'not for profit' public company to promote the landcare ethic and secure sponsorship for on-ground Landcare and Coastcare group projects and promotional campaigns. Landcare Australia seeks to supplement government funding by securing sponsorship from its corporate partners. This funding is then distributed to Landcare and Coastcare groups for activities the partner has agreed to support, and can often include biodiversity conservation. The Board of Management has directors from corporations, government, industry, research institutions, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the National Farmers Federation. The WA office of LAL is supported by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

For more information contact Natalie Moore on (08) 9368 3166 or email nhunt@agric.wa.gov.au.

Nature Conservation Covenant Program – Department of Environment and Conservation

The Department of Environment and Conservation's Nature Conservation Covenants are a partnership between landowners and the department, whereby the land has legal protection to conserve its biodiversity values, and both parties make a contribution to managing the land. Under the program, certain financial incentives are available to covenantors.

On application for a conservation covenant, the department may offer landowners:

- up to \$500 to cover the owner's reasonable independent legal costs to check the covenant document;
- a contribution to finance for fencing; and
- other initial management costs to restore the land where past damage has occurred.

The department will also make significant contributions in the following areas:

- It does not charge a fee for voluntary covenants and pays for the administration, survey, legal and covenant registration costs
- It assists the owner with the preparation of management guidelines and a monitoring program

- It arranges for the land to be re-valued and the rates adjusted if the land value varies as a result of the covenant
- It provides advice and assists with negotiations when there are threats to the land from development proposals.

The department's Nature Conservation Covenant Program is accredited by the Commonwealth government for Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax concessions, and hence covenantors are eligible to apply for these tax concessions. The State government also provides for Land Tax exemption for the bushland portion of the property protected under the covenant.

For more information about covenants see the section on 'Legal Protection' or contact the Nature Conservation Covenant Program Coordinator on (08) 9334 0477.

Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) – Perth Region NRM Inc

SALP provides funds for community groups involved in on-ground revegetation and rehabilitation projects.

Established in 1998, the program aims to provide easy access to funding for a broad range of environmental activities within the Swan and Canning catchments. The Perth Region NRM manages the program with support from staff at the Swan River Trust. In 2008 the trust committed to contributing \$350,000 through the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program (SCCP), in addition to Alcoa World Alumina's contribution of \$250,000. These contributions secured funding for 63 successful projects. Perth Region NRM, the Swan River Trust and Alcoa Australia are committed to the ongoing support and funding in 2009 onwards.

Contact: Perth Region NRM on (08) 9374 3333 or go to our website at www.perthregionnrm.com.

Wetland Watch – WWF Australia

Wetland Watch manages and protects wetlands on private land through raising awareness of biodiversity value of wetlands, educating landholders (about different wetland types, functions and values) and assisting landowners to build their capacity to manage wetlands for the long-term.

Wetland Watch in the Peel Inlet/Harvey Estuary has the potential to achieve significant outcomes including:

- improved resilience of high value wetlands and wetland vegetation communities to climate change;
- reduced habitat loss;
- improved management of different wetland types;
- application of best management practices of wetlands to improve water quality in a priority coastal hotspot;
- greater appreciation for wetland areas and the Peel Inlet/Harvey Estuary within the local community and greater capacity for the community to manage these areas;
- ensuring important wetland areas are earmarked for conservation purposes rather than urban development by maintaining and improving vegetation condition;
- greater appreciation by landholders of the value of ecological linkages; and
- encouraging private landholders to protect wetlands through conservation covenants and long-term voluntary management agreements.

Landholders are assisted with property management planning using best practice methodology. They are required to commit to long-term conservation on their property by signing Voluntary Management

Agreements and/or Conservation Covenants. Wetland Watch can provide funds to part-finance management actions on target properties. Management actions often include weed control, revegetation and fencing. The Wetland Watch project officer can also act as a broker for private landowners to access other funding opportunities.

For more information contact the Wetland Watch Program Coordinator on (08) 9387 6444.

Labour Programs

Labour programs can provide landowners with some of the resources required to undertake bushland management. There are a variety of programs that private landholders and local councils can contact for assistance on specific projects. Many of the programs organise groups to assist landholders in rehabilitation activities ranging from planting to fencing to general maintenance of bushland. In addition to the people resources required to undertake works, these programs can also often provide the tools and equipment required.

Better Earth – Conservation Volunteers Australia

Conservation Volunteers Australia supports, develops and implements community programs which engage and involve urban and regional volunteers and communities in practical conservation activities. Conservation Volunteers Australia has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The 'Better Earth' program is designed to allow park rangers, landcare coordinators, environmental officers and park maintenance staff to focus on the activities of controlling, patrolling, maintaining and managing their parks, reserves and other recreational areas, by providing valuable assistance in the form of a managed volunteer task force under the supervision of a fully trained team leader.

The 'Better Earth' program is also valuable for community groups, friends-of groups and schools looking to undertake conservation or heritage activities. Volunteer teams are capable of undertaking a wide variety of projects, freeing rangers and other staff up from 'on ground' activities. Volunteer projects should be designed to observe, preserve, protect or restore Western Australia's natural environment, Indigenous or historical cultural heritage, and should also encourage a sense of community ownership.

Activities can include, but are not limited to:

- exclusion fencing;
- planting;
- MER (Monitoring, Evaluation and Recording);
- flora and fauna surveys;
- erosion and salinity control;
- seed collection;
- habitat restoration; and
- control and maintenance of non-native flora.

What do Conservation Volunteers provide?

- A qualified team leader to manage your volunteers for you
- Insurance coverage for volunteers (including \$20 million public liability insurance)
- Up to 10 volunteers

- Team vehicle for transportation of tools and volunteers to and around your project site
- Level three first aid officer
- Tools, equipment and for regional projects food and camping equipment

For more information phone (08) 9227 5711, email perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au or visit the website at www.conservationvolunteers.com.au.

Earth Assist – Conservation Volunteers Australia

Conservation Volunteers Australia supports, develops and implements community programs which engage and involve urban and regional volunteers and communities in practical conservation activities.

The 'Earth Assist' program has been developed in response to the Department of Education and Training's mandatory secondary schools Community Service Program (CSP), whereby as at January 2009 all year 10, 11 and 12 students must have completed 20 hours of community service before they will be presented with their West Australian Certificate of Education.

Conservation Volunteers Australia have entered into agreement with the Department of Environment (DEC) and Conservation and the Department of Education and Training to assist with the delivery of the CSP, by providing opportunities for schools to work with the DEC on various projects.

Activities can include, but are not limited to:

- planting;
- MER (Monitoring, Evaluation and Recording);
- flora and fauna surveys;
- seed collection;
- habitat restoration; and
- marine debris collection.

What do Conservation Volunteers provide?

- Qualified team leaders
- Insurance coverage for volunteers (inc \$20m public liability insurance)
- Up to 20 volunteers
- Team vehicle for transportation of tools and volunteers from their school to (and around) your project site
- Level three first aid officer
- Tools, equipment and for regional projects food and camping equipment

For more information phone (08) 9227 5711, email perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au or visit the website at www.conservationvolunteers.com.au.

Employment Services – Green Skills

Green Skills is a not-for-profit organisation committed to the promotion and demonstration of sustainability through the management of innovative community projects and the provision of quality environmental training and employment services. Offices are based in Perth, Denmark and Albany. Green Skills also manages the Denmark Centre for Sustainable Living. Green Skills is a Registered Training Organisation scoped to deliver Certificates I–IV in Conservation and Land Management and the

nationally accredited short course in Home Sustainability Assessment. Green Skills provides training and project management in biodiversity preservation, including bush regeneration, weed management, wetland conservation and the implementation of sustainable land management practices.

For more information phone Annabelle Newbury on (08) 9360 6667 or email anewbury@greenskills.org.au.

Green Corps – Greening Australia WA

Greening Australia delivers the national Green Corps training initiative for the Federal Government's Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Hundreds of young Western Australians participate in Green Corps projects each year. Green Corps provides individuals with valuable environmental training and personal development experience, with the aim of providing Australia with a new generation of environmental professionals.

The majority of projects take place in rural and remote areas as they require the greatest amount of environmental assistance. Green Corps teams can provide valuable support to resource management organisations, catchment groups, Indigenous organisations/corporations and local councils and shires in achieving their environmental and heritage project outcomes. Green Corps encourages greater participation and communication of local youth, community support and environmental awareness in regional communities. The opportunity to gain important environmental skills and knowledge provides the local youth and community with valuable tools that benefit all involved.

For more information contact Claire Hudson on (08) 9335 0120 or email chudson@gawa.org.au.

Land Sale/Purchase or Donation

For some private landholders, managing the bushland on their property is an onerous and/or unwanted task. For these landowners, selling their bushland is an attractive alternative. There are a number of programs operating in Western Australia that can facilitate the sale of bushland. These programs are often contacted by conservation-minded members of the public wanting to purchase bushland. In some instances, Government agencies also have funding to purchase bushland considered to be of high conservation value. For some landholders the option of donating bushland to an organisation is attractive, particularly if there is an economic incentive to do so.

Bush Heritage Australia

Bush Heritage Australia is an independent non-profit organisation that is committed to protecting Australia's animals, plants and their habitats for future generations. It does this by acquiring and managing land of outstanding conservation value or by working in partnership with other landowners.

Bush Heritage currently owns and manages 31 reserves throughout Australia, covering over 946,276 hectares of land. Together, these reserves safeguard more than 242 vegetation communities. Forty-seven of these are of high conservation significance. They include 310 plant species of conservation significance, and 700 animal species, including birds, of conservation significance. There are currently seven reserves in Western Australia.

Bush Heritage does all it can to protect its reserves into perpetuity. It manages reserves for the primary goal of conservation and preservation of all of the natural ecosystem functions present on each reserve, not only for particular animals or plants.

Bush Heritage is highly selective when acquiring land for conservation, requiring large areas of substantially unmodified remnant ecosystems which have regional or national ecological significance. Once properties are purchased, Bush Heritage collaborates constructively with the owners of neighbouring properties to manage fire, feral animals and weeds.

While its reserves protect nearly a million hectares, an equally important and growing part of its conservation work is working with others on their land. These ‘partnerships’ are with farmers, Indigenous groups and other landowners with an interest in conservation.

Bush Heritage also works with pastoralists, governments, scientific institutions, Indigenous groups, and other conservation organisations to encourage regional conservation outcomes.

For more information visit the Bush Heritage website www.bushheritage.org.au, email info@bushheritage.org.au or phone 1300 NATURE (1300 628 873).

Bush Bank – National Trust of Australia (WA)

Bush Bank is a revolving fund set up to purchase private land of high landscape and habitat value. Bush Bank on-sells land to a conservation-orientated purchaser with a conservation covenant to be registered on title, resulting in improved protection and management of the land. Money from the re-sale is returned to the revolving fund to purchase more important properties for conservation. By revolving its funds in this way, Bush Bank becomes an effective conservation tool, enabling significant areas of conservation habitat to be protected with the same amount of money.

Bush Bank was founded by a consortium comprising WWF-Australia, Department of Environment and Conservation, WA Landcare Trust and The National Trust, who administers the program. With only \$1 million from the Natural Heritage Trust and \$1 million from the State Government, Bush Bank’s funds are limited. In fact, over time a revolving fund like Bush Bank can diminish if costs are greater than income from property sales.

Bush Bank is also an attractive way for people to donate land that has conservation value. By doing so, not only will donors know that the land will be permanently protected (by conservation covenant), they also have the satisfaction of being able to help protect more important land through the sale proceeds from their gift. A donation of money to Bush Bank will help expand the fund and its purchasing power to save more precious conservation land. And, of course, gifts of land and money to The National Trust for conservation purposes are tax deductible.

For more information contact the National Trust on (08) 9321 6088.

Bush Brokers – WWF Australia, Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA), and the National Trust of Australia (WA)

Bush Brokers aims to increase the ‘value’ of bush blocks in south-west Western Australia, from both a financial and conservation point of view.

Bush Brokers is an unincorporated partnership between the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA), WWF and the National Trust of Australia (WA). The Soil and Land Conservation Council were partners in the recent past but are no longer active in the partnership.

The Bush Brokers partnership aims to promote the market for bushland and ensure its conservation and sustainable use. It aims to stimulate the purchase of land by conservation-minded individuals and groups and increase the acquisition and management of land for conservation purposes. This is being done in a way that complements other mechanisms for remnant vegetation and biodiversity protection.

Bush Brokers have:

- developed a web site: www.bushbrokers.com.au to provide a simple and direct brokering mechanism between buyers and sellers of bush;
- produced a manual for buyers, sellers and realtors;
- produced a checklist and information brochures for buyers and sellers of bush;
- produced and disseminated a case study document; and

- carried out market research to profile the state of the market, key drivers and obstacles.

For more information contact Bush Brokers by email info@bushbrokers.com or phone Chris Curnow at WWF Australia (08) 9387 6444, Jill Turton at REIWA (08) 9755 5123 or the Natural Heritage Manager at National Trust of Australia (WA) on (08) 9321 6088.

Government Conservation Land Purchase Program – Department of Environment and Conservation

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has statutory responsibility under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* for the protection of flora and fauna throughout the State, and under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, for the management of lands and waters entrusted to it.

A key strategy to achieve nature conservation outcomes across the State is to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative terrestrial conservation reserve system.

This may be achieved through:

- the implementation of land tenure changes recommended in State planning strategies and DEC area and regional management plans, including the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013;
- the implementation of land tenure changes as a result of biological survey;
- reservation proposals for the Perth Metropolitan Region in Bush Forever;
- the purchase of leasehold land of high conservation value;
- the reservation of leasehold areas identified for exclusion for conservation from pastoral leases when they expire in 2015;
- the purchase of parcels of freehold remnant vegetation and wetlands in the south-west agricultural zone and Swan coastal plain with a priority being given to threatened species and ecosystems, as well as bushland contributing to the protection from salinity; and
- the pursuit of Environmental Protection Authority Conservation Through Reserves Committee recommendations that remain unimplemented and have not been superseded.

DEC's priorities for conservation land purchases to add to the formal conservation reserve system (i.e. national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks) include those areas that:

- contain threatened species or ecological communities;
- have ecosystems that are poorly represented in the existing and proposed conservation reserve system; and
- add to the viability of existing reserves or greatly improve their management.

The funds available to DEC for conservation land acquisition are provided from a number of sources including an annual capital allocation; the Commonwealth Government through the National Reserve System program of the Caring for our Country initiative; environmental offsets from development projects; the Biodiversity Adjustment Scheme; and from time to time, the retention of asset sales by the department.

For enquiries concerning DEC's conservation land purchase program please contact the nature conservation leader at [your local DEC office](#) (See section 6) or the department's Land Tenure Project Officer on (08) 9219 8775.

Land purchasing – Gondwana Link

Gondwana Link is a major project developed with the objective of restoring the ecological connectivity between the wet forests of the far south west and the semi-arid interior of south-western Australia. The current focus is on restoring ecological function between the Stirling Ranges and the Fitzgerald River national parks, gaining improved protection and management for the Great Western Woodlands and supporting ecological work between the Porongurup and Stirling ranges. The collaboration is currently building a network of core wilderness areas linked by continuous belts of habitat surrounded by supportive land uses. For example, through Greening Australia the project has developed sustainable enterprises based on the natural riches of the region, such as biodiverse carbon sequestration and multi species sandalwood plantations. Another key focus of the work has been engagement with and support for the Nyoongar, Gnarjju and Wongi people, traditional owners of country along the link.

Gondwana Link is a collaboration of groups, including Greening Australia, the Wilderness Society, Bush Heritage Australia, Fitzgerald Biosphere Group, Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park, The Nature Conservancy and Greenskills. A focus of the collaborative work is on restoring landscape function in the specific parts of the link.

Gondwana Link can assist landholders in the sensitive management and restoration of privately owned land. If you would like to discuss ecologically supportive investment opportunities, land purchase and covenanting contact Keith Bradby, Gondwana Link Director on (08) 9842 0001 or email bradby@gondwanalink.org.

Land Purchasing/Tax Deductible Donation – Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is a national, independent, non-profit organisation based in Perth, dedicated to the conservation of Australia's wildlife. It aims to establish a national network of sanctuaries that protect threatened wildlife and ecosystems by acquiring and managing areas of high conservation significance.

To that end AWC currently owns 20 sanctuaries across Australia, covering over 2,775 million hectares (6.8 million acres), in such places as north Queensland, the Kimberley, western New South Wales, Northern Territory and the forests of south western Australia.

At its sanctuaries AWC seeks to protect the full range of biodiversity through practical on-ground management based on the best available science, including feral animal control, fire management, and threatened species programs. In relation to mammal conservation programs, AWC has a strong record of successful reintroductions at sanctuaries in Western Australia. For example, at almost 6,000 hectares AWC's Faure Island sanctuary is the third largest island in the world from which cats have been eradicated. Two endangered mammals have subsequently been reintroduced. Other successful translocations have occurred at the Scotia, Karakamia and Paruna sanctuaries.

As a part of its overall approach to biodiversity conservation, AWC is committed to working in partnership with other organisations to promote research on key biodiversity issues, and public education in relation to the plight of Australia's wildlife.

AWC's operations are funded primarily by donations. As a registered, non-profit organisation, donations to AWC are tax deductible.

For more information contact the Australian Wildlife Conservancy on (08) 9380 9633 or visit the website www.australianwildlife.org.

Subdivision for Conservation – Western Australian Planning Commission

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) Development Control Policy 3.4 (DC 3.4) Subdivision of Rural Land sets out the specific principles used by the WAPC when determining

subdivision of rural land. While there is a general presumption against subdivision of rural land unless it is specifically provided for in a town planning scheme, an endorsed local planning strategy or an endorsed local rural strategy, lots can be excised for conservation if a number criteria outlined within the policy can be met. The objectives of the policy are to;

- assist rural producers on farming properties to maintain productive use of agricultural land; and
- promote conservation, and prevent further land degradation and salinity by encouraging the retention of remnant vegetation in rural areas.

Copies of this policy can be downloaded from www.wapc.wa.gov.au by clicking on Publications and following the links to the appropriate Development Control Policy. Planning Bulletin No. 48 provides an explanation for the Development Control Policy and can also be downloaded from the website given above by again clicking on Publications and following the links to the appropriate Planning Bulletin.

DC 3.4 applies to rural zoned land within the Wheatbelt Agricultural Policy Area (Planning Bulletin No. 48 for a map of the policy area). It does not apply to pastoral leases.

For more information contact the Department for Planning and Infrastructure on (08) 9264 7777.

Tax Deductible Donation – National Trust of Australia (WA)

Land can be donated or vested in an approved environmental organisation or government conservation department and the donor may be eligible for a tax deduction for the value of the land. When the land is donated to an environmental organisation it ensures it is managed for conservation into the future. A financial donation with the land as an endowment can help ensure that the environmental organisation has the resources to manage the land in the long term. In some cases the land may be on-sold by the environmental organisation with a covenant to protect the conservation values. Arrangements can be made for the current landholder to remain living on the land and the original owner may not be liable for rates and taxes. To be donated, the land needs to be on a separate title and the landholder may then be eligible for financial benefits (see relevant section of Australian Tax Office website).

Donations of bushland are often made to the following environmental organisations – Wetlands and Wildlife, Australian Bush Heritage Fund, National Trust of Australia (WA), and WWF-Australia. The Department of Environment and Conservation also accepts donations of land that meet certain criteria.

For more information contact the National Trust WA Natural Heritage Manager on (08) 9321 6088.

Legal Protection

As with management agreements, legal protection mechanisms will be most attractive to those landholders who are already conservation minded. The following covenanting programs offer voluntary, legal agreements that can aid in the protection of bushland from future development. Most of the programs outlined below enable landholders to gain access to professional advice and financial incentives that they would otherwise not be eligible to receive.

Covenanting Program – National Trust of Australia (WA)

The National Trust (WA) is a voluntary community-based organisation whose mission is to conserve and interpret Australia's heritage (both natural and cultural). The National Trust Conservation Covenanting Program started in April 1999, under the *National Trust (WA) Act 1964*.

National Trust covenants can be tailored to meet the landowner's needs; they are legally binding and run with the title of the land in perpetuity, although fixed-term covenants are negotiable.

The benefits to landowners who covenant with the trust include:

- a legal mechanism for protecting the natural values of their property;
- specialist environmental advice;
- a detailed assessment of the area to be covenanted;
- assistance with the development of a management plan;
- a stewardship program which includes annual contact from National Trust staff;
- potential access to funding programs;
- linkages to a range of specialist community groups and other programs that can provide training and support;
- advocacy and support on regional or planning issues affecting the viability of the bushland; and
- eligibility for concessions on rates and taxes (refer to Financial Incentives).

The National Trust (WA) will generally meet the costs of placing a voluntary covenant on the title, including legal costs.

For more information contact the National Trust WA Natural Heritage Manager on (08) 9321 6088.

Nature Conservation Covenant Program – Department of Environment and Conservation

The Department of Environment and Conservation's Nature Conservation Covenant Program enables landowners to permanently protect their bushland through the placement of a legally binding covenant on their land title. The department will enter into a covenant where the bushland is assessed to have high nature conservation values, where these values can be protected by the covenant.

Nature Conservation Covenants are flexible, and are drafted to reflect the individual requirements of each landowner and the biodiversity values to be protected under the covenant. The covenants are supported by practical management guidelines developed between the landowner and the department. The department's Covenant Program includes ongoing stewardship, where advice and support is provided by the department to assist the landowner to manage the bushland for the conservation of its natural values.

The department's program also includes the provision of economic incentives (see the section on '*Financial Assistance*'), and is accredited by the Commonwealth government for income tax and capital gains tax benefits. The State government also provides for land tax exemption for the bushland portion of the property protected under the covenant.

For more information contact the Nature Conservation Covenant Program Coordinator on (08) 9334 0477.

Soil and Land Conservation Act Covenant – Department of Agriculture and Food

The Department of Agriculture and Food has assisted landholders to covenant land since 1990. Two types of covenants are available under the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945*: Conservation covenants which are expressed as irrevocable and cannot be varied or discharged; and Agreements to Reserve which can be varied or revoked by mutual consent. Both types of covenant can apply for an agreed period or in perpetuity. Covenants under the Act are positive rather than restrictive covenants. The landowner agrees with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation to manage the vegetation in such a way to retain and promote its growth.

For more information contact the Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation at the Department of Agriculture and Food on (08) 9368 3282.

Management Agreements

Management agreements will be most attractive to those landholders who are already conservation minded. These agreements often take the form of voluntary, legal or non-binding agreements that can aid in the protection of bushland from future development. Most programs enable landholders to gain access to professional advice and financial incentives that they would otherwise not be eligible to receive.

CALM Act Section 16 – Department of Environment and Conservation

Under Section 16 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) may enter into an agreement with a landowner or lessee, to manage the land under the CALM Act. In practice this would usually occur where the land was adjacent to other land managed by DEC, and the agreement to manage was a means of more efficiently managing the combined land area. Other situations where such a management agreement might be considered would be where DEC has a significant interest in the land, such as the occurrence of a significant area of vegetation, and the land owner or occupier was not wishing to manage those interests.

For more information contact your [local DEC office](#) – see relevant contacts at the end of this document.

Healthy Wetland Habitats – Department of Environment and Conservation

Healthy Wetland Habitats is a voluntary program giving technical and financial support to landholders who care for wetlands. The program is an initiative of the Western Australian Government and administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The focus of Healthy Wetland Habitats is to help landholders develop a wetland management plan to protect and care for their wetlands. The purpose of the management plan is to identify priority management actions, such as fencing and weed control, which will ensure the wetland's values are maintained and enhanced for future generations. Once a management plan is prepared, landholders can access funding of up to \$10,000 to carry out priority management actions identified in the management plan. If there is an existing management plan, landholders may also be eligible for funding assistance.

Any private landholder whose property contains a wetland on the Swan Coastal Plain, and who would like to better manage his or her wetland to ensure its long-term conservation, can apply.

For more information please go to www.dec.wa.gov.au/management-and-protection/wetlands/healthy-wetland-habitats.html or contact the Healthy Wetlands Coordinator on (08) 9334 0570.

Land for Wildlife – Department of Environment and Conservation

Land for Wildlife (LFW) is a biodiversity extension service provided free to private landholders in Western Australia. LFW aims to encourage and assist landholders to conserve nature and provide habitats for wildlife (both plants and animals) on their property, even though the property may be managed primarily for other purposes.

Land for Wildlife Officers stationed throughout the south-west of Western Australia inspect the property with the landholder, identify species and give up to date best-practice advice for remnant vegetation management and revegetation with wildlife in mind. The discussions are written up as a detailed report that is provided to the landholder together with a selection of printed information materials. *LFW* registered landholders also receive the quarterly magazine *Western Wildlife* and access to field days, workshops and other events.

Registration with *LFW* is entirely voluntary, and there are no signed agreements setting out what a landholder can or cannot do on their *Land for Wildlife* sites. Advice is provided so landholders can make their own, informed decisions on biodiversity management actions, allowing people to adopt ideas at a rate they feel comfortable with. Nevertheless, formal, signed 'Voluntary Management Agreements' based

on the *LFW* Report can be developed if the landholder wishes, usually as a requirement before receiving funding from Local, State or Federal Governments.

For more information contact DEC *Land for Wildlife* Senior Project Officer Penny Hussey on (08) 9334 0530.

Wetland Watch – WWF Australia

Wetland Watch manages and protects wetlands on private land through raising awareness of biodiversity value of wetlands, educating landholders (about different wetland types, functions and values) and assisting landowners to build their capacity to manage wetlands for the long-term.

Implementation of Wetland Watch in the Peel Inlet/Harvey Estuary will achieve significant outcomes including:

- improved resilience of high value wetlands and wetland vegetation communities to climate change;
- reduced habitat loss;
- improved management of different wetland types;
- application of best management practices of wetlands to improve water quality in a priority coastal hotspot;
- greater appreciation for wetland areas and the Peel Inlet/Harvey Estuary within the local community and greater capacity for the community to manage these areas;
- ensuring important wetland areas are earmarked for conservation purposes rather than urban development by maintaining and improving vegetation condition;
- greater appreciation by landholders of the value of ecological linkages; and
- encouraging private landholders to protect wetlands through conservation covenants and long-term voluntary management agreements.

Landholders are assisted with property management planning using best practice methodology. They are required to commit to long-term conservation on their property by signing Voluntary Management Agreements and/or Conservation Covenants. Wetland Watch can provide funds to part-finance management actions on target properties. Management actions often include weed control, revegetation and fencing. The Wetland Watch project officer can also act as a broker for private landowners to access other funding opportunities.

For more information contact the Wetland Watch Program Coordinator on (08) 9387 6444.

Woodland Watch and Healthy Ecosystems – WWF Australia

The vast majority of Wheatbelt areas in the Southwest Australia Ecoregion are clearly showing signs of environmental stress, from activities such as the expansion of agricultural clearing. Impacts include salinity, rising watertables, uncontrolled grazing by domestic livestock, and feral species invasion which cause woodlands to degrade through altered nutrient balances, competition and lack of natural regeneration.

Through a series of community partnerships with regional Natural Resource Management bodies, Woodland Watch (in the Northern Agricultural Region) and Healthy Ecosystems (in the Avon River Basin) is helping landholders, communities and local government authorities to protect priority ecosystems (including eucalypt woodlands) on private and non-government managed lands.

The work concentrates on ecosystems that are under-represented in the State conservation estate (including a number of woodland communities) and the wealth of biodiversity that resides within these

habitats. This includes a number of threatened ecological communities (where a number of species are at risk) and a whole range of rare flora. The various animals that use these habitats as homes and transit-ways also benefit from our work.

The Woodland Watch and Healthy Ecosystems projects:

- facilitate the uptake of voluntary land management agreements with landowners, farmers and shires to help manage their bushland for conservation;
- undertake flora surveys on private land, including recording undocumented biodiversity, and encourage farmers to understand the role of biodiversity on farms and beyond;
- report potential threatened ecological communities, rare and endangered plants, or new species discovered; and
- provide on-ground technical advice on topics such as bush health assessment and weed control.

Partners include:

- farmers across the vast Wheatbelt;
- the Avon Catchment Council;
- the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council;
- various local Shire Councils;
- the Department of Environment and Conservation (WA);
- the Natural Heritage: a program of the National Trust of Australia (WA); and
- Greening Australia (WA).

For more information contact WWF in Perth by phoning Manager Chris Curnow on (08) 9387 6444.

Technical advice

The following programs can provide landholders with technical advice in order to gain an understanding of their bushland and the management practices they need to employ to protect it. The programs outlined below currently deliver technical assistance through a variety of mechanisms ranging from education materials to one-on-one advice from trained staff.

Bush Brokers – WWF Australia, Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA), and the National Trust of Australia (WA)

Bush Brokers aims to increase the ‘value’ of bush blocks in south-west Western Australia, from both a financial and conservation point of view.

Bush Brokers is an unincorporated partnership between the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA), WWF and the National Trust of Australia (WA). The Soil and Land Conservation Council was a partner in the recent past but is no longer active in the partnership.

The Bush Brokers partnership aims to promote the market for bushland and ensure its conservation and sustainable use. It aims to stimulate the purchase of land by conservation-minded individuals and groups and increase the acquisition and management of land for conservation purposes. This is being done in a way that complements other mechanisms for remnant vegetation and biodiversity protection.

Bush Brokers have:

- developed a web site: www.bushbrokers.com.au to provide a simple and direct brokering mechanism between buyers and sellers of bush;
- produced a manual for buyers, sellers and realtors;
- produced a checklist and information brochures for buyers and sellers of bush;
- produced and disseminated a case study document; and
- carried out market research to profile the state of the market, key drivers and obstacles.

For further information contact Bush Brokers by email info@bushbrokers.com or phone Chris Curnow at WWF Australia on (08) 9387 6444, Jill Turton at REIWA on (08) 9755 5123, or the Nature Heritage Manager at the National Trust of Australia (WA) on (08) 9321 6088.

Healthy Wetland Habitats – Department of Environment and Conservation

Healthy Wetland Habitats is a voluntary program giving technical and financial support to landholders who care for wetlands. The program is an initiative of the Western Australian Government and administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The focus of Healthy Wetland Habitats is to help landholders develop a wetland management plan to protect and care for their wetlands. The purpose of the management plan is to identify priority management actions, such as fencing and weed control, which will ensure the wetland's values are maintained and enhanced for future generations. Once a management plan is prepared, landholders can access funding of up to \$10,000 to carry out priority management actions identified in the management plan. If there is an existing management plan, landholders may also be eligible for funding assistance.

Any private landholder whose property contains a wetland of conservation value on the Swan Coastal Plain, and who would like to better manage his or her wetland to ensure its long-term conservation, can apply.

For more information visit the website www.dec.wa.gov.au/management-and-protection/wetlands/healthy-wetland-habitats.html or contact the Healthy Wetlands Coordinator on (08) 9334 0570.

Land for Wildlife – Department of Environment and Conservation

Land for Wildlife (LFW) is a biodiversity extension service provided free to private landholders in Western Australia. LFW aims to encourage and assist landholders to conserve nature and provide habitats for wildlife (both plants and animals) on their property, even though the property may be managed primarily for other purposes.

Land for Wildlife Officers stationed throughout the south-west of Western Australia inspect the property with the landholder, identifying species and give up-to-date best-practice advice for remnant vegetation management and revegetation with wildlife in mind. The discussions are written up as a detailed report that is provided to the landholder together with a selection of printed information materials.

LFW produces a number of printed materials – the quarterly magazine *Western Wildlife*, occasional technical *Wildlife Notes*, 'How to ...' booklets, pamphlets and other materials as required. The program also organises field days, workshops and other events, usually with a strong technical focus.

For more information contact DEC *Land for Wildlife* Senior Project Officer Penny Hussey on (08) 9334 0530.

Legal Advice – Environmental Defenders Office (WA) Inc.

The Environmental Defenders Office WA (EDOWA) is a non-profit, non-government community legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law. Services include:

- providing community groups and individuals who cannot otherwise afford it with legal advice and representation on public interest environmental issues;
- promoting environmental law reform; and
- undertaking community legal education.

The Environmental Defender's Office (WA) Inc (EDO) offers legal services to those who cannot otherwise afford them. Any request for legal assistance must meet some basic requirements. These include: the matter must be concerned with environmental protection, the matter must be in the public interest and private legal assistance must be beyond the means of the applicant.

Please note the ability of the EDO to help with litigation-related activities is limited by funding restrictions imposed by the Commonwealth government, which funds most of the EDO's essential operations. Donations from the general public are required for the EDO to meet the State-wide demand for its legal services and to help fund litigation work.

For more information contact the Environmental Defenders Office WA (Inc) on (08) 9221 3030 or 1800 175 542, or email edowa@edowa.org.au.

Regional Biodiversity Coordinators – Greening Australia WA

From 1997 to 2003 Greening Australia WA delivered the Bushcare Support Program, contracted by the Commonwealth government under the Natural Heritage Trust, which provided on-ground support for projects supporting the objectives of the Bushcare program. This network of technical officers provided awareness-raising, technical advice, training and planning on sustainable native vegetation management to communities and individual landholders. They are now supported through the regional NRM councils. Their roles range from providing facilitation and planning support for the biodiversity conservation planning process for the regional NRM strategies through to continued technical support and advice to regional communities on biodiversity conservation.

For more information on your closest biodiversity support officer contact Greening Australia (WA) on (08) 9335 8933, or visit the website www.greeningaustralia.org.au.

Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA – NRM Regional Groups

Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA is a comprehensive environmental program that educates school students and the community about water quality issues and facilitates their involvement in the protection, management and restoration of local waterways, wetlands and groundwater. In some regions Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA works closely with the [Rivercare Program](#) (see description in this document).

Ribbons of Blue /Waterwatch WA offers a range of resources and activities for community engagement, education and capacity building around waterway and catchment health. These resources and activities can be used in a variety of ways to deliver a program suited to local and regional needs.

All our activities have an emphasis on behavioural change and might include:

- community water monitoring linked to on-ground projects;
- school education meeting curriculum outcomes;
- initiating and developing restoration projects; and
- community environmental art projects.

For more information or to register your school or community group with Ribbons of Blue phone (08) 6467 5127 or visit the website www.ribbonsofblue.wa.gov.au.

Rivercare – Department of Water

Rivercare Officers are available to provide technical advice and support for projects that:

- conserve native vegetation along watercourses and their floodplain;
- restore instream habitat;
- reduce disturbance to waterways;
- revegetate degraded land along waterways (the riparian zone);
- protect and improve instream water quality;
- monitor instream condition; and
- evaluate success of on-ground works.

Rivercare Officers provide professional advice and support to landholders, catchment and regional groups, local governments, Community Landcare Co-ordinators, and Bushcare Co-ordinators in understanding environmental issues and processes relevant to the management of waterways. They assist in the development, management and implementation of waterway restoration and management projects.

Rivercare Officers are also involved in developing technical guidelines and manuals for river restoration and rehabilitation. They provide training and demonstrations of techniques used for planning, restoration and rehabilitation works. In addition, Rivercare Officers review the progress of National Heritage Trust Rivercare projects as they reach their midway point to document learnings that can be shared with other groups. The Rivercare Program works closely with the Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA program (see description in this document).

For more information contact [your local Department of Water office](#). Refer to section 6 for details of these offices. Technical literature such as the River Restoration Manual and Waternotes to assist in the restoration and management of waterways can be viewed at portal.water.wa.gov.au/portal/page/portal/WaterManagement/Waterways.

Roadside Conservation Committee

The Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) comprises 15 members representing relevant agencies, organisations and the community with an interest in roadside and railside vegetation management. Representation is from: Department of Environment and Conservation (Chair), Main Roads WA, WestNet Rail, Department of Agriculture and Food WA, Fire and Emergency Services Authority, Western Power, WestNet Energy, Telstra Corporation, Local Government (two elected Councillors and one professional officer), the Conservation Council of WA and the Wildflower Society of WA.

The objectives of the RCC are to promote the protection and enhancement of native vegetation in rail and road reserves; to provide information to government and the community on the importance of rail and roadside vegetation; to develop an understanding of the ecological processes influencing roadside vegetation; and to facilitate communication between various agencies and community groups involved or interested in roadside management. It is anticipated that this will enable better methods of planning and management of these areas to be devised.

The RCC seeks to foster communication and co-operation between the various groups involved in roadside management and its conservation. The committee is available to assist in the development of rail or roadside vegetation management plans, and research projects and publications relating to roadside conservation.

The RCC undertakes training of road managers, contractors and workers in techniques for conserving rail and roadside vegetation. It also encourages community groups to be involved in all aspects of conserving and regenerating rail and roadside vegetation. The RCC will train and support community volunteers in undertaking roadside vegetation surveys. The results of these surveys are used to prepare roadside vegetation maps and reports that will assist the road managers in conserving roadside vegetation, and also contribute to regional vegetation planning processes.

Cressida Wilson is the Executive Officer with the Roadside Conservation Committee based at the DEC offices in Kensington. Cressida can be contacted by phone on (08) 9334 0423, by fax (08) 9334 0199, or by email at rcc@dec.wa.gov.au.

Seed Management Services – Greening Australia WA

Seed Management Services supports community conservation projects by providing local provenance native seed. Services include:

- seed collection;
- identification of local native seed resources;
- plant identification;
- native vegetation assessment;
- seed cleaning and storage;
- advice on suitable native species;
- revegetation and direct seeding advice; and
- consultancy service available on seed collection and technical advice on revegetation planning.

The use of local provenance native seed is vital to any restoration work. Seed Management Services collects and provides seed to enhance remnant native vegetation and create new habitat, buffer zones and bush corridors and seed orchards. It also provides direct technical advice and training to local communities on best practice seed collection and rehabilitation methods.

For more information contact Bayden Smith, Seed Management Services Co-ordinator on (08) 9335 8933 or email bsmith@gawa.org.au.

Urban Nature – Department of Environment and Conservation

The Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) Urban Nature Program provides technical advice and on-ground support for land managers working to protect, manage and restore bushlands and wetlands in DEC's Swan Region and beyond.

The Urban Nature Program:

- identifies, demonstrates and promotes best practice bushland management;
- produces and distributes technical information relating to bushland management;
- raises awareness of the values of Perth bushlands and wetlands; and
- fosters the development of skills through the provision of field days, workshops and training programs.

Urban Nature is based at DEC's Swan Region office. The primary focus of the program is on regionally significant bushland including Bush Forever sites. It works across tenures with community groups, government officers and private landowners involved in the conservation and management of the region's natural areas.

For more information contact the Department of Environment and Conservation on (08) 9423 2900 or by email urban.nature@dec.wa.gov.au.

Vegetation Survey Program – Wildflower Society of WA

The Wildflower Society of Western Australia aims: ‘To know, grow, conserve and enjoy our native flora.’

The society provides a focus for people interested in, and concerned for, the preservation of wildflowers. Society activities revolve around the study of wildflowers in bushland and cultivation as well as action and support for the preservation of wildflowers in bushland. These activities are devoted to understanding the flora in all its aspects and sharing information on how to recognise plants and the communities in which they naturally occur in bushland; and how to propagating and growing the various species. The society places a strong emphasis on knowing and protecting bushland plants.

Members of the society provide services including undertaking bushland surveys and cataloguing plants.

For more information contact the Wildflower Society on (08) 9383 7979, PO Box 519 Floreat WA 6014, or visit the website members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers/.

Species and Communities Branch – Department of Environment and Conservation

One of the specialist roles of Species and Communities Branch in the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is to coordinate, assist with, and promote the conservation of threatened species and communities in Western Australia. The databases of threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities for the State are managed by Species and Communities Branch. Part of the branch’s work involves promoting the preservation of threatened species and ecological communities on private lands.

The Species and Communities Branch also has an important role in wetland management and protection in Western Australia. This includes assisting landholders to develop wetland management plans to protect and care for the wetlands on their property.

Staff can provide assistance to landholders in seeking funds to manage private land that contains wetlands, threatened species or communities, and also provide advice on managing wetlands, threatened species or communities. Staff can also help with survey work to search for new occurrences of threatened species or communities on private land. Please phone (08) 9334 0455 for more information.

The operational side of the management of threatened species and communities is conducted by DEC regional staff. Conservation Officers located at [Regional and District Offices](#) (listed in section 6) are the first point of contact for threatened species and communities matters.

Wetland Watch – WWF Australia

Wetland Watch manages and protects wetlands on private land through raising awareness of biodiversity value of wetlands, educating landholders (about different wetland types, functions and values) and assisting landowners to build their capacity to manage wetlands for the long-term.

Implementation of Wetland Watch in the Peel Inlet/Harvey Estuary will achieve significant outcomes including:

- improved resilience of high value wetlands and wetland vegetation communities to climate change;
- reduced habitat loss;
- improved management of different wetland types;
- application of best management practices of wetlands to improve water quality in a priority coastal hotspot;

- greater appreciation for wetland areas and the Peel Inlet/Harvey Estuary within the local community and greater capacity for the community to manage these areas;
- ensuring important wetland areas are earmarked for conservation purposes rather than urban development by maintaining and improving vegetation condition;
- greater appreciation by landholders of the value of ecological linkages; and
- encouraging private landholders to protect wetlands through conservation covenants and long-term voluntary management agreements.

Landholders are assisted with property management planning using best practice methodology. They are required to commit to long-term conservation on their property by signing Voluntary Management Agreements and/or Conservation Covenants. Wetland Watch can provide funds to part-finance management actions on target properties. Management actions often include weed control, revegetation and fencing. The Wetland Watch project officer can also act as a broker for private landowners to access other funding opportunities.

For more information contact the Wetland Watch Program Coordinator on (08) 9387 6444.

Woodland Watch and Healthy Ecosystems – WWF Australia

The vast majority of Wheatbelt areas in the Southwest Australia Ecoregion are clearly showing signs of environmental stress, from activities such as the expansion of agricultural clearing. Impacts include salinity, rising watertables, uncontrolled grazing by domestic livestock, and feral species invasion which cause woodlands to degrade through altered nutrient balances, competition and lack of natural regeneration.

Through a series of community partnerships with regional Natural Resource Management bodies, Woodland Watch (in the Northern Agricultural Region) and Healthy Ecosystems (in the Avon River Basin) is helping landholders, communities and local government authorities to protect priority ecosystems (including eucalypt woodlands) on private and non-Government managed lands.

The work concentrates on ecosystems that are under-represented in the State conservation estate (including a number of woodland communities) and the wealth of biodiversity that resides within these habitats. This includes a number of threatened ecological communities (where a number of species are at risk) and a whole range of rare flora. The various animals that use these habitats as homes and transit-ways also benefit from our work.

The Woodland Watch and Healthy Ecosystems projects:

- facilitate the uptake of voluntary land management agreements with landowners, farmers and shires to help manage their bushland for conservation;
- undertake flora surveys on private land, including recording undocumented biodiversity, and encourage farmers to understand the role of biodiversity on farms and beyond;
- report potential threatened ecological communities, rare and endangered plants, or new species discovered; and
- provide on-ground technical advice on topics such as bush health assessment and weed control.

Partners include:

- farmers across the vast Wheatbelt;

- the Avon Catchment Council;
- the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council;
- various local Shire Councils;
- the Department of Environment and Conservation (WA);
- the Natural Heritage: a program of the National Trust of Australia (WA); and
- Greening Australia (WA).

For more information contact WWF Perth by phoning Manager Chris Curnow on (08) 9387 6444.

Training

There are a number of organisations that can provide training to private landholders who wish to undertake bushland management and protection activities. The following training programs offer a wide range of courses related to all aspects of bushland management ranging from general management to rehabilitation techniques. Training programs also provide opportunities for information exchange between landholders. As such they can also provide forums for networking amongst landholders.

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR) in Western Australia aims to foster and encourage sound ecological practices of natural area management, and to promote the study and practice of bush regeneration through education, research and any other means deemed desirable. Bush Regeneration is not the same thing as revegetation. There are three principles of bush regeneration – firstly to work from the best condition to the worst or most degraded areas, secondly to only work at a rate that the native vegetation can regenerate itself naturally, and thirdly to create as little soil disturbance as possible.

AABR WA is an umbrella organisation for the Bush Regeneration industry i.e. professional and/or volunteer bush regenerators (there are currently six local government authorities who employ Bush Regenerators to conduct the on-ground management of natural areas).

As AABR is run by volunteers, it is unable to provide formal training programs. The current focus of AABR WA is to run general community forums every second month where various guest speakers talk about different aspects of native vegetation management. The other main focus of its general education and awareness-raising product is a newsletter sent out every second month. In the past AABR has held joint training sessions with Environmental Weeds Action Network (EWAN) on topics such as grassy weed management. It hopes to run more in the future.

AABR WA also works with various organisations such as the WA Primary Industry Training Council to provide feedback into the review of the Conservation and Land Management training package that is being delivered by Registered Training Organisations such as TAFE and Greenskills.

For more information contact Dave Bright at the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators on 0412 405 730 or email aabrwa@westnet.com.au. Please note that AABR is a volunteer-based organisation without a dedicated office.

Green Skills

Green Skills is a not-for-profit organisation committed to the promotion and demonstration of sustainability through the management of innovative community projects and the provision of quality environmental training and employment services. Offices are based in Perth, Denmark and Albany. Green Skills also manages the Denmark Centre for Sustainable Living. Green Skills is a Registered Training

Organisation scoped to deliver Certificates I – IV in Conservation and Land Management and the nationally accredited short course in Home Sustainability Assessment. Green Skills provides training and project management in biodiversity preservation, including bush regeneration, weed management, wetland conservation and the implementation of sustainable land management practices.

For more information contact Annabelle Newbury on (08) 9360 6667 or email anewbury@greenskills.org.au.

Land for Wildlife – Department of Environment and Conservation

Land for Wildlife (LFW) is a biodiversity extension service provided free to private landholders in Western Australia. LFW aims to encourage and assist landholders to conserve nature and provide habitats for wildlife (both plants and animals) on their property, even though the property may be managed primarily for other purposes.

Land for Wildlife Officers stationed throughout the south-west of Western Australia inspect the property with the landholder, identify species and give up-to-date best-practice advice for remnant vegetation management and revegetation with wildlife in mind. The discussions are written up as a detailed report that is provided to the landholder together with a selection of printed information materials.

When registered landholders express an interest in learning more about a particular topic, for example ‘native plant propagation’ or ‘acid sulphate soils’, workshops or field days are arranged to fill this training need. These events are usually also open to the general public.

For more information contact DEC *Land for Wildlife* Senior Project Officer Penny Hussey on (08) 9334 0530.

Landskills

Landskills is a non-profit organisation that has been formed by a group of rural West Australians to provide technical advice and to promote employment and training in rural regions, with an emphasis on opportunities related to sustainable development that balances environmental, economic and social values. The main focus is on the Northern Agriculture Region of Western Australia and surrounding areas.

The activities of the association include:

- making partnerships with, and provide linkages between, community groups, commercial enterprises, non-government and government organisations, scientific institutions and philanthropic organisations to provide a platform for project development;
- brokering funding opportunities for projects;
- management of relevant projects where required;
- brokering, organising and/or delivering training on Natural Resource Management, environmental, agricultural and rural development issues; and
- development of rural employment opportunities.

It is the aim of Landskills to be complementary to the work of other rural groups.

For more information contact Dr Jill Wilson on (08) 9965 2265, fax (08) 9655 1615, mobile 0429 087 172 or email landskills@westnet.com.au.

Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA – NRM Regional Groups

Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA is a comprehensive environmental program that educates school students and the community on water quality issues, and facilitates their involvement in the protection, management and restoration of local waterways, wetlands and groundwater. In some regions Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA works closely with the Rivercare Program (see description in this document).

Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA offers a range of resources and activities for community engagement, education and capacity building around waterway and catchment health. These resources and activities can be used in a variety of ways to deliver a program suited to local and regional needs.

All activities have an emphasis on behavioural change and might include:

- community water monitoring linked to on-ground projects;
- school education meeting curriculum outcomes;
- initiating and developing restoration projects;
- community environmental art projects.

For more information or to register your school or community group with Ribbons of Blue phone (08) 6467 5127 or visit the website www.ribbonsofblue.wa.gov.au.

Rivercare – Department of Water

Rivercare Officers are available to provide technical advice and support for projects that:

- conserve native vegetation along watercourses and their floodplain;
- restore instream habitat;
- reduce disturbance to waterways;
- revegetate degraded land along waterways (the riparian zone);
- protect and improve instream water quality;
- monitor instream condition; and
- evaluate success of on-ground works.

Rivercare Officers provide professional advice and support to landholders, catchment and regional groups, local governments, Community Landcare Coordinators, and Bushcare Coordinators in understanding environmental issues and processes relevant to the management of waterways. They assist in the development, management and implementation of waterway restoration and management projects.

Rivercare Officers are also involved in developing technical guidelines and manuals for river restoration and rehabilitation. They provide training and demonstrations of techniques used for planning, restoration and rehabilitation works. In addition Rivercare Officers review the progress of National Heritage Trust Rivercare projects as they reach their midway point to document learnings that can be shared with other groups. The Rivercare Program works closely with the Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA program (see description in this document).

For more information contact [your local Department of Water office](#). Refer to section 6 for details of these offices. Technical literature such as the River Restoration Manual and Waternotes to assist in the restoration and management of waterways can be viewed at portal.water.wa.gov.au/portal/page/portal/WaterManagement/Waterways.

Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC)

The RCC trains road managers, contractors and workers in techniques for conserving rail and roadside vegetation. RCC will also train and support community volunteers in undertaking roadside vegetation surveys. The results of these surveys are used to prepare roadside vegetation reports and maps that will assist road managers in conserving roadside vegetation, and also can contribute to regional vegetation planning processes.

For more information contact the Executive Officer on (08) 9334 0423 or email rcc@dec.wa.gov.au.

Urban Nature – Department of Environment and Conservation

The Department of Environment and Conservation's Urban Nature Program provides technical advice and on-ground support for land managers working to protect, manage and restore bushlands and wetlands in DEC's Swan Region and beyond.

The Urban Nature Program;

- identifies, demonstrates and promotes best practice bushland management;
- produces and distributes technical information relating to bushland management;
- raises awareness of the values of Perth bushlands and wetlands; and
- fosters the development of skills through the provision of field days, workshops and training programs.

Urban Nature is based at DEC's Swan Region office. The primary focus of the program is on regionally significant bushland including Bush Forever sites. It works across tenures with community groups, government officers and private landowners involved in the conservation and management of the region's natural areas.

For more information contact the Department of Environment and Conservation on (08) 9423 2900 or email urban.nature@dec.wa.gov.au.

5 Programs listed by organisation

Lead Organisation	Programs Offered	Relevant Pages
Australian Association of Bush Regenerators	Training	31
Australian Government	Caring for our Country	7
Bush Heritage Australia	Land purchasing	17
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	Land purchasing	19
City of Cockburn	Biodiversity Conservation Grants	6
City of Rockingham	Biodiversity Grants Program	6
Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)	Better Earth	14
	Earth Assist	15
Department of Agriculture and Food	Soil and Land Conservation Act Covenant	21
Department of Environment and Conservation	CALM Act Sect 16	22
	Government conservation land purchase program	18
	Healthy Wetland Habitats	12, 22 and 25
	Land for Wildlife	22, 25 and 32
	Nature Conservation Covenant Program	12 and 21
	Roadside Conservation Committee	27 and 34
	Species and Communities Branch	29
	Urban Nature	28 and 34
Department of Water	Rivercare	27 and 33
Environmental Defenders Office (WA) Inc.	Legal advice	26
Gondwana Link	Land purchasing	19
Greening Australia (WA)	GreenCorps	16
	Regional Biodiversity Coordinators/Officers	26
	Seed Management Services	28
Greenskills	Training	15 and 31
Landcare Australia	Financial assistance	12
Landskills	Training	32
Minister for the Environment	Environmental Community Grants	9
National Trust of Australia (WA)	Bush Bank	17
	Bush Brokers	17 and 24
	Covenanting Program	20
	Denmark Conservation Appeal	8
	Tax Deductible Donation	20
Perth Region NRM Inc.	Swan Alcoa Landcare Program	13
NRM Regional Groups	Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA	26 and 33
Shire of Busselton	Busselton Biodiversity Incentive Strategy	7
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	Conservation Zone Rates Rebate	8
WA Planning Commission	Coastwest Community Support Grants	8
	Subdivision for Conservation	19
Wildflower Society of WA	Vegetation Survey Program	29
WWF	Bush Brokers	17 and 24
	Wetland Watch	13, 23 and 29
	Woodland Watch	23 and 30
REIWA	Bush Brokers	17 and 24

6 Relevant contacts

Natural Resource Management Councils

Group	Phone	Fax	Email
Avon Catchment Council	(08) 9690 2250	(08) 9690 2255	avonnrm@agric.wa.gov.au
Northern Agricultural Catchments Council	(08) 9964 9774	(08) 9973 1464	bma@nacc.com.au
Rangelands NRM	(08) 9941 9743	(08) 9941 9748	info@rangelands.wa.com.au
South Coast NRM	(08) 9845 8537	(08) 9845 8538	info@southcoastnrm.com.au
South West Catchments Council	(08) 9780 6193	(08) 9780 6136?	swcc@agric.wa.gov.au
Perth Region NRM	(08) 9374 3333	(08) 9374 0685	saicc@water.wa.gov.au

Department of Environment and Conservation

Region / District	Phone	Fax	Mailing Address
Kensington Offices	(08) 9334 0333	(08) 9334 0498	Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Urban Nature	(08) 9423 2900	(08) 9423 2901	PO Box 1167, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Land for Wildlife	(08) 9334 0530		Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Covenanting Program	(08) 9334 0477		Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
State Herbarium	(08) 9334 0500	(08) 9334 0515	Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Perth Observatory	(08) 9293 8255	(08) 9293 8138	337 Walnut Road, BICKLEY WA 6076
Regional Parks	(08) 9431 6500	(08) 9431 6599	PO Box 1535 FREMANTLE WA 6959
Marine Policy and Planning Branch	(08) 9336 0100	(08) 9430 5408	47 Henry Street FREMANTLE WA 6160
Nearer to Nature / Perth Hills National Parks Centre	(08) 9295 2244	(08) 9295 3247	Allen Road MUNDARING WA 6073
Cockburn Sound Management Council	(08) 9591 3837	(08) 9528 5387	PO Box 5161 ROCKINGHAM BEACH WA 6969
Swan River Trust	(08) 9278 0900	(08) 9325 7149	PO Box 6740, EAST PERTH WA 6892
Swan/ Bentley	(08) 9423 2900	(08) 9423 2901	PO Box 1167, Bentley Delivery Centre 6983
Swan/ Kwinana	(08) 9411 1777	(08) 9419 5897	PO Box 454, KWINANA WA 6966
Swan/ Coastal	(08) 9405 0700	(08) 9405 0777	PO Box 459, WANNEROO WA 6946
Swan/ Perth Hills District	(08) 9295 9100	(08) 9295 9101	51 Mundaring Weir Road MUNDARING WA 6073
Swan/ Jarrahdale Work Centre	(08) 9526 1222	(08) 9525 5547	51 Mundaring Weir Road MUNDARING WA 6073
Swan/ Dwellingup Work Centre	(08) 9538 1078	(08) 9538 1203	51 Mundaring Weir Road MUNDARING WA 6073
Swan/ Mandurah Work Centre	(08) 9582 9333	(08) 9582 9725	PO Box 1266 MANDURAH WA 6210
South Coast/ Albany Work Centre	(08) 9842 4500	(08) 9841 3329	120 Albany Highway ALBANYWA 6330
South Coast/ Esperance District	(08) 9083 2100	(08) 9071 3657	PO Box 234 ESPEPANCE WA 6450
South West/ Bunbury	(08) 9725 4300	(08) 9725 4351	PO Box 1693 BUNBURY WA 6231
South West/ Collie Work Centre	(08) 9734 1988	(08) 9734 4539	PO Box 809 COLLIE WA 6225
South West/ Harvey Work Centre	(08) 9729 1505	(08) 9729 1869	PO Box 809 COLLIE WA 6225
South West/ Kirup Work Centre	(08) 9731 6232	(08) 9731 6366	14 Queen Street BUSSELTON WA 6280
South West/ Nannup Work Centre	(08) 9756 0211	(08) 9756 0233	14 Queen Street BUSSELTON WA 6280
South West/ Busselton Work Centre	(08) 9752 5555	(08) 9752 1432	14 Queen Street BUSSELTON WA 6280
South West/ Margaret River Work Centre	(08) 9752 5555	(08) 9757 2930	14 Queen Street BUSSELTON WA 6280
Warren/ Manjimup	(08) 9771 7988	(08) 9777 1363	Locked Bag 2, MANJIMUP WA 6258
Warren/ Pemberton	(08) 9776 1207	(08) 9776 1410	PO Box 20 PEMBERTON WA 6260
Warren/ Walpole	(08) 9840 1027	(08) 9840 1251	South Coast Highway WALPOLE WA 6398
Warren/ Northcliff Work Centre	(08) 9776 7095	(08) 9776 7258	PO Box 20 PEMBERTON WA 6260
Wheatbelt/ Narrogin	(08) 9881 9222	(08) 9881 3297	PO Box 100 NARROGIN WA 6312
Wheatbelt/ Merredin	(08) 9041 2488	(08) 9041 2454	PO Box 332 MERREDIN WA 6415
Wheatbelt/ Katanning	(08) 9881 9250	(08) 9821 2633	PO Box 811 KATANNING WA 6317
Wheatbelt/ Northam	(08) 9622 8940	(08) 9622 8947	PO Box 354, NORTHAM WA 6401
Midwest/ Geraldton	(08) 9921 5955	(08) 9921 5713	PO Box 72 GERALDTON WA 531
Midwest/ Shark Bay	(08) 9948 1208	(08) 9948 1024	89 Knight Tce, DENHAM WA 6537
Midwest/ Carnarvon	(08) 9941 3754	(08) 9941 1801	PO Box 500 CARNARVON WA 6701
Midwest/ Moora	(08) 9652 1911	(08) 9652 1922	PO Box 638 JURIE BAY WA 6516
Goldfields/ Kalgoorlie	(08) 9080 5555	(08) 9021 7831	PO Box 10173 KALGOORLIE WA 6433
Kimberley/ Kununurra Work Centre	(08) 9168 4200	(08) 9168 2179	PO Box 942 KUNUNURRA WA 6743
Kimberley/ Broome Work Centre	(08) 9195 5500	(08) 9193 5027	PO Box 65 BROOME WA 6725
Kimberley/ Derby Work Centre	(08) 9193 1411	(08) 9193 1415	PO Box 694 DERBY WA 6728
Kimberley/ Fitzroy Crossing Work Centre	(08) 9191 5121	(08) 9191 5165	PO Box 37 FITZROY CROSSING WA 6765
Pilbara/ Karratha	(08) 9182 2000	(08) 9144 1118	PO Box 835 KARRATHA WA 6714
Pilbara/ Exmouth	(08) 9947 8000	(08) 9947 8050	PO Box 201 EXMOUTH WA 6707

Department of Water

Region / District	Phone	Fax	Mailing Address
Swan Avon Region/ Victoria Park Regional Office	(08) 6250 8000	(08) 6250 8050	7 Ellam Street, Victoria Park 6100
Northam District Office	(08) 9622 7055	(08) 9622 7155	PO Box 497 Northam WA 6401
Kwinana Peel Region/ Mandurah Regional Office	(08) 9550 4222	(08) 9581 4269	PO Box 332, Mandurah 6210
South West Region/ Bunbury Regional Office	(08) 9726 4111	(08) 9726 4100	PO Box 261, Bunbury WA 6231

Goldfields Region/ Victoria Park Regional Office	(08) 6250 8000	(08) 6250 8050	7 Ellam Street, Victoria Park 6100
Mid-West Gascoyne Region/ Geraldton Regional Office	(08) 9965 7400	(08) 9964 5983	81 Forrest Street, Geraldton 6530
South Coast Region/ Albany Regional Office	(08) 9842 5760	(08) 9842 1204	5 Bevan Street, Albany 6330
Pilbara Region/ Karratha Regional Office	(08) 9144 2000	(08) 9144 2610	PO Box 836 Karratha WA 6714
Kimberley Region/ Kununurra Regional Office	(08) 9166 4100	(08) 9168 3174	PO Box 625 Kununurra WA 6743
