

Partnership Agreement

between
the Commonwealth of Australia
and
Western Australia

Addressing jointly agreed natural heritage objectives and the provision of financial assistance under the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Reserve and related programs.

July 1997

**AN AGREEMENT made on the 29th day of July 1997,
between the Commonwealth of Australia, and the State of Western Australia**

Australia, as a Federation, relies upon all levels of government working cooperatively based on their respective roles, responsibilities and interests. The Natural Heritage Trust is a major capital initiative aimed at conserving and managing Australia's biodiversity, land, water, vegetation and sea on an ecologically sustainable basis. This Agreement sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and Western Australia for the delivery of the objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust and any associated programs.

BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth and Western Australia:

- (a) recognise the need for urgent action to enhance and improve the condition and management of Australia's natural heritage;
- (b) recognise that the Natural Heritage Trust provides a basis for further cooperative and integrated approaches to dealing with Australia's environmental problems;
- (c) recognise that the Natural Heritage Trust is based on an understanding that environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management have complementary goals;
- (d) note that the Commonwealth's aim for the Natural Heritage Trust is to accelerate activities in the national interest directed towards achieving the conservation, sustainable use and repair of Australia's natural environment;
- (e) note that the Commonwealth's objectives for the Natural Heritage Trust are to:
 - (i) provide a framework for strategic capital investment, to stimulate additional investment in the natural environment;
 - (ii) achieve complementary environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management outcomes consistent with agreed national strategies; and
 - (iii) provide a framework for cooperative partnerships between communities, industry and all levels of government;
- (f) recognise Western Australia's programs and policies for achieving ecologically sustainable development and Western Australia's responsibilities for environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management;
- (g) agree that this Agreement establishes a framework within which the parties will work cooperatively towards common and complementary environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management outcomes, acknowledging that these outcomes can best be achieved through strategic planning, streamlined administration and integrated implementation;
- (h) recognise the appropriate and different roles of the Commonwealth and Western Australia, the need to minimise duplication, and to maximise outcomes from within available resources;
- (i) acknowledge that outcomes for activities at the community and regional level can be best achieved by the development and implementation of strategic, integrated catchment/region based plans; with delivery which is targeted through State, regional and local initiatives and processes that achieve cost-effective on-ground outcomes;
- (j) acknowledge that environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management issues of national interest are met by goals, outcomes, standards, policies and priorities which are developed jointly by the Commonwealth and the States, in consultation with key stakeholders;
- (k) acknowledge that the Commonwealth is seeking to particularly support activities where policies and programs are in place that are complementary to and consistent with the objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust;
- (l) acknowledge that the community, including indigenous people, local government, and regional and community based organisations, are key stakeholders in the successful planning, implementation and delivery of Natural Heritage Trust programs; and
- (m) recognise that the Commonwealth and Western Australia are committed through their legislation, policies and programs to removing impediments to environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management objectives covered by this Agreement.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS

1. Operation

- 1.1 This Agreement will come into force upon signature, and continue in force until such time as either party advises the other party in writing to terminate this Agreement.
- 1.2 The provisions of this Agreement will be reviewed, with a view to the parties extending the Agreement beyond 2001. The Agreement may be amended at any stage, at the request in writing of either party, with the agreement in writing of the other party.

2. Interpretation

- 2.1 In this Agreement:

"Commonwealth" means the Commonwealth of Australia as a party to this Agreement.

"community" means individuals and includes non-government organisations and indigenous people.

"DPIE" means the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy or such other Department as may, from time to time, have responsibility for the Natural Heritage Trust on behalf of the Commonwealth.

"EA" means Environment Australia which is the administrative description of the Environment related groups in the Commonwealth Department of the Environment Sport and Territories, and the Statutory Authorities within the Commonwealth Environment Portfolio or such other Department as may, from time to time, have responsibility for the Natural Heritage Trust on behalf of the Commonwealth.

"environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management" have the meanings attributed by sections 15, 16 and 17 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*.

"lead agency" means a State government agency, or State statutory or corporatised authority, with the primary responsibility for financial management, coordination of priority setting, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a specific Natural Heritage Trust program or component of a program, as specified in the Attachments to this Agreement.

"local government" means legally constituted Councils, Shires, Municipalities or other local authorities established under State legislation. (This definition includes Deed of Government in trust bodies which are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-run local governments.)

"Natural Heritage Ministerial Board" means the Board established by section 40 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*.

"party" means the Commonwealth or Western Australia which are signatories to this Agreement.

"program" means a grouping of activities, with a common name, which contribute to a common strategic objective, with associated resources, strategies, activities and processes, management and accountability arrangements, and performance indicators, and which the parties agree is covered by this Agreement.

"project" means a discrete activity, or set of activities, funded through or within a program or programs.

"Reserve" means the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Reserve established by Section 4 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*.

"State" means a State or Territory.

- 2.2 Other words and expressions used in this Agreement shall, so far as is applicable, have the meanings attributed to them by definitions in the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*, the *Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992*, or the *Rural Adjustment Act 1992*.

3. Principles

- 3.1 The parties agree to give effect to the following principles which underpin the implementation of the Natural Heritage Trust programs, and other Commonwealth or Western Australian programs agreed by the parties to be covered by this Agreement:
 - (a) funding will be primarily directed at activities which reverse or mitigate the decline, or improve the condition and management, of Australia's environment and natural resources, and which achieve a more rapid shift to ecologically sustainable development;
 - (b) funding will be applied in such a way as to maximise cross linkages between programs and where necessary to transcend State boundaries, to derive the most beneficial outcome in each. Priority for Natural Heritage Trust funding will be accorded to activities with a demonstrated capacity to achieve multiple outcomes in relation to national strategies or Natural Heritage Trust programs;
 - (c) funding will be applied in the context of the principles outlined under section 3 of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment, which include cost effectiveness, the precautionary principle, inter-generational equity, conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity, and improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms;
 - (d) priority will be given to activities which are derived from strategies to address the fundamental causes, rather than symptoms, of Australia's environmental and natural resources problems. Priority will be given to activities which bring long-term environmental, economic and social benefits;

- (e) as far as practicable, the involvement of local communities and regional organisations in relation to Natural Heritage Trust programs should be through State agencies and should be simple, readily understood and based on the "one-stop-shop" concept; that is, a single application form incorporating relevant Commonwealth and Western Australian programs, a single assessment process, single payments, and a single evaluation process;
- (f) decision making and delivery frameworks will aim to be flexible, transparent, equitable and accessible. The intention is to have funding and decision making at the most appropriate level consistent with effective, accountable and practicable delivery, while maintaining sound environmental outcomes;
- (g) the parties agree that their cooperation under this Agreement will be focussed on achieving outcomes at the program level, recognising that the Commonwealth may seek additional information at the project level for assessment, monitoring, reporting and evaluation purposes. The parties agree that the level of program documentation will be reviewed after 12 months;
- (h) implementation of this Agreement will occur within the strategic framework of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment, the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biodiversity, the National Greenhouse Response Strategy, the water reform framework of the Council of Australian Governments, the National Water Quality Management Strategy, the National Principles for the Provision of Water for Ecosystems, the National Forest Policy Statement, the Decade of Landcare Plan, or other national or Western Australian strategies as agreed by the parties; and
- (i) the Commonwealth recognises that Western Australia has developed policies and strategies that are relevant to the implementation of the Natural Heritage Trust, including the Salinity Action Plan.

4. Scope

- 4.1 This Agreement establishes a framework under which the parties will work cooperatively for the purposes of section 19 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*.
- 4.2 This Agreement applies to those Reserve funds provided to Western Australia for programs set out in the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*, and any additional Western Australian or Commonwealth programs which are included from time to time in Attachments to this Agreement, as agreed by the parties.
- 4.3 This Agreement allows for the future inclusion of other related programs in the Natural Heritage Trust, additional mechanisms, and innovative approaches for the protection and management of Australia's natural heritage, the inclusion of which is agreed by the parties.

- 4.4 In circumstances where the terms and conditions of this Agreement conflict with other agreements between the parties related to environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management, the parties will take action necessary to resolve any conflict as provided in clause 16.

5. Attachments

- 5.1 The Attachments will be developed consistent with the terms of this Agreement and will become part of this Agreement.
- 5.2 Attachment A to this Agreement shall relate to the arrangements for managing particular programs or other activities agreed in accordance with clause 5.1. This Attachment may be based on programs, or activities that integrate programs, or have a regional scope. The Attachment should include but not be limited to:
 - (a) goals, objectives and outcomes relevant to each program or activity;
 - (b) the strategic framework in which progress towards identified outcomes is to be achieved;
 - (c) actions each party is expected to undertake commensurate with their responsibilities and total resource commitments;
 - (d) financial arrangements in relation to clause 7, and in accordance with Attachment B, of this Agreement;
 - (e) reporting responsibilities including the establishment and implementation of monitoring and evaluation strategies, including measurable performance indicators and targets, and financial accountability; and
 - (f) lead agency(s) with respect to this Agreement.
- 5.3 Attachment B to this Agreement contains provisions for financial assistance to Western Australia in accordance with this Agreement.
- 5.4 Attachment C to this Agreement outlines priorities and programs of Western Australia.
- 5.5 Attachments may be reviewed, amended, or additional Attachments added, as agreed in writing by the parties at any time, but in the first instance there should be a review within the first year of implementation.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- 6.1 The parties to this Agreement agree in accordance with the principles outlined in clause 3 to jointly plan, develop and support the implementation of strategies to achieve the purpose of this Agreement. The parties will ensure that, where they are responsible for administering Natural Heritage Trust funds to other recipients, such as local governments and community groups, arrangements are consistent with these principles.

Roles of the Commonwealth

- 6.2 The Commonwealth will:
- (a) provide leadership in developing strategic national approaches and principles, and ensure that matters of national interest relating to environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management are appropriately addressed in consultation with the States;
 - (b) develop and review the broad goals, objectives, priorities, outcomes and performance measures for the Natural Heritage Trust in consultation with the States, enhance cooperation between Commonwealth, State and regional levels, and among States, and ensure the integration of the Natural Heritage Trust with other national strategies and programs;
 - (c) undertake the efficient and effective delivery of the Commonwealth component of Natural Heritage Trust programs and other Commonwealth activities covered by this Agreement;
 - (d) establish priorities, fund programs and approve expenditure for the Natural Heritage Trust;
 - (e) ensure Australia meets international obligations in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment and the Principles and Procedures for Commonwealth-State Consultation on Treaties, agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in June 1996;
 - (f) give maximum regard to the objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust in the management of Commonwealth lands and waters;
 - (g) undertake monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the performance of the Natural Heritage Trust programs and major activities in accordance with Commonwealth law and practice in collaboration with the States, and report to the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board and the Commonwealth Parliament;
 - (h) evaluate the extent to which relevant actions or activities of governments and participants is resulting in the achievement of overall Natural Heritage Trust objectives and periodically assess whether Commonwealth policies and priorities remain appropriate and effective;
 - (i) agree with Western Australia appropriate mechanisms and timelines for monitoring and evaluation of programs, to be included under the Attachments to this Agreement; and
 - (j) implement auditing processes agreed with the States to ensure satisfactory auditing of the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation measures, to meet program management and legislative requirements.

Roles of Western Australia

- 6.3 Western Australia will:
- (a) develop and implement national and State program objectives, priorities and standards and desired outcomes for the Natural Heritage Trust in consultation with the Commonwealth;
 - (b) provide leadership in pursuing strategic approaches to achieve improved environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management outcomes, including the development and implementation of integrated regional/catchment strategies with regions or communities;
 - (c) coordinate Western Australian programs and ensure the efficient and effective delivery of projects funded through the Natural Heritage Trust programs and other activities covered by this Agreement;
 - (d) give appropriate regard to the objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust in the management of State owned lands, waters and natural resources;
 - (e) collaborate, where appropriate, with other relevant States on Natural Heritage Trust funded programs, projects and activities which affect more than one State or cross State borders;
 - (f) facilitate the involvement of local government and the community in the implementation and resourcing of Natural Heritage Trust programs and activities;
 - (g) monitor and evaluate performance of Natural Heritage Trust programs and projects, and report to the Commonwealth on program outcomes;
 - (h) nominate a lead agency, or agencies, for each Natural Heritage Trust program, to be specified in the Attachments;
 - (i) monitor and evaluate outputs, outcomes and performance indicators of Natural Heritage Trust programs as outlined in the Attachments in accordance with agreed evaluation methods;
 - (j) undertake evaluation activities upon reasonable request from the Commonwealth; and
 - (k) collect and report data consistent with performance indicators as agreed by the parties.

Other Stakeholders

- 6.4 The parties recognise that the community, including indigenous people, local government, and regional and community based organisations, are stakeholders in the outcomes to be achieved through the Natural Heritage Trust. The parties agree to involve, collaborate and work with these stakeholders in:
- (a) the planning, development and implementation of strategies and projects to be delivered at local and regional levels to achieve the Natural Heritage Trust objectives;

- (b) facilitating regional and community consultation on strategies and projects which extend across local government and catchment boundaries;
- (c) participating on panels established for providing advice on Natural Heritage Trust proposals;
- (d) ensuring efficient and effective delivery of projects and activities funded through the Natural Heritage Trust; and
- (e) monitoring and reporting on the performance of Natural Heritage Trust projects delivered through local government and the community.

7. Financial Arrangements

- 7.1 The parties recognise that all levels of government and the community currently contribute resources and effort to environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management in Australia.
- 7.2 To ensure the maximum flexibility in the administration of the Natural Heritage Trust, and to take fully into account different circumstances across jurisdictions, financial arrangements will be determined in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) expenditure of Commonwealth funds under this Agreement is not contingent on a matching contribution from Western Australia. The parties agree to use the Natural Heritage Trust to enhance the total government and community effort applied to the pursuit of its objectives. The Commonwealth allocation of funds will, in part, be influenced by the contribution of effort by Western Australia and/or the alignment of programs, policies and regulations with Natural Heritage Trust objectives;
 - (b) the provision of funding by the Commonwealth from the Natural Heritage Trust is subject to the agreed objectives, outcomes and milestones described in Attachment A to this Agreement being met;
 - (c) the Commonwealth and Western Australia will agree which types of costs are included or excluded in identifying the level of effort applied to Natural Heritage Trust programs;
 - (d) Natural Heritage Trust funding is available to meet reasonable and transparently identified administrative and related costs, including monitoring and evaluation, associated with the accelerated or additional development and implementation of Natural Heritage Trust programs;
 - (e) Natural Heritage Trust funding is not to be used for existing activities of the Western Australian Government unless otherwise agreed in the Attachments. In seeking the enhancement of total effort in environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management, innovation in service delivery, the use of alternative policy approaches or improved productivity are encouraged, provided that outputs and outcomes are maintained or improved; and

- (f) activity on private land will be funded taking into account the amount of public benefit received relative to the private benefit derived from the activity. Individuals who are direct beneficiaries of Natural Heritage Trust funding will be expected to make complementary efforts to contribute to the project being funded in recognition of the private benefit they derive. They will also be expected to act consistently with the objectives of the Trust.

8. Financial Administration

- 8.1 Natural Heritage Trust funds under this Agreement shall be provided by the Commonwealth to Western Australia from monies in the Reserve, following approval by the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board, or from other monies appropriated by the Commonwealth Parliament for programs covered by this Agreement.
- 8.2 Financial assistance will be provided in accordance with the provisions of Attachment B.
- 8.3 The parties agree that in entering into financial agreements arising from this Agreement the following principles will apply:
 - (a) there need to be agreed objectives, outcomes, outputs, performance indicators and milestones;
 - (b) objectives should be measurable, outcome oriented statements as to what the program or project aims to achieve;
 - (c) performance indicators should be linked to objectives, and data collection requirements should be outlined;
 - (d) reporting, monitoring, review and acquittal/auditing requirements should be explicitly outlined, and resources agreed, to ensure that value for money can be assessed over time; and
 - (e) progress payments should be linked to the achievement of agreed milestones.

9. Delivery Arrangements

- 9.1 Natural Heritage Trust funding will be delivered at a number of levels such as community, regional, State and Commonwealth. Individual programs will differ in the delivery frameworks they utilise. The Attachments to this Agreement will specify the programs and their delivery framework.
- 9.2 Regional/catchment planning will generally form the framework for the integration of the various levels of delivery of the Natural Heritage Trust, such as the community and regional components.

9.3 Under the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997* the Commonwealth may provide direct funding to community groups and other organisations, such as local governments and indigenous communities, to achieve the objectives of the Trust. The Commonwealth will consult with Western Australia on any such proposals, and will only implement such arrangements with the agreement of Western Australia or on the decision of the relevant Commonwealth Minister and in the event of such decision the Commonwealth will have full responsibility for project administration and accountability to the Commonwealth.

10. Program Management

- 10.1 Projects will be managed according to the principles established for meeting overall program outcomes, and will be selected on merit. Proposals will be assessed according to the arrangements established in the relevant Attachments and program guidelines.
- 10.2 Individual program arrangements for the participation of Regional and/or State Assessment Panels will be detailed in Attachment A to this Agreement. In general, the parties agree that project applications are to be examined by Regional and/or State Assessment Panels established by the States.
- 10.3 Regional and State Assessment Panels will be chaired by a community representative and have a majority of community membership. Assessment Panels will encompass a broad membership with skills or experience covering environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, natural resources management and, where appropriate, land, water, marine, vegetation, conservation, farming, indigenous land management, and state and local government.
- 10.4 Following consultation and agreement between the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments, the Western Australian Government will appoint members of the State and Regional Assessment Panels.
- 10.5 The Commonwealth and Western Australia will provide panels with information on activities under programs not dealt with by the panel process.
- 10.6 The Commonwealth will attend State Assessment Panel meetings in an advisory capacity, and may provide observers at Regional Assessment Panels upon reasonable request.
- 10.7 Regional Assessment Panels should provide advice on local and regional project priorities and the implementation of regional plans to the State Assessment Panel. The State Assessment Panel should provide advice on State project priorities for regional and community projects and for relevant State and national projects to Western Australian Ministers, who will forward State Assessment Panel advice and recommend proposals for funding to the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board.

10.8 The parties agree to develop consistent guidelines, and implement consistent timelines and processes for seeking applications and assessing projects to ensure that community and regional groups receive funding in an efficient and timely manner, and that they are advised of funding in a coordinated way.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 11.1 The parties agree to undertake monitoring and evaluation in accordance with the respective roles set out in clause 6.
- 11.2 All activities funded under this Agreement shall include an evaluation of progress and outcomes using agreed measurable performance indicators.
- 11.3 The Commonwealth will accredit, through exchange of correspondence, monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements undertaken by Western Australia for activities covered by this Agreement. The Commonwealth may also be responsible for, and required to undertake, under Commonwealth legislation and administrative arrangements, additional monitoring, evaluation and reporting, subject to circumstances existing that warrant this course of action, and only after consultation with Western Australia.
- 11.4 The Commonwealth can visit any project or projects, upon reasonable notification to the lead agency, and will provide a report back to Western Australia.

12. Reporting

- 12.1 Western Australia shall provide the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board, by 31 October following each financial year covered by this Agreement, or by a date agreed by the parties, an annual report on progress in implementing this Agreement and its Attachments. The Report will be at the program level against, but not necessarily limited to, the objectives, outcomes, and milestones as described in the Attachments.

13. Authority for Action

- 13.1 Any action which is required or permitted to be taken by a party, other than an action which is required to be taken by a Minister, may be taken:
- (a) in the case of the Commonwealth, by an officer authorised under either Section 45 or 46 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*; or
 - (b) in the case of Western Australia, by an officer of the lead agency who is authorised for that purpose.

14. Publicity

- 14.1 The parties agree that in all circumstances where programs or projects receive Commonwealth funds through the Natural Heritage Trust, or where programs or projects receive Western Australian funds, that appropriate acknowledgment will be given to the Natural Heritage Trust and Western Australia as a source of those funds.

14.2 Specifically, in addition to recognising its own contribution, each party will give recognition to the other party's contributions to projects and ensure that:

- (a) any publications, articles, newsletters or other literary works prepared as part of a project acknowledge that it is being conducted under the Natural Heritage Trust and has received Commonwealth and Western Australian financial support. A copy of any such publication is to be provided to the other party;
- (b) signs, posters or other appropriate means are used to acknowledge the Natural Heritage Trust programs and the Commonwealth and Western Australian financial support; and
- (c) each party's role and the relevant Natural Heritage Trust program is acknowledged at relevant forums, conferences and at project openings.

14.3 The parties agree to consult on funding announcements.

15. Exchange of Information

- 15.1 Each party agrees to promptly comply with any reasonable request from the other party to supply information relating to the management or administration of programs covered by this Agreement.
- 15.2 The parties agree that they can each utilise data owned by the other for the purposes of meeting their respective responsibilities relating to this Agreement or the Natural Heritage Trust, and to make data available to the other party as outlined in the Attachments. The parties agree that data will remain the property of the owner, its use will be subject to agreed licence conditions, and it will not be used or communicated to any other person without the permission of the owner.

16. Conflict Resolution

- 16.1 In the event that any dispute arises under this Agreement, the parties will settle it by direct negotiation using their best endeavours, acting in a spirit of cooperation.
- 16.2 The parties will notify and consult each other on matters that come to their attention that may improve the operation of this Agreement.

This Agreement has been executed the day and year written above.

Signed for and on behalf of the COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA by:

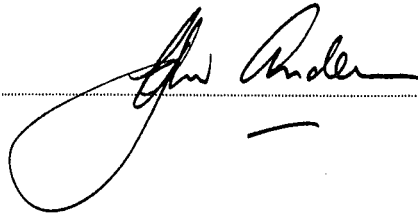
The Hon Tim Fisher, MP
Acting Prime Minister of Australia



Senator the Hon Robert Hill
Minister for the Environment

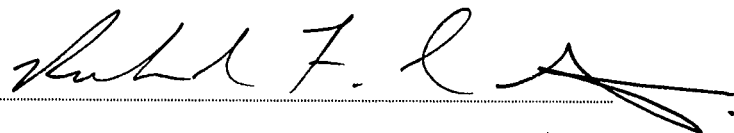


The Hon John Anderson, MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Energy

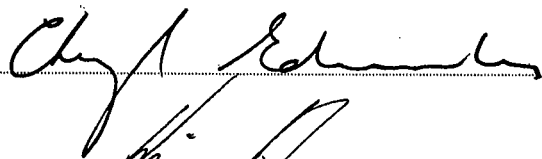


Signed for and on behalf of WESTERN AUSTRALIA by:

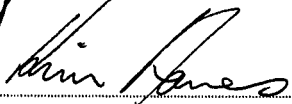
The Hon Richard Court, MLA
Premier of Western Australia



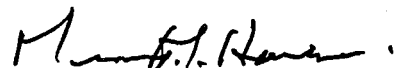
The Hon Cheryl Edwardes (Mrs), MLA
Minister for the Environment



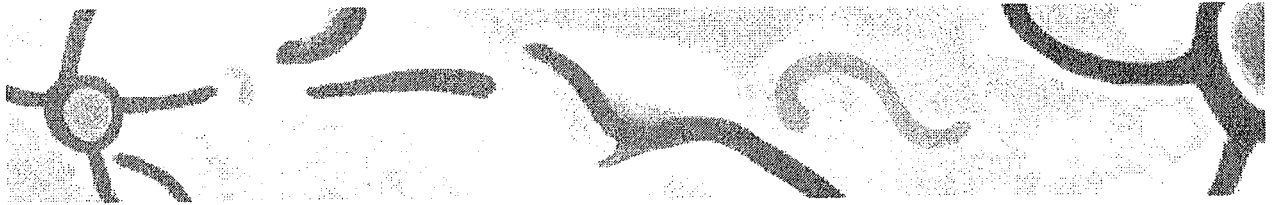
The Hon Dr Kim Hames, MLA
Minister for Water Resources



The Hon Monty House, MLA
Minister for Primary Industries; Fisheries



Attachment A



COMMONWEALTH PROGRAMS AND DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Bushcare: The National Vegetation Initiative

National Rivercare Program

National Landcare Program

Farm Forestry Program

Fisheries Action Program

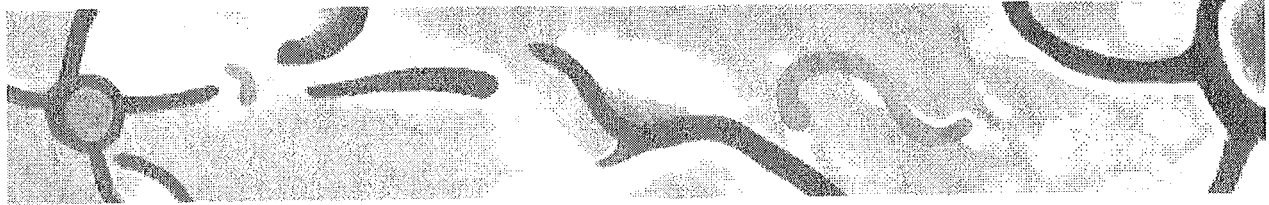
National Wetlands Program

Endangered Species Program

National Reserve System Program

National Feral Animal Control Program

National Weeds Program



BUSHCARE: THE NATIONAL VEGETATION INITIATIVE

1. National Goal

To reverse the long-term decline in the quality and extent of Australia's native vegetation cover.

2. National Objectives

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

- (a) conserve remnant native vegetation;
- (b) conserve Australia's biological diversity; and
- (c) restore, by means of revegetation, the environmental values and productive capacity of Australia's degraded land and water.

3. National Outcomes

3.1 The primary outcomes of Bushcare relate to on-ground increases in the quality and extent of native vegetation and associated improvements to management of biodiversity and land and water quality (landscape outcomes). These require changes in the attitudes and action of people, and improved decision-making and institutional frameworks (including information, planning, incentives and regulation).

3.2 Environmental Outcomes:

- (a) Conservation, enhancement and improved management of remnant native vegetation in rural and urban landscapes.
- (b) Conservation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat.
- (c) Effective measures in place to retain and manage native vegetation, including controls on clearing.
- (d) Avoid or limit any further broad-scale clearance of native vegetation consistent with ecologically sustainable management and bioregional planning, to those instances in which regional biological diversity objectives are not compromised.

- (e) Greatly increased revegetation activity, focused on priority regions, within planning frameworks capable of integrating multiple objectives, including: rehabilitation of degraded lands, improved water quality, halting or reversal of rising water tables where appropriate, and improvement of wildlife habitat.

- (f) Contribution to the ecologically sustainable management of biodiversity and land and water resources, particularly outside the reserve system.

3.3 Sustainable Production Outcomes:

- (a) Integration of native vegetation into mainstream farming systems for productive and sustainable uses.

3.4 Integration and Institutional Outcomes:

- (a) Increased quality and availability of information, targeted to relevant stakeholders, on the extent and status of native vegetation communities, key threatening processes and management options.
- (b) Improved management planning and priority setting for native vegetation management, including integration of environmental protection (including biodiversity conservation), sustainable agriculture and natural resources management objectives.
- (c) Development and application of appropriate economic and other incentives to encourage the conservation and sustainable management of native vegetation.
- (d) Assessment and monitoring of the current rate and distribution of native vegetation clearing on a national basis, including the development of national inventories of the extent and status of native vegetation communities, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of vegetation management strategies.

- 3.5 People outcomes:
- (a) Land managers with the commitment, skills and knowledge to manage native vegetation sustainably.
 - (b) Communities with an understanding and appreciation of the role and value of native vegetation in Australian rural and urban landscapes.
- 4. Western Australian Context**
- 4.1 In order to conserve remnant vegetation and its biological diversity, and to achieve increased revegetation and protection of natural resources, Western Australia will undertake a range of integrated actions.
- 4.2 Consistent with the Salinity Action Plan wherever appropriate, Western Australia will:
- (a) continue its Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme which provides financial assistance to landowners for fencing of remnant vegetation, including the placing of 30-year memorials on title.
 - (b) introduce legislation which will enable landholders to place voluntary covenants on their land titles to protect nature conservation values.
 - (c) ensure retention and better management of remnant vegetation on Crown land including conservation reserves.
 - (d) implement Western Australian Government policy which restricts agricultural land clearing, through relevant legislation and the inter-agency memorandum of understanding which provides for control based on biodiversity, and land and water conservation criteria.
 - (e) expand its Land for Wildlife scheme which was launched in 1997.
 - (f) encourage, support and work with landowners to achieve a scale of revegetation which meets catchment and regional targets for groundwater control, nutrient management, soil conservation and biodiversity conservation.
 - (g) integrate remnant vegetation conservation and revegetation measures into regional/catchment strategies and recovery programs for focus and key recovery catchments.
- (h) promote remnant vegetation conservation along roadsides and other transport and utility corridors through the work of the Roadside Conservation Committee.
- 4.3 Other measures that will be taken in Western Australia will include:
- (a) take special conservation measures for remnant vegetation identified as containing threatened ecological communities and species.
 - (b) protect natural vegetation of high conservation value in the rangelands, including through retirement of key areas from pastoral land use, management of total grazing pressure and the development and implementation of regional strategies.
 - (c) support and work with pastoral lease managers to conserve rangeland vegetation, particularly through management of total grazing pressure, and water point distribution, to revegetate degraded areas where appropriate.
- 5. Performance Indicators**
- Performance indicators will be developed by the parties on advice from the Council for Sustainable Vegetation Management (CSVM).
- 5.1 Environment:
- (a) The rate of native vegetation establishment in Australia exceeds the rate of vegetation clearance.
 - (b) Identification of endangered and other threatened ecological communities in regions which may be subject to clearing.
 - (c) No clearing of endangered ecological communities.
 - (d) No activities that adversely affect the conservation threat category of ecological communities.
 - (e) Continuing to improve vegetation management, including on Aboriginal lands through cooperation with Indigenous groups who have equitable access to Bushcare funding.
 - (f) Measurable improvement in quality of, or reduction in rate of, degradation of land and water systems.

- (g) Annual increases in the area of native vegetation under conservation management and in land subject to conservation covenants.
 - (h) Measurable improvement in rangeland vegetation through the management of total grazing pressure and artificial water points.
- 5.2 Sustainable Production:
- (a) Projects that demonstrate the positive impacts of good vegetation management on farm profitability.
 - (b) Development of a full range of vegetation management tools and options for property managers from biodiversity conservation to farm forestry
 - (c) Highest priority degraded riparian areas are revegetated where appropriate.
 - (d) Development of new productive enterprises based on sustainable use of native vegetation.
 - (e) Property management planning courses in all States include best practice nature conservation including native vegetation management as a core element.
 - (f) Implementation of property management plans reflecting the integration of conservation, native vegetation management, and production objectives within the planning process.
- 5.3 Integration and Institutions:
- (a) Development of strategic alliances between government and key industry sectors for improved vegetation management and biodiversity conservation measures.
 - (b) Targeted consultation with key stakeholders in each State to seek input on measures to improve vegetation management and biodiversity conservation.
 - (c) The extent to which sustainable management of biological diversity outside reserves is incorporated within integrated regional/catchment strategies.
 - (d) The extent to which best practice standards and guidelines for regional/catchment strategies are adopted.
 - (e) The extent to which best practice vegetation management strategies are in place and incorporated within local government planning schemes.
- (f) The development, accessibility and adoption of voluntary conservation agreements, covenants, Land for Wildlife and/or similar programs to provide a framework for conserving biodiversity outside reserves.
 - (g) Establishment of regional pilot studies to set best practice benchmarks for vegetation management.
 - (h) The degree to which a range of tools to facilitate best practice native vegetation management are adopted.
- 5.4 People:
- Improvements in knowledge, involvement and commitment of relevant stakeholders via:
- (a) Accessibility of appropriate technical advice on sustainable vegetation management from a range of government and non-government sources.
 - (b) Establishment of training opportunities, and participation in implementation of a national program to develop core competencies for Natural Heritage Trust facilitators and coordinators.
 - (c) Greater awareness by land managers of the vegetation communities and wildlife habitat values on their properties, and development of strategies to monitor condition and extent of native vegetation and associated wildlife.
 - (d) An increasing proportion of applications for community grants target priority regional management needs and are consistent with integrated regional/catchment plans.
 - (e) Increased involvement of women in local decision-making on vegetation issues and projects
 - (f) Increased capacity of Aboriginal communities to undertake vegetation management.
 - (g) Increased dissemination of best practice examples and case studies through on-ground staff, articles in relevant journals and newspapers, brochures etc.

6. Program Delivery

- 6.1 The Program will be delivered through the four Natural Heritage Trust components (Community, Regional, State and Commonwealth) in a manner outlined in the relevant Natural Heritage Trust Guidelines.

7. Proposal Assessment Process

- 7.1 Guidelines will be published by November 30 each year calling for proposals for funding in the following financial year.
- 7.2 Proposals for funding from the Community, Regional and State components of the Program will be assessed via the Regional/State assessment process as specified in each State and in accordance with the Regional/State assessment panel guidelines, subject to appropriate technical advice.
- 7.3 All proposals will be assessed and forwarded to the Commonwealth by June 30 each year.
- 7.4 Commonwealth component proposals will be assessed on the basis of technical advice.

8. Lead Agency

The Department of Conservation and Land Management is the lead agency for the delivery of Bushcare in Western Australia, in collaboration with Agriculture Western Australia and other relevant agencies, and in accordance with the Salinity Action Plan for Western Australia where appropriate.

9. Cost Sharing Arrangements

- 9.1 Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contribution of the proponent, and the relative proportions of public and private benefit to flow from the proposal.
- 9.2 In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will require a contribution from the State. The level of contribution will take account of priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this program.

- 9.3 Community projects will be funded on the basis of a community cash or in-kind contribution which will be outlined in annual guidelines, as agreed between the parties.

- 9.4 Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for the proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.

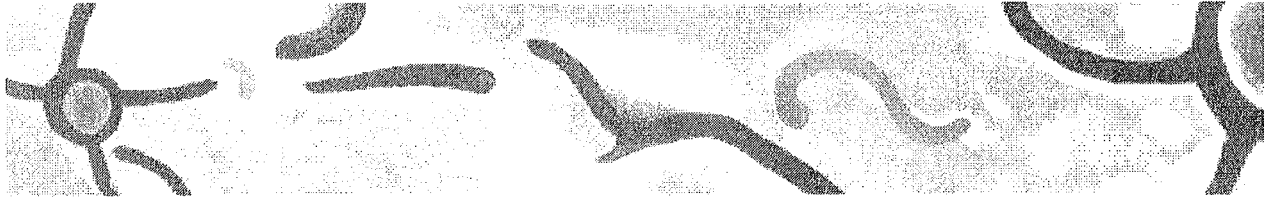
- 9.5 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given during the assessment process to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in cash or in-kind.

10. Project Administration

The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all Bushcare projects funded under the provisions of this Attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

- 11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program, consistent with an over-arching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust, and consistent with annual reporting under clause 12 of the Partnership Agreement. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised if necessary by the parties in light of the evaluation strategy.
- 11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1 the overall level of State resourcing to complementary native vegetation management will be provided, in an agreed form.
- 11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.
- 11.4 Projects will be reviewed in detail, at a level and interval consistent with the evaluation and reporting strategy for the program. This will include evaluation teams which will review a selection of projects in detail each year.



NATIONAL RIVERCARE PROGRAM

1. National Goal

To ensure progress towards the sustainable management, rehabilitation and conservation of rivers outside the Murray-Darling Basin and to improve the health of these river systems.

2. National Objectives

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

- 2.1 increase community awareness and understanding of river issues and promote linkages to facilitate community involvement in developing responses;
- 2.2 promote integration of riverine action plans with land and vegetation management issues;
- 2.3 assist in developing responses which address critical barriers or impediments to improved river health, particularly within catchment or regional contexts, through targeted management responses;
- 2.4 assist, and further stimulate investment in, activities which address national, State and regional strategies and priorities for improved river outcomes; and
- 2.5 assist in providing high quality data and decision support systems which will support investment and decisions in relation to environmental water provisions.

3. National Outcomes

Put simply, the primary outcome expected from the National Rivercare Program is improvement in the water quality and ecological values of river systems. Such improvements are expected to yield benefits in terms of environment protection, biodiversity, natural resource management and sustainable agricultural outcomes. Complementary social and economic benefits are also expected from such improvements.

3.1 Integration and Institutional Outcomes

- (a) Enhanced consultation and coordination of activities between stakeholders involved in the range of activities assisted by the National Rivercare Program.
- (b) Availability of good quality (high resolution), current data and implementation of effective monitoring systems for rivers which underpin decision support systems at all levels (ie national, State, regional/catchment).
- (c) Improved mechanisms and processes for identifying priority rivers for action in relation to water quality and river health issues, including environmental water requirements.
- (d) Efficient and effective administration of the National Rivercare Program.

3.2 Environmental Outcomes:

- (a) Improvements in the water quality and ecological health of rivers, as shown by a range of attributes (eg those relating to water quality, biodiversity measures, environmental water requirements etc).
- (b) Effective management of rivers in a manner which is consistent with agreed national strategies referred to in the Partnership Agreement, particularly the water reforms agreed by all governments in 1994 (the "COAG reforms"), the National Water Quality Management Strategy and the National Principles for the Provision of Water for Ecosystems. *(State specific details are included at 4 below.)*

3.3 Sustainable Production Outcomes:

- (a) Integration of riverine issues with land and vegetation management issues through the incorporation of river plans into broader catchment/regional plans.
- (b) Integration of rural land use activities with riverine issues through best management practices which limit potential impacts of nutrients on water quality.

- (c) Improvement in management of rivers and related water resources, for example, through measures which improve water use efficiency or provide complementary social or economic benefits (eg in relation to potable water supplies).

- (d) Floods in Australia cost approximately \$400 mil annually. Schemes to ameliorate floods on the Avon river have resulted in considerable degradation of the system. Funds are now necessary to bring the river back to life.

3.4 People Outcomes:

- (a) Increased community awareness and understanding of issues affecting rivers.
- (b) Increased community participation in developing responses, through water quality monitoring programs and on-ground remedial action by individuals or groups in partnership with governments.

- 4.2 The State is currently developing its first comprehensive Waterways WA Strategy which will guide the State's waterways management into the next century. This Strategy has strong links to the NHT Rivercare, Fisheries Action and the Wetlands Programs, and to the Coast and Clean Seas Initiative. The State is fully committed to the concept of integrated catchment management (ICM) to address all the environmental issues of a catchment or region.

4. Western Australian Context

- 4.1 The protection and enhancement of Western Australia's waterways is a priority natural resources management issue for the State. It has 208 recognised rivers totaling some 25 000 km in length. Its 45 estuaries cover less than 440 km² making them an extremely precious resource. There are over 10 000 wetlands in the Perth - Bunbury Region, covering over 360 000 ha, and including Ramsar wetlands.

- 4.3 The State is currently investing over \$ 7 million per annum for the management of waterways in WA, and it is proposed that this will build to approximately \$10 million in the short term. This is in addition to other indirect spending related to waterways management. Much of this effort will continue to be directed through regional programs. There will also be a significant contribution of community effort and funds for waterways management over the next five years.

- (a) Most of the waterways and wetlands are attached to artificial drainage systems and are suffering from the effects of agricultural and urban development. Over 70% of the original wetland areas of the Swan Coastal Plain have been lost.

5. Performance Indicators

Many of the Performance Indicators below relate to more than one outcome. In such cases the Performance Indicator is included in one main outcome with the other related outcomes indicated in brackets (eg Integration and Institutions - I&I, Environment - E, Sustainable Production - SP, People - P)

- (b) Approximately 80% of the perennial vegetation of the South West area has been cleared. Salinisation of streams is widespread, and this has significant impact on future water supplies as well as the ecology of these systems. There has been widespread loss of riparian vegetation due to clearing, salinity and overgrazing. With this loss has come erosion, sedimentation and eutrophication of waterways which has led to a general breakdown in the ecosystem function in most rivers.

5.1 Integration and Institutions:

- (c) Estuaries of the south west are becoming increasingly important from an economic perspective. They are an important focus of recreation and tourism developments. The ecology of many estuaries has been detrimentally affected by catchment activities, particularly through eutrophication. To date the State has spent approximately \$60 m to improve the health and function of the Peel-Harvey estuarine system.

- (a) Determination by Western Australia of priority rivers for action, in relation to water quality and river health (including environmental water requirements), in consultation with the community. (Other related outcomes-E)

- (b) Number of AUSRIVAS (First National Assessment of River Health) reference sites and degree of integration of AUSRIVAS results into catchment/regional management strategies. (SP)

- (c) Degree to which results of the National River Health Program's Environmental Flows Research and Development component is taken up by water managers. (E)

5.2 Environment:

- (a) Improvements in key river health parameters in priority rivers at selected measuring points, consistent with the monitoring arrangements of the National River Health Program, or as agreed by both parties. (I&I)
- (b) Improvements in the health of rivers, measured using outputs of AUSRIVAS and Waterwatch Australia/Ribbons of Blue data. (I&I, P)
- (c) Number of stressed or priority rivers where arrangements have been put in place to meet environmental water requirements, in consultation with the community and based on sound scientific information. (I&I, P)
- (d) Length of rivers/riparian zones protected from degradation by community and state action, through integrated river plans which link land and vegetation management issues. (P, SP)

5.3 Sustainable Production:

- (a) The proportion of catchment plans developed which include local or community river action plans. (P, I&I)
- (b) Initiatives undertaken to improve water use efficiency. (E)
- (c) Number of cases where improved resource management has resulted in measurable social/economic benefits, for example, in relation to potable water supplies.

5.4 People:

- (a) Number of community projects proposed and approved which address issues specifically related to an agreed river, catchment/ regional plan. (SP, I&I)
- (b) Number and geographic spread of community or school-based groups (including Waterwatch/Ribbons of Blue groups) involved in on-ground events which achieve the objectives of the program.

6. Program Delivery Arrangements

- 6.1 The National Rivercare Program will be delivered through the four Natural Heritage Trust components (Community, Regional, State and Commonwealth) in a manner outlined in the relevant Natural Heritage Trust Guidelines.

6.2 Waterwatch Australia is an element of the National Rivercare Program and accordingly for areas outside the Murray-Darling Basin its activities are funded from this source. Within the Murray-Darling Basin, Waterwatch Australia is funded by the Murray-Darling 2001 Initiative.

6.3 In relation to Waterwatch Australia, within each State/Territory there are Waterwatch Steering Committees which direct the strategic expansion of the program through State Plans. These committees will continue and provide expert advice to the Regional and State Assessment Panels.

7. Proposal Assessment Process

7.1 Guidelines will be published by November 30 each year calling for proposals for funding in the following financial year.

7.2 Proposals for funding from the Community, Regional and State components of the National Rivercare Program will be assessed via the Regional/State assessment process as specified in each State/Territory and in accordance with the Regional Assessment Panel/State Assessment Panel guidelines.

7.3 All proposals will be assessed and forwarded to the Commonwealth by June 30 each year.

8. Lead Agency

The Water and Rivers Commission is the lead agency for the delivery of the National Partnership component of the National Rivercare Program.

9. Cost Sharing Arrangements

9.1 Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contribution of the proponent and the relative proportions of public and private benefit to flow from the proposal.

9.2 In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will require a contribution from the State. The level of contribution will take account of priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this program.

9.3 Community projects will be funded on the basis of a community cash or in-kind contribution which will be outlined in annual guidelines, as agreed between the parties.

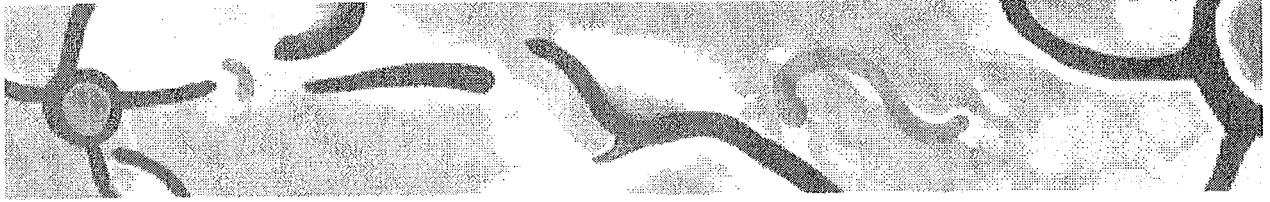
- 9.4 Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for the proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.
- 9.5 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in cash or in kind.
- 9.6 Proposals involving capital infrastructure should reflect beneficiary/user/polluter pays principles recognising that benefits are likely to accrue at the local, state and national levels. As a general rule, the Commonwealth contribution will not exceed the State Government contribution.
- 9.7 Under the National Rivercare Program funding assistance may be provided for certain projects which focus on water quality management (eg low-cost sewage treatment and re-use, pilot stormwater projects) in rural or regional urban areas. In the case of these types of capital projects the established practice, under the National Landcare Program and precedent programs, has been to fund these programs on the basis of local or "other party" contribution of at least 1/3 with matching State/Commonwealth contributions. It is expected that this arrangement will continue for similar types of projects funded under the National Rivercare Program.

10. Project Administration

The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all projects funded under the provisions of this attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting

- 11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program, consistent with an over-arching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust, and consistent with annual reporting under clause 12 of the Partnership Agreement. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised if necessary by the parties in light of the evaluation strategy.
- 11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1, the overall level of State resourcing to the Program will be provided in an agreed form.
- 11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.



NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM

1. National Goal

To develop and implement resource management practices which enhance our soil, water and biological resources and which are efficient, sustainable, equitable and consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

2. National Objectives

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

- 2.1 assist in enhancing the long term productivity of natural resources in Australia;
- 2.2 promote community, industry and governmental partnership in the management of natural resources in Australia;
- 2.3 assist in establishing institutional arrangements to develop and implement policies, programs and practices that will encourage sustainable use of natural resources in Australia;
- 2.4 assist in developing approaches to help resolve conflicts over access to natural resources in Australia; and
- 2.5 assist in raising the natural resource and business management skills of landholders.

3. National Outcomes

The National Landcare Program (NLP) encourages integrated natural resource management at the farm, catchment and regional level. It therefore underpins a suite of Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) programs. It embodies the Landcare principle of collective action by the community to manage the environment and natural resources sustainably, in partnership with government, while recognising that individual resource managers and owners should take responsibility for the resources they own or control.

The NLP's critical contributions to achieving NHT objectives are to:

- (a) integrated catchment management, particularly land, water and related vegetation management; and
- (b) sustainable agricultural productivity.

The NLP encourages strategic activities which result in improved on-ground outcomes and enhanced community capacity for change. The NLP strategies/priority actions focus on capacity building and on-ground action that contribute directly to the following outcomes:

3.1 Integration and Institutional Outcomes

- (a) Institutional arrangements that support and promote integrated natural resource management and a culture of sustainable resource use, particularly at the catchment/regional level.
- (b) Enhanced adoption of sustainable natural resource management practices through better application of research and development results.
- (c) Regional strategies in place which deliver integrated nature conservation, natural resource management, and sustainable agriculture outcomes.

3.2 Environmental Outcomes

- (a) Integration of environmental objectives in sustainable farming systems.
- (b) Improved condition of natural ecosystems that are influenced by primary production.

3.3 Sustainable Production Outcomes

- (a) Widespread adoption of sustainable natural resource management practices to protect the wealth-generating potential of Australia's agricultural resource base.
- (b) Use of land and water resources within their capabilities, while maintaining options for future resource uses, particularly on a regional scale.

- (c) Measurable improvements in the condition of on- and off-farm natural resource areas targeted by NLP and complementary State/Territory and community investment, including ground and surface water quality.
- 3.4 People Outcomes
- (a) Communities and individual resource managers with the understanding, skills, self-reliance and commitment necessary for sustainable management of land, water and related vegetation.
- 4. Western Australian Context**
- 4.1 To sustain the productive capacity and beneficial uses of the land, water and biological resources of Western Australia, the State has adopted a 'whole of Government' approach to integrated natural resource management. Three key natural resource management agencies - Agriculture WA (AgWA), Water and Rivers Commission (WRC), and the Department of Conservation and Land Management - enter into collaborative arrangements under an agreed coordinating agency to work in partnership with the community for sustainable land management and soil conservation, waterways management and rural adjustment, and achieving nature conservation off reserves. The partnerships are at the appropriate geographic scale for an effective community response - local catchment, land conservation district, whole river basin or region. Integrated natural resource management is delivered within two 'higher order' legislative frameworks - environmental protection (Department of Environmental Protection) and land use planning (Ministry for Planning).
- 4.2 Increasing salinity of soil and water resources and the impacts on land productivity, water supplies, infrastructure and nature reserves is the State's prime environmental problem. This is addressed in the Salinity Action Plan (Attachment C). The Plan applies generally to the South-West Land Division of the State and contributes directly to biological diversity conservation.
- 4.3 Western Australia has extensive rangelands with pastoral production as the dominant land use, and significant economic and social constraints to investment and support services for sustainable management. The Government's response is guided by a policy statement - *Managing the Rangelands* (Attachment C). Institutional reform is continuing with the imminent enactment of new legislation for lease administration, allowing for multi-use management. A new community-based initiative to better target the State's and NLP resources to rangelands management is to be developed.
- 4.4 Recent restructuring of Government institutions has provided better focus on waterways management and water resources protection, consistent with the reforms under the COAG agreement. A catchment management framework is generally adopted, under community leadership, combining the resources of water and land management agencies under agreed partnerships (Attachment C).
- 4.5 Agriculture Western Australia as the lead agency for NLP has formed a Sustainable Rural Development Program (SRDP) which integrates the economic, social and environmental components of ecologically sustainable development and provides for an agreed 'whole of Government' approach. The SRDP brings together Commonwealth and State inputs at four levels:
- (a) Regional Strategic Planning
- (i) Comprehensive strategies developed by the community and agencies for all regions of WA which address natural resources management and rural community development.
- (ii) Action plans based on community, State and Commonwealth partnerships.
- (iii) Target setting and monitoring of the trends in key sustainability indicators at a scale relevant to individual landholders, groups and decision makers.
- (b) Catchment and Land Use Planning
- (i) Provision of best information in a timely and accessible manner for catchment plans.
- (ii) Use of multi-disciplinary teams to support action to change practices and better manage natural resources.
- (iii) Cost sharing for critical works where public good values are high.
- (iv) Targeted support for structural adjustment to achieve sustainability targets.
- (v) Land use planning which facilitates sustainable development, minimises conflict between incompatible land uses and provides resource security.

(vi) Policy and practices development for improved rural planning, tailoring natural resource information to land use planning needs, identification State-wide of key soil and water resources for agriculture, and increasing capacity of rural planners for natural resource management planning.

(vii) Improved management of off-site environmental impacts and riparian zones.

(c) Property Management Planning

(i) Improving strategic planning, risk management and other skills of landholders on a cost sharing basis.

(ii) Developing a continuous learning culture for land and business management and decision making.

(iii) Integration of farm and catchment/environmental goals.

(d) Rural Community Development

(i) Developing and promoting a vision for agriculture amongst local communities.

(ii) Promotion and support for innovation and diversification.

(iii) Integrated local and regional planning around opportunities for sustainable (economic, social and environmental) development.

4.6 Further major institutional changes include:

(a) The Ministry for Planning (formerly Department of Planning and Urban Development) now has a broader land use planning role State-wide, and the Western Australian Planning Commission has been formed. A draft State Planning Strategy has been prepared and proposes a coordinating role for the Commission in natural resource management planning in rural areas. Rural planning policies are changing to require a more holistic approach by local government rural planning, and to address resource security issues for key agricultural resources.

4.7 Where appropriate and agreed by the community, regional initiatives are being formed to 'drive' integrated natural resource management. Each is under an agreed and formalised regional arrangement including the coordinating lead agency delivering on behalf of Government. Current and developing arrangement are:

(a) Blackwood Catchment Coordinating Group (AgWA - lead agency)

(b) South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team (AgWA)

(c) Swan Avon ICM Coordinating Group (AgWA)

(d) Geopraphe Bay Catchment Council (WRC)

(e) Gascoyne-Murchison Rangelands Strategy Implementation Committee (AgWA)

5. Performance Indicators

An important basis for assessing NLP outcomes will be the Indicators for Sustainable Agriculture currently being developed in a collaborative project by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management (SCARM). These are identified where appropriate including attributes on which the indicators may be based when agreed by the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand and the Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council.

5.1 Integration and Institutional

(a) Proportion of regions covered by regional strategies.

(b) Proportion of catchments or regions with strategies that address the full range of ecologically sustainable development issues.

(c) Degree to which government and research and development agencies reflect an integrated approach to service provision and information dissemination.

(d) Degree to which the results of the research and development program of the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation are taken up by individual resource managers and catchment management groups.

5.2 Environmental

(a) SCARM Indicator - Off-site Environmental Impacts (Off-site Environmental)
Possible Attributes:

- Residue in Products
- Salinity in Streams
- Dust Storm Frequency
- Impact of Agriculture on Conservation

- (b) Extent to which environmental considerations are incorporated in property management planning.
- 5.3 Sustainable Production
- (a) SCARM Indicator - Long Term Net Farm Income (On-farm Economic)
Possible Attributes:
- Net Farm Income
 - Terms of Trade
 - Productivity
 - Debt Servicing Ratio
- (b) SCARM Indicator - Land and Water Quality to Sustain Production (On-farm Environmental)
Possible Attributes:
- Water Utilisation
 - Nutrient Balance
 - Agricultural Diversity
 - Rangeland Condition
 - Soil Condition: Sodicity and Acidity
- (c) Measurable improvements in the condition (or a decrease in the rate of degradation) of land, water (including ground water) and vegetation in areas targeted by NLP and complementary State/Territory and community investment, derived from the National Land and Water Audit. The above indicators are also relevant to the environmental outcomes of the NLP.
- 5.4 People
- (a) SCARM Indicator - Managerial Skills (On-farm Social)
Possible Attributes:
- Farmer Education Level
 - Participation Rate
- (b) Implementation of sustainable management practices (including extent and rate of adoption of property management planning).
- (c) SCARM Indicator - (Off-farm Social)
Possible Attributes:
- Demographic Change
 - Labour Supply
 - Off-farm Income
6. **Program Delivery Level(s)**
- The National Landcare Program will be delivered through the four NHT levels (Community, Regional, State and Commonwealth) in a manner outlined in the relevant NHT Guidelines.
7. **Proposal Assessment Process**
- 7.1 Guidelines will be published by November 30 each year calling for proposals for funding in the following financial year.
- 7.2 Proposals for funding from the Community, Regional and State components of the Program will be assessed via the Regional/State assessment process as specified in each State and in accordance with the Regional/State assessment panel guidelines.
- 7.3 All proposals will be assessed and forwarded to the Commonwealth by June 30 each year.
8. **Lead Agency**
- Agriculture Western Australia is the lead agency for the delivery of the National Partnership component of the National Landcare Program.
9. **Cost Sharing Arrangements**
- 9.1 Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contributions of the proponent and the relative proportions of public and private benefit to flow from the proposal.
- 9.2 In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will usually not exceed that of the State. The level of contribution will take account of the priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this program.
- 9.3 Community projects will be funded on the basis of a community cash or in-kind contribution which will be outlined in annual guidelines, as agreed between the parties.
- 9.4 Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.
- 9.5 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given during the assessment process to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in-cash or in-kind.

- 9.6 Proposals involving capital infrastructure should reflect beneficiary/user/polluter pays principles recognising that benefits are likely to accrue at the local, state and national levels. As a general rule, the Commonwealth contribution will not exceed the State Government contribution.

10. Project Administration

The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all projects funded under the provisions of this attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

- 11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program consistent with an overarching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust, and consistent with annual reporting under clause 12 of the Partnership Agreement. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised by the parties if necessary in light of the evaluation strategy.
- 11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1, the overall level of State resourcing to the program will be provided in an agreed form.
- 11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.



FARM FORESTRY PROGRAM

1. National Goal

The aim of the Farm Forestry Program is to encourage the incorporation of commercial tree growing and management into farming systems for the purpose of wood and non-wood production, increasing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resource management.

2. National Objectives

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

- 2.1 promote wood production on cleared agricultural land and, where possible, to integrate commercial tree growing with other agricultural land uses;
- 2.2 promote tree planting for the production of non-wood products, with an emphasis on developing commercial uses of native species.

3. National Outcomes

The main outcome sought is the enhancement, expansion and diversification of Australia's commercial plantation and farm forestry resource base, and through this increased provision of future wood and non-wood products to meet the needs of industry and the community. Other outcomes sought include improved land and water management practices and increased environmental benefits (greenhouse gas reductions and enhanced biodiversity) as well as employment benefits.

The program will build on the foundation developed under the National Forest Policy Statement, the Wood and Paper Industry Strategy and other State/Territory initiatives.

3.1 Integration and Institutional Outcomes

- (a) Incorporation of farm forestry into agricultural systems through property management planning, and through catchment and regional planning.

- (b) Recognition by land managers and industry that farm forestry offers valuable opportunities to improve the commercial and environmental performance of agriculture.

- (c) Provision of consistent, efficient and reliable advice by all government and regional groups involved in promoting farm forestry.

3.2 Environmental Outcomes

- (a) Farm forestry contributing to land, water and biodiversity conservation, particularly in identified problem areas.

- (b) Enhanced use of native species in farm forestry projects, including the mid to lower rainfall zones of Australia.

- (c) Enhanced greenhouse sinks.

3.3 Sustainable Production Outcomes

- (a) Development of regional strategies, the undertaking of feasibility studies and the formulation of marketing, investment and woodflow plans as foundations for self-sustaining, commercially viable industries in key regions.

- (b) Regional demonstrations and trials coordinated with extension, research, monitoring and industry development strategies.

- (c) Development of farm forestry options suitable for implementation, including in regions with degraded agricultural land.

- (d) Enhanced research and development effort to support development of farm forestry species, products and industries, particularly for lower rainfall regions and high value species.

3.4 People Outcomes

- (a) Established and maintained networks for community and industry participation in regional farm forestry planning and development.

- (b) Improved knowledge and skills of landholders in farm forestry.

- (c) Development of training and support for professional and technical services for farm forestry.
- (d) Disseminated research findings to contribute to the development of sustainable farm forestry industries.
- (e) Heightened community awareness and understanding of the economic, social and environmental benefits of farm forestry.
- (f) Enhanced facilitation of communication, networking, and information exchange and dissemination.
- (g) Improved monitoring and evaluation of the economic, social and environmental impacts of farm forestry.
- (h) Developed stronger linkages between researchers, government, industry and the community at the national, state and regional levels.
- (i) Enhanced regional employment opportunities.

4. Western Australian Context

Western Australian outcomes will include:

- 4.1 Establishment and maintenance of policy and program coordination to provide a strategic direction for farm forestry.
- 4.2 Development of strategies for extension, facilitation, monitoring, evaluation and communication.
- 4.3 Incorporation of farm forestry planning into property management planning courses and other extension activities.
- 4.4 Increased action to address State and local government legislative, policy and regulatory impediments and other constraints to farm forestry.
- 4.5 Western Australian participation in and contribution to national program activities, such as research and development and monitoring and evaluation activities.

4.6 Under the Western Australian Salinity Action Plan:

- (a) implement a commercial tree crop program in the intermediate rainfall zone involving the establishment of 15 000 hectares of *Pinus pinaster* and 1 000 hectares of woodlot species per year, with an ultimate objective of achieving 500 000 hectares of commercial tree crops, in the medium rainfall zone;
- (b) conduct research and industry development for new commercial tree crops and products, including the eucalyptus oil industry; and
- (c) complement the high rainfall Farm Forestry Advisory Service by providing an integrated advisory service on revegetation in medium to low rainfall areas.

5. Performance indicators and milestones

Performance indicators will be refined in accordance with clause 11.

5.1 Integration and Institutional

- (a) The number of projects implemented in the context of integrated regional and catchment strategies for multiple objectives.
- (b) The number of property management plans incorporating farm forestry.

5.2 Environmental

- (a) The proportion of farm forestry plantings incorporating multiple purpose objectives (ie land, water, biodiversity conservation) in their design.
- (b) Increase in the number of projects to develop industries based on native species.
- (c) Extent of carbon sequestration achieved.

5.3 Sustainable Production

- (a) An increasing number of landholders and business enterprises planting trees for commercial purposes.
- (b) The number of hectares planted for commercial farm forestry purposes.
- (c) The number of regional strategies completed, the number of industry feasibility investigations in progress and the number of new industries established.

- (d) An increasing number of regional demonstrations and trials with linkages to regional extension, research and monitoring activities.
- (e) The number of farm forestry options suitable for implementation in regions with degraded land.
- 5.4 People
- (a) The level of awareness and positive attitude to adoption of farm forestry amongst landholders, industry, governments and other stakeholders.
- (b) The number and effectiveness of plantation and farm forestry groups and networks, and the degree to which groups work within the context of broader regional and catchment strategies.
- (c) The extent and effectiveness of community support for and the number of business enterprises involved in farm forestry.
- (d) An increasing number of participants in farm forestry training, extension and education.
- (e) The number and quality of extension materials and services.
- (f) The number of published research findings addressing identified priorities.
- (g) The proportion of demonstrations and trials that contribute to research and extension activities.
- (h) The number of people employed in farm forestry and related industries.
6. **Program delivery levels**
- The program will be delivered through the Regional, State and Commonwealth components of the NHT.
7. **Proposal Assessment Process**
- 7.1 Guidelines will be published by November 30 each year calling for proposals for funding in the following financial year.
- 7.2 Applications will be assessed via the Regional/State assessment panel process as specified in each State/Territory and in accordance with the RAP/SAP guidelines, subject to appropriate technical advice.
- 7.3 All proposals will be assessed and forwarded to the Commonwealth by June 30 each year.
8. **Lead Agency**
- 8.1 The Department of the Conservation and Land Management and Agriculture Western Australia are lead agencies for the delivery of the Farm Forestry Program.
- 8.2 Individual projects may be led and managed by either government or non-government organisations. To the extent possible, projects should have a significant level of community (including industry, farmer, Landcare and local government) participation in their design, delivery and evaluation.
- Role of Local Government*
- 8.3 Local government has a role to address land-use planning, zoning and rating issues.
9. **Cost sharing Arrangements**
- 9.1 Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contribution of the proponent and the relative proportions of public and private benefit to flow from the proposal.
- 9.2 In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will require a contribution from the State. The level of contribution will take account of priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this program.
- 9.3 Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for the proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.
- 9.4 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in cash or in kind.
- 9.5 Proposals involving capital infrastructure should reflect beneficiary/user/polluter pays principles recognising that benefits are likely to accrue at the local, state and national levels. As a general rule, the Commonwealth contribution will not exceed the State Government contribution.

10. Project Administration

The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all projects funded under the provisions of this attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.

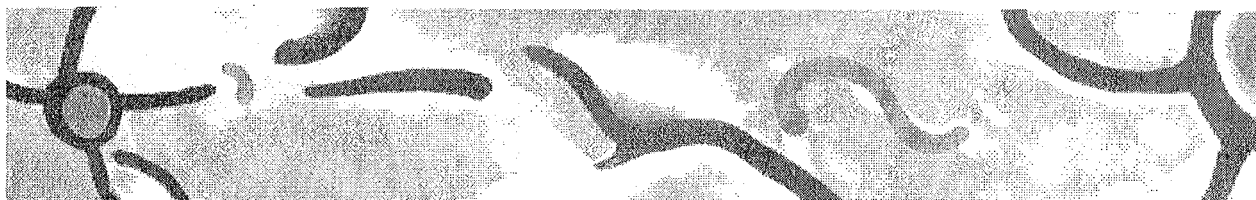
11. Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting

11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program consistent with an overarching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust, and consistent with annual reporting under clause 12 of the Partnership Agreement. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised by the parties in light of the evaluation strategy.

11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1 the overall level of State resourcing to the Program will be provided in an agreed form.

11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.

11.4 The proposed review of projects funded through the Wood and Paper Industry Strategy will provide a basis for developing and agreeing ongoing review mechanisms, and reporting, monitoring and evaluation arrangements under the NHT.



FISHERIES ACTION PROGRAM

1. National Goal

To help achieve the repair of Australia's aquatic environment and assist in the conservation and sustainable use of fish resources in freshwater, estuarine and marine environments.

2. National Objectives

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

- 2.1 encourage participation by the direct users of fisheries resources in habitat rehabilitation, aquatic pest identification and other Fisheries Action Program activities;
- 2.2 enhance sustainable resource use by all user groups, direct and indirect, by ensuring that impacts on fish resources and fish habitats are considered in their actions, processes and plans;
- 2.3 develop a sense of ownership, awareness and responsibility amongst all user groups for the sustainable use of fish resources and fish habitats;
- 2.4 encourage development and use of sustainable fishing practices; and
- 2.5 integrate fisheries issues with regional planning.

3. National Outcomes

FAP activities will address the need to improve outcomes for fisheries and their habitat by way of practical projects with government agencies and community groups. These outcomes will be achieved by way of changes in attitudes and actions of people and more and better information for decision making by regulatory agencies.

3.1 Integration and Institutional Outcomes

- (a) Increased quality and availability of information on the extent and status of fish habitats and fish populations, threatening processes and management options.

- (b) Improved mechanisms and frameworks for aquatic ecosystem management planning, priority setting and integration of natural resource management and conservation objectives.

- (c) Development of incentives to encourage natural resource management and conservation of fish habitats and fish populations.

- (d) Integration of fisheries and fish habitat issues with regional catchment strategies.

3.2 Environmental Outcomes

- (a) The restoration of fisheries habitats and a raised level of community awareness about fisheries environmental issues.
- (b) Improved fisheries habitat management.
- (c) Improvements in the quality of fisheries habitat monitoring and planning.
- (d) Increased involvement of community groups, in partnership with governments, in aquatic environmental restoration and monitoring.
- (e) An improved contribution to ecologically sustainable management of fish habitats, aquatic biodiversity and fish populations.

3.3 Sustainable Production Outcomes

- (a) Integration of aquatic habitat issues into natural resource management- terrestrial and marine.
- (b) A raised level of sustainable production and a raised level of industry awareness about the linkages between economic and environmental issues.
- (c) An improvement in the sustainability of fisheries resources as a result of better integration with catchment management and regional planning.

3.4 People Outcomes

- (a) Natural resource managers with a fuller understanding of the linkages between terrestrial activity and the condition of fish habitats and fish populations.
- (b) Communities with an improved understanding and appreciation of the role and value of aquatic habitats- freshwater, estuarine and marine.
- (c) A community with an improved sense of ownership and responsibility for sustaining fish habitats and fish populations.
- (d) Improved fisheries resource management practices by all resource users, commercial and recreational.

4. Western Australian Context

- 4.1 Western Australia has a large number and highly diverse variety of fish resources and aquatic habitats. Many have commercial and recreational importance.
- 4.2 The State has extensive seagrass meadows and other marine habitats that have local and global significance as important fish habitats and nursery grounds. However, they are highly vulnerable, with degraded seagrass meadows proving very difficult and expensive to restore.
- 4.3 Many of the State's inland waterways have been degraded by salinisation from excessive clearing of vegetation. Several freshwater native fish species have restricted distributions and introduced exotic species are a growing concern. The National Rivercare Program should link closely with the Fisheries Action Program.
- 4.4 The State's FISHCARE WA initiative meshes with and achieves many of the Fisheries Action Program's goals. FISHCARE WA has been successfully providing funding since December 1995 and will continue. Closer links with the Fisheries Action Program need to be developed without creating areas of significant overlap.
- 4.5 The goal of FISHCARE WA is to help ensure the long term sustainable use of fish stocks, the protection of their environment, and to maximise the benefits of our fish resources for present and future generations. This goal is consistent with the Fisheries Action Program national goal.

5. Performance Indicators and Milestones

Note: Performance indicators may need to be developed or refined in accord with the Fisheries Action Program Strategy and Action Plan which is still in draft form.

5.1 Integration and Institutions

- (a) Publication of a Strategy and Action Plan, developed in consultation with the States.
- (b) Publicly available information on the extent and status of fish habitats and fish populations, threatening processes and management options.
- (c) Improved information systems for aquatic ecosystem management planning and priority setting.
- (d) The extent of integration of fisheries and fish habitat issues with regional catchment strategies.

5.2 Environment

- (a) Areas of fish habitat will be restored and community awareness about fisheries environmental issues will be increased.
- (b) Management agencies will be provided with the results of habitat restoration projects to improve fisheries habitat management.
- (c) An increase in the area of fish habitat being monitored.
- (d) An increase in the area of fish habitat restored and protected.
- (e) Improved sustainability of fish habitats and fish populations.

5.3 Sustainable Production

- (a) Adoption of sustainable practices by fishers and resource users.
- (b) More aquatic habitat issues integrated into natural resource management - terrestrial and marine.
- (c) A rise in the level of industry awareness about the linkages between economic and environmental issues.

5.4 People

- (a) A fuller understanding of the linkages between terrestrial activity and the health of fish populations.

- (b) Improved community understanding of the role and value of aquatic habitats- freshwater, estuarine and marine.
- (c) An improved sense of community ownership and responsibility for sustaining fish habitats and fish populations.
- (d) The level of community participation in the Fisheries Action Program.
- (e) The improvement in resource use practices by all resource users, commercial and recreational.

6. Program Delivery Arrangements

Fisheries Action Program activities will be delivered through the Community, State and Commonwealth components of the Natural Heritage Trust. It is important that fisheries and aquatic habitat issues become integrated into regional catchment planning and this activity will receive attention in the early years of the Program.

7. Proposal Assessment Process

- 7.1 Guidelines will be published by November 30 each year calling for proposals for funding in the following financial year.
- 7.2 Proposals for funding from the Community, Regional and State components of the Program will be assessed via the Regional/State assessment panel process as specified in each State/Territory. Proposals will be subject to appropriate technical review, in accordance with the RAP/SAP guidelines, by State based fisheries technical advisory panels.
- 7.3 Experience to date has shown that the community assessment process will need to better encompass expertise and matters relevant to estuarine, marine, fisheries and coastal issues.
- 7.4 All proposals will be assessed and forwarded to the Commonwealth by June 30 each year.

8. Lead Agency

The Fisheries Department of Western Australia, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, is the lead agency for the delivery of the Fisheries Action Program in Western Australia.

9. Cost Sharing Arrangements

- 9.1 Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contribution of the proponent and the relative proportions of public and private benefit.
- 9.2 In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will require a contribution from the State. The level of contribution will take account of priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this program.
- 9.3 Community projects will be funded on the basis of a community cash or in-kind contribution which will be outlined in annual guidelines, as agreed between the parties.
- 9.4 Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for the proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.
- 9.5 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given during the assessment process to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in cash or in-kind.

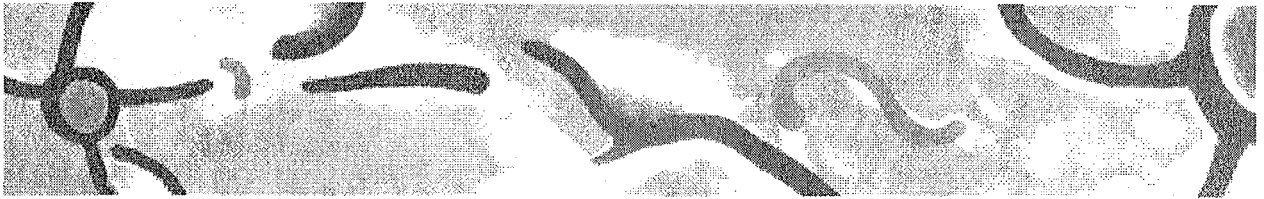
10. Project Administration

- 10.1 The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all projects funded under the provisions of this attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.
- 10.2 The Fisheries Action Program will be managed in close cooperation with State and Territory governments and community groups. State and Territory fisheries agencies will provide Fisheries Action Program coordinators (part funded by FAP) who will assist in administration, publicity and project evaluation. The Program will mesh with existing State and Territory fishcare activities.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting

- 11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program consistent with an overarching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust, and consistent with annual reporting under clause 12 of the Partnership Agreement. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised if necessary by the parties in light of the evaluation strategy.
- 11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1, the overall level of State resourcing to the Program will be provided in an agreed form.

- 11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives, as outlined in applications and contracts, and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.
- 11.4 State agencies will oversee monitoring and evaluation of community projects while the Commonwealth will be directly responsible for monitoring and evaluation of national partnership and Commonwealth component projects.



NATIONAL WETLANDS PROGRAM

1. **National Goal**

To promote the conservation, repair and wise use of wetlands across Australia.
2. **National Objectives**

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

 - (a) retain, restore and raise the awareness of the ecological, cultural, economic and social values of wetlands;
 - (b) develop and implement best practice standards in the management and wise use of Australia's wetlands;
 - (c) ensure a sound information basis for the conservation, repair and ecologically sustainable use of wetlands which is available and useable for informed and innovative community participation in their management and wise use; and
 - (d) implement the Ramsar Convention and its Strategic Plan 1997-2002, the Japan-Australia and China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreements and the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Strategy 1996-2000.
3. **National Outcomes**

Outcomes sought by the Program through the Community, Regional and National Partnership components of the Natural Heritage Trust, which are based around *The Wetlands Policy of the Commonwealth Government of Australia*, are as follows:

 - 3.1 **Environmental Outcomes:**
 - (a) Management plans in place for all Australian Ramsar sites, and increasingly for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Network sites and other nationally important wetland sites, with appropriate management regimes being implemented by their respective management authorities.
 - (b) Nationally consistent monitoring occurring at all Ramsar wetlands, and increasingly at East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Network sites and other nationally important wetland sites.
 - 3.2 **Integration and Institutional Outcomes:**
 - (a) A national framework of complementary wetland policies comprising one for each State/Territory jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.
 - (b) As appropriate, identify and designate additional Ramsar sites.
 - (b) The addition of the most important habitats to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird network.
 - (c) A national wetland inventory assembled from complementary State/ Territory/ Commonwealth databases.
 - (d) Consistent monitoring of a representative sample of nationally important wetland sites to enable the compilation of a "State of Australia's Wetlands" report prepared as part of State of the Environment reporting.
 - (e) Improved management planning and priority setting for wetlands, including integration of environmental protection (including biodiversity conservation), sustainable agriculture and natural resources management objectives.
 - 3.3 **People outcomes:**
 - (a) The development of a sound technical and scientific basis for wetland conservation and management, ensuring the information necessary for making decisions is disseminated to all spheres of government, the community and the private sector;
 - (b) Community-based, private landowner and local government actions to tackle wetland management issues across the country;

- (c) Enhanced wider community, landholder, industry and Local Government involvement in the implementation of conservation action for wetlands;
 - (d) Improved public awareness of wetlands issues and Australia's Ramsar and East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Network sites; and
 - (e) Development of training and education initiatives in wetland management and conservation.
- 4. Western Australian Context**
- 4.1 Consistent with its roles and responsibilities, Western Australia will:
- (a) Implement the 'Wetlands Conservation Policy for Western Australia'
 - (b) Give consideration to nominating additional wetlands (such as the Lake Muir complex) for Ramsar listing.
 - (c) Complete and implement management plans for Western Australia's nine existing Ramsar sites and any additional sites listed.
 - (d) Implement catchment based recovery plans for key wetlands as part of Western Australia's Salinity Action Plan, including for Lake Toolibin and the Muir-Unicup system.
 - (e) Undertake consultations leading to addition of Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach and possibly other sites to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Network.
 - (f) Conduct strategic research and monitoring to assist wetland conservation and management.
 - (g) Implement, in Western Australia, obligations under the Ramsar Convention and the Japan-Australia and China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreements, identifying WA wetlands of national importance, and progressively develop an inventory of WA wetlands that will contribute to the national inventory.
- 5. Performance Indicators**
- 5.1 Environmental:
- (a) Management plans in place for all current Australian Ramsar sites and any additional listed Ramsar sites.
 - (b) Regular, reliable and nationally consistent monitoring occurring at all Ramsar sites.
 - (c) Consistent monitoring occurring at East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Network sites between and within States.
- 5.2 Integration and Institutions:
- (a) All States and Territories to have in place Wetland Policies or Strategies complementary to that of the Commonwealth.
 - (b) Australia's 30 most important shorebird sites included on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Network, with management plans progressively in place.
 - (c) Additional Ramsar sites added by each State in accordance with agreed guidelines for identifying priority sites, to be developed through ANZECC.
 - (d) National wetland inventory completed.
 - (e) A third revision of the *Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia* published.
 - (f) "State of Australia's Wetlands" compiled as part of State of the Environment reporting.
 - (g) Integrated regional/catchment strategies established on a priority regional basis, that incorporate the management of biological diversity, including wetland objectives.
- 5.3 People:
- (a) Demonstrated support from the Program (and other Natural Heritage Trust programs) for community involvement in projects covering wetlands listed in the *Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia*.
 - (b) Community has access to appropriate technical advice on wetlands and their management from a range of government and non-government sources.
 - (c) Increased participation of the community in wetland projects, and involvement in Waterwatch Australia activities at wetland sites.
 - (d) Establishment of training opportunities, and participation in implementation of a national training program on best practice wetland management and conservation principles for wetland managers and decision makers.

- (e) Interpretive and advisory signs in place at Ramsar sites and East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Network sites.
- (f) Positive attitudinal change towards wetlands and their values.

6. Program Delivery

- 6.1 The Program will be delivered through the four Natural Heritage Trust components (Community, Regional, State and Commonwealth) in a manner outlined in the relevant Natural Heritage Trust Guidelines.

7. Proposal Assessment Process

- 7.1 Guidelines will be published by November 30 each year calling for proposals for funding in the following financial year.
- 7.2 Proposals for funding from the Community and Regional components of the Program will be assessed via the Regional/State assessment process as specified in each State and in accordance with the Regional/State assessment panel guidelines, subject to appropriate technical advice.
- 7.3 All proposals will be assessed and forwarded to the Commonwealth by June 30 each year.
- 7.4 Commonwealth component and State/Territory component proposals will be assessed on the basis of specialist advice.

8. Lead Agency

The Department of Conservation and Land Management is the lead agency for the delivery of the National Wetlands Program in Western Australia, in collaboration with the Water and Rivers Commission and other relevant agencies, in accordance with the Wetlands Conservation Policy for Western Australia.

9. Cost Sharing Arrangements

- 9.1 Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contribution of the proponent, and the relative proportions of public and private benefit to flow from the proposal.

- 9.2 In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will require a contribution from the State. The level of contribution will take account of priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this.

- 9.3 Community projects will be funded on the basis of program a community cash or in-kind contribution which will be outlined in annual guidelines, as agreed between the parties.

- 9.4 Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for the proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.

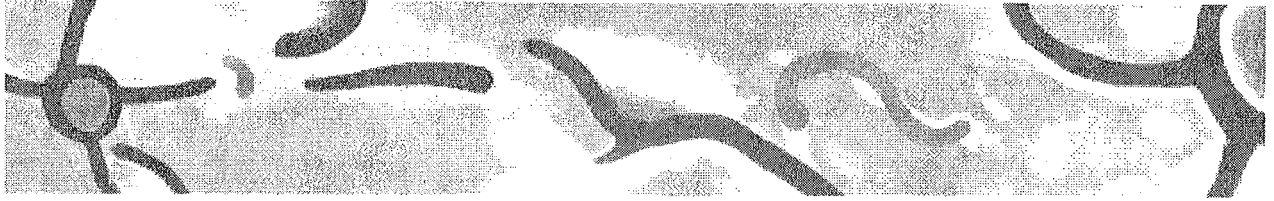
- 9.5 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given during the assessment process to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in cash or in-kind.

10. Project Administration

The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all National Wetland Program projects funded under the provisions of this Attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

- 11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program, consistent with an over-arching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust, and consistent with annual reporting under clause 12 of the Partnership Agreement. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised if necessary by the parties in light of the evaluation strategy.
- 11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1 the overall level of State resourcing to Ramsar, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Network sites, and Directory listed wetlands will be provided, in an agreed form.
- 11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.



ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

1. National Goal

To protect and conserve Australia's native species and ecological communities in the wild.

2. National Objectives

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

- (a) prevent the extinction, due to human causes, of threatened native flora and fauna;
- (b) prevent further species and ecological communities from becoming threatened; and
- (c) return threatened species and ecological communities to a secure status in the wild.

3. National Outcomes

Long term recovery of species and communities that are considered to be nationally threatened and the abatement of key threatening processes listed under the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*.

3.1 Environmental Outcomes:

- (a) Overcome threats to nationally threatened species and ecological communities, through the implementation of Recovery Plans.
- (b) Abate nationally listed Key Threatening Processes, coordinated and integrated with the Feral Animals and Weed Programs, through the implementation of Threat Abatement Plans.
- (c) Identify and establish priorities for existing and additional threatened species, endangered ecological communities and key threatening processes.
- (d) Progress towards meeting Commonwealth legislative requirements for inventory and survey of Commonwealth areas.

3.2 Integration and Institutional Outcomes:

- (a) Contributions by other programs in the Natural Heritage Trust to the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities, particularly through integrated regional/catchment strategies.
- (b) Assessments of national priorities and of national conservation status of threatened species and ecological communities through strategic research and survey projects, which will include inputs to Action Plans and other major taxon reviews.
- (c) Refinement of the recovery planning process to reflect world's best practice, drawing on the experience of practitioners and the community involved in its delivery.
- (d) Improved management planning and priority setting for Recovery Plans and Threat Abatement Plans, including integration of environmental protection (including biodiversity conservation), sustainable agriculture and natural resources management objectives.

3.3 People outcomes:

- (a) Enhanced wider community, landholder and Local Government involvement in recovery planning and implementation of conservation action for nationally threatened species and ecological communities.
- (b) improved public awareness of threatened species and ecological communities issues.

4. Western Australian Context

4.1 Western Australia's commitment to the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities includes:

- (a) The *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* that has provisions for listing and conservation of threatened flora and fauna.

- (b) The Government's intention to repeal and replace the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, with a new Act to include stronger provisions for the conservation of threatened species and their habitat.
- (c) A statutory authority, the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, in which conservation reserves are vested, that provides advice to the Minister on a range of nature conservation issues including threatened species and ecological communities.
- (d) The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) which administers and implements the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and has made a significant commitment of resources State-wide to management of and scientific research into threatened species and ecological communities.
- (e) The Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit, a CALM Branch that coordinates, promotes and assists with the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities State-wide.
- (f) A Threatened Species Scientific Committee that advises the Minister on additions and deletions to threatened species lists and advises on ranking of listed species according to internationally accepted (IUCN) criteria.
- (g) Control of feral animals which are adversely affecting threatened ecological communities and species.
- (h) A non-statutory process, developed in wide consultation with the community and industry, to develop policies and procedures for the conservation of threatened ecological communities.
- (i) Commitment of resources from other State agencies, including Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Perth Zoo and the Western Australian Museum, and State corporations, including Main Roads Western Australia and the Western Australian Water Corporation, to the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities.
- (j) The Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Consultative Committee that promotes consultation and cooperation with non-government conservation organisations.

- 4.2 Western Australia's recent achievements in threatened species and communities conservation include, with significant assistance from the Commonwealth's Endangered Species Program:
- (a) The preparation and implementation of Recovery Plans for many listed threatened species and one threatened ecological community.
 - (b) The preparation and implementation of over 35 Interim Recovery Plans for taxa identified as Critically Endangered according to IUCN Red List categories and criteria.
 - (c) The preparation and implementation of Interim Recovery Plans for threatened ecological communities identified as Critically Endangered by a scientific advisory committee using modified IUCN Red List criteria.
 - (d) The successful completion of implementation of the Woylie Recovery Plan, that led to this species being removed from the Western Australian and Commonwealth threatened species lists (the first species to be de-listed in Australia because of conservation action).
 - (e) Many successful translocations of threatened species to improve their conservation status.
 - (f) The development of fox control technology and parallel scientific research that has shown that fox control leads to the recovery of a range of threatened animals.
 - (g) The development and implementation of "Western Shield", the world's largest introduced predator control and native species recovery program.
 - (h) International standard ongoing scientific research into threatened species and threatening processes, including foxes, feral cats and *Phytophthora*.
 - (i) Major initiatives in the identification and conservation of threatened plants, including the rediscovery of many plant species previously thought to be extinct, and the preparation and implementation of Region and District Threatened Flora Management Programs for the species-rich south-west of the State, that guide the conservation of threatened and poorly known flora species.

4.3 Western Australia is committed to continuing its threatened species and ecological communities conservation efforts in collaboration with the Endangered Species Program.

5. Performance Indicators

5.1 Environment

- (a) Reduce the numbers of listed threatened species and downgrade the conservation threat category of listed threatened species.
- (b) Implement management action on nationally listed species, ecological communities and key threatening processes.
- (c) For priority threatened species and ecological communities prepare and implement Recovery Plans.
- (d) Complete and commence implementation of Threat Abatement Plans for *Phytophthora* and Longline Fishing Key Threatening Processes.
- (e) Complete and implement Threat Abatement Plans for Key Threatening Processes which may be added to the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*.

5.2 Integration and Institutions

- (a) In consultation with ANZECC, complete and review conservation overviews to enable assessment of threat categories and the development of priorities for Recovery Plans.
- (b) Integrated regional/catchment strategies established on a priority regional basis, that incorporate the management of biological diversity, including threatened species and ecological community Recovery Plans and key threatening process Threat Abatement Plans.

5.3 People

- (a) Increase community membership on recovery teams, commensurate with implementation requirements of Recovery Plans.
- (b) Increase availability of Endangered Species Program material available on the Internet, with progressive increase in public access.

6. Program Delivery

6.1 The Program will be delivered through the four Natural Heritage Trust components (Community, Regional, State and Commonwealth) in a manner outlined in the relevant Natural Heritage Trust Guidelines and consistent with actions identified in Recovery Plans.

6.2 Within the framework of the *Conservation of Species and Ecological Communities threatened with Extinction: the National Strategy*, the *Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*, and the *Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, the Endangered Species Program will primarily be delivered through the State/Territory component and the Commonwealth component of the Natural Heritage Trust.

7. Proposal Assessment Process

7.1 Guidelines will be published by November 30 each year calling for proposals for funding in the following financial year.

7.2 Proposals for funding from the Community and Regional components of the Program will be assessed via the Regional/State assessment process as specified in each State and in accordance with the Regional/State assessment panel guidelines, subject to appropriate technical advice.

7.3 All proposals will be assessed and forwarded to the Commonwealth by June 30 each year.

7.4 Assessment of proposals will be made against the national priorities developed by the statutory Endangered Species Advisory Committee.

7.5 State and Commonwealth component proposals will be assessed on the basis of specialist advice.

7.6 Funds will not generally be provided for:

- (a) species or ecological communities that are not considered to be nationally threatened or possibly threatened; or
- (b) projects that are not coordinated or integrated with other States and Territories in the species or ecological communities range.

8. Lead Agency

The Department of Conservation and Land Management is the lead agency for the delivery of the Endangered Species Program in Western Australia.

9. Cost Sharing Arrangements

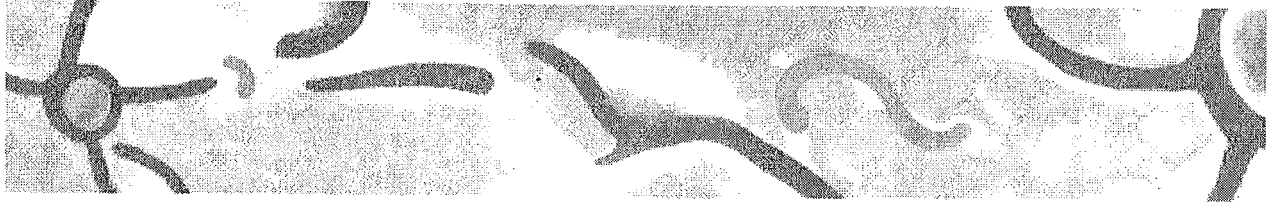
- 9.1 Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contribution of the proponent, and the relative proportions of public and private benefit to flow from the proposal.
- 9.2 In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will require a contribution from the State. The level of contribution will take account of priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this program.
- 9.3 Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for the proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.
- 9.4 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given during the assessment process to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in cash or in-kind.
- 9.5 Where a proposal is for the implementation of a Recovery Plan or Threat Abatement Plan the costings incorporated in the plan will form the basis for cost sharing arrangements.
- 9.6 Cost sharing arrangements will also take into account availability of sponsorship funds, whether the species crosses State boundaries, and whether it also occurs on Commonwealth lands and waters.

10 Project Administration

- 10.1 The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all Endangered Species Program projects funded under the provisions of this Attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.
- 10.2 Where a project is approved for a period longer than one year, eg for the first three to five years of a Recovery Plan, the financial agreement for the project must clearly describe the requirements and timing for the development of agreed project scope, work program, reporting requirements, and approved funding payment schedule for each subsequent year of funding.

11 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

- 11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program, consistent with an over-arching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust, and consistent with annual reporting under clause 12 of the Partnership Agreement. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised if necessary by the parties in light of the evaluation strategy.
- 11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1 the overall level of State resourcing to threatened species and ecological communities conservation will be provided, in an agreed form.
- 11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.
- 11.4 Projects will be reviewed in detail, at a level and interval consistent with the evaluation and reporting strategy for the program. This will include a major review (generally conducted at the five year stage of a recovery plan) which will require the preparation of a review report.



NATIONAL RESERVE SYSTEM PROGRAM

1. National Goal

To assist with the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves.

2. National Objectives

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

- (a) establish and manage new ecologically significant protected areas for addition to Australia's terrestrial National Reserve System;
- (b) provide incentives for Indigenous people to participate in the National Reserve System through voluntary declaration of protected areas on their lands and support for greater involvement of indigenous people in the management of existing statutory protected areas;
- (c) provide incentives for landholders (both private and lessees) to strategically enhance the National Reserve System; and
- (d) develop and implement best practice standards for the management of Australia's National Reserve System.

3. National Outcomes

3.1 Environmental Outcomes:

- (a) Improved knowledge of ecosystem distribution, components and threatening processes in high priority or poorly known regions identified through the *Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia* (IBRA), endorsed by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) as a basis for identifying deficiencies in the existing National Reserve System.

- (b) A significant increase in the area reserved that contributes to a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protected areas, with a focus on those regions where ecosystem representation is lowest.

- (c) The voluntary establishment of protected areas which are dedicated to long term conservation across a range of land tenures including lands owned and/or managed by Indigenous people and other private lands, particularly where acquisition through purchase is not feasible.

- (d) Plans of management, or other agreed management guidelines as agreed by the parties, for all properties acquired with the assistance of the National Reserve System Program to be prepared as soon as possible after purchase.

3.2 Sustainable Production Outcomes:

- (a) Integration of biodiversity conservation, including National Reserve System objectives, into regional/catchment strategies.
- (b) Inclusion of protected areas on private land managed primarily for its long term biodiversity conservation in the National Reserve System.

3.3 Integration and Institutional Outcomes:

- (a) Adoption by the Commonwealth, Western Australia and participating private land holders of a consistent national approach for the progressive establishment of the National Reserve System.
- (b) The cooperative development by the Commonwealth and Western Australia of a strategic land acquisition program which focuses on those ecosystems and biodiversity elements that are unrepresented or under represented in the reserve system, using IBRA and the *Interim Scientific Guidelines for Establishing the National Reserve System*, endorsed by ANZECC as part of the framework for prioritising additions to the National Reserve System.

- (c) The adoption by nature conservation agencies of nationally consistent principles and best practice standards for the improved management of protected areas.
- 3.4 People Outcomes:
- (a) Government, community-based, and private landholder actions initiated to acquire and manage priority ecosystems for biodiversity conservation.
 - (b) Improved public awareness of the role and value of protected areas, and of implementing a range of conservation management measures to protect biodiversity.
 - (c) Identification of best management practices for protected area management on public and private lands.
4. **Western Australian Context**
- 4.1 In order to establish and manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserve system in Western Australia, and in order to establish complementary protected areas on other lands, the following actions will be taken in Western Australia:
- (a) statewide strategic priorities for acquisition will be identified and pursued, particularly in high priority and/or poorly known IBRA regions, and to address special conservation needs such as the protection of threatened ecological communities and species;
 - (b) conduct biogeographic surveys of IBRA regions to identify ecosystems which are not represented or poorly represented within the conservation reserve system, including completion of surveys of the southern Carnarvon, eastern Murchison, northern Geraldton Sandplains and Avon Wheatbelt regions, and future surveys of the Mallee, Yalgoo and Pilbara regions;
 - (c) seek to enhance existing environmental map coverage at the ecosystem scale of the moderate to high priority IBRA regions to provide a strategic basis for planning and assessing conservation reserve system coverage;
 - (d) CALM will carry out a review of rangelands conservation for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in the rangelands;
 - (e) pursue conservation reserve acquisition in the Gascoyne/Murchison area in accordance with the Gascoyne/Murchison Rangelands Strategy, when finalised;
 - (f) pursue the establishment of protected areas on private, leasehold and other lands through a range of measures including:
 - (i) cooperative arrangements for lands owned and/or managed by Indigenous people;
 - (ii) introduction of legislation which will enable landholders to place voluntary covenants on their land titles to protect nature conservation values;
 - (iii) cooperative agreements such as those under s.16 and s.16A of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and memoranda of understanding;
 - (iv) The Land for Wildlife scheme; and
 - (v) continuation of the Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme, including the placing of 30-year memorials on title where financial assistance for fencing is provided.
 - (g) continue to develop statutory management plans for protected areas on a priority basis, and elsewhere develop interim management guidelines where needed;
 - (h) introduce legislation to establish an independent fund-raising foundation to support nature conservation, including land acquisition for conservation reserves; and
 - (i) contribute to the development of best management practices, principally via ANZECC.
5. **Performance Indicators**
- 5.1 Environmental:
- (a) Increase in the area of priority ecosystems within protected areas.
 - (b) Completion of an investigation of existing mechanisms for protection of priority private land under the National Reserve System.
 - (c) Development of guidelines and measures to facilitate the inclusion of priority ecosystems on private land (including lands owned and/or managed by Indigenous people) in the National Reserve System in Western Australia.

- (d) Legislatively based (where appropriate) management plans or other agreed management guidelines in place for land added to the National Reserve System.
 - (e) Improvement in the documentation and accessibility of information on ecosystem distribution, components and threatening processes in high priority and/or poorly known IBRA regions.
 - (f) Completion of annual reports for the National Reserve System Program, showing progress since the previous year, using the reporting framework in the *Interim Scientific Guidelines for Establishing the National Reserve System*.
- 5.2 Sustainable Production:
- (a) Integrated regional/catchment based strategies that incorporate the management of biological diversity, including National Reserve System objectives.
 - (b) Establishment of long term conservation security for priority ecosystems on private land.
- 5.3 Integration and Institutions:
- (a) Development of an agreed strategy for giving effect to the objectives of the National Reserve System Program in Western Australia.
 - (b) Agreement reached with the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management on a strategic approach for land acquisition using, inter alia, IBRA and the *Interim Scientific Guidelines for Establishing the National Reserve System*.
 - (c) Identifiable progress towards the development and adoption by ANZECC of best practice management standards.
- 5.4 People:
- Support from government, community groups, private landholders and Indigenous people for:
- (a) use of IBRA and the *Interim Scientific Guidelines for Establishing the National Reserve System* as a basis for prioritising additions to the National Reserve System,
 - (b) continuing to expand the National Reserve System in Western Australia including public and private lands,
 - (c) continuing to use a range of conservation management measures to protect biodiversity in Western Australia,
 - (d) establishing Indigenous Protected Areas in Western Australia through cooperation with Indigenous people and the Department of Conservation and Land Management, and
 - (e) progress in cooperative arrangements for protected area management with Indigenous people.
- 6. Program Delivery**
- 6.1 The National Reserve System Program will be delivered through the four Natural Heritage Trust components (Community, Regional, State and Commonwealth) in a manner outlined in the relevant Natural Heritage Trust Guidelines.
- 7. Proposal Assessment Process**
- 7.1 Guidelines will be published by November 30 each year calling for proposals for funding in the following financial year.
- 7.2 Proposals for funding from the Community and Regional components of the Program will be assessed via the Regional/State assessment process as specified in each State and in accordance with the Regional/State assessment panel guidelines, subject to appropriate technical advice.
- 7.3 Western Australia will provide information on its National Reserve System priorities to Regional/State assessment panels as background information for assessment of the Community and Regional proposals for funding under the Program.
- 7.4 Proposals to purchase land for establishment of protected areas as part of the Community and Regional components of the Program will need to be consistent with priorities of the National Reserve System and demonstrate, through State Government endorsement, that appropriate long term management will be put in place following acquisition.
- 7.5 Commonwealth component and State/Territory component proposals will be assessed on the basis of specialist advice.
- 7.6 Acquisition proposals will be treated as commercial-in-confidence.
- 7.7 All Community and Regional proposals will be assessed and forwarded to the Commonwealth by June 30 each year.

8. Lead Agency

- 8.1 The Department of Conservation and Land Management is the lead agency for the delivery of the National Reserve System Program in Western Australia.

9. Cost Sharing Arrangements

- 9.1 Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contribution of the proponent, and the relative proportions of public and private benefit to flow from the proposal.
- 9.2 In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will require a contribution from the State. The level of contribution will take account of priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this program.
- 9.3 Community projects will be funded on the basis of a community cash or in-kind contribution which will be outlined in annual guidelines, as agreed between the parties.
- 9.4 Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for the proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.
- 9.5 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given during the assessment process to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in cash or in-kind.
- 9.6 The State contribution to the Indigenous Protected Areas component will be negotiated and may take the form of resources for management including the provision of technical advice to indigenous protected area managers.

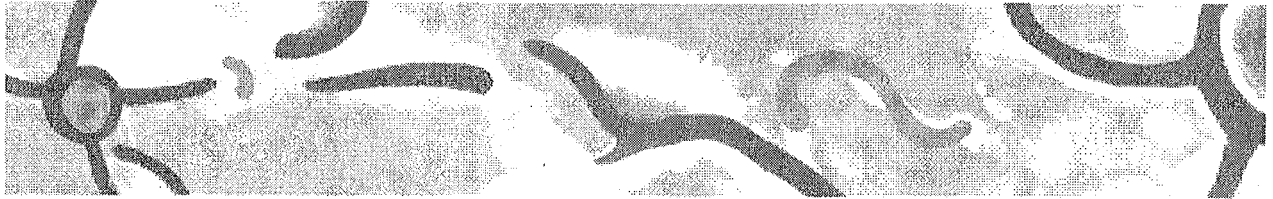
- 9.7 Cost sharing arrangements for agreed priority areas to be added to the National Reserve System will also take into account the State contribution for ongoing management costs, agreed management plans/guidelines and interim protection to protect the acquired property from immediate threat.

10. Project Administration

- 10.1 The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all National Reserve System projects funded under the provisions of this Attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.
- 10.2 Where a project is approved for a period longer than one year, the financial agreement for the project must clearly describe the requirements and timing for the development of agreed project scope, schedule of work, reporting requirements, and approved funding payment schedule for each subsequent year of funding.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

- 11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program, consistent with an over-arching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised if necessary by the parties in light of the evaluation strategy.
- 11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1 the overall level of State resourcing to terrestrial protected area management will be provided, in an agreed form.
- 11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.



NATIONAL FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM

1. National Goal

To ensure effective management of the impact of feral animals on the natural environment and on primary production.

2. National Objectives

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

- (a) develop integrated, strategic approaches to the management of the impacts of nationally significant feral animals;
- (b) implement threat abatement plans under the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* for those species listed as contributing to key threatening processes;
- (c) develop best practice guidelines for the control of the impact of nationally significant feral animals.

3. National Outcomes

Major outcomes sought through the National Partnership Component will include:

3.1 Integration and Institutional Outcomes:

- (a) Development and implementation of strategies to control the damage to the natural environment and primary production caused by feral animals.
- (b) Feral animal control strategies will be integrated into any regional/catchment planning process undertaken through related Natural Heritage Trust programs.

3.2 Environmental and Sustainable Production Outcomes:

- (a) Production and implementation of threat abatement plans for key threatening processes caused by feral animals.
- (b) Development of new techniques and technologies that will allow land managers to control feral animals more effectively.

- (c) Priority setting for future work based on improved knowledge of feral animal management.

- (d) the strategic assessment of the status, nature and scale of the impact of feral animals leading to best practice management.

3.3 People outcomes:

- (a) enhanced community, landholder and Local Government involvement in the effective control of feral animals by the provision of strategic management plans.
- (b) improved public awareness of issues relating to feral animals.

4. Western Australian Context

4.1 Western Australia's commitment to feral animal control includes:

- (a) Expansion, to a minimum of 5 million hectares, of the 'Western Shield' program for the recovery of threatened and other native fauna through the control of feral predators, on conservation reserves, State forest, and private and leasehold lands.
- (b) Conducting research to refine and improve the cost-effectiveness of fox control methods, and conducting research on fox ecology in support of national efforts to achieve biological control of foxes.
- (c) Development and implementation of cost-effective methods to control feral cats.
- (d) Conducting wide-scale and targeted control of rabbits, capitalising on the release of rabbit calicivirus disease.
- (e) Giving high priority to the eradication of feral animals on islands of conservation significance.
- (f) Conducting control of feral animals including goats, pigs, donkeys, camels, horses and wild cattle on a priority and strategic basis.

- (g) Maintaining Western Australia free of introduced species established in eastern Australia (eg starlings, sparrows, Indian mynas, cane toads), and controlling eastern Australian birds that have established feral populations in Western Australia (eg Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Rainbow Lorikeets), on a priority basis.

5. Performance Indicators

5.1 Integration and Institutional Outcomes:

- (a) the production of feral animal control strategies which have been endorsed by all States and Territories.
- (b) Specific feral animal control strategies integrated into regional/catchment planning processes where appropriate.
- (c) Priority regions identified for integrated management of nationally significant feral animals.

5.2 Environmental and Sustainable Production Outcomes:

- (a) Production and implementation of Threat Abatement Plans for feral cats, goats, foxes and rabbits.
- (b) Investigations to identify, in priority order, other feral animals which may have significant impacts, and produce and implement Threat Abatement Plans accordingly.
- (c) Development of new techniques and technologies to control feral animals more effectively.
- (d) Publication of best practice guidelines for selected feral animals.
- (e) Strategic assessment of the status, nature and scale of the impact of feral animals.

5.3 People Outcomes:

- (a) Enhanced community, landholder and government involvement and commitment in the effective management of the impacts of feral animals .
- (b) Improved public awareness of issues relating to feral animals.
- (c) Land managers with the knowledge, skills and commitment to effectively manage the impacts of nationally significant feral animals.

6. Program Delivery

- 6.1 The National Feral Animal Control Program will be delivered through the State and the Commonwealth component.
- 6.2 Although there will be no specific community or regional component to this program, it is envisaged that projects which target the effects of nationally significant feral animals on native vegetation, biodiversity and agricultural production may be eligible for funding under Bushcare or the National Landcare Program.
- 6.3 The focus of the Feral Animal Control Program is on those feral animals that impact on nature conservation values, especially under the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*, and primary production nationally. The majority of projects related to nature conservation funded through the State/Territory component will be directed at carrying out actions identified through Threat Abatement Plans. Funding through the Commonwealth component will be directed towards strategic research and development projects.

7. Proposal Assessment Process

- 7.1 Guidelines will be published by November 30 each year calling for proposals for funding in the following financial year.
- 7.2 All proposals will be assessed and forwarded to the Commonwealth by June 30 each year.
- 7.3 Commonwealth component and State/Territory proposals will be assessed on the basis of specialist technical advice.
- 7.4 Funds will not generally be provided for:
 - (a) species or threats that are not considered to be a priority; or
 - (b) projects that are not coordinated or integrated with State or Territory land management agencies.

8. Lead Agency

The Department of Conservation and Land Management and Agriculture WA are the lead agencies for the delivery of the National Feral Animal Control Program in Western Australia, for the impacts of feral animals on the natural environment and on primary production respectively.

9. Cost Sharing Arrangements

- 9.1 Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contribution of the proponent, and the relative proportions of public and private benefit to flow from the proposal.
- 9.2 In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will require a contribution from the State. The level of contribution will take account of priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this program.
- 9.3 Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for the proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.
- 9.4 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given during the assessment process to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in cash or in-kind.

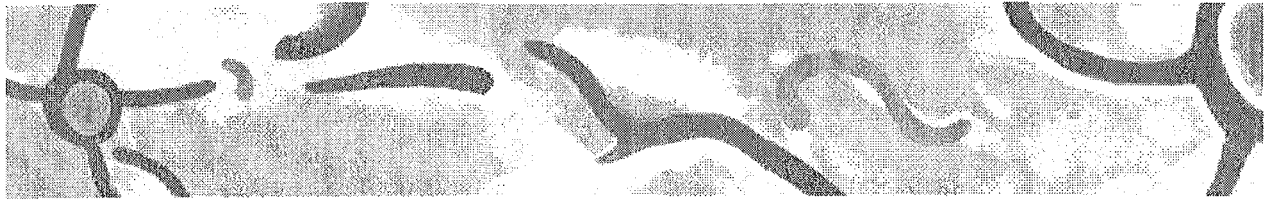
10. Project Administration

- 10.1 The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all National Feral Animal Control Strategy projects funded under the provisions of this Attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.

- 10.2 Where a project is approved for a period longer than one year, the financial agreement for the project must clearly describe the requirements and timing for the development of agreed project scope, work program, reporting requirements and approved funding payment schedule for each subsequent year of funding.

11 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

- 11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program, consistent with an over-arching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust, and consistent with annual reporting under clause 12 of the Partnership Agreement. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised if necessary by the parties in light of the evaluation strategy.
- 11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1 the overall level of State resourcing to nationally significant feral animals subject to Threat Abatement Plans will be provided, in an agreed form.
- 11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.



NATIONAL WEEDS PROGRAM

1. National Goal

To reduce the detrimental impact of nationally significant weeds on the sustainability of Australia's productive capacity and natural ecosystems.

2. National Objectives

Through working with all levels of government, industry and the community:

- (a) develop integrated strategic approaches to reduce the impact of weeds of national significance;
- (b) prevent the introduction of new pest plants through revised quarantine assessment procedures; and
- (c) assess the potential of existing pest plants to become weeds of national significance.

3. National Outcomes

Effective implementation of key actions of the **National Weeds Strategy** in cooperation with the State and Territory Governments, with specific outcomes to include:

3.1 Integration and Institutional Outcomes:

- (a) The development of a quarantine assessment procedure to prevent new pest plant introductions.
- (b) Integration of the National Weeds Strategy's goals, priorities and actions into regional/catchment strategies supported through Natural Heritage Trust programs.

3.2 Environmental and Sustainable Production Outcomes:

- (a) The production and implementation of cost effective, strategic management plans for weeds of national significance. The goal of these plans will be to reduce the impact of weeds of national significance to an extent where management by the appropriate State or Territory governments is possible.

- (b) Strategies and structures will be in place to identify and manage plants with the potential to become weeds of national significance.

- (c) Development of new techniques and technologies that will allow land managers to control weeds of national significance more effectively.

- (d) Priority setting for future work based on improved knowledge of weed management.

3.3 People Outcomes:

- (a) Enhanced community, landholder and Local Government acceptance of management responsibility for weeds.
- (b) Improved public awareness of issues relating to weeds of national significance.

4. Western Australian Context

4.1 Western Australia will:

- (a) Contribute to implementation of the National Weeds Strategy including the development of criteria for determining weeds of national significance and identifying weeds occurring in Western Australia that meet those criteria.
- (b) Develop and implement a State strategy and priorities for control of weeds impacting on the natural resources and the environment.
- (c) Conduct control of weeds which are adversely affecting threatened ecological communities and species.
- (d) Conduct surveillance and control programs for weeds identified as impacting on productivity of agricultural resources.
- (e) Maintain Western Australian legislative controls and procedures to prevent the introduction into the State of new weeds of primary production and the natural environment.

- 5. Performance Indicators and Milestones**
- 5.1 Integration and Institutions**
- (a) A quarantine assessment procedure developed to prevent new pest plant introductions.
 - (b) The National Weeds Strategy's goals, priorities and actions are integrated into regional/catchment strategies supported through related Natural Heritage Trust programs.
 - (c) Regional/catchment strategies with identified specific impact minimisation outcomes.
- 5.2 Environment and Sustainable Production**
- (a) A definitive list of weeds of national significance.
 - (b) Reduced impact of priority weeds on the environment and primary production.
 - (c) Strategies and structures in place to identify and manage plants with the potential to become weeds of national significance.
 - (d) Improved methods of control.
 - (e) Improved knowledge of weed management.
- 5.3 People**
- (a) Enhanced community, landholder and local Government acceptance of management responsibility for weeds.
 - (b) Improved public awareness of weeds of national significance issues.
 - (c) Land managers with the knowledge, skills and commitment to effectively manage the impacts of weeds.
 - (d) Communities committed to managing weeds of national significance through agreed cooperative arrangements which are integrated with regional/catchment strategies, and which are consistent with national management plans.
- 6. Program Delivery**
- 6.1** The National Weeds Program will be delivered through the State and the Commonwealth component.
- 6.2** Although there will be no specific community or regional component to this program, it is envisaged that projects which target the effects of nationally significant weeds on native vegetation and agricultural production may be eligible for funding under Bushcare or the National Landcare Program.
- 6.3** The primary focus of the National Weeds Program is on weeds of national significance, and the majority of projects funded through the State/Territory component will be to support strategic management plans for weeds of national significance.
- 7. Proposal Assessment Process**
- 7.1** Funding priorities for the National Weeds Strategy will be established through the National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee. Proposals for funding will usually be commissioned.
- 7.2** Commonwealth component and State/Territory proposals will be assessed on the basis of specialist technical advice.
- 8. Lead Agency**
- The Department of Conservation and Land Management and Agriculture WA are the lead agencies for the delivery of the National Weeds Program in Western Australia, for the impacts of weeds of national significance on the natural environment and on agricultural production respectively.
- 9. Cost Sharing Arrangements**
- 9.1** Specific criteria to be addressed in the assessment of proposals include the proposed contribution of the proponent, and the relative proportions of public and private benefit to flow from the proposal.
- 9.2** In the spirit of partnership, funding under this program for proposals undertaken in conjunction with State agencies will require a contribution from the State. The level of contribution will take account of priorities and outcomes for the program set at a national level, and the current complementary effort by the State in relation to this program.
- 9.3** Proposals submitted for funding consideration by State agencies should include an explanation of the basis for the proposed funding arrangements, particularly the respective Commonwealth and State contributions proposed, reflecting the flow of benefits at these levels.

- 9.4 Other criteria being equal, priority will be given during the assessment process to proposals which have higher levels of proponent contributions, either in cash or in-kind.

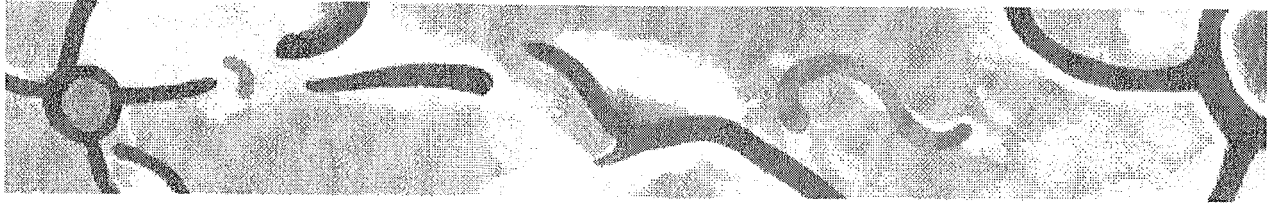
10. Project Administration

- 10.1 The standard terms and conditions of financial agreements as outlined in Attachment B will apply to all National Weeds Strategy projects funded under the provisions of this Attachment, unless and where changes are specifically approved by the parties.
- 10.2 The financial agreement for the project must clearly describe the requirements and timing for the development of agreed project scope, work program, reporting requirements and approved funding payment schedule for each subsequent year of funding.

11 Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting

- 11.1 The Commonwealth will work jointly with the State to establish and resource a strategy for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the program, consistent with an over-arching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Natural Heritage Trust, and consistent with annual reporting under clause 12 of the Partnership Agreement. Outcomes and performance indicators will be revised if necessary by the parties in light of the evaluation strategy.
- 11.2 As part of the strategy outlined in clause 11.1 the overall level of State resourcing to managing weeds of national significance will be provided, in an agreed form.
- 11.3 The performance of individual projects will entail assessment of progress and final reports against the project objectives and the goal, objectives and outcomes of the contributing programs.

Attachment B



STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THE PURPOSES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

1. Preamble

1.1 This Attachment to the Partnership Agreement sets out the terms and conditions under which financial assistance is to be provided to the State.

1.2 Financial assistance is to be provided consistent with the objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust and the Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and the State, of which this Attachment forms a part.

1.3 In the event of any conflict between the terms and conditions contained in the Partnership Agreement, terms and conditions specific to a project or program, and these Standard Terms and Conditions, the order of precedence amongst the documents will be as follows:

- (a) the terms and conditions specific to a project or program under a Financial Agreement;
- (b) these Standard Terms and Conditions; and
- (c) the Partnership Agreement.

2. Interpretation

2.1 In these Standard Terms and Conditions unless the contrary intention appears:

“Financial Agreement” means an agreement made between the Commonwealth and the State under section 19 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*, section 5 of the *Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992*, and/or section 16 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975* for provision of financial assistance to undertake a project or program, and which includes these Standard Terms and Conditions.

“intellectual property” includes all copyright, (including rights in relation to phonograms and broadcasts), all rights in relation to inventions (including patent rights), plant varieties, registered and unregistered trademarks (including service marks), registered designs, and circuit layouts, and all other rights resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields;

“material” includes documents, equipment, software, goods, information and data stored by any means;

“Partnership Agreement” means an agreement made between the Commonwealth and the State under section 19 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997* of the type referred to in section 19(4);

“project or program material” means all material created or provided by the Commonwealth, State or third parties as part of or in performance of a project or program, and includes new, enhanced or derived data; and

“proponent” means the person or organisation responsible for implementing the project or program

2.2 In these Standard Terms and Conditions, unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) words importing a gender include each gender;
- (b) words in the singular number include the plural and words in the plural number include the singular;
- (c) words importing persons include a partnership and a body whether corporate or otherwise;
- (d) clause headings are for convenient reference only and have no effect in limiting or extending the language of the provisions to which they refer; and

- (e) all references to clauses are clauses in these Standard Terms and Conditions unless otherwise specified.

3. Payment of Financial Assistance

- 3.1 Payments made to the State will be in accordance with a signed Financial Agreement as outlined in the proforma annexed to these Standard Terms and Conditions, for defined projects or programs with specified outputs, outcomes and reports.
- 3.2 The Commonwealth will pay the State the fees and any allowances, meet costs and provide assistance as specified in the Financial Agreement.
- 3.3 Payments made to the State will be in accordance with these Standard Terms and Conditions unless specifically varied within a signed Financial Agreement for defined projects or programs.
- 3.4 Payments made to the State under a Financial Agreement shall be made either to the lead agency, or direct to the State, for full and direct passing to the lead agency. The lead agency will be responsible for timely delivery to project proponents.
- 3.5 Payments will generally be by progressive instalments in advance unless otherwise agreed. Where the Financial Agreement provides that the State is to be paid by progressive instalments, the Commonwealth will be entitled to defer payment of an instalment until the State has completed to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth that part of the project or program to which that instalment relates, as defined in the scope of the project or program. In circumstances where the Commonwealth intends to defer payment of an instalment, it should provide written advice to the State within 30 days of receipt of the unsatisfactory material, as defined in the scope of the project or program, providing a reason for not accepting the material.
- 3.6 Any underpayment or overpayment under a Financial Agreement will be recoverable by or from the State, as the case may be, and without limiting any other rights, may be offset against any amount subsequently due by the Commonwealth to the State under the Financial Agreement.
- 3.7 In circumstances where there are several sources of funding for a single project being undertaken by a third person, the lead agency shall, as far as practicable, be responsible for ensuring that the project proponent receives one cheque, or where progress payments are made over time a series of cheques, and that all payments are covered by one agreement and one reporting mechanism.

- 3.8 Funding for approved projects or programs will generally be provided for up to 36 months. Where it is agreed between parties that projects or programs are sufficiently important to require support in excess of this period, they may be approved in stages with subsequent approval conditional on formal reviews of progress involving both parties. In order to provide certainty of funding, projects and programs will normally be approved for their duration, subject to satisfactory progress ascertained by an agreed reporting schedule against financial, project and program outputs, outcomes and milestones.

4. Reporting and Auditing Requirements

- 4.1 The State or the lead agency shall provide signed and audited financial statements to the Commonwealth as part of its annual report under clause 12.1 of the Partnership Agreement. These statements shall separately disclose aggregate funds received from the Commonwealth for each program, and aggregate Commonwealth funds expended for each program.
- 4.2 The State, or the lead agency, shall provide to the Commonwealth, within three months of the end of each financial year, a statement of expenditure for each project or program under a Financial Agreement. The statement of expenditure shall include:
- (a) Commonwealth funds expended; and
 - (b) a certification signed by an authorised official of the State or lead agency ("certifying officer"), stating that in the opinion of the certifying officer, the amounts shown on the statement of expenditure were spent in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Financial Agreement.
- 4.3 The Commonwealth may require that Commonwealth funds which have not been spent on the project or program, or have been mis-spent, be returned by the State to the Commonwealth.

5. Third Parties

- 5.1 Where a third party is to undertake a project, program, or part of a project or program, under the Financial Agreement, the State shall ensure that the third party:
- (a) is able to manage and monitor expenditure in accordance with State financial accounting requirements and in conformity with sound financial practices; and

- (b) meets conditions set out in the Financial Agreement and any other conditions which may be applied to projects or programs from time to time.
- 6. Project/Program Material and Intellectual Property**
- 6.1 The parties will agree upon the ownership of intellectual property in project or program material arising from a Financial Agreement on a case by case basis when each Financial Agreement is entered into.
- 6.2 Unless the parties specifically agree otherwise, one or other of the parties will own the intellectual property in the project or program material. Where the intellectual property in the project or program material is owned by one party, that party agrees to grant to the other party, a permanent, non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, adapt, commercialise and exploit the project or program material and intellectual property, anywhere in the world.
- 6.3 Where intellectual property in the project or program material is owned by a third person, the party engaging the third person for the purposes of the project or program must engage the third person on the express written condition that the third person grants to both the Commonwealth and State permanent, non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, adapt, commercialise and exploit the intellectual property, anywhere in the world.
- 6.4 The party who is the owner or custodian of intellectual property in project or program material will provide the other party with a copy of the material upon request, and execute all documents necessary for the grant of the licence referred to in Clause 6.2.
- 6.5 Unless otherwise agreed, a party deriving any net income from the intellectual property in the project or program material arising from a Financial Agreement, must pay to the other party a share of that net income in the same proportion as the financial assistance provided by the other party to the project or program bears to the total of the financial assistance provided by both parties to the project or program.
- 6.6 Ownership of intellectual property in any pre-existing project or program material owned by the Commonwealth, the State or a third party is unaffected by this clause, unless otherwise agreed.
- 6.7 No assets can be acquired for private purposes using funding under a Financial Agreement, except where there is an identified public benefit as part of a funded project or program, and where it is explicitly agreed.
- 6.8 Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, assets required for project or program implementation and acquired with the funding under a Financial Agreement, shall be deemed to be the property of the State, provided that they are used to advance the objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust following completion of the project or program. For Commonwealth monitoring purposes, the State must maintain a register of assets in accordance with its own accounting practices for assets acquired under a Financial Agreement.
- 6.9 All data will be collected and described in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment.
- 7. Termination and/or Non-performance**
- 7.1 Either party may review or terminate a project or program, in whole or in part, according to the provisions provided in this clause.
- 7.2 Where a party considers the performance of a program or project under a Financial Agreement has not fulfilled the conditions of the Agreement, and the lead agency cannot resolve the matter, the parties will attempt to address the concern in the following manner:
- (a) use their best endeavours to negotiate a review of the project or program, including funding levels, and to identify deficiencies and how to best meet project or program outputs, outcomes and milestones;
- (b) attempt to resolve any dispute in the manner described in Clause 16.1 of the Partnership Agreement; and
- (c) if this fails, to terminate the project or program, at an agreed effective date, and to recover funds.
- 7.3 If a project or program is terminated wholly or in part, the Commonwealth, will be liable only for:
- (a) payments under the payment provisions of the Financial Agreement for work undertaken before the effective date of termination;

- (b) payments proportional to the extent of work undertaken and committed to contractually before the effective date of termination; and
- (c) subject to clauses 7.4 and 7.5, any reasonable costs incurred by the State and directly attributable to the termination or partial termination of the project.

- 7.4 In the event of partial termination the Commonwealth's funding liability under the Financial Agreement will, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, abate proportionately to the reduction in the project or program scope.
- 7.5 The Commonwealth will not be liable to pay compensation in an amount which would, in addition to any amounts paid or due, or becoming due, to the State for the project or program, exceed the total funding set out in the Financial Agreement.

8. Compliance with Law

- 8.1 Both parties will in carrying out the project or program comply with the provisions of any relevant statutes, regulations, by-laws, and requirements of the Commonwealth, or the State.
- 8.2 Both parties agree with respect to the project or program to comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in section 14 of the *Privacy Act 1988* and to comply in so far as is practicable with any policy guidelines laid down by the Commonwealth or issued by the Privacy Commissioner from time to time relating to the handling of personal information.



FINANCIAL AGREEMENT (proforma)

This Agreement is made on the _____ day of _____, 19__

SIGNED for and on behalf of the COMMONWEALTH of AUSTRALIA:)

between

.....)
(Full Name))

The Commonwealth of Australia ("the Commonwealth"), represented by [the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy or the Department of Primary Industries and Energy, / or the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories or Environment Australia/the Director of National Parks and Wildlife]

.....)
(Signature))

In the Presence of:)

and

.....)
(Full Name))

The State of Western Australia ("the State"), represented by [name of department]

.....)
(Signature))

for the purpose of providing Commonwealth financial assistance to the State under section 19 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*, section 16 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975* and/or section 5 of the *Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992*;

SIGNED for and on behalf of the State of WESTERN AUSTRALIA:)

for the purpose of linking Commonwealth and State priorities and programs agreed between the parties, as outlined in Attachments A and C of the Partnership Agreement; and

.....)
(Full Name))

.....)
(Signature))

In the Presence of:)

for specified activities to enable the State, within the financial assistance provided, to achieve, in part, the outcomes sought in Attachment A to this Partnership Agreement under Program(s)

.....)
(Full Name))

[name of program/s]

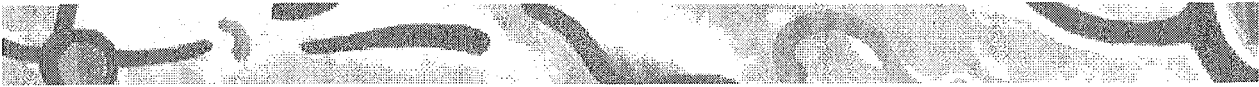
.....)
(Signature))

The title of the activity under this component of financial assistance for specified outputs, outcomes and reports in the Project/Program Details described herein is

[title(s) of projects/programs]

This Agreement comprises the entire terms and conditions for carrying out the activities described herein, and includes:

- (a) the Project/Program Details, including any Special Terms and Conditions attached to this Agreement;
- (b) the Standard Terms and Conditions as currently agreed between the parties in Attachment B of the Partnership Agreement; and
- (c) the Partnership Agreement.



PROJECT/PROGRAM DETAILS (proforma)

Title:

\$ _____ within 30 days of acceptance by the Commonwealth of an Interim Report;

Scope and Timeframes:

\$ _____ following completion of the project, and within 30 days of acceptance by the Commonwealth of a Final Report.

Specify the work to be performed and expected outputs and outcomes and reports.

Specify in detail the nature and extent of the project or program material that is required (eg. a report, interim reports, plans, models, specifications etc.), what is to be forwarded to the Commonwealth and when. Include provisions as to the form (eg. hard copy, data storage system, sound or visual images etc.) in which the material is to be produced and any equipment necessary for access to the material.

Specify the time-frame for the project or program, including delivery of project or program material. Set out all relevant dates: commencement, progress or interim stages, completion. If progressive delivery of project or program material is required a precise timetable should be specified. In some cases it may be appropriate to specify dates in a relative way ie, by reference to antecedent events.

Specify, where appropriate cross-reference to the Priorities and Programs as currently agreed between the parties in Attachment C of the Partnership Agreement and proponent(s) to which the scope of work relates.

OR Specify, where appropriate the reference to a proposal or proposals and proponent(s) to which the project or program relates and append to this Agreement or reference in specific terms to allow cross reference and coverage by this Financial Agreement.

Fees:

Specify fees to be paid by the Commonwealth linked, as appropriate, to instalment payments against progressive completion of the outputs and outcomes specified under the Scope. For example:

[where it is necessary for fees under the Agreement to be paid in instalments with interim reporting] The total fee for the project or program is \$ _____ payable by the following instalments:

\$ _____ within 21 days of acceptance by the Commonwealth of a detailed Schedule of Work for the project or program;

OR *[for Projects to be paid on final report and completion] The total fee payable by the Commonwealth for the project or program is \$ _____. Full payment will be made following completion of the project or program, and within 30 days of acceptance by the Commonwealth of a Final Report.*

Allowances:

Specify other financial obligations of the Commonwealth, eg. travelling allowances, printing or production costs. These should be clearly stated to prevent claims for excessive expenses. Travel allowances should be based on current Public Service rates.

Assistance:

Specify details of Commonwealth assistance such as office accommodation, secretarial assistance.

Equipment:

In accordance with Attachment B specify equipment to be purchased by the State with funds provided by the Commonwealth.

Intellectual Property

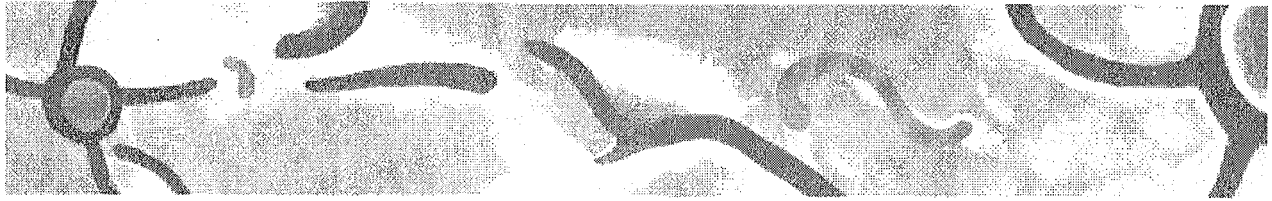
Intellectual property is to be determined case by case. Joint ownership is not normally appropriate. In general the intellectual property will vest with the State and Clause 6 of the Standard Terms and Conditions will apply including subclauses 6.2 and 6.3 where the parties and/or a Third Party shall grant to the other party or the parties, a permanent, non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, adapt, commercialise and exploit the intellectual property in the project or program material, anywhere in the world. Identify any pre-existing intellectual property (see Clause 6.6 of the Standard Terms and Conditions).

Special Terms and Conditions

Any additional special terms and conditions to be specified here eg the need for specified personnel to undertake the Project/Program.



Attachment C



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 5.4 of the Partnership Agreement, this Attachment outlines priorities and programs for natural resource and environmental management in Western Australia, grouped into five subject areas:

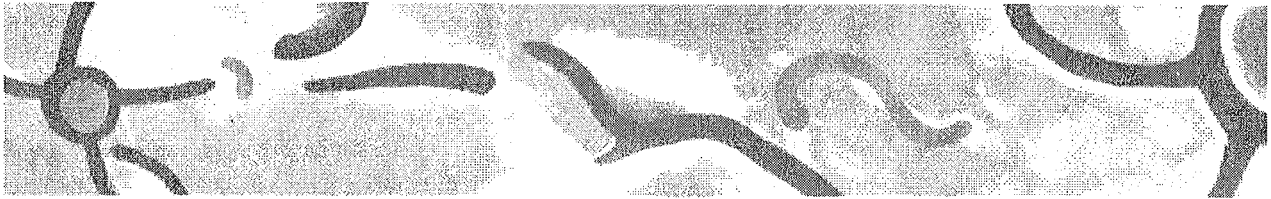
1. State Salinity Action Plan;
2. Biodiversity Conservation;
3. Waterways WA;
4. Rangelands Management; and
5. World Heritage.

The interaction between these five subject areas and the provision of financial assistance from the programs in Attachment A is shown in Table 1.

Partnerships between the community, landholders, local authorities and State government agencies will underpin the delivery of natural resource and environmental management in Western Australia. Government agencies will continue to work closely with community groups, landholders and local authorities to plan and implement on-the-ground action, coordinated where appropriate through cooperatively developed regional and catchment strategies.

Table 1. Primary () and secondary (*) sources of funds.**

| Commonwealth Programs | Western Australian Priority Programs | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | State Salinity Action Plan | Biodiversity Conservation | Waterways WA | Rangelands Management | World Heritage |
| Bushcare: The National Vegetation Initiative | ** | ** | * | ** | |
| National Rivercare Program | * | ** | ** | * | |
| National Landcare Program | ** | * | * | ** | |
| Farm Forestry Program | ** | * | * | | |
| Fisheries Action Program | | ** | ** | | |
| National Wetlands Program | * | ** | ** | * | |
| Endangered Species Program | * | ** | * | * | |
| National Reserve System Program | | ** | | * | |
| National Feral Animal Control Program | | ** | * | ** | |
| National Weeds Program | | ** | ** | * | |
| World Heritage Area Management Program | | | | | ** |



STATE SALINITY ACTION PLAN

1. Program Goal

Coordinated action by agricultural land owners, governments, and the broader community to control salinity and, in the long term, reverse its rising trend.

2. Program Objectives

Effective implementation of the State Salinity Action Plan (Western Australian Government, 1996) aims to:

- 2.1 reduce further deterioration and wherever possible, recover existing salt-affected land;
- 2.2 protect and restore key water resources and high value wetlands;
- 2.3 maintain and restore natural (biological and physical) diversity; and
- 2.4 protect towns, transport systems and other infrastructure affected by salinity.

3. Program Outcomes

Over 30 years the State Salinity Action Plan is to achieve:

- 3.1 revegetation of another three million hectares across the agricultural area, comprising natural diversity, land conservation and farm forestry plantings;
- 3.2 adoption of other commercially viable water management practices to complement these plantings and maximise water use and economic benefits; and
- 3.3 protection and management of remnant vegetation to maintain it in perpetuity.

More specific targets and the investment framework for their achievement are provided in the Action Plan.

4. Strategic Framework

4.1 A community-government partnership is crucial to the effective implementation of the State Salinity Action Plan, with the Western Australian Government prepared to take leadership in the first instance. This requires a commitment to two fundamental principles:

- (a) developing and implementing solutions that reduce net recharge and control saline groundwater; and
- (b) taking an integrated approach to planning and implementation of solutions at the catchment scale.

4.2 While salinity control is the primary focus, implementation of this Plan will benefit biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management in the agricultural area more generally.

4.3 The State Salinity Action Plan is solution-oriented, drawing on a very large body of practical experience and scientific information to offer water management practices in five areas:

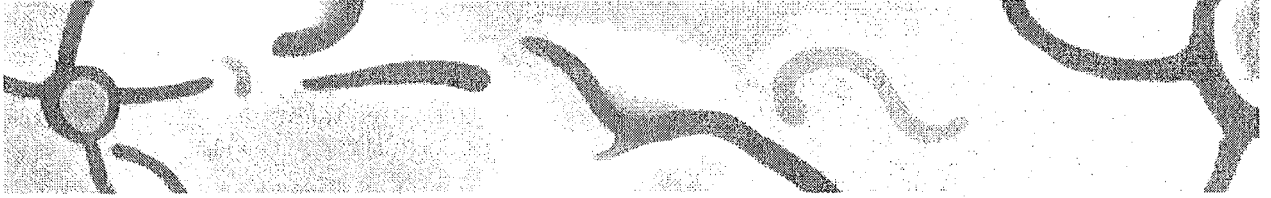
- (a) establishing perennial species, both native and exotic, to increase water use;
- (b) improving water use of annual crops and pastures;
- (c) collection, reuse and disposal of surface water;
- (d) drainage or pumping, reuse and disposal of groundwater; and
- (e) protection and management of remnant vegetation, on and off-reserves.

4.4 Deep-rooted perennials are the fundamental component of all salinity control measures.

- 4.5 Clear objectives and target outcomes for salinity management which specify the relative importance of protecting the land and water resources base, minimising financial losses to the land owner and the State, and conserving natural diversity will be established for every catchment over time. All practices will be evaluated for their contribution to water use and financial benefit.
- 4.6 To give better focus to decision support services and to give land owners and custodial authorities greater confidence in their salinity control decisions, the State Salinity Action Plan sets up three levels of government involvement:
- (a) *Individual land owners* - All land holders will have ready access to up-to-date, regionally specific information on the best management practices and new land management systems;
 - (b) *Focus catchments* - Priority selected sub-catchments will have access to catchment support teams providing technical and economic information needed for site-specific decisions, under a limited term services agreement; and
 - (c) *Recovery catchments* - Where high value public resources are at risk the Government will prepare a recovery plan in consultation with the community to protect and restore them. Government funding and compliance of land owners will reflect the public benefits involved.
- 4.7 The Strategic investment in the State Salinity Action Plan by governments will be according to cost-sharing principles being developed nationally, and will include:
- (a) catalytic funding of commercial development of new woody perennial crops;
 - (b) decision-support technical and economic services; and
 - (c) grants direct to land owners and community groups for revegetation and other works, where the government contribution reflects the degree of public benefit.
- 4.8 A monitoring program will accompany the State Salinity Action Plan, to evaluate the effectiveness of its implementation and to serve adaptive management decision needs. It will determine:
- (a) progress towards achieving defined agricultural, water resource and natural diversity objectives;
 - (b) natural biological and physical trends and the likely impact of land management changes on trends over time; and
 - (c) performance of land owners, community groups and Government agencies in meeting their responsibilities.
- 5. Actions**
- 5.1 The State Salinity Action Plan specifies action in all these areas which are summarised in the Appendix to the plan. Implementation of these actions with financial assistance under the Partnership Agreement will include funding from the State Government, Commonwealth and private investors. Commonwealth funding will assist in the State Salinity Action Plan implementation and will be provided consistent with the objectives of NHT and delivery arrangements in Attachment A.
- 5.2 Community Component
- (a) *All catchment groups* - problem definition, natural resource assessment and mapping, goal setting and planning, demonstration of land management practices, decision-support services and monitoring.
 - (b) *Focus catchments* - catchment inventories, decision - support services, monitoring and cost-shared works.
- 5.3 Regional Component
- (a) *Regional, sub-regional organisations* - natural resource assessment, target setting and planning, coordination and provision of decision-support services, demonstrations of land management practices, monitoring and assistance to groups (under agreed regional strategies).
- 5.4 National Partnership Component
- (a) *State agencies, other organisations* - research and industry development for new commercial crops; natural resource assessment, decision-support services and new technology development; regional and State coordination of community and regional support; planning and strategic revegetation of recovery catchments; and monitoring and evaluation.

6. Reporting Responsibilities

- 6.1 There will be progress and final reports for all individual projects, allowing assessment against nominated milestones and performance indicators. In addition monitoring and evaluation will be carried out as discrete activities by the relevant State and Commonwealth agencies.
- 6.2 A State Salinity Council reporting to the Cabinet Committee on Salinity Management will require project level reporting to monitor implementation of the State Salinity Action Plan.



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Western Australia has a rich variety of flora, fauna and ecosystems, many of which are unique to the State. The conservation of biological diversity, in all its forms, involves an integrated approach including the following elements:

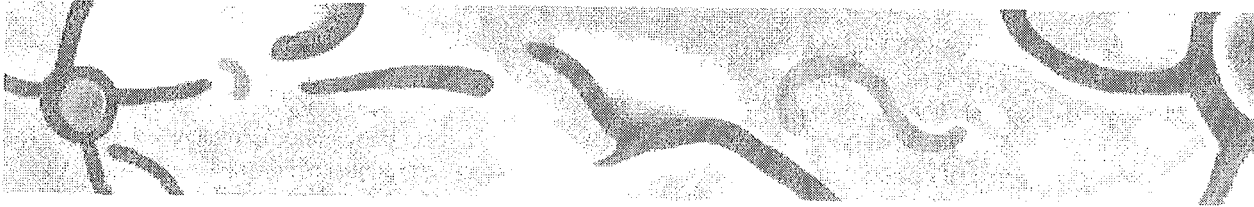
1. the establishment and management of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, in terrestrial and aquatic environments;
2. off-reserve conservation measures in cooperation with land owners and managers; and
3. special attention to the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities, and the abatement of key threatening processes.

Biodiversity conservation in Western Australia will draw on the range of Natural Heritage Trust programs in Attachment A, and is also a key component of each of the other programs detailed in Attachment C (ie State Salinity Action Plan, Waterways WA, Rangelands Management and World Heritage).

As a signatory to the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity (1996), Western Australia supports the goals, principles, objectives and actions of the Strategy. At the State level, A Nature Conservation Strategy for Western Australia (draft, Department of Conservation and Land Management, 1992) sets out the approach to biological diversity in Western Australia. Finalisation of the Strategy is planned.

The "State context" section for each program description in Attachment A outlines the specific objectives and priorities for Western Australia.

Biodiversity conservation in Western Australia will also benefit from integrated projects under the National Landcare Program, National Rivercare Program and Farm Forestry Program.



WATERWAYS WA

1. Program Goal

Coordinated action by community groups, landholders and local and state government to conserve and enhance the waterways of the state.

2. Program Objectives

The Waterways WA program has an initial time frame of 20 years, with five yearly reviews. The objectives of the program are to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 establish a framework for managing river and estuary systems throughout the State; 2.2 establish a data base on river and estuarine system condition; 2.3 prioritise rivers and estuaries for management, protection and research activities; 2.4 work with state and local government and the community to develop action plans for managing and restoring rivers and estuaries; 2.5 develop techniques for river restoration and rehabilitation, and opportunities for training in this area; 2.6 identify environmental flow requirements; and 2.7 work in partnership with integrated catchment management groups in order to effectively manage water resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 restore where possible natural river and stream salinities; 3.6 protect in-stream fauna, particularly sensitive indicator species; 3.7 develop indicator of stream health to allow assessment of restoration programs and facilitate State of the Environment reporting; 3.8 enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities; 3.9 increased community awareness and understanding of issues affecting waterways; 3.10 increased participation in developing responses through an acknowledgment of land manager responsibilities in waterways management; and 3.11 coordinated action across all sectors of government, industry and the community, ensuring land use and management practices leading to the protection and enhancement of the waterways environment. |
|---|--|

3. Program Outcomes

Over a 20 year timeframe the Waterways WA program is to achieve:

- 3.1 increase biodiversity of flora and fauna, through restoration and protection of the riparian zones;
- 3.2 the provision of environmental flows to restore and maintain river and stream health;
- 3.3 improve water supply quality;
- 3.4 reduce waterway pollution;

4. Strategic Framework

- 4.1 The protection and enhancement of Western Australia waterways is a priority issue. Creation of the Water and Rivers Commission has brought river and estuary management under the responsibilities of one organisation for the first time in the State's history, and this has provided a unique opportunity to address the management of these systems in a holistic and State wide manner. The Water and Rivers Commission is currently developing the State's first comprehensive program to guide management of the State's waterways well into the next century. To date this had involved a series of workshops and regional meetings with existing networks of community groups and local government with a particular interest in catchment management and sustainable development.
- 4.2 Work will continue to ensure regional priorities and delivery mechanisms are refined and incorporated into Regional Initiatives. A key component will also be the design of an evaluation and review mechanism suitable to cover all stakeholders.

- 4.3 Success of the program will be dependent on harnessing the goodwill and unprecedented enthusiasm of all stakeholders to deliver on-the-ground actions. Existing networks will be harnessed and expanded where necessary.
- 4.4 The State is committed to a number of reforms under the COAG agreement these will occur at mostly the national Partnership component with delivery at a regional level.
- (a) Development of Environmental Water Requirements for key river and groundwater systems.
 - (b) Development of an Integrated Natural Resource Management system in accordance with COAG project 4.1. This will consolidate and expand where necessary, the regional integrated catchment management group network.
 - (c) Implementation of the National Water Quality Management Strategy at both a State and regional level, including the allocation of regional water resources to environmental values.
 - (d) Redefining property rights in water use and establishing Transferable Water Entitlements to ensure equitable and efficient use of water resources.
 - (e) Development of criteria for urban and rural drainage waters.
- 4.5 The established Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch network will be consolidated to include increased support community activities and expanded to collect and assess a range of environmental health indicators not just water quality monitoring data.
- 4.6 The River Restoration training program will be enhanced to cover river and wetland restoration and rehabilitation techniques and extended to include environmental traineeships. The program will involve training of regional operatives, establishment of regional demonstration sites and establishing a depth of technical support and knowledge in the regional and local community.
- 4.7 Action plans will be developed and implemented through regional and local Integrated Catchment Groups, Landcare Conservation District Committees, local government and community based waterways management authorities. Many of these groups are already interlinked, coming together to prepare existing Regional Initiatives.

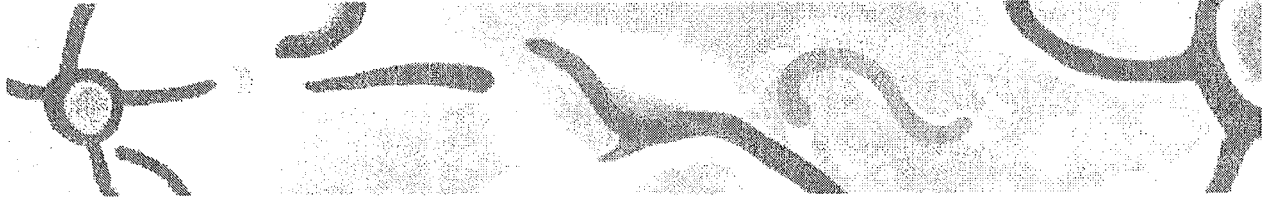
5. Actions

- 5.1 The draft Waterways WA Strategy specifies action in all these areas. Implementation of these actions with financial assistance under the Partnership Agreement will include funding from the State Government, Commonwealth and private investors. Commonwealth funding will be provided consistent with the objectives of NHT and delivery arrangements in Attachment A.
- 5.2 Community component
- (a) Facilitate group education and skills development and planning and coordination of landholder actions.
 - (b) Demonstrate best management practices and access community support services for ecologically sustainable waterways management including tactical riparian management or riparian zones.
 - (c) Support community development of waterways management action plans.
 - (d) Support community activities to assess environmental health of waterways.
- 5.3 Regional component
- (a) Develop regional catchment-wide waterways management strategies in accordance with sustainable land use management in conjunction with regional coordinating groups.
- 5.4 National Partnership component
- (a) Development of trials and demonstrations and industry development of best waterways management practices.
 - (b) Water resource management.
 - (c) Regional and State coordination of community and regional support.
 - (d) Decision-support services and new technology development for environmental water provisions.
 - (e) Monitoring and evaluation.
- 5.5 Actions relating to Implementation of Key National Strategies (COAG, NWQMS)
- (a) Western Australia is committed to a number of reforms under the COAG agreement. These will complement projects mostly under the National Partnership component and at a regional level.

- (b) Development of Environmental Water Requirements for key river and groundwater systems.
- (c) Development of an Integrated Natural Resource Management system in accordance with COAG "milestone" project 4.1. This will consolidate and expand where necessary, the regional integrated catchment management group network.
- (d) Implementation of the National Water Quality Management Strategy at both a State and regional level, including the allocation of regional water resources to environmental values.
- (e) Redefining property rights in water use and establishing Transferable Water Entitlements to ensure equitable and efficient use of water resources.
- (f) Development of criteria for urban and rural drainage waters.

6. Reporting Responsibilities

- 6.1 There will be progress and final reports for all individual projects, allowing assessment against nominated milestones and performance indicators. In addition monitoring and evaluation will be carried out as discrete activities by the relevant State and Commonwealth agencies.



RANGELANDS MANAGEMENT

1. Program Goal

Facilitate regional and local action by community groups and landholders to conserve the rangelands through development and adoption of best land management practices or, where appropriate, change to more sustainable land uses.

2. Program Objectives

- 2.1 Developing and maintaining commercial activities in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- 2.2 Conserving native flora, fauna and ecosystems.
- 2.3 Ensuring that economic and social development opportunities are realised while conserving the rangelands.
- 2.4 Maintaining viable rural communities throughout the rangelands.

3. Program Outcomes

- 3.1 A Rangecare program in place which addresses the fundamental issues of productivity and sustainability under pastoral land uses:
 - (a) total grazing management and land stewardship;
 - (b) risk management and self-reliance in business;
 - (c) best practices bench-marking; and
 - (d) protection of fragile systems.
- 3.2 New industries and enterprises through sustainable development of land and water resources.
- 3.3 Agreed and understood environmental objectives for rangelands management.
- 3.4 A comprehensive, adequate and representative nature conservation reserve system.

- 3.5 An industry and business structure capable of investment in sustainable rangeland management in the long term.

4. Strategic Framework

- 4.1 The Government of Western Australia has developed and endorsed a 'whole of Government' policy statement for rangelands management -- "Managing the Rangelands" -- from which the above objectives are taken. The State Government has direct responsibilities for sustainable rangelands management under the leasehold arrangements, and its strategies reflect this. For instance, its intentions are to provide for secure tenure over pastoral land to the extent possible under the Native Title Act; to revise legislation to encourage development of multiple land uses and opportunities to augment pastoral use; and to adopt a land administration structure which accounts for broader interests and takes an increased responsibility for sustainable land use.
- 4.2 Sustainable management of the rangelands requires action in five areas:
 - (a) economic development and structural change;
 - (b) sustainable land use;
 - (c) business activities;
 - (d) social considerations; and
 - (e) environmental protection.
- 4.3 In planning for action and project development to seek external assistance a high priority is placed on community partnerships with both resident and non-resident stakeholders, overseeing regional activities initiatives and local projects. Consultation should be adequate enough to achieve strong community ownership of the planned actions, and there should be ready access to information and training to maintain a learning environment.

4.4 It is proposed that new program specific to the rangelands be developed, called Rangecare. Its development will be lead by the Soil and Land Conservation Council, and it will be the rangelands community and pastoral industry's action plan, interpreting the "Managing the Rangelands" statement and the National Strategy for Rangeland Management.

5. Actions

5.1 The "Managing the Rangelands" document specifies action in all these areas. Implementation of these actions with financial assistance under the Partnership Agreement will include funding from the State Government, Commonwealth and private investors. Commonwealth funding will be provided consistent with objectives of NHT and delivery arrangements in Attachment A.

5.2 Community Component

- (a) Facilitate group development and learning, and planning and coordination of landholder actions.
- (b) Demonstrate best management practices and access decision-support services for ecologically sustainable land use - including tactical grazing management.
- (c) Identify and demonstrate opportunities for diversification of pastoral enterprises.

5.3 Regional Component

- (a) Regional land use strategies in accordance with natural resource capability and maintenance of natural diversity.
- (b) Coordination of group activities in key resource protection programs - such as feral goat control.
- (c) Facilitation of regional economic development and diversification under principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- (d) Regional initiatives implementing the principles of "Managing the Rangelands".

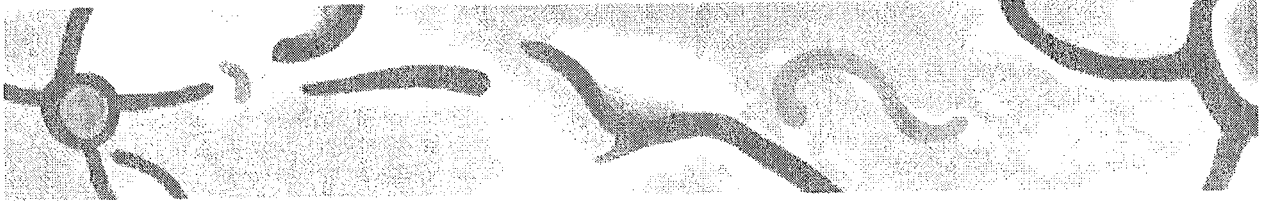
5.4 National Partnership Component

- (a) Development and demonstration of sustainable land management practices - including total grazing and management and range rehabilitation
- (b) Identification of priorities for protection of natural diversity, and establishment and management of a comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserve system.
- (c) Business skill training and development, property management planning, and provision of decision-support services - including climate risk management.
- (d) Investigation of ecological processes and options for their management - for instance, fire.
- (e) Identification of opportunities for value-adding, and direct assistance for industry re-structuring and social adjustment.
- (f) Monitoring rangeland condition - including development of new techniques for change detection - and use of environmental, financial and social indicators.

6. Reporting Responsibilities

6.1 There will be progress and final reports for all individual projects, allowing assessment against nominated milestone and performance indicators. In addition monitoring and evaluation will be carried out as discrete activities by the relevant State and Commonwealth agencies.

6.2 The Western Australian Rangelands Monitoring System is in place and capable of measuring changes in range condition on a regional scale. Under the proposed National Rangeland Monitoring Program there will be continued development of new monitoring technologies and convergence on common standards, which will allow national evaluation of rangelands management programs.



WORLD HERITAGE

There is one World Heritage property in Western Australia, namely the Shark Bay World Heritage Property which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in December 1991. Agreed arrangements for the Property being negotiated are outlined in the "Agreement between the State of Western Australia and the Commonwealth of Australia on Administrative Arrangements for the Shark Bay World Heritage Property in Western Australia."

The Agreement provides for the establishment of a Shark Bay World Heritage Ministerial Council, a Community Consultative Committee and a Scientific Advisory Committee. Financial assistance through the Natural Heritage Trust for management of the Shark Bay World Heritage Property will be considered by the Ministerial Council, with advice and comment provided by the Community Consultative Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee, in accordance with the principles and processes of the World Heritage Program to be included in Attachment A.

Western Australia is committed to seeking World Heritage listing for the Purnululu Massif (other wise known as the Bungle Bungles), and the assessment of the area's values against the criteria for the World Heritage listing is being conducted in collaboration with, and with financial assistance from, the Commonwealth. In the event that the area is inscribed on the World Heritage list, it is intended that financial assistance through the Natural Heritage Trust for management would be extended to the Property, in accordance with the principles and processes of the World Heritage Program to be included in Attachment A.