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SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

TO

POLICE AND NURSES CREDIT SOCIETY LTD

FOR

**SECURING THE FUTURE FOR
GILBERT'S POTOROO**

Australia's most endangered mammal

**The Department of Conservation and Land
Management**

The Department of Conservation and Land Management is seeking corporate sponsorship from the Police & Nurses Credit Society to assist with the protection of the critically endangered Gilbert's Potoroo. This work will cost \$9400 in the year 2000, and an annual cost of \$8400 is anticipated for the next 3-5 years.

Introduction

There are less than 50 Gilbert's Potoroos in existence today and until 1994, this 1 kg truffle-eating rat-kangaroo was thought to be extinct. The last recording of the potoroo was in 1865 near Albany. So, it was a more than extraordinary find, when in 1994, some 128 years later, two potoroo's were caught in a trap set by Ph.D. student Elizabeth Sinclair to capture quokkas. Her work was being conducted in the Two People's Bay Nature Reserve near Albany.

Since then a concerted campaign has been under way to locate more populations, breed potoroos in captivity and learn more about their habitat requirements,

Research would suggest that the only known wild population probably consists of less than 30 animals, all in one population. The species is extremely vulnerable to the effect of a catastrophic event, such as a wildfire. No other mammal species in Australia is so close to extinction.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management

CALM is a State Government agency which manages more than 20 million hectares of forests, national parks, nature reserves (including Two People's Bay Nature Reserve) and marine parks in Western Australia. It also manages the State's native plants and animals.

The Department's role is to conserve Western Australia's wildlife and manage lands and waters entrusted to the Department for the benefit of present and future generations.

Why sponsorship?

There is a growing community awareness of the need to protect the environment and an increasing expectation and demand for government and the business sector to support and meet these needs. Agencies like our own realise that conservation objectives cannot be achieved through government funding alone. Achieving these objectives requires the support of an educated and active community.

One of the most effective means of achieving education and support is through the participation of companies and organisations in projects where mutual benefits can be provided.

By providing such opportunities CALM hopes to increase community awareness, thereby developing changes in behaviour that may lead to a richer and better environment.

The project

A Threatened Species Recovery Plan has identified priorities for the conservation of the Gilbert Potoroo. This includes a captive breeding program to provide security for the species and also stock for release into new areas; monitoring and assessment of the only known population; discovering food and habitat requirements in the wild and searching for other populations.

This vital work is only partially funded. CALM invites the Police and Nurses Credit Society into a partnership to implement the field component of the recovery plan, as follows:

- Search for further potoroo colonies at Two Peoples Bay
- Monitor potoroo numbers at Two Peoples Bay
- Search for potoroos at other sites
- Provide interpretive material for distribution to the public

This work will cost \$9400 in 2000, and an annual cost of \$8400 is anticipated for the next 3-5 years.

Estimated budget for the year 2000

Activity	Cost (\$)
Monitor potoroo numbers at Two Peoples Bay	1900
Search for further potoroo colonies at Two Peoples Bay	3000
Search for other potoroos at other locations	3500
Production and printing of brochure	1000
TOTAL	\$9,400

Note: Sponsorship in subsequent years would not require the cost of a brochure.

Community involvement

The potoroo program involves two CALM research officers and is assisted and supported by the involvement of many interested volunteers. In February 2000, a team of 12 volunteers spent two weeks giving their assistance to the project, mainly trapping and radio-tracking to investigate habitat preferences and social organisation. On a month-to-month basis, several local people give assistance at Two Peoples Bay. The project team has attempted to give

some ownership of Gilbert's Potoroo to the Albany community and to keep a focus on the program through the local media.

What CALM will provide to the Police & Nurses Credit Society (PNCS)

- Regular updates on the progress of the potoroo fieldwork – new findings, population trends, results of surveys for new populations, for publication in the PNCS newsletter.
- A bi-annual presentation at the Two Peoples Bay Visitor Centre, with a tour of the potoroo captive facility for interested members.
- In the first year of sponsorship, publication of an article in CALM's award winning LANDSCOPE magazine featuring the progress of the potoroo program, with reference to the sponsorship by PNCS.
- Acknowledgment of PNCS sponsorship on an interpretive brochure produced during the first year of sponsorship.
- Ability for the PNCS to refer to this sponsorship in general marketing material as appropriate.
- Affiliation with a recognised authority (CALM), well respected for its expertise and ability to administer environmental programs.
- An enhanced community image as an environmentally aware and caring organisation.
- Involvement and affiliation with volunteers.

These benefits will be provided when and where appropriate for the period of the sponsorship.

For more information please contact Suzanne Curry, CALM's External Funding Co-ordinator on (08) 9334 0567, email suzannec@calm.wa.gov.au or Dr Tony Friend on (08) 9842 4523, email tonyf@calm.wa.gov.au.