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# ***BUSHLAND BENEFITS***



## **Landholders' Information Pack**

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Guidelines for Submitting a Tender

Expression of Interest Form

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Attachment A: Features that Indicate a High Biodiversity Conservation Value

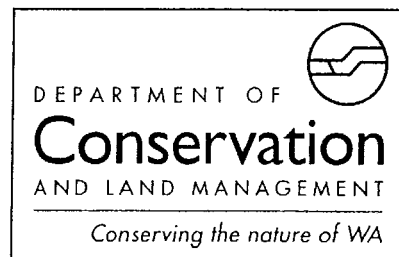
Attachment B: Biodiversity Extension Organisations, Voluntary  
Management Agreements and Nature Conservation Covenants

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# ***BUSHLAND BENEFITS***



## **Landholders' Information Pack**

Thank you for registering an interest in the *Bushland Benefits* funding scheme. Please find attached the "Landholders' Information Pack" which explains the scheme in more detail, describes the steps required to submit a tender, and includes the forms to be filled in.

The next stage is for you to write a management plan, if you do not already have one, then develop and submit an Expression of Interest for the project you want to do.

If you would like more information or direct help, contact a field officer from the biodiversity extension service you are working with, your Community Landcare Coordinator, or the *Bushland Benefits* Office directly on (08) 9334 0570 or (08) 9334 0173.

Although there may seem to be lots of pieces of paper, I am sure you will find the process to be relatively simple once you work through it.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Penny Hussey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Penny Hussey  
*Bushland Benefits* Coordinator

22/2/05

# BUSHLAND BENEFITS



## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING A TENDER

### What is *Bushland Benefits*?

*Bushland Benefits* is a new Western Australian (WA) programme run by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) that **aims to help landholders in the South West of Western Australia meet the initial management costs of bushland that is under voluntary protection.**

Unlike most other funding schemes, landholders are invited to submit a tender nominating the management activities they are willing to undertake to manage nature conservation assets on their land and how much money they will need to undertake that work.

All tenders received will be evaluated on the basis of the 'value for money' for biodiversity conservation.

(Note: this programme builds on the experience of "Bush Tender" in Victoria and "Auction for Landscape Recovery" in WA. CALM wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by staff from both programmes, and especially from WWF-Australia, which coordinates the "Auction for Landscape Recovery".)

### Who is eligible to apply?

- Private landholders with remnant native vegetation and/or conservation value wetlands on their property, throughout the South West of WA, may apply. (Note, this funding does not apply to the rangelands.)
- It is a requirement that the applicant is not receiving other sources of public funds for the management actions you offer into the tender process.

### What activities will be funded?

On-ground activities that enhance nature conservation values will be eligible for funding, including specialist management activities such as weed control and regeneration of bushland by fire, smoked water or other techniques, as well as the revegetation of linkages or buffers where these will increase the overall conservation value of existing vegetation or wetlands.

### What activities will not be funded?

The following activities will not be funded:

- actions which are your legal responsibility as a landowner, such as boundary fencing and the control of Declared Weeds;
- actions which are undertaken as a condition of development approval over other areas of the property; and
- surface and subsurface water management.

### How much money is available?

A total pool of \$850,000 will be available for distribution to landholders who are successful in the tender process.

Although it is not an absolute requirement, it is likely that the amount of funds available for an individual property will be unlikely to exceed \$50,000.

### When will the funds be available?

The tender process involves a number of stages, however it is expected that distribution of funds will commence in June 2005.



### How is *Bushland Benefits* different from most other funding schemes?

In most funding programmes, the funding agency requires landholders to contribute a set amount to the costs of on-ground works. This may create difficulties for some landholders. With the tender process under *Bushland Benefits*:

- the landholder first identifies the conservation values they wish to protect and enhance, then decides on the management practices they are willing to undertake. The landholder nominates in the tender how much funding they need to undertake the work to achieve their stated biodiversity outcomes;
- there are no set rates for particular types of work;
- there is no requirement that landholders make "in-kind" contributions; and
- the tenders from landholders will be compared with each other in terms of the biodiversity (nature conservation) benefits delivered; only the most competitive, in terms of conservation value for money, will be funded.

### What are these biodiversity values?

'Biodiversity' is a term which encompasses all living things; plants, animals, fungi, bacteria – everything. The south west of WA is recognised as a Global Biodiversity Hot-spot (the only one in Australia)<sup>1</sup> – it is also a location where major loss of biodiversity has already occurred and is likely to continue. It is acknowledged that the situation will not be reversed without a major effort by all levels of government and the community.

The Biodiversity Audit for Western Australia (2002)<sup>2</sup> points to a continuing decline in biodiversity in WA. The Audit found that management to prevent further decline is much more cost effective than restoration, and concluded that there is need for an integrated approach, implementing natural resource management actions across the broader landscape. Private landholders can play an

important role through managing and enhancing the biodiversity on their land.

When evaluating tenders, the *Bushland Benefits* team will be looking for proposals that contribute the most to achieving high biodiversity outcomes, given the amount of funding requested. In particular, evaluation will focus on the following outcomes:

- Conservation and recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities of native flora and fauna and their habitat.  
In some cases individual plants or animals have become rare, or whole communities of plants are very restricted. It is important to protect these areas and minimize the threats to them if we hope to retain these species and communities in the landscape over time.
- Protection of large, representative landscapes where there are significant areas of remnant vegetation and wetlands, so that individual species and communities do not become threatened.
- Linkage of remnants through the creation of bush corridors.  
Fauna, for example small birds, need to be able to move around the landscape to use resources such as flowers in season. It is often the case that linking remnants through the creation of bush corridors can increase the ecological value of the remnants as a whole.
- Buffering remnants by revegetating an area between the remnant and a source of disturbance.  
It is often more cost-efficient to manage a remnant so as to minimize disturbance, than to try to rehabilitate areas that have been downgraded in quality. For example, along an edge where paddock weed seeds, debris and soil are blown into the remnant by frequent strong wind events, a buffer could trap the incoming material and so protect the remnant.

**(For a quick check to determine the biodiversity value of your proposed project site, tick the boxes on Attachment A.)**

Note: activities that complement other projects to achieve a greater net benefit, such as those coordinated in a designated 'Natural Diversity Recovery Catchment', could be very suitable for *Bushland Benefits* funding.

<sup>1</sup> *Biodiversity hotspots for conservation priorities*. 2000. Myers *et al.* Nature: **403**: 853-858

<sup>2</sup> *2002 Biodiversity Audit for Western Australia*. Ed: N.L. McKenzie, J.E. May and S. McKenna. CALM, Perth.



## The Tender application process

### 1 Prepare a management plan

If you are already working with a biodiversity extension service (see list at Attachment B) it is suggested that you get in contact with your field officer to help you prepare the management plan, if you do not already have one. The field officer may also be able to help with other areas of your submission.

If you are not already working with one of the listed organisations, it is strongly suggested that you do so, as they will help you to make your bid more competitive. These organisations will, however, only work with landholders who meet the objectives of their specific programmes.

A management plan will contain the following features;

- a statement of the aim/s of the plan
- a description of the site
- a clear map showing the location of the site and of the proposed actions, in the landscape context. Preferably the map would be on an aerial photo base
- a description of the current nature conservation values of the site
- a description of the management actions proposed to be undertaken, and the proposed timeline for action
- an estimate of how these works will improve the nature conservation value of the site
- a description of how the site will be monitored and the success of the actions evaluated over future years

You may wish to use photographs to illustrate your points. If you do this, the site of the photopoints should be clearly indicated on the map.

(A sample management plan is given at Attachment C.)

### 2 Submit an 'expression of interest'

Fill in the 'Expression of Interest' form (EOI) included with these documents (the words in your EOI will be based on your management plan) and forward it to the *Bushland Benefits* office as printed on the form by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2005**.

This form will give some basic information about the nature conservation values and the management actions you are considering for your bid, it does not have to provide specific details at this stage. The EOI is to assist us in managing the bid process, and to allow us to provide you with feedback concerning your application before you submit a full bid (your tender).

This EOI is a formal requirement for entry into the *Bushland Benefits* process; however submission of this form places no obligation on either the landholder or the *Bushland Benefits* team.

Feedback will be provided to you after your EOI has been received. The purpose of this feedback is to help you prepare and refine your tender.

### 3 Prepare a tender

You could tender to undertake one action at one site, several actions at the same site, or several actions at different sites. One action at one site is the easiest to write up, but multiple tenders are quite possible – see below.

In making the tender you do not have to specify how the money will be spent, that is, you do not have to give a detailed costing for the management actions that you are proposing. The tender will be assessed solely on the level of conservation benefits generated in relation to the overall amount of money that you request. It is therefore important to be able to clearly demonstrate the biodiversity conservation benefits that will come from the activities proposed.

Nevertheless, when you develop your tender, the following points relating to costs may be considered:

- cost of materials
- cost of your time, if you undertake the work
- cost of a contractor, if you employ one
- profit forgone, if your proposal means taking land out of agricultural production (eg the construction of a bush corridor across former crop paddocks)
- anticipated on-farm production benefits that may accrue to you as a result of the management (eg from lowering water tables). These benefits may mean that you can reduce your tender amount, and hence improve the competitiveness of your bid.

#### 3.1 Multiple tenders – same site

You might have several things you would like to do at a particular site. You might be able to identify a simple project that you are prepared to do at a low cost. Alternatively, you may identify a higher level of management that requires a higher



level of payment. By submitting both options as separate tenders, *Bushland Benefits* will assess which option leads to the most cost effective outcome. In this case, only one option would be selected.

### 3.2 Multiple tenders – different sites

You might like to undertake projects on separate sites – this is more likely to apply on larger properties. You could either include these in a single tender, or split them into multiple tenders, especially if each involves a substantial amount of funding. In this case, each will be assessed separately and it is possible that one or more of the tenders could be selected.

### 3.3 Joint tenders

Important biodiversity features can extend over several properties. In this instance, joint submissions from groups of landholders are encouraged; for example, to link several scattered remnants on different properties. In assessing the benefit from the tender, the whole work would be considered. Voluntary Management Agreements would be signed with each individual landholder taking part in the joint project.

If your application is part of a joint tender, indicate this in the appropriate place on the Tender Application Form. Each landholder should complete a separate application for their part of the project; the field officer from the biodiversity extension service that you are working with may be able to coordinate a combined application.

## 4 Submit your tender

Fill in the Tender Application Form included with these documents and forward it, with the Management Plan attached, to the *Bushland Benefits* office as printed on the form.

### The selection process

Your tender will first be evaluated against the following:

Acceptable - does your project fall within the guidelines of *Bushland Benefits*?

Feasible - are the objectives of your project tangible and achievable?

Outcome - will your project generate positive biodiversity conservation outcomes?

Tenders that meet the above criteria will then be ranked against other tenders from the whole of the south west of WA on the basis of 'biodiversity conservation value for money'.

The rank of each tender will be assessed objectively using an assessment of the nature conservation benefits being delivered and the price of your tender.

Funding will be offered to tenderers in the rank order created above, until the funds available have been expended.

Feedback will be provided to all people who submitted tenders.

### Confidentiality

Details about all of the projects that are funded will be made publicly available, in terms of the location and type of management practice. However, details of the amount tendered will not be revealed in a way that can be linked to individual landholders.

### Voluntary Management Agreement

If you are successful in your tender, a one-year Works Contract will be signed with CALM and a Voluntary Management Agreement (VMA) will be signed by you and the biodiversity extension service of your choice.

The Works Contract will set out what management actions have to be undertaken, the milestones for reporting and the schedule of payments. Typically there will be an initial payment, with subsequent payments as actions (milestones) are completed. These will differ according to each project, however it is expected that all funded activities will be completed by June 2006.

The VMA will cover longer-term aspects of the project, for example, evaluating the ecological success of the actions by photopoint monitoring. (For a simple example of a VMA document, see attachment D.)

Landholders whose tenders are successful will not be eligible to receive other sources of public funding for those management actions identified as being funded in the Voluntary Management Agreement through *Bushland Benefits*, over the period of the Agreement.

When the VMA expires, the specific management obligations will cease and the landholder can manage the land in whatever way seems appropriate at that time.



### Long-term management agreements

The Works Contract written for *Bushland Benefits* will be for a term of one year.

The minimum length of time for a VMA under *Bushland Benefits* will be five years. You may wish to enter into longer-term management agreements. Most existing VMAs, for example, run for 10 years, but a longer term could be negotiated. There is also the possibility of a Nature Conservation Covenant on title. These are legal contracts under Common Law, that outline commitments and responsibilities in relation to the long-term management of the site. Covenants are bound to the title of the land and ensure long-term benefits from the project. Covenants require a minimum standard of biodiversity conservation values; thus not all remnant vegetation would be accepted for covenanting.

It is likely that the tender selection process will favour those tenders that include a Nature Conservation Covenant or a longer-term VMA, even if the tender amount is higher, as this provides a greater potential for achieving long-term conservation outcomes.

### Reporting obligations

As part of the Works Contract, you will be required to provide brief reports of work completed and other relevant measures of progress. Payments will be connected to reporting and completion of actions (milestones) outlined in the Works Contract and failure to comply with the conditions may result in funding being withdrawn.

The organisation with which you sign a VMA will also expect reporting requirements, specific to the organisation and your circumstances.

## Timeline

Expressions of interest must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005

Tender bids must be received by 29<sup>th</sup> April 2005

Results will be announced and the distribution of funds commence in June 2005

All projects must be completed by June 2006.

For further information, please contact:

*Bushland Benefits* Coordinator,

Department of Conservation and Land Management,

Phone: (08) 9344 0570

Fax: (08) 9334 0199

Email: [pennyh@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:pennyh@calm.wa.gov.au)

# **BUSHLAND BENEFITS**



## **Attachment A**

### **Features that indicate high biodiversity (nature) conservation value**

All remnant vegetation and wetlands have value for nature conservation but, for various reasons, some have greater value than others.

What features give a high conservation value? Use the checklist below to help you work out your site's conservation value, and so help you write your submission.

The Bushland Benefits team will be looking for combinations of these features in all the projects submitted to help determine relative biodiversity conservation value.

**In very simple terms, the more features your site has,  
the more valuable for conservation it is likely to be!**

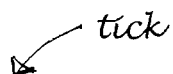
#### **1 Bushland features**

##### **1.1 Vegetation features**

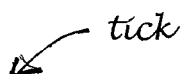
*Tick this column  
if you would answer  
'yes' to the question*

Feature	Tick if present	other	explanation
Does your site contain rare or threatened flora?		name/s	Rare and threatened plants often need extra special protection if they are to survive.
Does your site contain a Threatened Ecological Community?		name/s	
Does your site contain a locally declining plant community?		name/s	Threats such as clearing or salinity may make once widespread vegetation communities (eg salmon gum woodland) now uncommon.



**1.2 Vegetation quality**


Are all expected vegetation layers present?			In forest and woodlands, look for ground, shrub and tree layers; in shrubland, look for ground and shrub layer.
Is there a variety of habitat types?		name/s	Different habitat types (eg woodland, breakaway, creekline) have different resources (eg food or shelter) for fauna, so, the more variety of habitats, the more resources for fauna.
Are stock excluded from the site?			Stock can destroy the ground layer and cause soil erosion.
Are there few weeds, or are they only in patches around the edges?		name of main weed/s	Weeds smother native plants and inhibit their germination.

**1.3 Fauna features**


Do rare fauna use the site?		name/s	Rare and threatened fauna need good quality habitat to provide the resources they need.
Do locally scarce mammals or birds use the site?		name/s	Need to retain their habitat, or they too may become rare.
Does the site contain large old hollow trees and/or hollow logs?			Hollows provide important fauna habitat.
Is the site rabbit-free?			Rabbits are death to natural regeneration!
Do you do any fox or cat control?		what method & how often?	Feral predators can cause local extinction of some native animals.

**1.4 Site area and shape**


Is the remnant area over 25 ha?		size	The bigger the area, the more resources for fauna.
Is the site compact, i.e. roughly square or circular in shape?			Disturbing influences come in from an edge. Squares and circles have the least edge for area.
Is the site adjacent to an existing conservation reserve or protected bushland?		name	Extends the available area of wildlife habitat.
Does the site form a link between other remnants?			Many small animals cannot cross paddocks safely, so linkages between remnants are important.

*tick*

## 2 Wetland and river features

Is your site a "conservation category wetland"?		name	Already assessed as important!
Is your site a freshwater wetland with fringing natural vegetation?		name	Because of WA's rising salinity, these wetlands are becoming scarce.
Is your site a natural salt lake with fringing natural vegetation?		name	These lakes have unusual organisms.
Does your site include a river (fresh or saline) with fringing natural vegetation?		name	Rivers with naturally-vegetated banks are important fauna habitat.

*tick*

## 3 Revegetation features

Will your planned revegetation fill in a gap in the bushland?		make sure your map shows these	This would create a larger or more compact overall block.
Will your planned revegetation form a bush corridor connecting remnants?			Fauna can thus move between the remnants.
Will your planned revegetation buffer the edges of a remnant?			This could protect the remnant from outside influences eg, stop weed seeds blowing in and reduce damage from windstorms.
Will local native species be planted?		the species list should be in the management plan	Plants grow best, and provide most resources for fauna, if they are adapted to the local conditions. They are also less prone to insect attack and are better able to survive droughts.
Will the revegetation mix to be used contain ground layer, shrubs, mallees and trees that are appropriate for the soil type and landscape position?			





## 4 Planning, zoning or study features

Is your site in a Nature Conservation Recovery Catchment?		name	Actions on your property will link to beneficial effects elsewhere.
Has your site an existing nature conservation covenant on the property title?		with which organisation?	Long-term conservation assured, even if you should sell.
Has your site an existing voluntary management agreement?		with which organisation?	By working with a biodiversity extension service, you will be kept up to date with all the 'best-practice' techniques.
Has your site been used for scientific study and recording of flora, fauna or water features? *		name of study	If a site has been scientifically studied and records kept, it becomes an important location for measuring future changes.

\* Some organisations that might have studied biodiversity in your area could include:

- Birds Australia "Birds on Farms" or "Bird Atlas" study sites, "Carnaby's Cockatoo" programme sites
- Wildflower Society of WA "Bushland Plant Survey" sites
- WA Naturalists' Club, various study sites
- Malleefowl Preservation Group, nest or other record sites
- Ribbons of Blue "Snapshot" water quality site
- Fungimap field collection sites
- Catchment surveys by a private consultant or a Government agency.

Total number of ticks: \_\_\_\_\_

*Use the points you have ticked to help write up the biodiversity conservation value of the project site as it exists, and then what it would be like after you have done the proposed work.*

*Will your proposed work give the site more ticks?*

# **BUSHLAND BENEFITS**



## **Attachment B**

### **BIODIVERSITY EXTENSION ORGANISATIONS, VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS and NATURE CONSERVATION COVENANTS**

**If your tender is accepted,  
before you can receive your funds  
you will need to have a Voluntary Management Agreement, or a Conservation  
Covenant, in place,  
or be actively negotiating such an agreement.**

There are a number of organisations, both government and non-government, that offer a range of biodiversity extension services and the principal ones are listed below.

Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM)  
Greening Australia Western Australia (GAWA)  
National Trust of Australia (WA) (NTWA)  
WWF-Australia, the conservation organisation (WWF)

**Only contact the organisations direct if you have already been working with them.**

**If you are not already working with one of these organisations, and would like to discuss which would be the most appropriate for you to approach, ring the *Bushland Benefits* office (9334 0570).**



## 1 Organisations that arrange Voluntary Management Agreements (VMAs)

A VMA is an agreement signed by you and another organisation that sets out certain activities that will be performed over a set period of time. They are not legal contracts, rather they are a 'gentleman's handshake'.

In *Bushland Benefits*, if you are offered funding for certain activities, in addition to signing a Works Contract with CALM, you must also sign a VMA before the funds can be released (or be actively arranging to do so). The Works Contract will set out what activities have to be undertaken, the milestones for reporting and the schedule of payments. The VMA will cover longer-term management and monitoring.

By the time the tender is submitted, you should have decided with whom you will sign a VMA if your bid is successful, if you do not already have one in place. The VMA must be in place before the final payment will be made under the Works Contract. (If you have – or are negotiating – a Nature Conservation Covenant, you will not require a VMA.)

An example of a simple VMA is found at Attachment D.

There are a number of organisations, both government and non-government, that offer this service across most of the south west of WA. They have field officers that can provide stewardship advice for landholders who meet the objectives of their specific programmes.

The principal organisations are:

CALM (*Land for Wildlife*)

WWF (Woodland Watch, Wetland Watch)

**If you are already working with any one of these organisations, you should contact the appropriate field officer for assistance with your *Bushland Benefits* submission.**

Other community and Local Government programmes may also be able to provide this service. If you have contact with another biodiversity extension programme and want to use their service, contact the *Bushland Benefits* office to find out if that would be suitable for a *Bushland Benefits* VMA.

## Some detail of the programmes

### 1.1 Are you registered with CALM's *Land for Wildlife*?

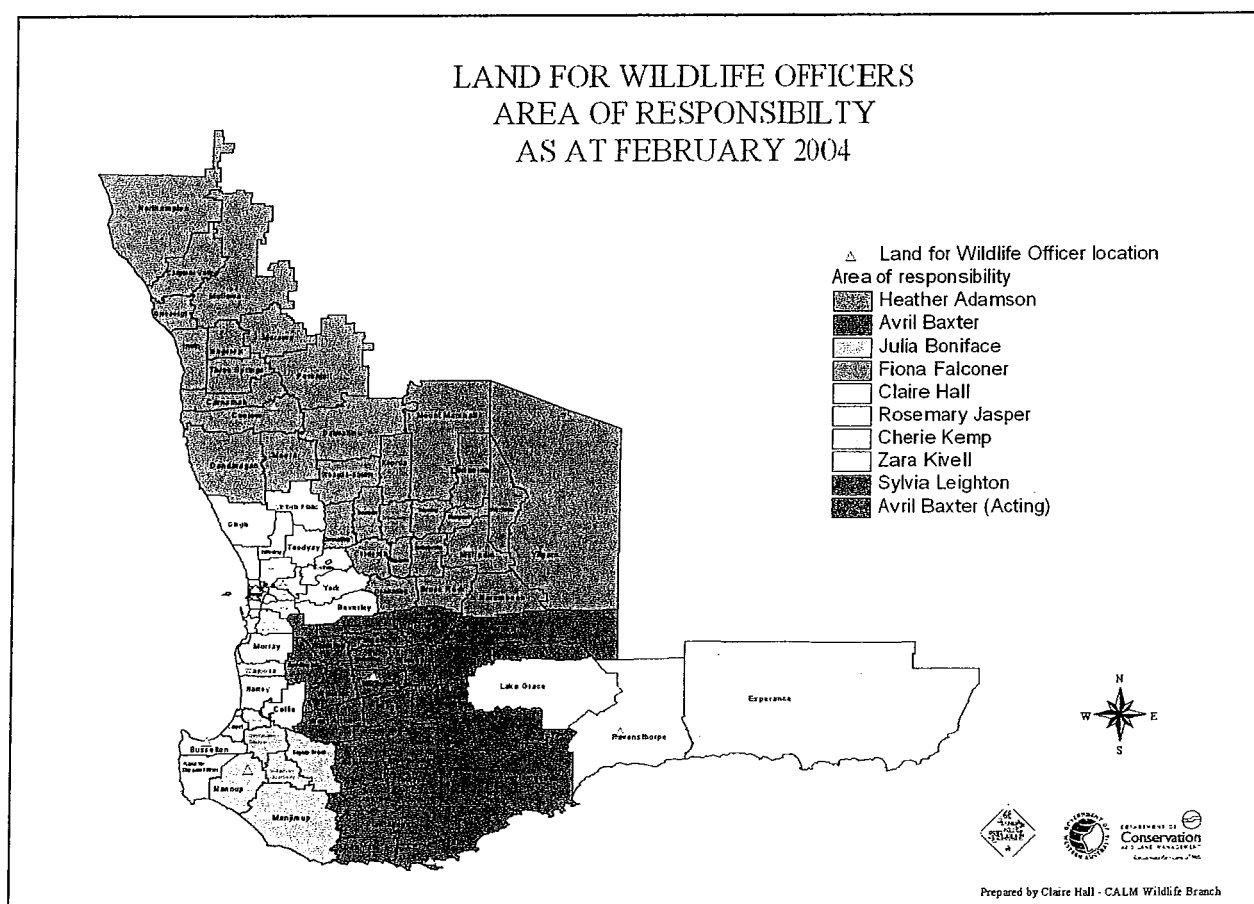
Contact your relevant *Land for Wildlife* Officer for help to prepare a management plan, based on your *Land for Wildlife* Report, and also for assistance with the rest of the submission.

*Land for Wildlife* will also help you organise a VMA, as required if your submission is funded, if you do not already have one.

If you are not in *Land for Wildlife*, but would like to know more about joining the scheme, look at the map and table below to see which of the *Land for Wildlife* Officers you should contact to discuss registration.

**Table 1: Contact details for *Land for Wildlife* Officers**

Name	Location	phone & email	
Heather Adamson	Merredin	(08) 9041 2488	heathera@calm.wa.gov.au
Avril Baxter	Narrogin	(08) 9881 9218	avrilb@calm.wa.gov.au
Julia Boniface	Nannup	(08) 9756 1465	juliab@calm.wa.gov.au
Fiona Falconer	Coorow	(08) 9952 1074	davidfiona@bigpond.com
Claire Hall	Perth	(08) 9334 0427	claireh@calm.wa.gov.au
Rosemary Jasper	Ravensthorpe	(08) 9838 1890	rosemaryj@calm.wa.gov.au
Anthea Jones	Perth	(08) 9334 0530	antheaj@calm.wa.gov.au
Cherie Kemp	Busselton	(08) 9752 5533	cheriek@calm.wa.gov.au
Zara Kivell	Mundaring	(08) 9295 1955	zarak@calm.wa.gov.au
Sylvia Leighton	Albany	(08) 9842 4500	sylvial@calm.wa.gov.au





## 1.2 Are you currently participating in a programme with WWF?

If you are currently working with, or have participated in the past, with either of WWF's programmes, 'Woodland Watch', or 'Wetland Watch', contact your relevant WWF field officer who will be able to help you prepare a submission based on the site that you have previously worked on with them, or are currently discussing. This would include the preparation of a woodland or wetland management plan.

WWF will also organise a VMA with you if your submission is funded and, in addition, Woodland Watch and Wetland Watch are able to broker covenants on behalf of the various service providers.

(Note: Woodland Watch currently only services the northern wheatbelt areas, mainly the central and north-eastern Avon Wheatbelt and the southern wheatbelt areas of the Northern Agricultural Region. Wetland Watch currently only services the southern portions of the Swan Coastal Plain.)

## 2 Organisations that arrange covenants

A Nature Conservation Covenant is an agreement, between a landholder and a covenanting organisation which outlines commitments and responsibilities in relation to the long-term management of the site. They are legal documents bound to the land title that restrict the activities that may take place on the subject land. Covenants ensure long-term benefits from a project, even if the property should change hands. The covenant is usually in perpetuity but may be for specified time periods in certain circumstances.

In WA there are two agencies that currently offer nature conservation covenants.

- **Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Nature Conservation Covenant**

If you already have a covenant, or are currently negotiating one with CALM, a VMA will not be required for *Bushland Benefits* funding. The management plan prepared as part of the stewardship programme for covenants can be used to support your bid.

If you would like a Covenant Officer to provide assistance in preparing your submission or would like more information on covenants with CALM, please contact Acting Covenant Coordinator Emma Bramwell on 9334 0477.

- **National Trust (WA) Conservation Covenant**

If you already have a covenant, or are currently negotiating one with the National Trust, a VMA will not be required for *Bushland Benefits* funding. The management plan prepared with the Trust as part of the stewardship programme for covenants can be used to support your bid.

If you would like assistance in preparing your submission or would like more information on covenants with the National Trust, please contact Covenant Officer Steve Newbey on 0429 988 133 or Acting Covenant Coordinator Sophie Moller on 9212 1111.

Many properties also have covenants on title negotiated with the Department of Agriculture as a requirement for accepting funding from the Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme (RVPS) – this scheme has now ended but the covenants remain. Although they cover remnant vegetation, these covenants were established primarily for the purpose of soil conservation.

- **Department of Agriculture (DAWA) RVPS covenant**

These will usually be 30-year covenants without management plans.

If you have one of these, although it shows that you have a potentially high-value site, you will still need to prepare a management plan and then a submission as well as organizing a VMA with a suitable organisation.

**If you already have a covenant with CALM or National Trust  
on part of your property,  
contact the relevant field officer for assistance  
with your submission to *Bushland Benefits*.**

### 3 Other possibilities

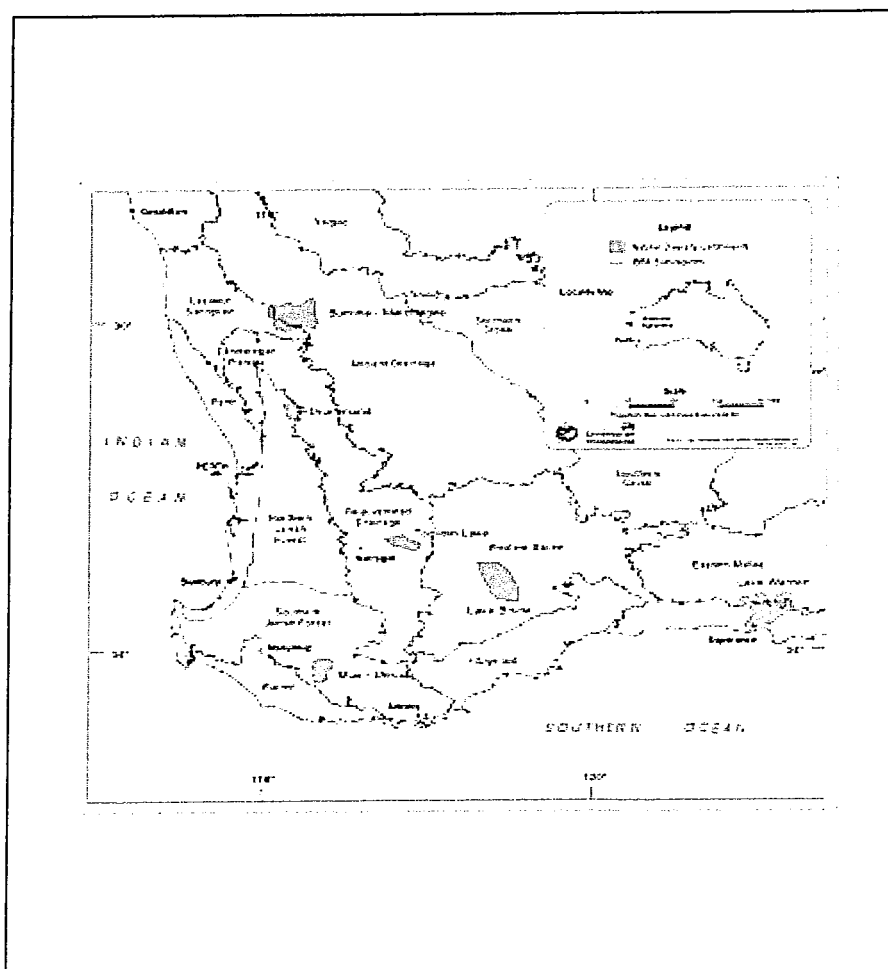
#### 3.1 Are you in a Natural Diversity Recovery Catchment (NDRC)?

The Natural Diversity Recovery Catchments programme is part of the State Salinity Strategy, and involves the management of catchments with high biophysical diversity in landscapes susceptible to secondary salinisation. Currently there are six recovery catchments (see attached map) but more are under consideration for declaration.

You will need to develop a management plan, and decide with whom you will sign a VMA if your tender is accepted. The NRDC Coordinators may be able to help you with aspects of your submission.

**Table 2 Contacts for Natural Diversity Recovery Catchments**

Name of NDRC	Coordinator	Phone	Fax	Email
Buntine-Marchagee	Jodie Watts	9964 0914	9921 5713	<a href="mailto:jodiew@calm.wa.gov.au">jodiew@calm.wa.gov.au</a>
Drummond	Bob Huston	9295 1955	9395 2404	<a href="mailto:roberthu@calm.wa.gov.au">roberthu@calm.wa.gov.au</a>
Toolibin Lake	Peter Lacy	9881 9211	9881 1645	<a href="mailto:peterl@calm.wa.gov.au">peterl@calm.wa.gov.au</a>
Muir-Unicup	Ian Wheeler	9771 7959	9777 1363	<a href="mailto:ianwh@calm.wa.gov.au">ianwh@calm.wa.gov.au</a>
Lake Bryde	Darren Coulson	9821 1296	9821 2633	<a href="mailto:darrenc@calm.wa.gov.au">darrenc@calm.wa.gov.au</a>
Lake Warden	Tilo Massenbauer	9071 3733	9071 3657	<a href="mailto:tilom@calm.wa.gov.au">tilom@calm.wa.gov.au</a>



### 3.2 Are you working with a Shire Council in a Biodiversity Conservation Rate Relief scheme?

The management plan you prepared for this scheme may be able to be adapted for your *Bushland Benefits* submission. The Shire Council may have a Community Support Officer who could help you with your submission, and it may also be prepared to negotiate a VMA with you.

### 3.3 Help from your Natural Resource Management (NRM) region

The south west of WA is divided into five Natural Resource Management Regions, each with an NRM Council. All employ staff whose job is to help community members plan and undertake actions consistent with the Councils' strategy; including biodiversity conservation.

To find out whether they have staff that can help you with your submission to *Bushland Benefits*, contact the appropriate organisation. It may depend on how much time the staff have available; alternatively, they may be able to advise you of other programmes operating in their region.

**Table 3: Contacts for NRM Regions**

Organisation	Acronym	Phone	Address
Avon Catchment Council	ACC	9690 2250	PO Box 311 NORTHAM WA 6401
Northern Agricultural Catchments Council	NACC	9973 1464	PO Box 95 PERENJORI WA 6620
South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team	SCRIPT	9892 8413	444 Albany Highway, ALBANY WA 6330
South West Catchments Council	SWCC	9780 6171	PO Box 5066 BUNBURY DC WA 6230
Swan Catchment Council	SCC	9374 3305	PO Box 2066 MIDLAND WA 6936

### 3.5 A helpful booklet

The booklet "Biodiversity Incentive Programmes in WA" contains a summary of the incentive programmes available.

It can be viewed on the CALM website at: [www.naturebase.com.au](http://www.naturebase.com.au)

# **BUSHLAND BENEFITS**



## **Attachment C**

### **SAMPLE MANAGEMENT PLAN - (hypothetical example)**

*NOTE: although the map shows a real place, all the points that follow are totally imaginary, and devised solely to create an example for Bushland Benefits.*

Landholder name: A. N. Example  
Property name:  
Location number or street address:  
Shire:  
Site number 1

**This Management Plan refers to Site 1, see map.**

*NOTE: Running through the Checklist in Attachment A, and using only the information given in the plan below, the site would score eight ticks for biodiversity value, with an extra four ticks added by the project. This is very good for a smaller block.*



### Aims of this Management Plan

- To maintain the bushland in good to very good condition
- To permit natural regeneration in disturbed areas and thus lift the 'moderate' quality areas back up to 'good'
- To provide a safer environment for malleefowl

### Description of Site 1:

*NOTE: The field officer with whom you are working will be able to help you with this description. Alternatively, you could extract it from a Report that has already been written, and so could write:*  
*"Please note: The table below is a summary. A detailed description is contained in the Report prepared by the biodiversity extension service with whom we are working (name). That Report is available on request."*

Area	7 ha
Topography and soil	a low breakaway runs roughly north-west/south-east through the block. Gravelly soil lies to the north of it, white sand and sandy gravel to the south
Vegetation	most of the block is scrub and thicket, with some mallees
Rare / unusual plants	a new, as yet un-named, Triggerplant has been discovered close to the southern edge
Weeds	paddock weeds (eg Wild Oats, Silver Grass and Capeweed) around edges and encroaching into disturbed sandy areas (they dominate the area to be revegetated which, until refencing two years ago, was part of a crop paddock).
Vegetation quality	most is good to very good, but stock access is beginning to degrade sandy areas down to moderate.
Native fauna	lots of birds, including Malleefowl. Grey Kangaroos.
Rare / unusual fauna	contains an active Malleefowl mound a carpet snake has been seen on the block
Feral animals	rabbits are controlled, and foxes baited twice a year
Disturbed areas	1 an ex sandpit / rubbish tip in the centre of the block 2 a small triangle of ex-paddock on the north-eastern boundary

## Description of the current nature conservation value of Site 1

*NOTE: Write up this list by referring to the boxes you have ticked in Attachment A.*

- It contains an active malleefowl mound (a species which is declining and ranked "Vulnerable").
- A new species of Triggerplant (*Stylidium*) has been found. This is new to science, and may well turn out to be rare.
- There are three separate types of vegetation (shrubland on sand, shrubland on gravel and breakaway) mostly in good to very good condition, that provide a variety of resources for small birds such as honeyeaters, and possibly Honey Possums.
- The site complements a nearby Nature Reserve, thus extending the available conservation area.
- The breakaway has some boulders that would be good habitat for carpet snakes and echidna.

## Description of the management actions proposed to be undertaken

*NOTE: Management activities that you will be putting in the tender form will include some, but not necessarily all, of those listed here. Detail, such as exact description of fence construction and site preparation for revegetation, will be written in the tender form, whereas detail such as species lists for revegetation could be attached to the management plan and merely referred to in the tender form.*

No.	Activity	Timing
1	Fence southern edge of bush (north, east and west boundaries already fenced) 300 m of standard stock-proof fence required	spring 2005 – autumn 2006
2	Revegetate triangle of ex-paddock on north-east edge (0.5 ha) Steps: weed control seed collection ** seedlings grown *** site preparation planting seedlings + direct seed	spring 2005, autumn 2006 late spring-summer 2005 through summer 2005/6 late autumn 2006 early winter 2006
3	Check that all fences are in good condition and repair if necessary	frequently, on-going
4	Check edges for weed infestation and control if necessary	twice a year, on-going
5	Continue fox baiting. Consider extra baiting when malleefowl mound has eggs and hatching chicks	twice a year, on-going if time permits – to become on-going
6	Control rabbits	annually – on-going
7	Dogs will be under control when in or near the bushland	on-going

## Attachment C

8	Clean up ex sand pit / rubbish dump and leave in a condition suitable for natural regeneration. Spread brush over rehabilitated site to speed regeneration	during or before 2008
9	Monitor the activity at the malleefowl mound. Report details to the Malleefowl Preservation Group.	several times a year
10	Establish photopoints to monitor vegetation change.	annual photos, on-going

\*\* The Wildflower Herbarium Group from the local town have agreed to help with this, using the adjoining bushland as a seed source.

\*\*\* The local town nursery has agreed to do this.

### Description of how these actions will improve the nature conservation value of the site

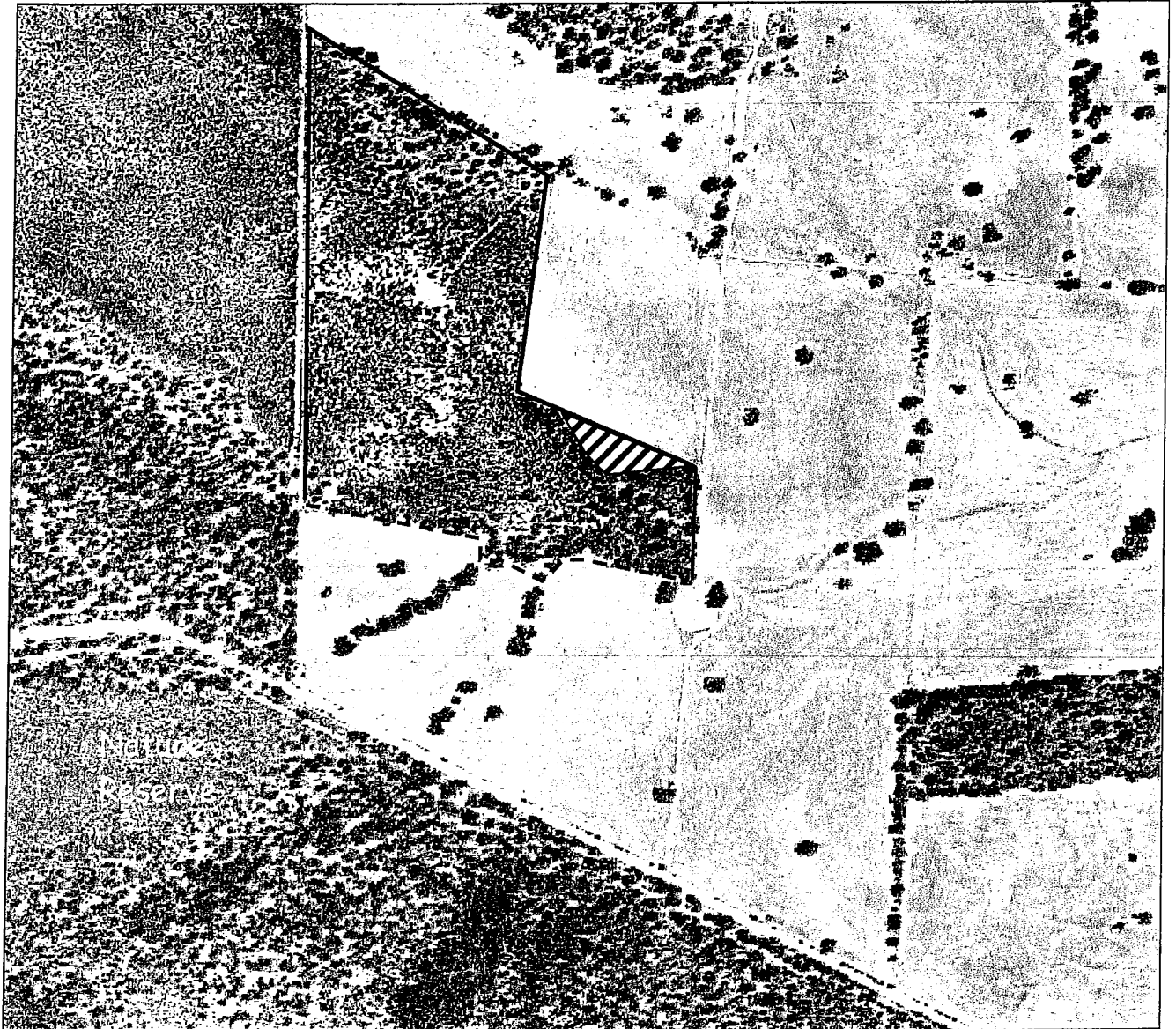
- reduce disturbance
- encourage regeneration
- enlarge the area covered by native vegetation
- reduce the influence of introduced plants and animals

All these things will contribute to the aims given at the start of the Management Plan.

### Monitoring

- 1 Photopoints will be set up and photos taken annually. After a suitable period of time, they will be analysed to determine if habitat quality has increased.
  - 2 Specific records of the malleefowl mound will be kept.
  - 3 It is planned that, at the correct season, the local Wildflower Herbarium Group will conduct a survey to determine the extent of the new Triggerplant. More detailed management suggestions may come from this.
-

## Hypothetical *Bushland Benefits* Project Map



Key:

———— Existing fence in good stock-proof condition

- - - Proposed Fence

 Proposed Revegetation

0 50 100  
m





# ***BUSHLAND BENEFITS***



## **Attachment D**

### ***EXAMPLE***

#### **Voluntary Management Agreement**

I, .....

have registered my property .....

at .....

with .....

and, in so doing, have agreed to manage the property so as to at least maintain, and at best improve its value for biodiversity conservation, integrated with the management of the rest of the property.

The attached Management Plan details the actions that I have agreed to undertake.

I agree to manage this site as laid out in the plan for ..... years.

.....  
signed (landholder)

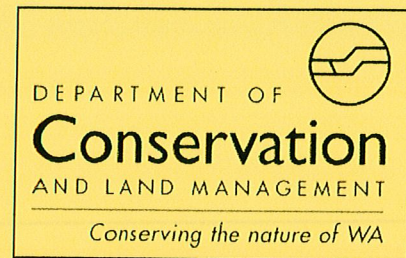
.....  
date

.....  
signed (for .....)

.....  
date



# BUSHLAND BENEFITS



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

*Bushland Benefits* is a new Western Australian (WA) programme run by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) that aims to help landholders in the south west of Western Australia meet the initial management costs of bushland or wetland that is under voluntary protection.

The objective of the programme is to achieve high biodiversity conservation benefits in relation to the amount of funding requested. Thus if you wish to submit a tender, your project should clearly state the benefits for nature conservation.

If you are interested in submitting a tender for *Bushland Benefits* funding, please return this Expression of Interest (EOI) form by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2005**. The form is an expression of interest only and does not bind you in any way.

In this form we ask for some basic information about the nature conservation actions you are considering for your bid. This is to assist us in managing the bid process, and you are free to alter these if you submit a full bid (tender). **The submission of this EOI is a formal requirement for entry into the *Bushland Benefits* process**; however, submission of this form places no obligation on either the landholder or the *Bushland Benefits* team.

You will receive feedback concerning your application, to assist you with preparing and refining your tender to clearly demonstrate the biodiversity benefits of your project.

Note that certain activities will be considered for funding under *Bushland Benefits*, others will not. On-ground activities that enhance nature conservation values will be eligible for funding, including specialist management activities such as weed control and regeneration of bushland by fire, smoked water or other techniques, as well as the revegetation of linkages or buffers where these will increase the overall conservation value of existing vegetation or wetlands. Activities that will not be funded include actions that are the legal responsibility of the landholder (such as boundary fencing), actions which are undertaken as a condition of development approval over other areas of the property, and surface and subsurface water management.

**CLOSING DATE: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005**

**Expression of Interest must be post marked on or before  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2005**



## 1 Contact Details

Full name/s	
Postal address	Farm/property address (if different from postal address)
Phone	Fax
Mobile	Email
Shire in which the property is located:	

## 2 Details of the project site

Location number or street address of the project site	
Size of the proposed project site (in hectares)	
List the existing biodiversity (nature conservation) values of the site (use the checklist in Attachment A to help you determine these)	

## 3 Proposed project

What is the aim of your project?
----------------------------------



Describe the management actions you are considering undertaking.

Describe how your project will increase the biodiversity (nature conservation) value of the site. (Use the checklist in Attachment A to help you determine this.)

#### 4 Biodiversity Extension Service

Which biodiversity extension service are you working with? (refer to Attachment B)

Name of field officer

Contact for field officer  
Phone

email

**Please submit your completed form by mail**

(Forms must be postmarked on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005)

Mail to:

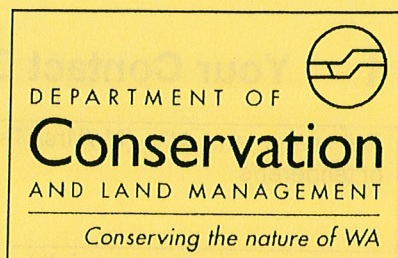
#### **BUSHLAND BENEFITS - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Department of Conservation and Land Management  
Locked Bag 104  
BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE  
WA 6983



Office use only: Tender ID number: \_\_\_\_\_

# **BUSHLAND BENEFITS**



*NOTE: You may only submit a tender if you have already submitted to the Bushland Benefits team, and had accepted, an Expression of Interest relating to this project.*

## **TENDER FORM**

**CLOSING DATE: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

**Attach a copy of your management plan to the rear of this form.**

**Date of submission:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office use: attach the appropriate Expression of Interest form.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office use: Date submission received:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office use: Management plan attached**    yes / no



**1 Your Contact Details**

Full name and title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr) of tenderer/s	1. 2.
Business name (if appropriate)	
Postal address	
Phone	Fax:
Mobile	Email

**2 Property Details**

Property name and address (if different from postal address)	
Shire	

**3 Joint tender**

Is your tender part of a group submission?    YES   /   NO
If YES:
In addition to being considered as part of the joint tender, do you wish your tender to be considered for funding as an independent tender as well?    YES   /   NO

**4 Contact details of the field officer from the biodiversity extension service you are working with (refer to Attachment B)**

Name of organisation and/or extension programme	
Name of field officer	-+
Postal address	
Phone	Fax
Mobile	Email



## 5 Details of your proposed project

Location number or street address of project site	
Size of proposed project site (in hectares)	
Project duration: Start:	Finish

Please give a short outline of the overall objectives (aims) of your proposed project:

**Attach your Management Plan to this form.**  
**You should refer to it when describing individual on-ground activities on this form.**

### Provide details of your on-ground proposal/s on the 'Activity Sheets' attached

**Please fill out a separate sheet for each activity.**

Please include:

- \* Duration of the proposed project (for *Bushland Benefits* funding, the funded part of a project must be completed by June 2006).
- \* Site location and land area (refer to the map of your property provided in the Management Plan).
- \* Details of your proposed management actions (eg, if a fence is required, describe the materials and standard; list the stages to be taken for revegetation site preparation, etc.).
- \* Plans for the long-term management and monitoring of your proposed project (refer to the description in your Management Plan).



# ACTIVITY SHEET

## Description of proposed works and plans for long-term management

Site number: _____		Activity number: _____	
Description of on-ground works:			
<p>Start date for Activity</p> <p>year _____ month _____</p>			
<p>Finish date for Activity:</p> <p>year _____ month _____</p>			
Contribution of Activity to proposed project outcome: (i.e. how will this activity help to increase the biodiversity values of the site?)			
Proposed long-term management:			
Proposed monitoring of the outcomes to evaluate the success in achieving the objectives:			



# ACTIVITY SHEET

## Description of proposed works and plans for long-term management

Site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity number: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of on-ground works:

Start date for Activity

year \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_

Finish date for Activity:

year \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution of Activity to proposed project outcome:  
(i.e. how will this activity help to increase the biodiversity values of the site?)

Proposed long-term management:

Proposed monitoring of the outcomes to evaluate the success in achieving the objectives:



Site number: _____	Activity number: _____
Description of on-ground works:	
Start date for Activity year _____ month _____	Finish date for Activity: year _____ month _____
Contribution of Activity to proposed project outcome: (i.e. how will this activity help to increase the biodiversity values of the site?)	
Proposed long-term management:	
Proposed monitoring of the outcomes to evaluate the success in achieving the objectives:	



## 6 Your tender

Please enter the amount of your tender in the box below. This amount should cover all of the activities included in this tender.

Your tender will remain confidential between you and the *Bushland Benefits* team.

**Tender \$**

### Declaration

I declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I declare that I have not received money from any other grant scheme to fund the actions that are the subject of this application.

I understand that the submission of this tender does not guarantee funding and that the *Bushland Benefits* team reserves the right to select tenders based on the criteria specified in the guideline documentation. Submission of this form places no obligation on me.

If awarded the tender, I agree that the work will be undertaken to minimum standards discussed by me with a biodiversity field officer, and included in the description of works which forms part of this tender submission.

**If awarded the tender, I agree to sign a Works Contract with CALM for the arrangements to receive the funding; and to draw up a Voluntary Management Agreement \* with the following organisation:**

Name of programme: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time the VMA will run for: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If this funding is to facilitate works identified under an existing National Trust or CALM Nature Conservation Covenant, a VMA will not be necessary. Details should be in your Management Plan.

Signature of tenderer/s	Date



**Please submit your completed form by mail**

**(Forms must be postmarked on or before 29<sup>th</sup> April 2005)**

Mail to:

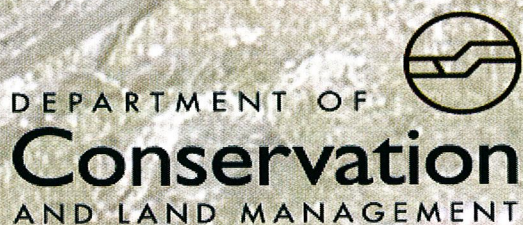
**BUSHLAND BENEFITS – TENDER (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Department of Conservation and Land Management  
Locked Bag 104  
BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE  
WA 6983



**For further information, contact:**

*Bushland Benefits* Coordinator  
Department of Conservation and Land Management  
Locked Bag 104  
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983  
Phone: (08) 9334 0570  
Fax: (08) 9334 0199  
Email: [pennyh@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:pennyh@calm.wa.gov.au)



*Conserving the nature of WA*