

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 68**

**ACCREDITATION OF CONTRACT AND DEPARTMENTAL *PHYTOPHTHORA*  
DIEBACK INTERPRETERS**

**Interpretation**

In this Administration Instruction, unless the contrary intention appears:

“*Accreditation*” means:

A person officially recognised by the Department as being able to undertake specified tasks to a guaranteed standard, e.g. the detection, diagnosis, mapping and field demarcation of disease caused by *Phytophthora spp.* in native vegetation or the training and/or certification of interpreters.

“*Certify*” means:

Formally attest to and document another person’s abilities.

“*Interpreter*” means:

A person who undertakes the tasks associated with the detection, diagnosis, mapping and field demarcation of disease caused by *Phytophthora spp.* in native vegetation.

“*Qualified*” means:

A person who meets the training and experience conditions required before the right to act as an interpreter can be acquired.

**Introduction**

This Administrative Instruction details the Departmental standard with respect to the accreditation of contract and Departmental *Phytophthora* Dieback Interpreters who undertake work that is to be used by the Department in fulfilling its land management and wildlife conservation responsibilities.

**Background**

*Phytophthora spp.* are plant pathogens that cause significant damage to conservation values in Western Australia. The most significant species is *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, however 8 other species have been identified. A key action the Department can take to ameliorate the threat to susceptible native flora and its dependent fauna is to implement strategies that minimise the extent to which people vector the pathogens into uninfected areas.

Strategies which aim to achieve this are dependent on:-

1. the quality of the detection, diagnosis, mapping and demarcation of the presence or absence of the pathogen through the field survey and interpretation of the exhibited disease symptoms in native vegetation;
2. the quality of the dieback management plan prepared using the disease occurrence information provided by the interpreters;
3. the effective implementation, monitoring and audit of the plan in the longer term; and
4. the quality of the corporate records of disease location and management actions that are maintained.

The quality of the detection, diagnosis, mapping and field demarcation of the presence of disease in native vegetation caused by *Phytophthora spp.* is dependent on the competence of the disease interpreter. The Departmental policy on *Phytophthora* dieback (No. 3 – Threat abatement for *Phytophthora cinnamomi*) states that a protectable area is one “determined to be free of *P. cinnamomi* by a **qualified** Disease Interpreter...” and an uninfested area is one that a **qualified** person has determined may be free of disease symptoms...”.

The Forest Management Plan 2004-2013 also requires the Department to identify the skills required to competently undertake key tasks associated with implementation of the plan and review the skills and competency levels of persons responsible for undertaking those tasks. Disease mapping is one such task.

#### ***Phytophthora* Dieback Interpreter accreditation**

All *Phytophthora* dieback interpretation undertaken on lands managed by the Department or on other lands for purposes which relate to the Department’s conservation responsibilities, will be by qualified interpreters accredited and certified by the Department’s Disease Standards Officer. The Department will encourage all other organisations to adopt the same standard.

Managers must ensure that any staff member who undertakes *Phytophthora* dieback interpretation is accredited, has their work monitored by the Department’s Disease Standards Officer and follows the procedures in the Interpreter’s manual “*Phytophthora cinnamomi* and disease caused by it, Volume 2 – Detection, Diagnosis and Mapping”. All data from the mapping is to be forwarded to Forest Management Branch to incorporate into corporate records.

All contracts of service issued by the Department for *Phytophthora* dieback interpretation work must include the requirements –

- “the Interpreters who undertake the work are to be accredited and certified by the Department”;
- “the work must follow the procedures in ‘*Phytophthora cinnamomi* and disease caused by it, Volume 2 - Detection, Diagnosis and Mapping’ [Available on CALMweb at [http://calmweb.calm.wa.gov.au/drbsfm/fmb/manuals/dieback\\_manual.htm](http://calmweb.calm.wa.gov.au/drbsfm/fmb/manuals/dieback_manual.htm)]”;
- “be monitored by the Department’s Disease Standards Officer”; and

- “all costs of associated training, accreditation, certification and monitoring of interpreters is at the contractor’s expense”.

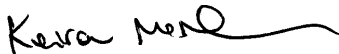
Copies of all Departmental tenders for *Phytophthora* dieback detection, diagnosis, mapping and demarcation managed by the Department are to be forwarded to the Manager, Forest Management Branch. This is to ensure consistency of approach and to allow programming of staff time to do any training and monitoring work involved.

**Departmental *Phytophthora* Dieback Interpreters to be given priority**

To maximise the retention of competency within the Department, Managers responsible for arranging *Phytophthora* dieback detection, diagnosis, mapping and demarcation work have a responsibility to ensure that wherever practicable the work is undertaken by the Department’s own accredited staff.

**Maintenance of Corporate Database**

All *Phytophthora* dieback mapping and demarcation projects must be recorded in a format suitable for digitising and both maps and written summary reports must be incorporated into the Department’s corporate database that is maintained by Forest Management Branch.



Keiran McNamara  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

5 August 2004