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WESTERN SHIELD – VALUE ADDED FAUNA RECOVERY

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Western Shield is CALM's feral predator control and native fauna recovery program, which has been highly successful in addressing the problem of mammal conservation in WA. Through a coordinated program of broadscale fox control, recovery of remnant populations and translocations, to date three species (Woylie, Quenda and Tammar Wallaby) have been removed from the State's threatened fauna list and several other species, such as Numbat and Chuditch, have had their status improved. Fox control now extends over 3.5 million hectares of CALM estate in the south west of WA and captive breeding programs for ten threatened species have been established to support translocation programs. Once effective methods for feral cat control have been developed, Western Shield will move into the more arid parts of WA. Apart from the enormous conservation benefit that Western Shield will bring to WA, there is significant potential to add value to this program through nature based tourism ventures and education. Many of the components of Western Shield such as Project Eden in Shark Bay and Return to Dryandra near Narrogin, will be implementing captive breeding and translocation programs in areas that already attract significant numbers of visitors. By spending extra time at these locations to view or participate in Western Shield activities, tourists will inject significant extra dollars into both the program and local communities. Western Shield is also serving as a focus for educational activities at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.