

**Title: Land for Wildlife – a collaborative model**

**Author: Gillian Stack**

**Institution: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

The Land for Wildlife (LfW) program has been running in Western Australia for twenty years. Over that period it has been our experience that many people in the community are seeking to engage with biodiversity conservation on their own properties, but need support to do so. LfW meets that interest, and enables action by providing free information, advice and support.

Many LfW properties provide habitat for threatened species outside the conservation reserve network. They also increase the network of 'stepping stones' through developed landscapes, enhancing wildlife dispersal. Many members actively support threatened species and ecological communities on their properties by maintaining habitat, managing threats such as feral animals, weeds and disease, and enhancing breeding with artificial hollows. The information that LfW provides – native species that occur or could occur on a property if particular habitat conditions were present, and how to provide those conditions - is a key catalyst for property owners to take action. In return, members add to knowledge of threatened species, contributing distribution information and ecological observations. Many owners also grant access to their properties for research activities.

LfW has recently established a partnership with the regional Natural Resource Management organisations to assist in the regional delivery of the program. In doing so, our members can benefit from their networks and expertise specific to that region. NRM access to knowledge about LfW properties facilitates strategic coordination of conservation on a landscape scale, including through the integration of the LfW model with existing or developing regional NRM programs.