

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



Bushcare

Bushcare Program
Western Australia
2002-2003



Natural Heritage Trust
Helping Communities Helping Australia



DEPARTMENT OF
Conservation
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
Conserving the nature of WA

Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Introduction | 2 |
| 2. Bushcare program objectives | 2 |
| 3. Bushcare network | 3 |
| 4. Bushcare program roles | 4 |
| 5. NHT 2 Structure | 5 |
| 6. NHT 2 Investment activities | 6 |
| 7. Bushcare staff | 7 |

1. Introduction

This document will provide overall guidance for the Bushcare Program (the Program) during the interim period in the development of the Natural Heritage Trust Extension (NHT2). As each Natural Heritage Trust region has its own particular issues to deal with, the operation of the Program within each region will be the subject of on-going negotiation and review.

Some flexibility is required given the current work in completing the first phase of the NHT (NHT 1), the variable nature of the interim period and the development of NHT 2 proper.

The outlook for the program has changed from NHT 1, and involves embracing a broader perspective, that encompasses biodiversity conservation rather than focusing on the protection of remnant vegetation and revegetation.

2. Bushcare Program objectives

- Conserve remnant native vegetation.
- Conserve Australia's biological diversity (biodiversity conservation).
- Restore, by means of revegetation, the environmental values and productive capacity of Australia's degraded land and water.

¹ NHT 1–1997-Sept. 2002, Interim–Sept 2002-June 2003, NHT 2–July 2003-2008 (excepting for the Australian Government Envirofund which has begun in 2002).

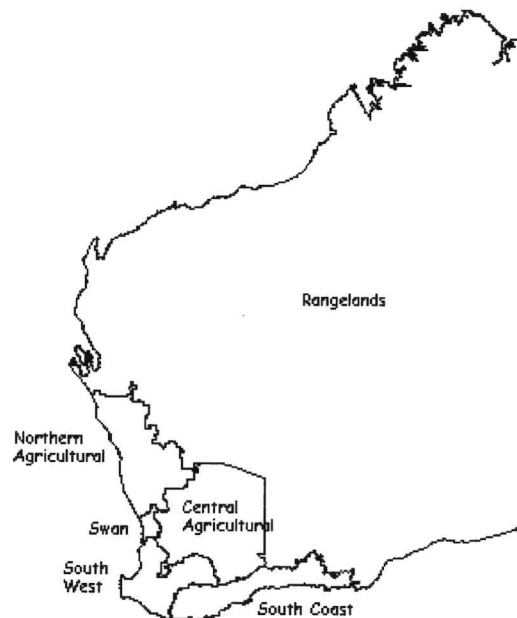
3. Bushcare network

The Department of Conservation and Land Management is the lead agency for the delivery of Bushcare in Western Australia, making it appropriate that the Department hosts the Program in Western Australia.

The Program also has a direct operational responsibility with Environment Australia.

The Program participates in achieving biodiversity conservation outcomes, through strategic planning and project development and implementation. This involves extensive liaison, and building strong working relationships with State and Federal Government departments, non-government organizations, regional groups and individuals.

The network includes the provision of Bushcare Support by Greening Australia, Western Australia. The structure for interaction between the Program and Bushcare Support has been agreed until the end of December 2002 and includes the establishment and constant review of monthly work plans. There is a need to clarify the future relationship between the two groups from December 2002 to June 2003.



NHT Regions of Western Australia.

4. Bushcare program roles

The primary focus of the Program will be to ensure that biodiversity conservation is addressed through planning and implementation at the Natural Heritage Trust regional level. This includes the provision of 'off-reserve conservation' advice to regional, local community organizations and individuals. The roles of the Program identified for the interim period includes:

1. NHT 1

- a. Assisting in the completion of NHT 1;
- b. Monitoring and evaluating NHT 1 projects;
- c. Reviewing of the outputs and outcomes of the Bushcare Program;
- d. Follow-up the results of the review process with individual projects and regional groups;
- e. Providing advice to Environment Australia;
- f. Liaising with projects extended from September 2002;
- g. Coordinating the provision of technical advice as required.

2. Interim Period

- a. Providing advice on developing processes;
- b. Participating in the development of funding applications operating through the Natural Resource Management (NRM) regional structures and in particular foundation funding and priority projects;
- c. Participating in biodiversity conservation planning, involving State Government agencies (most notably the Department of Conservation and Land Management), regional NRM groups and other organizations;

3. NHT 2

- a. Implementing and managing the Program's involvement in the Australian Government Envirofund;
- b. Assisting in development of regional strategies to a level of accreditation with respect to biodiversity criteria;
- c. Providing comment on the accreditation of regional strategies to Environment Australia;
- d. Involvement in the identification of regional priority projects;
- e. Defining 'Bushcare' under the NHT2 structure;
- f. Extending the functions of the Program to the rangelands;
- g. Developing a process to improve the engagement of Aboriginal people in the NHT;
- h. Providing biodiversity conservation advice to regional and local community organizations.

5. NHT 2 Structure

The guiding principles for NHT 2 have been established but there are many aspects of its delivery that are still being discussed. These include the preparation of a bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the State.

Natural Heritage Trust programs will focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainable production, and capacity building and structural reform.

The number of Trust programs that operated under the first phase have been reduced from 23 to four. These programs are:

- The **Landcare Program** will invest in activities that contribute to reversing land degradation and promoting sustainable agriculture.
- The **Bushcare Program** will invest in activities that contribute to conserving and restoring habitat for the native flora and fauna, which underpin the health of the landscape.
- The **Rivercare Program** will invest in activities that contribute to improved water quality and environmental conditions in river systems and wetlands.
- The **Coastcare Program** will invest in activities that contribute to protecting coastal catchments, ecosystems and the marine environment.

Funds will be delivered at three levels; national investments, regional investments, and a local action component (the Australian Government Envirofund).

6. NHT 2 Investment Activities

1. Protecting and restoring the habitat of threatened species, threatened ecological communities and migratory birds;
2. Reversing the long-term decline in the extent and quality of Australia's native vegetation;
3. Protecting and restoring significant freshwater, marine and estuarine ecosystems;
4. Preventing or controlling the introduction and spread of feral animals, aquatic pests, weeds and other biological threats to biodiversity;
5. Establishing and effectively managing a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protected areas;
6. Improving the condition of natural resources that underpins the sustainability and productivity of resource based industries;
7. Securing access to natural resources for productive purposes;
8. Encouraging the development of sustainable and profitable management systems for application by land-holders and other natural resource managers and users;
9. Providing land-holders, community groups and other natural resource managers with understanding and skills to contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management; and
10. Establishing institutional and organisational frameworks that promote conservation and ecologically sustainable use and management of natural resources.

7. Bushcare Staff

State Bushcare Program Coordinator

Responsible for the overall coordination and management of the Bushcare Program.

Phone: (08) 9334 0479

Bushcare Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Responsible for the design, implementation and delivery of the monitoring and evaluation of projects.

Phone: (08) 9334 0570

Bushcare Administration Officer

Responsible for the day to day maintenance of budget records, provision of assistance to other staff, office management and special projects.

Phone: (08) 9334 0442

Assistant Bushcare Administration Officer

Responsible for maintaining records of activity within special projects such as the Envirofund process and project extensions and variations. Maintains databases on project activity.

Phone: (08) 9334 0442

Regional Bushcare Facilitators

Responsible for the delivery of all aspects involved in the roles of the Program, outlined in Section 4, at a regional level. These officers are based within the NHT regions at the following locations;

- South Coast
Albany
Phone: (08) 9842 4519
- Swan
Perth
Phone: (08) 9474 7052
- South West
Bunbury
Phone: (08) 725 5909
- Northern Agricultural
Geraldton
Phone: (08) 9964 0908
- Central
Narrogin
Phone: (08) 9881 9219

The placement of a Bushcare facilitator in the Rangelands is proposed for the future.

