

# New Chair appointed to Conservation Commission

**DR John Bailey, of Murdoch University, has been appointed Chair of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia.**

Dr Bailey is Associate Professor in Environmental Assessment at the university.

In the last 16 years Dr Bailey has served on numerous Government authorities and committees, including the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and the

Environmental Protection Authority. He was president of the Conservation Council of WA during the mid-1980s.

Dr Bailey said he was happy to accept the invitation to Chair the Commission.

"I hope to be able to make a contribution to the development of new biodiversity conservation legislation and strategies and to bring my academic knowledge into the Government system," he said.

Dr Bailey said he would like to see a "cutting edge" biodiversity act in place by the time his term expires in three years.

"The biggest challenge will be to move from a species focus to a communities focus. I am also keen to broaden the vision of the Commission to areas away from lands vested in it to off-reserve biodiversity," he said.

"Any biodiversity policy needs to be owned by the community, and as part of the community, Department of Conservation and Land Management staff are vehicles through which that ownership can occur."

Dr Bailey will also chair the Forest Management Steering Committee and represent the Commission at the Round Table Discussion Group.

"I try to solve problems and to be fair to all sections of the community, and to ensure that outcomes are carefully considered and consistently applied."

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*Dr John Bailey outside the Constitutional Centre of WA, after a Forest Management Plan Round Table Discussion Group meeting. Photo by Ernie McLintock*

