

Dryandra's 100-year vision

A 10-YEAR concept with a 100-year vision has been released for one of the State's most remarkable bushlands.

It is a draft management plan for the Dryandra woodland, a group of State forest blocks near Narrogin in Western Australia's western wheatbelt.

The woodland is an "archipelago" of 17 bushland islands surrounded by a "sea" of cleared farmland. It has a rich diversity of wildlife and marks the eastern and western distribution limits for several higher rainfall and wheatbelt plant species.

It also is popular as an environmental education centre and almost 30 000 people visit the area each year.

Environment Minister Kevin Minson, along with Wagin MLA and Emergency Services Minister Bob Wiese and Avon MLA Max Trenorden, released the draft plan earlier this month at a special function in the woodland.

The plan, prepared by CALM, outlines recommendations that aim to integrate nature conservation objectives with sustainable agriculture on surrounding farmlands and the development of a nature-based tourism industry.

Dryandra is the last remaining sizeable area of woodland in the western wheatbelt following extensive clearing for agriculture in the past 40 years.

It represents the transition from the jarrah forests of the Darling Range to the more open woodlands of the lower rainfall regions and has more than 800 identified species of native plants.

Dryandra also has populations of 21 of the 46 species of native mammals that remain in the wheatbelt and 98 bird species.

The populations of



CALM Narrogin staff at the release of the Dryandra draft management plan were John Edwards, Sharon Hann, new Narrogin district manager Tim Bowra and his wife Belinda.

small marsupials, particularly numbats and woylies also show the impact fox control has on native animals.

Dryandra has more than 8000 hectares of mallet plantations that were sown as far back as the 1920s to produce bark for the tannin industry and, more recently, timber for fence posts and tool handles.

The woodland covers almost 28 000 ha of State forest vested in the Lands and Forest Commission for multiple use.

The draft plan recommends much of the area be listed as national park with smaller isolated areas designated nature reserves.

The mallet plantations and some plots of sandalwood will remain State forest.

The aim is to phase out timber harvesting except from the mallet stands.

At the same time, landowners on surrounding farmlands will be encouraged to plant suitable species such as mallet which



Environment Minister Kevin Minson (left) had the support of his parliamentary colleagues Bob Wiese, Member for Wagin, Bruce Donaldson, MLC and Max Trenorden, Member for Avon, at the launch of the Dryandra draft management plan.

not only will have landcare benefits, but also assure the supply of suitable timbers for local industry well into the next century and beyond. In this way, the nature conservation concepts of Dryandra can be integrated into sustainable

agricultural pursuits on the neighbouring farms.

The plan covers a broad range of issues including access, the spread of plant disease, fire management, tourism and recreation, other commercial uses such as bee keeping and mining,

Aboriginal and European heritage, flora and fauna, research and community relations.

The plan has been released for public comment for two months. Copies are available through CALM's Narrogin office.



Dryandra Woodland
Our Management Plan
Conservation and Land Management



DRYANDRA WOODLAND



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