

PEPPERING THE ESPERANCE SALT PROBLEM WITH TREES

Salinity problems in the Esperance region are about to be tackled through a major tree-planting exercise.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is extending its maritime pines planting project as part of its commitment to tackling salinity throughout the south-west of Australia.

The project is a key initiative under the State Government's Salinity Action Plan, and aims to establish 150,000 hectares of maritime pines in the medium rainfall zone.

A feasibility study carried out by CALM reveals that 500,000 hectares could support commercial maritime pine crops in this zone.

This may appear ambitious, until one notes that the French were



planting maritime pines to combat soil erosion and waterlogging in the Bordeaux region as far back as the 1780s. Today, France has some one million hectares of maritime pines that support a multi-billion-dollar industry, employing 30,000 people.

Maritime pines not only have a major impact in combating salinity by

drawing down water tables, they can also provide a resource for a future regional timber industry.

CALM scientists estimate that there are about 85,000 hectares in the 400–600-millimetre rainfall belt in the Esperance region that would be suitable for maritime pine tree crops, and could be integrated into existing farming operations.

It is expected that the first 500 hectares will be planted on about 10 farms in the winter of 1999, when CALM will also introduce its 'supplementary species' program, through which it will make available native species that can be incorporated into farm landcare programs.

Some of these species, such as sandalwood, have significant environmental as well as commercial benefits—especially in protecting wetlands and other areas of high conservation value.

CALM will be working in tandem with an enthusiastic, committed and progressive tree crops movement in Esperance, and the extension of the maritime pines project will give many more farmers a golden opportunity to become involved in farm forestry.

MORE DIVE & SNORKEL SITES

CALM's *Dive & Snorkel Sites in Western Australia* has been so widely acclaimed by divers, snorkellers, and the diving industry as a whole (sold out within two years and now in its second print run), that it has led to a second book.

More Dive & Snorkel Sites in Western Australia describes 46 new sites that offer a range of experiences from easy snorkelling (suitable for the whole family) to more challenging boat dives that would appeal to experienced SCUBA divers.

As CALM is involved in establishing a marine park proposed for Jurien Bay, *More Dive & Snorkel Sites* describes dives around this

region. Sites at Dampier Archipelago, Mandurah, Albany and Esperance—regions not covered in the first book—have also been included. Rottneest Island Marine Reserve and the Marmion, Shoalwater Islands, Shark Bay and Ningaloo Marine Parks are all revisited, with entirely new sites described.

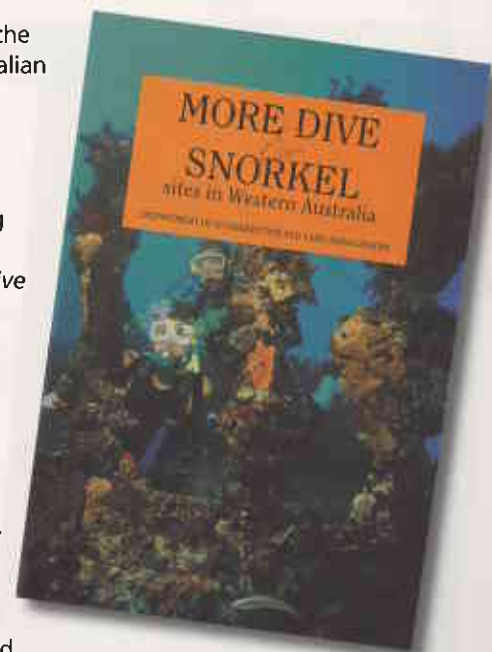
The many people who contacted CALM to tell of magnificent sites other than those appearing in its first book are gratefully acknowledged, and many of their suggestions appear in *More Dive & Snorkel Sites*.

The new book is presented in the same style as *Dive & Snorkel Sites of Western Australia*, which won the

Media Category of the 1997 Western Australian Tourism Awards in recognition of its contribution to the development and promotion of diving tourism.

So enjoy *More Dive & Snorkel Sites of Western Australia*, then grab a mask, fins and snorkel or SCUBA gear to discover the colourful world beneath the ocean.

The book costs \$14.95 and is available from most bookshops and newsagents, as well as CALM offices throughout WA, or it may be ordered



direct from CALM's NatureBase web site at: <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>

LANDSCOPE

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Can WA's sharefarming plantations also help fight greenhouse gases? See 'Farming Carbon' on page 17.



With increased numbers of travellers, the Canning Stock Route is in need of some TLC. See 'A Track Winding Back' on page 10.



The job of a CALM Wildlife Officer is as much about dealing with people as it is about protecting our native wildlife. See 'On the Wild Side' on page 23.



The Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves are a haven for water birds and a significant international wetland. See 'Picture the Lakes' on page 36.



There are billions of tiny white shells lining the 150-km Shell Beach in Shark Bay. But why are there so many concentrated here? Find out more on page 49.

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COVER

Two years into the Western Shield program and already three Western Australian native species have been brought back from the edge of extinction, and others are growing in abundance. 'Bouncing Back', on page 28, looks at the successes of the first two years and at where we hope to be at the turn of the century.

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