

## DIDGERIDOOS TO BE TAGGED

**D**IDGERIDOOS are made from mallee stems that have been naturally hollowed by termite attack. They are cut, cleaned and painted to create the finished article. Unfortunately, demand for didgeridoos as tourist souvenirs has led to illegal cutting of mallees in remnant vegetation in the southwest and Wheatbelt, especially in nature reserves. Often the cutters do not

know how to determine suitable stems, so large areas are felled to obtain a very few hollow stems. To combat this problem and protect the reserves, a new tagging and certification system has been introduced.

A royalty tag must be attached to all eucalypt stems by the cutter when harvesting. The tag remains attached to the stem during the didgeridoo

making process. In addition, there will be a certification card accompanying each tag, so that people will know that the didgeridoo they are buying has been cut legally and that native vegetation hasn't been degraded. Selling or possessing stems harvested in WA without such a tag will be an offence under the Wildlife Conservation Act.