

ECONOMIC VALUE OF BIODIVERSITY

Tax Concessions now available with the Nature Conservation Covenant Program

If you have bushland on your property and are interested in preserving it for the long term, you might be interested in the tax concessions available to people who enter into conservation covenants.

Recent changes to the Federal tax legislation mean that landowners who have entered into conservation covenants since 1 July 2002 may now receive a tax concession. Briefly, there are two types of tax concessions available, one for income tax and the other for capital gains tax. There are a number of factors which affect the landowners' eligibility, and anyone who is interested should consult their taxation agent or the Australian Tax Office before proceeding. However, the good news is that two

of the three covenant programs operating in Western Australia are now eligible to offer the tax concessions. These programs are the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) Nature Conservation Covenant Program and the Conservation Covenant Program offered by the National Trust of Australia (WA).

Conservation covenants are voluntary, legally binding agreements taken out by landowners who are interested in protecting the nature conservation values of their land for the long term. Many landowners enter into covenants over land they have worked hard to manage and protect, and they want to see that land looked after when it changes hands. There are also other

benefits from joining a covenant program. Some financial assistance is available (through the CALM Covenant Program) to assist with land management costs, and advice and assistance are also provided. Conservation covenants are usually provided free of charge; entering into them is entirely voluntary, and they are designed to be flexible provided that the nature conservation values of the land are not compromised.

Anyone interested in finding out more about covenants (and tax relief!) can contact either the Nature Conservation Covenant Program Coordinator, Sophie Moller on (08) 9334 0477 or the National Trust Covenanting Coordinator, Scott Morath on (08) 9321 6088.

NEWS

CALM Bush Rangers to feature on the Japanese environmental documentary program 'The Wonderful Spaceship is named The Earth'

A film that will feature CALM Bush Rangers will be broadcast on 'The ASAHI television' - Channel 10, Tokyo, in April 2004. The Japanese environmental documentary program 'The Wonderful Spaceship is named The Earth' is a half hour weekly program on Sunday night in Japan.

The program will introduce the conservation projects the CALM Bush Rangers are doing across WA and then feature on one issue - fighting dieback in their local community. Roleystone District High school's CALM Bush Ranger Unit has a history of outstanding work in this area of biodiversity conservation. The film will focus on this Unit working with the



Roleystone DHS CALM Bush Ranger Unit contributing to Western Shield monitoring trapping with CALM Science at Perup Nature Reserve

Roleystone Community Dieback Action group to control dieback disease on the school grounds - an area that looks more like a national park than a traditional playground. The Unit will also work with key

dieback staff in CALM.

The opportunity for CALM Bush Rangers to participate in the filming has created much excitement for our up and coming teenage enviro film stars!