

## FORMATION OF DIEBACK RESPONSE GROUP

**P**LANT deaths caused by *Phytophthora* (sometimes called 'Jarrah Dieback') are one of the greatest threats to WA's biodiversity. Half of WA's 350 threatened plant species and 2000 of the 9000 known plant species in the south-west are susceptible to the disease. In March, a Dieback Response Group was formed to coordinate and encourage appropriate actions to combat this threat. The DRG will develop a dieback atlas; prepare management guidelines for private land; develop risk assessment methodology and specifically develop a plan to combat the dieback threat in the Fitzgerald River NP.

As a start, CALM has produced "Best practice guidelines for the management of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*" and "Policy Statement No 3: Threat abatement for *Phytophthora cinnamomi*". Both of these documents are drafts, open to comment until May 7<sup>th</sup>, and you can download them from CALM's website: <http://www.naturebase.net>. If you live in the greater than 400mm rainfall zone, and especially if you are in jarrah forest or banksia woodland, you might well be interested in this material. Your comments on the drafts - or any other matters to do with the disease - would be valued.