

YOUR *LFW* SITE ON ELECTRONIC MAPS FOR NRM PLANNING

All planning and prioritising for land management is now being done electronically via Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Whether it be for mining, agricultural production, revegetation, subdivision, drainage or other on-ground works, planners and project managers are using computerised maps to outline their 'areas of interest' and determine what features within those areas are relevant to their project.

It is important that these persons know where the *LFW* sites are, because:

- they contain valuable native vegetation;
- the landholder is managing them for biodiversity conservation; and
- most *LFW* landholders want to know and to be consulted about planning that may affect their land.

Therefore these sites and their managers are a vital part of local

natural resource management (NRM). Unless the sites are on a GIS database accessible by the planner, they will not be taken into account, and landholders could find that their precious bushland is earmarked for a communications tower or a gravel pit – or that they are missing out on the opportunity to benefit from a new funding source.

Thus it is important that *LFW* provides the location of *LFW* sites to planners, on a project by project basis. No detail – not even your name – just where there is a *LFW* site. If the planners want more detail, they would contact the *LFWO* who would ask for your permission to provide it.

When *LFW* first started, GIS technology was in its infancy, so it was not discussed during the *LFW* visit. But if you have joined us since 2003, you will see at the end of the report that we ask a standard question: "Has the landholder any concerns about the '*LFW* site' being

recorded on a GIS mapping system for Natural Resource Management planning?" Most people are happy for their site to be recorded, but 0.04% stated they did not want their site location to be made available to planners on GIS, and this preference is scrupulously observed.

In WW 8/1 Jan 2004, we asked you to contact your *LFWO* if you were concerned about this process or wanted more information – especially if you do not want your site recorded. Only two people followed this up, so we concluded that all the rest had no objections.

Requests for data are being received at an increasing rate. All the projects we are consulted about are aimed at building up a long-term picture of sustainability. **If you do not want your *LFW* site/s to be recorded on these GIS databases, it is vital to let us know.**

Please contact Avril Baxter on 9881 9240 or Penny Hussey on 9334 0530 for more information.

**IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR *LFW* SITES TO BE RECORDED ON THESE
GIS DATABASES, IT IS VITAL TO LET US KNOW!**