# Wheatbelt NRM Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Assessment Tool

# SPECIFICATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

### INTRODUCTION

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated (Wheatbelt NRM) is seeking submissions from suitably qualified and experienced consultants to develop a community accessible assessment methodology tool for the Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) listed Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt.

The purpose of the tool is to enable the assessment of potential TEC remnants throughout the Wheatbelt and understand which of these meet the specified criteria required to be considered part of the EPBC listing.

The purpose of the methodology is twofold:

1. That the assessment tool is designed so it can be used by a broad range of community members and does not rely on prior knowledge of the Wheatbelt Woodlands
2. The tool will provide sufficient information for the a determination and classification of the site as ‘actual TEC’ in line with the conservation advice

It is expected that the final product will be a user friendly ‘tool’ as well as a report describing the development process and use of the tool.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wheatbelt NRM is an independent community-based organisation leading natural resource management (NRM) endeavours within the Avon River Basin. The organisation operates from its Northam office, Western Australia, and exists as the second largest of the seven NRM regional organisations in the State, with responsibility for the 12,000,000 hectares of the Avon River basin.

Wheatbelt NRM’s vision is:

***A vibrant Wheatbelt community creating healthy environments and livelihoods.***

**This vision is supported by Wheatbelt NRM’s mission to:**

1. be a leader in NRM through strong governance, a dedicated team and investment in the Regional NRM Strategy;
2. build partnerships to deliver the vision;
3. advocate for NRM and the Wheatbelt to national, state and local government;
4. identify and support innovative and beneficial research;
5. promote and coordinate improvements in environmental, cultural, social and industrial practices beneficial to NRM;
6. engage with Aboriginal people and assist with the incorporation of their culture and beliefs within the Wheatbelt;
7. build capacity within the community to create healthy environments and livelihoods; and
8. advocate for the Regional NRM Strategy to be part of our partners work.

Wheatbelt NRM delivers projects for the Australian Government under the Regional Funding theme of the National Landcare Program.

This program concludes 30 June 2018 and as part of the preparation for future work within the Avon River Basin Wheatbelt NRM is seeking to develop a tool that will separate *potential* from *actual* patches of TEC listed woodlands within the region. The priority consideration is that the tool is easy to use and suitable for community implementation.

The methodology will help engage community and inform future investment in asset based outcomes for the TEC Woodlands in the Avon River Basin. It will also help identify what the investment priorities may be for those remnants not currently meeting the specified EPBC criteria for the Woodlands.

### SCOPE OF WORK

Wheatbelt NRM intends to appoint a consultant to design an assessment process that meets the criteria set out in the Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt. Key to this is:

* Ensuring the assessment tool is able to be picked up and used by general community with little or no prior survey experience
* That the information generated from the methodology is robust enough to allow shifting from *potential* TEC extent to TEC *actual* for the point in time it is conducted

It is possible the methodology will be made up of two elements - an initial or reconnaissance phase followed by the potential to ground truth in more detail as required

Wheatbelt NRM expect that the successful proposal will address the following:

**Foundational Activity**

* Review the literature for similar methodologies
* Clearly identify each element of the EPBC listing criteria to ensure it is addressed in the formulation of the assessment methodology

**Tool development**

* Is accessible to community members
* Captures the right information with respect to the Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice)
* Allows those assessing a particular remnant to easily determine the quality of the remnant against the specified criteria in a broad sense
* Provides robust data to inform decision making allowing identification of:
	+ Which patches of remnant are currently TEC
	+ Which elements of those remnants that are not currently TEC could be restored to TEC with specific management interventions
* Identify and develop assessment support material
	+ It is envisaged this will be minimal

### SOURCE MATERIAL

1. Approved Conservation Advice 2015
2. Benchmarking \Wheatbelt Vegetation report (Harvey and Keighery)

###  SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF CONTRACT

The Consultant will:

* Provide the documented assessment tool
* Practical examples of implementation of the tool for agreed sites in the Wheatbelt

### IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

Wheatbelt NRM would like to undertake this work as soon as possible and agreed schedule will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND PRICING REQUIREMENTS

Expressions of Interest should clearly address the selection criteria and also detail the process that will be used to achieve the Scope of the RfQ. It would be beneficial to include a project schedule/ timeline.

Responses should include a company capability statement and a list of personnel who will be responsible for delivering the project detailing:

* Their skills and experience
* Their hourly rate/s and the number of hours they will contribute to the project

Wheatbelt NRM is looking for a fixed price quote detailing a schedule of services and prices.

Payment instalments are to be linked to project milestones and deliveries achieved.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Expressions of interest will be assessed using the following selection criteria:

* Understanding of the brief
* Proposed methodology to achieve required outcome
* Skills and experience
* Organisational capacity
* Timeframe
* Value for money

### LODGING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest and will be accepted by post or email. Responses must be received by 4.00pm Friday 1st of June 2018.

Post responses to:

Wheatbelt WA

PO Box 311 Northam WA

Or emailed to

rhegglun@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

Further information about the project can be obtained by contacting Rowan Hegglun, Healthy Environments Manager on 0427 386 274 & rhegglun@wheatbeltnrm.org.au – immediate availability will be intermittent from the 17th through to the 23rd of May, Alternative contact during this time is Anika Dent 0488 902 220.