

# **CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN DESERT TIMBERS KALGOORLIE – MERREDIN**

## **A collaborative project**

### **Objective**

The project conceives:

- The selective harvest of goldfields regrowth forests to be transported for primary processing in the No 4 Pump Station at Merredin;
- Creation of employment for rural Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth; and
- Development of a timber and tourism industry in regional centres.

All harvested areas will be regenerated and future growth and wild harvest opportunities will be established within a radius of the project centre.

### **Progress to date**

A draft project outline was prepared by the National Trust. This document was used to promote, gain support for the project and to access initial seed funding to undertake the development of Terms of Reference, a Feasibility Study, Forest Resource Inventory and Business Plan.

Participation and funding (either or both cash and in-kind) commitments were obtained from the Goldfields Specialty Timber Industry Group, Inglewood Timber Products, Shire of Merredin, the City of Kalgoorlie, CYO'Connor (TAFEWA) and the National Trust of Australia (WA).

In principle support has been received regionally from the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Forest Products Commission.

A letter of support has been received from the Minister for Forests, the Hon. Kim Chance.

A successful submission for funding (\$30 000) was lodged with the Wheatbelt Development Commission. An initial installment of \$2 000 was received to develop the Terms of Reference and a further \$10 000 will be received for the Feasibility Study. On successful completion of the study a further \$18 000 will be available to develop the Business Plan.

A submission has been lodged with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission to assist with the above studies and for the forest inventory which will cover some 4 million hectares of regrowth in the Goldfields Region.

The application for \$10 000 lodged through the Department of Industry and Resources was refused by the Minister.

A Steering committee has been formed of interested parties who are relatively available for meetings which are irregular at this time. The committee members include Carlo

and Dino Gosatti (Inglewood Timber Products), Grant Godfrey (Business Planning) and Alan Briggs (National Trust). Other interested members are welcome to attend any meetings. Ian Kealley, on behalf of GSTIG, presented detailed information on the available forest resource in the Goldfields Region.

A forestry consultancy firm has indicated interest in undertaking the forest inventory at cost and this will be pursued when funds become available.

Murdoch University has lodged an application for funding to establish a centre for excellence in Arid timbers and has invited this group to become a member. The outcome of the application is expected during March this year. Participation will engage a significant research component and an ally for future funding.

### **Action Pending**

The outcome of the application lodged with the Goldfields Esperance DC is critical to the forest inventory. When the funds are received the committee will engage a forest consultant to undertake the inventory.

Seek funding to assist with the overall project including the Feasibility Study and Forest Inventory.

Initiate the Feasibility Study (after receiving the WDC funds).

Continue to promote the project.

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Web: [http://www.naturalheritage.org.au/Sustainable\\_Desert\\_Timbers.html](http://www.naturalheritage.org.au/Sustainable_Desert_Timbers.html)

### **Project supported by:**

Shire of Merredin - <http://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/>

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder - <http://www.kalbould.wa.gov.au/>

CY O'Connor TAFE - <http://www.cyoctafe.wa.edu.au/>

Inglewood Timber Products - <http://www.ipg.com.au/>

Wheatbelt Regional Development Commission - <http://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/>

Department of Environment and Conservation - <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/>

Forest Products Commission - <http://www.fpc.wa.gov.au/>

Goldfields Specialty Timber Industry Group