

Summary of Linkage Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2008

Western Australia

Murdoch University

LP0882687 Prof RJ Hobbs; A/Prof GE Hardy; Dr BA Wilson; Dr KN Armstrong

Approved Project Title **Understanding successional processes to maintain vertebrate populations in production landscapes**

2008 : \$ 99,267

2009 : \$ 122,307

2010 : \$ 150,000

2011 : \$ 94,279

2012 : \$ 91,414

Primary RFCD 3008 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

APA(I) Award(s): 1

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Alcoa World Alumina Australia
Department of Environment and Conservation
Molhar Pty Ltd

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

This project will develop principles that will help maintain biodiversity across production landscapes and provide national benefits by furthering the ability of resource extraction industries to conduct their activities in areas of conservation value, while maintaining those values. By providing greater confidence in the ability of land managers to balance the needs of resource extraction and social benefits, such as conservation, recreation, water management and tourism, the project will have important community benefits. Given the high level of endemism in the jarrah forest, this project will also help maintain biodiversity and will provide a critical national benefit.

LP0882671 Prof MG Jones; Dr KW Dixon; Dr R Jones; Dr KA Seaton

Approved Project Title **Assessing plant virus threats to indigenous Western Australian flora: implications for biodiversity, conservation, ecosystem reclamation and the wildflower industry.**

2008 : \$ 85,000

2009 : \$ 85,000

2010 : \$ 85,000

Primary RFCD 2704 BOTANY

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Department of Agriculture and Food WA
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Alcoa World Alumina Australia
Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd
Saturn Biotech Pty Ltd

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

Australia's unique flora is a valuable asset, not only in terms of aesthetic value, ecotourism, commercial floriculture, the environment and rural communities, but also in relation to water quality, a sink for carbon, and a source for novel medicinal chemicals. The threat posed by plant viruses to native flora has largely been ignored, but with global climate change, virus infection will become increasingly important. This study will document the role of plant viruses in the sustainability of Australia's floral heritage and industries, and develop strategies to limit virus spread through plant nurseries, rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and conservation of threatened species.