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## Environmental Stewardship Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project

### What is the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project?

The Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project is funded under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country – Environmental Stewardship.

The objective of Environmental Stewardship is to maintain and improve the condition of environmental assets of high public value on private land, or impacted by activities on private land. The “environmental assets of high public value” are limited to matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The box gum grassy woodland ecological community is the first matter of NES to be targeted under Environmental Stewardship.

The Project is delivered through a market-based process and participating land managers will bid competitively with other participating land managers to have their box gum grassy woodland site funded.

**Not all bids submitted through this competitive process will be successful.**

Successful land managers can enter into financial contracts with the Government from 10 to 15 years, depending upon the condition of their woodland. This means you could receive an annual payment to look after and improve the quality and extent of patches of at least 10 hectares of box gum grassy woodland on your land for this period.

Participation is entirely voluntary and land managers can withdraw from the Project of their own volition up until contracts are in place.

### How can I get involved?

1. If, after attending a local woodland walk or seminar and/or having read this booklet, you consider that you meet the eligibility criteria (see Chapter 2), have box gum grassy woodland on your property (see Chapter 4) and you are prepared to undertake the management actions necessary to maintain or improve its condition (See Chapter 6), fill out the Request for Site Assessment Form accompanying this booklet and submit it to the address identified on the form by the due date which will be advised.
2. A field officer employed by your local Catchment Management Authority will consider the information you provide and will contact you either to arrange a site inspection (see Chapter 8) or to discuss your site in more detail.
3. If the field officer determines from the information you provide that your site is likely to have box gum grassy woodland, he/she will attend your property and undertake an assessment of your patch. The field officer will record the environmental significance of your site, the management you are prepared to undertake, the duration of contract, and any covenant (see Chapter 12) that you are prepared to



- offer. This information will be entered into a decision support tool called the “Conservation Value Measure” (see Chapter 7) and a Conservation Value Score will be calculated for your patch/es. This calculation is done back in the office.
4. The field officer after calculating the Conservation Value Score for your site will pre-fill a bid template with your personal details and site score and provide it to you for you to insert your bid price (see Chapter 9). It is anticipated that you will have the opportunity to attend a workshop which will provide more information on the bidding and evaluation process.
  5. Completed bids must be posted prior to the nominated date for closure of applications. Bids will be assessed by an evaluation panel (see Chapter 10) and recommendations made to Ministers. Successful projects are those that receive Ministerial approval.
  6. Successful bidders will be contracted by the Australian Government to actively manage their box gum grassy woodland to maintain or improve its condition. They will be required to undertake simple annual monitoring of their site and to provide an annual report on their activities (see Chapter 11).
  7. Ongoing support for successful land managers is being negotiated with the Catchment Management Authorities involved in the Project.
  8. Payments made to successful land managers under the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project are subject to income tax (see Chapter 13).



▲ **Box Gum** [Source: Alexandra Steven]