



8 Site assessment

If you wish to participate in the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project, and your patch meets the criteria, the nominated patch will need to be assessed.

You are required to complete the Request for Site Assessment Form accompanying this booklet to initiate a site assessment.

The Delivery Agent has been asked to undertake a maximum of 150 site assessments across the three Catchment Management Authority regions in the current funding round. If more than this number of requests for site assessments is received, a means of prioritising sites for assessment will be devised. Further information will be provided in newsletters and on the Environmental Stewardship website at

➔ www.nrm.gov.au/stewardship/index.html

What happens during a site assessment?

If your site is considered likely to meet the criteria for participation in the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project after a desk-top assessment, a field officer will arrange

to come out to your property to talk to you about your site and the management actions you agree to implement as part of your participation in the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project. They will undertake the following tasks when they arrive at your property:

- talk to you about the objectives of Environmental Stewardship and answer any questions you may have;
- confirm on the ground that your site is eligible for participation in the Project;
- map the location of the woodland you wish to nominate using Global Positioning System readings;
- assess the environmental characteristics of the site. This will involve the field officer independently looking at site attributes such as understorey, mature trees and presence of weeds. It will also involve looking at the landscape context of the site; and
- the field officer will discuss what actions are required, and what actions you may be prepared to undertake, to improve the environmental condition of the site. The field officer will also talk to you about the length of contract you may like to enter into and whether you would like to offer longer term security over the site in the form of a conservation covenant (see Chapter 12).



What happens after the site assessment?

Upon returning to the office the field officer will enter the data obtained during the site assessment into the Conservation Value Measure and calculate the Conservation Value Score for your site. The field officer will also prepare a management plan for the site based on discussions with you about what actions you agree to undertake.

This will be returned to you along with a bid application pre-filled with your name, property information and the Conservation Value Score for your site. You will be required to confirm, within a specified timeframe, that the management

actions and any covenanting arrangements described are what you are prepared to undertake under the Project. The field officer will be able to discuss any issues you might have or make alterations to the management plan. Where alterations are required, the revised information will be re-entered into the Conservation Value Measure, and a revised score for your site calculated. A final bid application package will then be provided to you to enable you to finalise your bid.

In the interests of getting a bid in by the bid application closing date, land managers are encouraged to seek information on various costs they may wish to include in their bid as early in the process as possible.



▲ A map showing boundaries of BGGW patches will be prepared as part of your management plan