

Wednesday 30 November 2011

Grant win for lakes

The Ramsar-listed Lake Warden and Lake Gore wetlands in Esperance are the beneficiaries of a grant totalling \$180,000 secured by Esperance Regional Forum (ERF) from the Australian Government.

The funds provided by South Coast NRM from the government's Caring for Our Country program will allow ERF to continue its efforts to improve agricultural practices over more 190 hectares of land in the catchments by working closely with landholders.

The project aims to establish almost 100 hectares of native vegetation, more than 95 hectares of perennial pastures as well as fencing around 40 kilometres of remnant and revegetation areas.

"The ERF committee and staff are proud and grateful to be able to continue the vital work of many community members, landholders and agencies over several years. This work supports our world class wetlands and keeps the focus on the role Esperance wetlands play in the survival of a vast array of bird, animal and plant species," ERF's Chairperson Claire Mitchell said.

The Lake Warden and Gore systems are home to thousands of birds each year such as the endangered Hooded Plover and the tiny Red Neck Stint, which travels over 10,000 kilometres from its breeding grounds in the Arctic Circle to call Esperance home in the summer.

The project aligns with Southern Prospects, the South Coast Regional Strategy for NRM 2011-2016, which lists priority activities including biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources and community capacity building.

Other priorities are the prevention, stabilisation and reversal of salinity and the improvement of water quality.

All works are due for completion in 2013 and project inquiries should be directed to Kathryn Ashby on 9076 2204 or the Esperance NRM Centre on 9076 2200.

ENDS

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