



Friday 6 August 2010

Lotterywest grant bolsters South Coast NRM

The development of an integrated Natural Resource Management (NRM) Network & Learning Centre in Albany is now possible after South Coast NRM received a Lotterywest grant of almost \$220,000.

The Hon. Robyn McSweeney MLC, member for the South-West, presented South Coast NRM with the cheque at a community morning tea today.

The grant will be used for building additions and alterations of South Coast NRM's Mercer Road office including the creation of an NRM Network & Learning Centre featuring a community library, computer work stations, meeting spaces, and information displays.

The centre will provide a space for landholders, school students, community groups and individuals to gather and share information, as well as find support for activities which protect and enhance the South Coast environment.

South Coast NRM chief executive Rob Edkins said it was fantastic to receive the support of Lotterywest to improve facilities and resources at South Coast NRM, for the benefit of the wider South Coast community.

The grant will also cover an IT and server upgrade, and the purchase of equipment and furniture for the NRM Network & Learning Centre.

"We have listened to our community's wishes for reports, research and information to be more readily accessible and the new centre will make this possible, thanks to the generous support of Lotterywest," Mr Edkins said.

"We are committed to creating a one-stop-shop for environmental sustainability, conservation and landcare information relevant to our region."

An important aspect of the centre will be its integration with the South Coast NRM website to enable people to search for project reports, community information and publications in an online catalogue. Community groups will also be able to hire meeting rooms and kitchen facilities.

The NRM Network & Learning Centre is a working title however the final name of the centre will be confirmed following community consultation.

The design and building work is expected to take 12 months.

ENDS

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South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. is the leading regional group for natural resource management in the South Coast region of Western Australia. As an independent not-for-profit organisation, we work with the community to improve the environment by preserving and protecting unique plants and animals, managing land and waterways, and sharing knowledge and skills in natural resource management.