



**Thursday 22 December 2011**

**Southern Incentives snapped up**

South Coast NRM has delivered festive gifts in the form of landholder grants totalling \$153,000 to protect high quality remnant vegetation and biodiversity across the South Coast region.

The Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee was successful with its application to protect 110 hectares of jarrah/marri forest along the Sleeman Creek near Narrikup, which is part of the Forest to Stirlings Link of the Gondwana Link project.

Landholders in the Oldfield River and Young River catchments were also successful with plans to fence off spectacular 'breakaway' country which includes habitat for the rare malleefowl and endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.

In Esperance a priority *Leucopogon* species of flora will be protected on a property adjacent to the Munghlinup River.

South Coast NRM project officer Penni Hewett said the grant round was highly competitive with 12 applications approved out of 29 received.

Ms Hewett said the grants did not fund the entire cost of the work but enabled landholders to carry out work they might not otherwise be able to complete.

"The independent panel was impressed with the quality of the applications received. We prioritised applications based on the extent and condition of the vegetation and whether or not the vegetation was located in strategically important wildlife corridors," she explained.

"At a local and regional level, the grants improve the farm's resilience by enhancing conservation of flora and fauna that is generally not well protected."

Successful applicants have until March 2013 to complete their projects and will be supported by staff from South Coast NRM. Landholders have the opportunity to develop management plans for the ongoing maintenance and protection of their valuable bushland.

Southern Incentives has been the cornerstone of South Coast NRM's grant delivery program to landholders since 2002, and is supported by the Australian Government.

A second round of Southern Incentives grants for landscape scale conservation is planned for early in 2012.

For further information contact Penni Hewett at South Coast NRM on 9845 8540

**ENDS**

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