



## Media Release

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**Thursday 24 March 2011**

### **Grants available for Aboriginal landowners**

South Coast NRM is inviting Aboriginal landowners to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 through The Southern Fund to protect or improve their land and biodiversity assets.

The Southern Fund is an initiative of South Coast NRM, Bendigo Bank, Community Sector Banking and local Community Bank® branches and supports sustainable environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes across the South Coast region of Western Australia.

Round two of The Southern Fund grant program is supported by the Yves Rocher Foundation (through Plant for the Planet Australia), Mt Romance, Department of Agriculture and Food, Southern Agricultural Indigenous Landholder Service and Skillhire.

The Southern Fund committee chairman Gary Schwab said applicants could undertake a range of activities to improve and restore their land so that it generated a sustainable financial return.

“Priority will be given to projects that improve the economic wellbeing of Aboriginal landowners, rehabilitate Aboriginal-owned land, and protect and enhance flora and fauna,” he said.

Projects must be completed by 31 August 2012 and are to be located within the shires of Denmark, Plantagenet, Cranbrook, Tambellup, Broomehill, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe, Esperance and the City of Albany, as well as some parts of the Shires of Kojonup, Manjimup and Kent.

Mr Schwab said the first round of The Southern Fund grant program delivered a total of \$20,000 last month to eight projects ranging from weed control and bushland rehabilitation to school recycling, revegetation, and environmental awareness and education.

To apply for round two, download the application form and guidelines from [www.southcoastnrm.com.au](http://www.southcoastnrm.com.au). Applications must be received by 5pm Wednesday 20 April, 2011.

Contact Penni Hewett at South Coast NRM on mobile 0429 831 130 or email [pennih@southcoastnrm.com.au](mailto:pennih@southcoastnrm.com.au) for more information or for support to complete an application.

**ENDS**

**Gary Schwab and South Coast NRM’s cultural NRM coordinator Shandell Cummings are available for comment.**

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Southern Fund round two grants are supported by

