



media release

Friday 30 October 2009

Poplars to get the chop in Esperance

Esperance Regional Forum has received a \$30,000 grant from the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Australian Government to help landowners in the Lake Warden Catchment eradicate two hectares of poplar trees.

The grant, received through the Environmental Community Grants Program 2009, is aimed at fighting invasive species on private land to protect the Ramsar-listed Lake Warden wetland. The poplars have built up in the area to the extent they are making some sites impassable to humans and stock.

ERF Lake Warden Catchment Officer Cindee Hage said a Merivale Road landowner was already keen to use the grant to remove the trees, which spread at a very quick pace using sucklings.

“Poplars create a threat to the wetlands and native vegetation of the area. Already sucklings have escaped and travelled 200 metres into an area of pristine native bush that had been fenced off for protection by the landholder,” Ms Hage revealed.

ERF, with assistance from South Coast NRM, has engaged Albany-based Australian Allwood Coppicing and Pruning Services to mobilise a special machine in Esperance in early November to cut and poison the plants.

The exercise is challenging given the 20-second time frame before the poplar stalk creates a seal that repels chemical treatments.

ERF will be hosting a field day and barbecue lunch on Thursday, November 5 for anyone who would like to see the Cut and Swab Excavator machine in action.

Landowners who would like to attend the demonstration or to make use of the machine while it is in Esperance, contact Cindee Hage on (08) 9071 6129 or 0429 831 154 by 5pm Wednesday, November 5, for catering purposes.

ENDS

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The not-for-profit South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. is the leading regional group for natural resource management on the South Coast of Western Australia. Funding is provided by the Australian Government and the Government of Western Australia.