

# Threatened Species Forum WA

NACC NRM Region, Western Australia.



## NRM WA

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What started out as a Twitter conversation between two people from opposite sides of Australia, quickly blossomed into a partnership project between NRMWA – Western Australia’s seven regional NRM groups – and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, leading the discussion on threatened species conservation not only throughout Western Australia, but nationally too.

### When collaboration meets vision

Those two people were Northern Agricultural Catchments Council CEO Richard McLellan, and Australia’s Threatened Species Commissioner Gregory Andrews, and it was only a few months later, in October 2015, that NRMWA launched the

event for the first time – in the NACC NRM region.

This involved people and organisations from across the state (and nation) joining forces to present the inaugural WA Threatened Species Forum – which was held in Geraldton.

NACC Biodiversity Program Coordinator Dr Jessica Stingemore, who was pivotal in delivering the event, said knowledge sharing and collaboration was a key element of successful conservation work.

“While collaborative threatened species conservation poses challenges, it holds promise as an effective means to integrate complex interests and goals into decisions regarding conservation and economic development,” she said.

“Conservation works best when it is open. The sharing of research results, the free circulation of knowledge, and transparency in methodology are key. As such, this forum had a minimal registration fee to allow all people involved in conservation of threatened species to attend.”

The partnerships formed (and strengthened) at the 2016 WA Threatened Species Forum, have continued to grow – with a multi-organisation committee having formed to initiate planning on the 2017 event, being held 7-8 September 2017.



### Our community counts

This inaugural event brought together a cross-section of the scientific and the wider community with

a common interest in and concern for Western Australia’s threatened animals and plants.

More than 180 delegates from across the state and country attended the conference, which promoted the plight of threatened plants and animals in Western Australia, and highlighted new conservation methodologies and recent successes.

Dr Stingemore said while funding toward conservation projects was limited, by pooling together resources, brainpower and complementary expertise, cross-regional collaboration would ensure that large scale and cross-boundary threatened species challenges could be tackled.

### Taking it up a level

The WA Threatened Species Forum attracted a first-class line up of speakers, headlined by Australia’s Threatened Species Commissioner Gregory Andrews and Professor Stephen Hopper.

The Federal member for Durack, Melissa Price, who also addressed the Forum, later highly praised the event, and NACC, during an address to Parliament in Canberra, saying:

*“I was very pleased to attend the inaugural WA Threatened Species Forum in Geraldton last month, coordinated by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council led by CEO Richard McLellan and his great team. The Forum put the spotlight, and indeed the microscope on threatened animals and plants in the state of WA.*

*“The event highlighted new conservation methodologies and recent successes in the plight of threatened flora and fauna to over 180 attendees over the two-day event. ...*

*“The event was run by the efficient and effective NACC on the day, and was brought together by WA’s seven Natural Resource Management groups and the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife. Well done, and thank you for allowing me to be a part of this very special event.”*



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