

## BANKWEST LANDSCOPE CONSERVATION VISA GRANTS 2003-2004 REPORT

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**PROJECT TITLE:** Disturbance regeneration trials for 2 Critically Endangered taxa – *Eremophila lactea* and *Daviesia microcarpa*.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE:** To enhance conditions for the regeneration of the 2 critically endangered taxa by stimulating seed germination using disturbance (raking and prescribed burning).

The proposals for the disturbance trials were developed from older projects developed for *Eremophila viscida* in the Wheatbelt and Midwest Regions. The proposals were refined with the assistance of local staff and staff from WATSCU, the Herbarium and Wildlife Branch.

The sites for the trials were chosen in February 2004. Approvals from the local shires and MRWA were received between February and April 2004. Local landowners were notified that burning was to take place in April.



The site preparation and burning was conducted over a period of one week in April 2004. The site preparation and burning was conducted in perfect weather conditions and every aspect of the project went according to plan. There was assistance and support from the local shires.



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The first inspection of the *Daviesia microcarpa* sites was a simple 'drive-by' in June 2004 where local staff from the Esperance office reported seeing no plant growth yet. The first 'official' inspection of both sites was conducted in July 2004 with a more recent inspection in mid September 2004. On these visits it was noticed that there had been good rains at the *Eremophila lactea* sites and some growth of grasses and small seedlings was seen in the disturbed sections of the quadrats, with the soil disturbance/burn plot having the most seedlings. It is too early to determine the taxa of these seedlings. The *Daviesia microcarpa* sites appeared to have had less rainfall, but also shows signs of plant growth again mainly in the disturbed sections of the quadrats.

The preparation and undertaking of these disturbance trials has been a success. Ongoing monitoring is planned for the next few years.

Due to the successful implementation of this project, further disturbance trials (incorporating knowledge gained from the observations and results) are in planning for both of these taxa and other DRF taxa.