

The Ranger Program

Avon River Basin, Western Australia.



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The Ranger program employs Noongars on a casual basis to Care for Country, build NRM skills and to gain work experience.

The Ballardong Noongar Boodjar Healthy Country – Healthy People strategic plan for the Avon Region has the creation of economic opportunities in NRM as one of the community's 5-year priorities until 2018.

The Noongar Boodja Ranger program established in 2014 is a new initiative to provide opportunities for unemployed Aborigines to get back out on country doing NRM work. To date, they have been on more than 20 activity days held throughout the Wheatbelt.

We wanted to find a way for Aboriginal youths in local towns to be able to get out on country and help care for it

Who are the Rangers?

The Noongar Boodja Rangers do environmental work as a team to deliver on the Wheatbelt NRM projects in the region, but the potential exists for the team's skills and responsibilities to grow once the program is fully established. Wheatbelt NRM has engaged many individuals to date, particularly young Aboriginal men, and all involved have found the experience very positive. The rangers work on a casual basis, usually a



Wednesday, at least once or twice a month. Occasionally, due to project needs it may be more often, especially around tree planting season.

Rangers are invited to join the team from the adjacent local area to where the NRM work is involved. All work takes place in the Avon River Basin Wheatbelt region.

“We hope that by building the capacity and reputation of the Noongar Boodja Rangers, it will slowly and steadily become a stand-alone business”.

Natarsha Woods, CEO

What do they do and where to next?

The activities rangers have been employed to do include; re-vegetation with trees and shrubs, management of cultural sites of significance, site preparation and reserve management. Some work may include working on Shire land, one project has been with the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife and, sometimes its NRM work on private land as part of Wheatbelt NRM NLP project delivery. Wheatbelt NRM will engage Noongar Elders where it is important they provide advice and cultural guidance for activities in culturally sensitive areas.

Next, we will work towards partnerships to enable the rangers to do other work on country within a more permanent employment program.



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