



Matchstick Banksia Project 2018 - 2019

PROJECT CODE: RLP-MU33-P5

Overview of Progress: January 2019 to March 2019

The Wheatbelt NRM team have been busy ground truthing recorded locations to identify Matchstick Banksia populations.

Visits to many locations revealed the threatened species to be in a worse state than formerly understood. Many previously identified locations are now bare of Matchstick Banksia while other populations clearly exhibit individuals under stress. Project activity at a glance:

- Ground truthing to identify populations suitable for project activities is complete
- Initial community engagement has begun, liaising with property owners with Matchstick Banksia populations
- Initial engagement with the Badjaling Wanderers Committee has shown promise for completing on-ground activities

- DBCA engaged in partnership discussions to support Matchstick Banksia conservation management interventions through this project
- Initial desktop analysis for potential additional populations and/or suitable habitat for translocation/introduction
- Prioritisation of Matchstick Banksia sites for on ground management

Project Services

- 2 communication materials have been developed and distributed, including e-News and social media
- The project's Communications Plan, Board Governance and Project Management plan have been completed



Winnie McHenry, joint landholder of the Badjaling Aboriginal Reserve near Quairading, is keen to see a full recovery of the Matchstick Banksia population within the reserve.

Priority management activities are being negotiated with Winnie, as well as the Badjaling Wanderers Committee, to create a plan of action for this precarious population. Committee members were able to identify current and ongoing threats to the population, including seasonal variations, which will allow for appropriate management activities.

Lessons Learnt and Improvements

- This is a small project, with completion of on-ground activity, compressed by the late project start date. This is particularly relevant when considering the farm calendar and landholder availability to undertake on-ground activities within the project period. With seeding starting in late April and going through until June on most properties, there is a very short timeframe remaining for landholders to completed conservation activities.
- Matchstick Banksia have a narrow range, present on only very small number of properties in the Wheatbelt. As a result we have had to utilise a highly targeted approach to community engagement
- Community are often unclear on the relevance of the EPBC listing of a species—believing the listing is something to celebrate, rather than understanding it is actually a call to arms to help prevent further population degradation
- Engaging absentee landholders has delayed project progression.