

Appendix (ix)

General Information on the West Midlands Group and the Chittering Landcare Centre

West Midlands Group¹

West Midlands Group is a developing grower group currently servicing Badgingarra, Dandaragan, West Moora, Regans Ford, Warradarge, Eneabba and the West Midlands coast.

The West Midlands Group is your local grower group. It's here to provide a local focus on crop and pasture research, natural resource management and the role of women in agriculture. Our local focus ensures you get up-to-date information that's relevant to your business. You'll save hours of your valuable time normally wasted trying to actually find the information you really need.

West Midlands Group has three program areas, each represented by a sub-committee:

- *Research and Development (R&D) committee.*
- *Natural Resource Management (NRM) committee.*
- *Women's committee.*

These programs operate to provide the following services to our members:

- **Local research:** *coordinated local agricultural research and development.*
- **Investment in research** *by partnering with industry, government and research entities to grow research investment in our region.*
- **Funding support:** *assisting members to obtain funding to address local production and NRM issues.*
- **Advocacy:** *making sure the needs and priorities of the West Midlands region are being heard and addressed at all levels of Government.*
- **'Bottom line' events:** *locally focussed events for our members*

Note: Sponsors listed on the website are Summit Fertilizers; Rabobank; CBH Group; SACOA; TiWest; and Shire of Dandaragan.

Chittering Landcare Group²

Focus areas listed on the website are catchments, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, and aquatic systems.

Through a joint venture partnership formed with TiWest in 1998, an old building was made available and converted into a community landcare centre, out of which the group operates.

Services we offer you:

- *Design, develop and carry out landcare and river restoration projects in partnership with you;*
- *Access to natural resource management information and networks;*
- *Organize volunteer tree planting;*
- *Provide on site visits to assess your landcare needs;*

¹ Source: www.wmgroup.org.au

² Source: www.chitteringlandcare.org.au

- *Apply to grants for on-ground work on your behalf;*
- *Organise workshops and field days about environmental issues that concern you;*
- *Analyse your water for salinity and acidity.*

The Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group is now the umbrella group of the Ellen Brockman Sub-region working with many community groups to deliver natural resource management outcomes within the Swan Catchment. These groups are:

- *Chittering Valley Land Conservation District Committee*
- *North Swan Land Conservation District Committee*
- *Gingin Land Conservation District Committee*
- *Wannamal Lake Catchment Group Inc.*
- *Marbling Brook Catchment Group*
- *Friends of Groups*

Educational partnerships are listed with Edith Cowan University, University of Western Australia and Swan TAFE.