

## ***Implementation Plan For On Ground Works 2007/08***

The Young River catchment was highlighted in the “Capacity for Change” table produced by the DAFWA South Coast NRM team and the Land Reference Group and identified as a possible strategic catchment. This community based catchment plan and implementation plan has resulted.

Farmers will be surveyed to ascertain their willingness and ability to implement on-ground environmental works for investment until 2008. The adequacy of proposed environmental works in addressing the major threats to Stokes Inlet will be based on the results of this survey.

Timothy Fewings has been employed to help develop the management plan and conduct surveys incorporating direct GIS and database (CATCHPLAN) capture.

Information to map priority areas within the catchment in a GIS format has been contracted out and is ongoing. The lack of local GIS assistance has resulted in a drawn-out process.

### **Catchment investment.**

The following indicates a brief summary of the investment areas within the catchment.

- *Perennial Pasture Establishment*

Much interest has been shown throughout the catchment with regards to perennial pastures by those livestock systems; however the catchment is predominantly dominated by broadacre cropping systems.

#### Auction for Perennial Pasture establishment

Perennial pasture funding is proposed to be allocated through a tender-based process. Tenders will be evaluated according an environmental benefit index (EBI) comprising the inherent significance of the site divided by the bid amount to determine the benefits/\$. Bids with a higher benefit/\$ score will be preferred.

#### *Location of planting*

The primary aim is to control sedimentation of streams; therefore the proportion of planting on land encompassing 2nd, 3rd and 4th order streams will attract a higher ranking.

Extent of planting will be ranked according to hydrogeological relevance in terms of localized aquifers contributing to salinisation of riparian zones.

Extensive plantings providing localised recharge abatement for saline aquifers with externally draining riparian discharge zones will be rated twice as high as extensive plantings that will contribute to recharge control of local saline aquifers with internal drainage.

EBI values

$$EBI = \frac{R + 2(F + S)}{\bullet}$$

Where: R = ha on recharge zone

F = ha on filter/buffer

S = ha on slope >4%

• = total ha in bid

<b>MAT</b>	<b>RCT</b>
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L9	L5, L6
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- *Water Way Fencing and revegetation*

There is a great need and interest within the catchment for fencing off waterways however the large-scale of the farming enterprises poses a problem with how much work can be physically afforded by the landholder.

In 2007 there is potential and interest to fence the entire Yerritup Creek. Total fencing required is 60 km of which 1/3 will be funded though co – investment with Dept. of Water. The Remaining 10 – 15 km in year 1 will fence important waterways outside of the Yerritup Creek, but within priority catchment zone 1, this involves 2 – 3 other landholders. Catchment zone 1 priority zone 1 and includes 5 landholders along the Yerritup Creek where the works will combine to collaboratively achieve waterway protection outcomes. All the landholders would cooperate to complete the revegetation in the following year. Surveys have been completed and a follow up visit will be conducted by the Young River Project Officer or DoW Rivercare Officer, contact persons are Tim Fewings and Kelly Von Duve.

During 2008, fencing will target waterways with priority 1 slope, (high risk slope) within catchment zone 2, (ie further north of Stokes Inlet). Site visits will be conducted with landholders, (approx 6) to confirm areas. Contact person is the Young River Project Officer.

<b>MAT</b>	<b>RCT</b>
L4, L7, L11	L5, L6

- *Remnant vegetation fencing*

There is much potential within the catchment for fencing off remnant stands of vegetation and interest to date has been positive.

In 2007, fencing of remnant vegetation is planned to be split across the 3 catchment zones with approx 5 km per zone. The reason for this is there is valuable remnant vegetation existing in each of the catchment zones all of equal importance. The aim of this fencing is to protect and maintain important wildlife corridors from the mallee to the sandplain. Approx 2 – 3 landholders per zone may be engaged in this process after further site visits. Contact person is the Young River Project Officer.

<b>MAT</b>	<b>RCT</b>
B8, B7	B1, B3

- *Surface Water Management*

Within the priority areas focused on within this plan there is a great need to manage surface water to ensure successful land use change. This is due to the undulating nature of the environment and existing problems with surface water erosion. At present there is a small amount of interest in this activity for year 1. Due to the recent floods, more expenditure will be required for creek works and erosion control than previously thought in year 2 – see probability of success. (Works will be undertaken in the surface water management sub program in summer 07 / 08 with appropriate technical advice). IN some cases surface drainage may be required to establish Perennial pastures due to the ponding of water following recent floods in Esperance. Links to surface water management workshop in Esperance late Feb 07. Further detailed site visits will be conducted by appropriate technical advisors in consultation with landholders. Contact person is Angela Massenbauer.

<b>MAT</b>	<b>RCT</b>
L10, L11	L5, L 6

- *Revegetation*

There is much potential within the catchment for revegetation projects mainly focused on salinity risk areas and landscapes susceptible to erosion.

One landholder has expressed interest in implementing a large stand of local native revegetation along the headwaters of the Yerritup Creek, (Creek will be fenced) in 2007. Total hectares requested is 85, but further investigation is required as this area is inclusive of the creek and areas of already existing vegetation. Amount landholder may be allocate is up to 20 hectares as it is believed that this is an achievable amount for one year for one landholder.

In 2008 there is considerable interest in revegetation and there is enough time for landholders to prepare sites in 2007, ready for planting in 2008. Of all interest, 310 ha is planned for catchment zone 1 priority zone 1 and includes 5 landholders along the Yerritup Creek where the fence would be existing. All the landholders would cooperate to complete the revegetation. Other revegetation will occur in Catchment zone 1 in areas other than the Yerritup creek, (approx 75 ha in total). Further detailed site visits will be required to discuss planting options with landholders, contact person is Owen Massenbauer.

MAT	RCT
B7, B8	B1, B3

- *Agro-forestry*

At present the Forest Products Commission, (FPC) has a substantial investment within the catchment mainly focusing on Pines in deep sandy soils in high rainfall zone. Establishment of Flat Topped Yates, (*Euc. Occidentallis*) has been trialled within the catchment (priority areas for stabilising sediments and areas of moderate salinity), however future investment is reluctant due to low growth rates.

FPC have 5 landholders contributing 250 plus hectares in 2007. There is also interest from a landowner looking at planting **1000** acres in the lower reaches of the Young catchment, contact person is Matt Jones.

MAT	RCT
L12, B8	L5

- *Soil Health and Sustainable Agriculture projects*

*Overview*

The primary goal of the Young River sustainable agriculture initiative is to gain a better understanding of the soil health constraints to the potential productivity of soils in the catchment. Soils with consistently low productivity have a tendency to be prone to wind and water erosion and contribute to water table recharge due to low levels of ground cover and relatively low levels of evapotranspiration. Targeting areas with consistently low productivity for soil amelioration or land use change will contribute to the overall sustainability of farming operations.

Precision agriculture applications are being adopted by a significant proportion of growers across the Young River catchment. Yield variability is one of the main driving forces in the development of precision agriculture applications, with at least 12 growers (approximately one-third of the farming operations) using yield mapping applications. This number is likely to continue to increase as growers replace harvesting machinery with newer equipment for which yield monitoring is usually standard. Broad-scale productivity data based on biomass imagery data is already

available for the catchment from a previous National Landcare Project (NLP) funded initiative.

Tailoring inputs to yield potential is an important consideration, with some growers capitalising on their yield monitoring records by investing in variable rate fertiliser applications.

However, understanding the underlying soil constraints to yield potential is the key to developing input optimisation techniques and informing sustainable land management decisions.

A farmer driven project with multiple funding partners, delivered through collaboration between the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, the Esperance Regional Forum and SCRIPT is envisaged for the Young River catchment. Potential funding partners include the National Landcare Project, GRDC, SCRIPT (through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust) and Land and Water Australia.

### *Methods*

Seven growers with at least 3 years of yield monitoring data will be asked to select paddocks with significant yield variability that cannot be explained by known factors such as waterlogging, pH or water repellence.

Four or five layers of data will then be used to identify at least seven soil sampling sites in each paddock:

- Yield-monitor and biomass imagery data (averaged over three to four years) on respective cropping and pasture paddocks;
- 5 cm elevation
- electromagnetic induction (EM, as a proxy for electro conductivity (EC), sodicity and/or clay content)
- radiometrics and
- regional soil landscape maps.

Regional soil landscape maps will provide the initial, broadscale overview of how the paddock lies in the landscape and the types of soils that are expected to be observed in the paddock. Sampling sites will then be selected to represent a cross section of productivity, EM and radiometric zones, with elevation data being used to further inform the selection of sampling sites.

Soils at each of the seven selected sites would be sampled at 0-10cm, 10-20cm, 20-30cm and 30-60cm depth intervals. Analyses will be conducted to determine the biological, chemical and physical characteristics of the sites.

Biological factors will include microbial biomass (MB) Carbon (C), MB C/Nitrogen (N) ratio, biological N supply, microbial activity, organic C, total C, labile C and disease status. Chemical factors will include cat ion exchange capacity, EC, pH, macronutrients (i.e. N, P, K & S) and trace elements, Aluminium, Boron and P retention. Physical factors will include soil texture (% sand, silt and clay), compaction and bulk density.

### *Data Analysis*

Principle components analyses (PCA) will initially be employed to determine the significance of relationships between soil characteristics. PCA is a technique for simplifying a dataset, by reducing complex datasets with multiple units (e.g. ECa, pH, mg/Kg, %OC etc) to lower dimensions for analysis. Subset regression will then be employed to determine the significance of different combinations (subsets) of soil characteristics on yield. For example, on low-lying clay-dominant mallee soil types, a

small subset of characteristics (e.g. ECa, subsoil pH and boron) may be significantly influencing yield, while on deep sandy soils it may be a small subset of different characteristics (e.g. microbial biomass, CEC and pH) influencing yield.

### *Land Condition and Water Quality Monitoring Project.*

The LCWQM Project intends to establish a number of monitoring points in small headwater catchments, within the Young catchment, investigating the effects of riparian management actions on stream water quality. Management actions to be considered include, stream fencing, riparian revegetation and stock management. Similar monitoring programs looking at the influence of other water quality best practice management options are operating in other SCRIPT strategic catchments along the south coast.

The Land Condition and Water Quality Monitoring Project (LCWQM) requires 0.2 FTE to service the Young River area (service details below) for this monitoring. The Esperance NRMOs have other duties to fulfil and therefore the project has not been receiving the full NRMO in-kind that SCRIPT promised.

It is proposed that Program 2 interest be used to pay for the required 0.2 FTE element (using the Young River project officer 0.6 FTE + 0.2 FTE = 0.8fte). The duties would include:

- \* Collect and reload samples from stage heights and automatic water samplers
- \* Collect grab samples and manual readings from depth bores
- \* Collect hydrological data such as stream velocities under various flow conditions
- \* Collect data from loggers and automatic water samplers
- \* Document relevant sample information and filter, label and prepare samples for delivery to laboratory.

### ***Investment Plan Priority Zone Funding***

Three priority zones have been used in a two tier process encapsulating average annual rainfall, soil-landscape zones and slope class. Refer to Background Document (p. 21) for full documentation on the priority zone process.

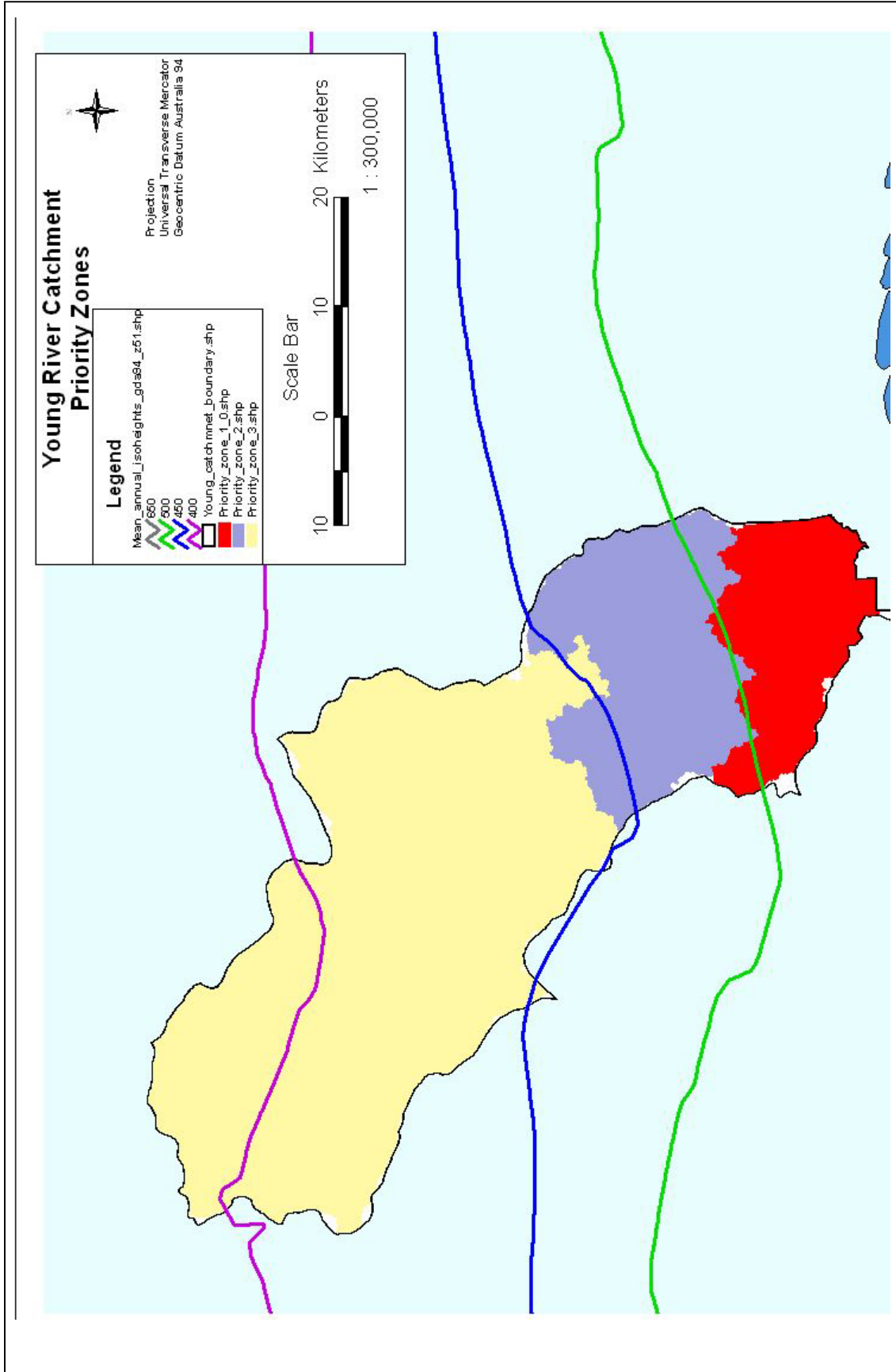
#### ***Probability of success***

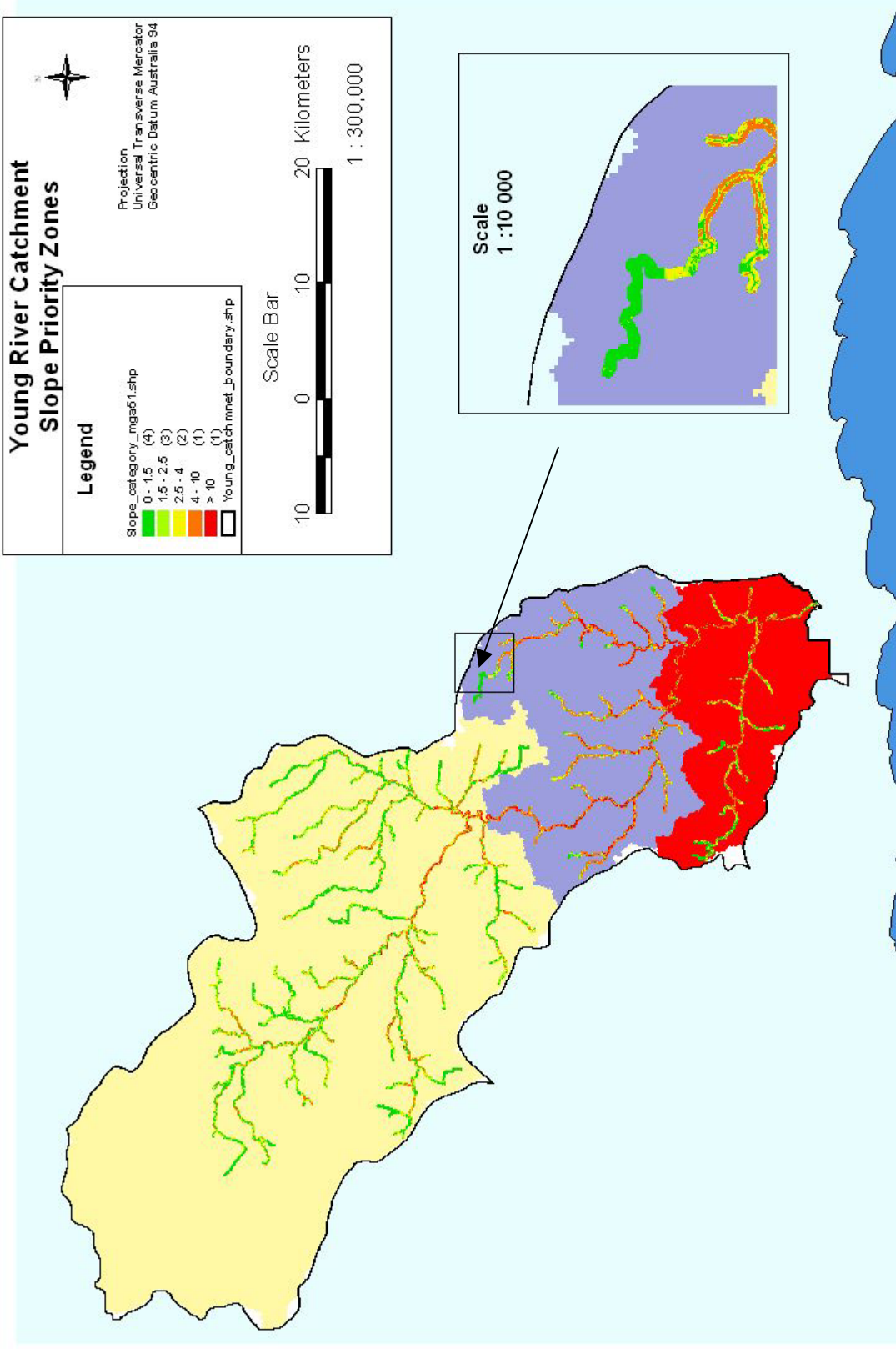
There is a strong commitment from the Young River Steering Committee to implement, steer and monitor this project. From recent meetings and the landholder survey, it is clear that the landholders have the drive and enthusiasm to complete this project. The next committee meeting will be held on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> where the plan will be further discussed.

As previously stated, there has been a lack of data in some areas of this analysis. Two surveys have now been completed and there will be further follow up for technical advice before works are approved. Best Management Practice, (BMP's) for the Esperance area will be adopted by the participants.

This project has the potential to change landholders' attitudes towards drainage and engineering works. It is believed that with the recent flood event, many landholders will show a greater interest in implementing surface water and erosion management works in the future. This will link well with the water management forum to be held in Esperance in late February co-hosted by ERF and DAFWA.

# Map 1 Catchment Priority Zones, Young River





Map 2 Slope Priority Zones, Young River

### ***Survey results and suggestions***

**Tim Fewings, Young River Project Officer.**

Over half of the 40 landholders within the catchment were surveyed following the field day and had an opportunity to speak one on one with the Project Officer about works on their properties. All landholders in Priority Zone 1 were surveyed and expressed an interest in completing on-ground work in 06/07 and 07/08. One farmer was unable to take part in the survey and his involvement alone would have taken the total to 65% as he owns 16 parcels. This landholder is in priority zone 2 and will be contacted again at a later date.

As a result of the survey, all six farmers with the Yerritup creek flowing through their property have expressed a willingness to fence and revegetate the creek (given that technical assistance is provided) along the entire length (approximately 15 km stream length, with approximately 60 km of fencing along both sides of the creek). Another 17 kms of fencing in priority one zone is proposed. Totals proposed fencing exceeds 250 km across the catchment, almost doubling the amount originally expected.

The survey results indicate that there is strong interest in implementing on-ground works higher in the catchment. Many of the small tributaries that feed the upper Young have thin but healthy native vegetation buffers that are at risk from livestock grazing if left unfenced. Most intended expenditure in this region is associated with these waterways.

Up to 75% of fundable fencing will be contracted and paid for by landholders. This should alleviate possible capacity problems involved with lengths exceeding 10km and reaching nearly 25 km on the Yerritup Creek. Potential problems may arise in the Yerritup Creek where revegetation requirements may exceed individual landholders' capacity to implement these on-ground works. Five landholders will have plantings of 15 ha and above for revegetation in this area. of the majority of revegetation could be contracted out, with landholders having access to either the ERF or DEC tree planter.

Due to the recent floods, more expenditure will be required for creek works and erosion control than previously thought. These works will need to be undertaken in summer 07/08 with appropriate technical advice from the Integrated Engineering sub-program.

Three quarters of landholders within the catchment run predominately cropp-based enterprises. Farmers with mixed livestock/cropping enterprises have shown some interest in adopting perennial-baed options such as saltland pastures lucerne, mixed sub-tropical pastures and tree options (e.g. pine and eucalypt sawlogs and possibly broombush and sandalwood), as captured in the survey.

### ***Suggested investment***

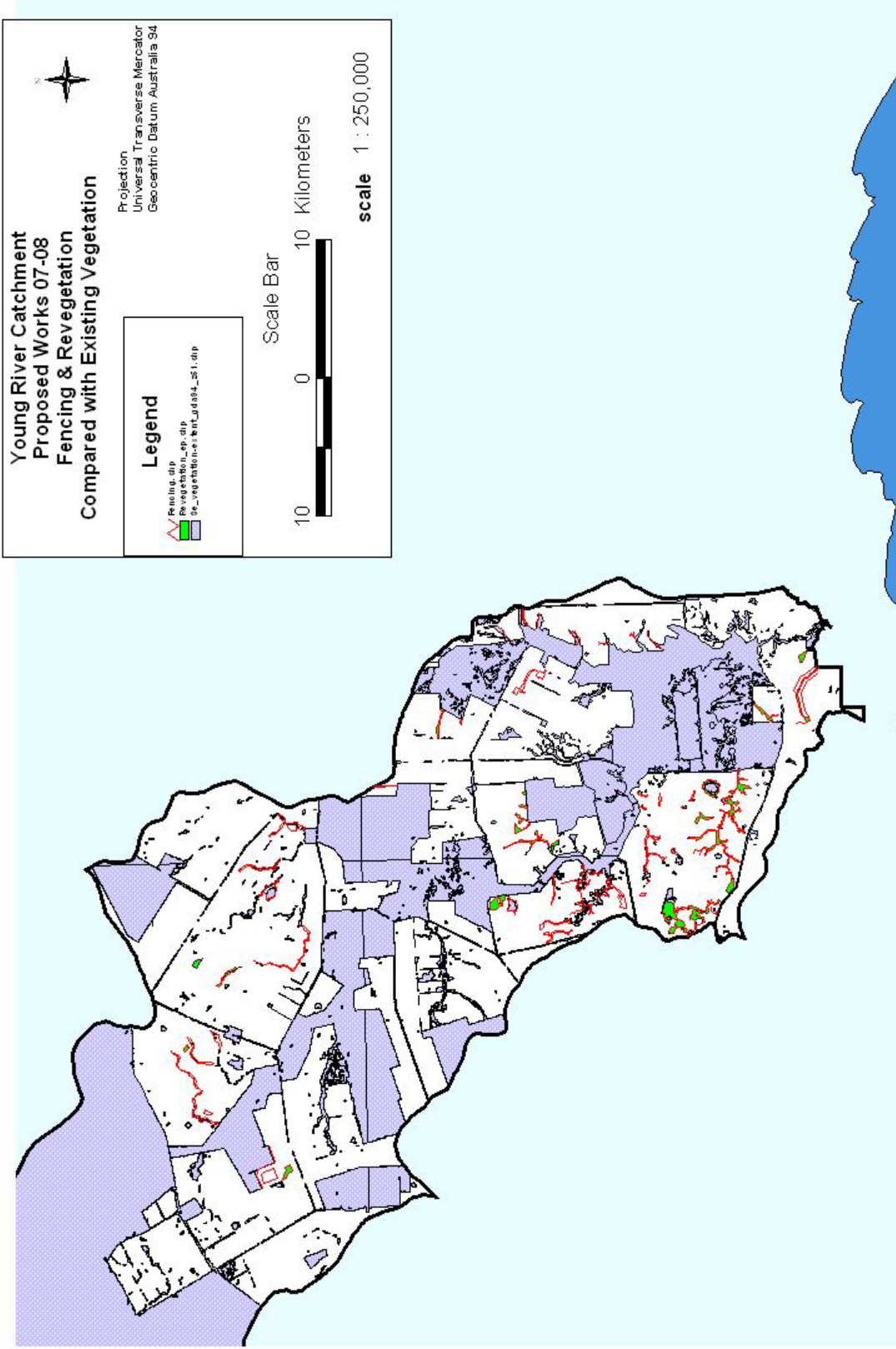
Some investment is needed to fence off large areas of remnant vegetation that exists on private land in the northern parts of the catchment. Overall, landholders are keen to implement more on-ground works beyond 2008.

It is important to recognise the need to include the Lort catchment , a significant sedimentation risk to the Stokes Inlet, in future planning in this region. At this stage, the 2 year investment is intended to focus on the Young River due to the community support and a strong commitment from the Young River Management Committee to participate in and oversee the project.

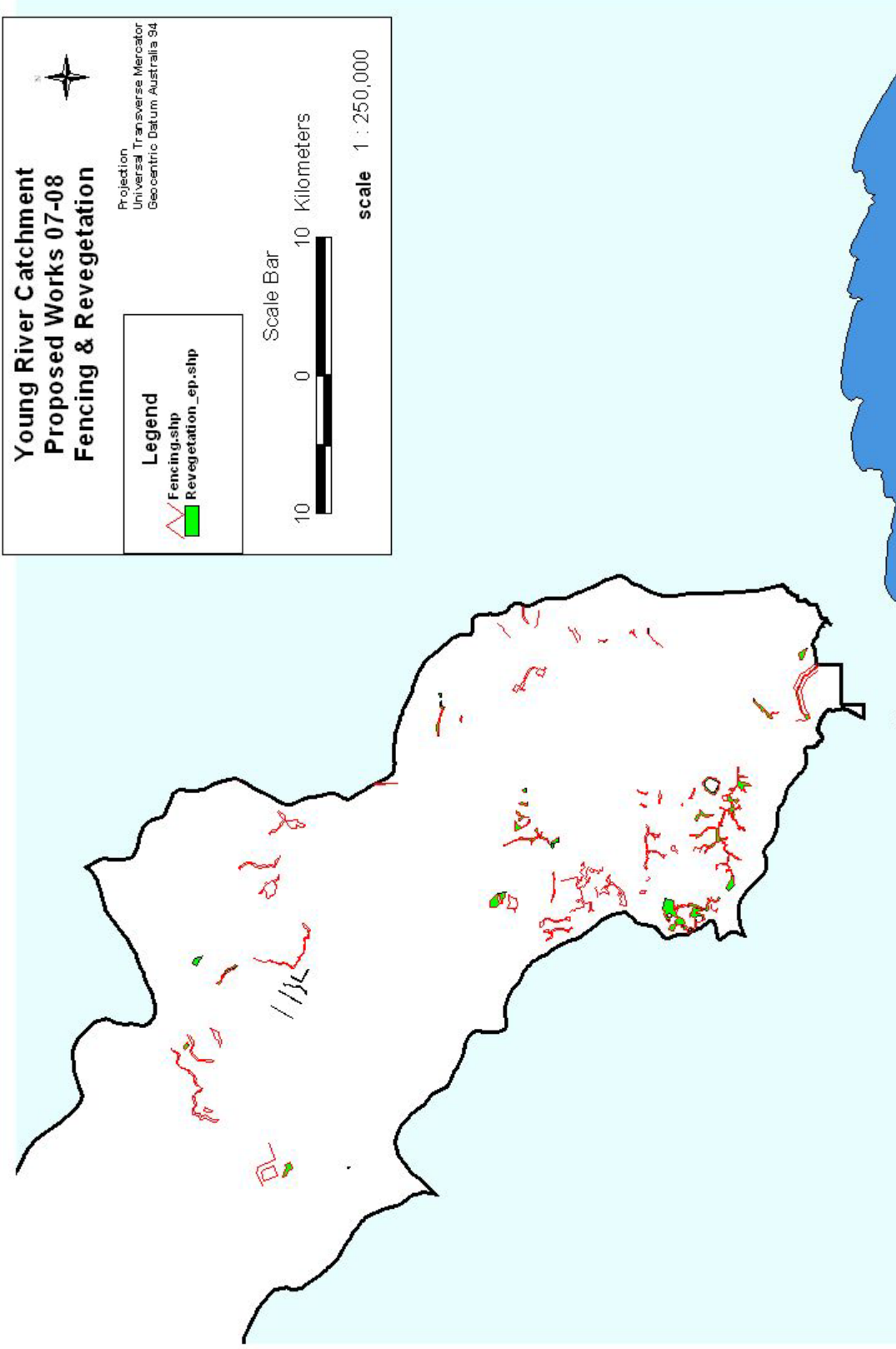
Kikuyu pastures appeal to growers in the southern part of the catchment, with smaller plantings of saltland pasture, lucerne and sub tropical grass mixes in the mid catchment area (Map 5). Commercial tree cropping will continue in the northern part on fragile sands that are prone to erosion when cropped in drier years.



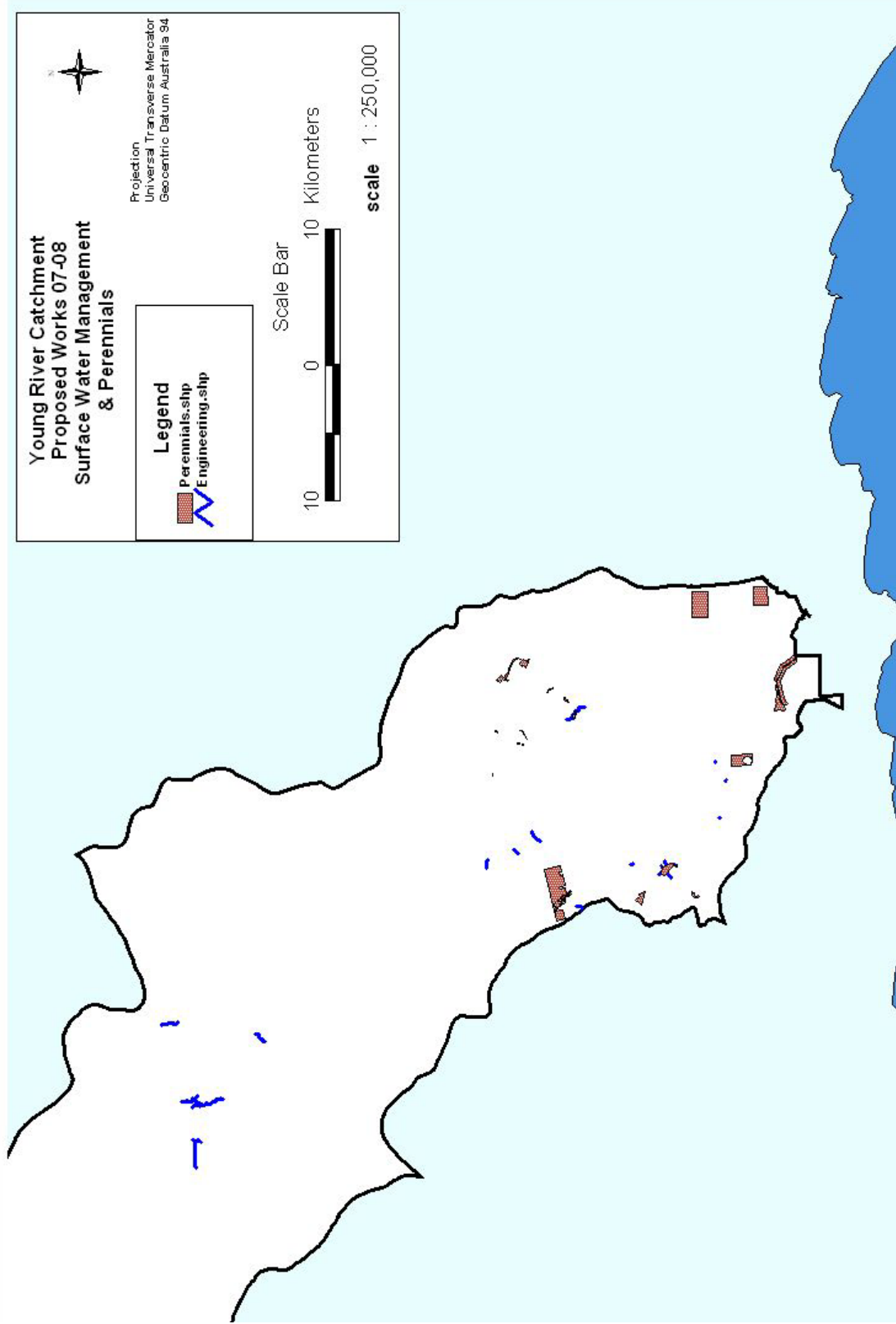
It will be important to incorporate the soil and water quality management project into the Young River implementation plan as the community and agencies are keen to understand more about sediment and nutrient load in to the Stokes Inlet.



**Map 3 Existing Vegetation with proposed fencing protecting assets around the Stokes Inlet.**



**Map 4 Proposed Revegetation and proposed fencing protecting assets around the Stokes Inlet.**



**Map 5 Proposed surface water management and perennial establishment works**

## BUDGET DETAILS

### Funding Guide (Young River).

To be used in combination with the Scheduled of payments, Budget and Outputs. Onground works must follow SCRIPT's "Schedule of Funding rates for NRM Activities".

Expenditure Item (SCRIPT Funds only)	P4 Jan07-Jun07		P5 Jul07-Dec07		P6 Jan08-Jun08		Total		Notes	Subprogram \$ source
	\$	Output	\$	Output	\$	Output	\$	Output		
Project Officer (0.6). FTE funding model = (salary plus 20% oncosts + up to \$10k office and up to \$16k vehicle)/pa	\$14,545.00	NA	\$24,000.00	NA	\$24,000.00	NA	\$62,545.00	NA	Fixed cost	Fund from PP or Soil Health. PV
Administration costs	\$3,509.00	NA	\$5,200.50	NA	\$5,200.50	NA	\$13,910.00	NA	Fixed cost	Fund from PP or Soil Health. PV
GIS analysis and data purchase	\$0.00	NA	\$0.00	NA	\$0.00	NA	\$0.00	NA	Fixed cost	NA
Communications	\$0.00	NA	\$0.00	NA	\$0.00	NA	\$0.00	NA	Fixed cost	NA
Perennials @ \$60/ha (MAX) including saltland pastures	\$40,000.00	400	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	500		\$140,000.00	1400	Price per Unit proposed at \$100/ha	Profitable perennials
Fencing @ \$2000/km (MAX)	\$70,000.00	35	\$55,000.00	27.50	\$55,000.00	27.50	\$180,000.00	90	Price per Unit	Risk Containment
Fencing @ \$2000/km (MAX)	\$30,000.00	15	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$30,000.00	15	Price per Unit	Biodiversity
Seedlings Biodiversity and Riparian Reveg @ \$450/ha	\$11,250.00	25	\$78,750.00	175.0	\$78,750.00	175.0	\$168,750.00	375	Price per Unit	Biodiversity
Surface water management earthworks (\$600/km max)	\$7,200.00	12	\$30,000.00	50	\$30,000.00	50	\$67,200.00	112	Price per Unit	intergrated engineering for water
Soil testing @ \$200 (Max)	\$1,000.00	5	\$1,000.00	5	\$0.00	0	\$2,000.00	10	Price per Unit	Soil Health Initiatives
Soils ameliorants (lime/gypsum/dolomite) @ \$10/ha max	\$3,600.00	360	\$7,200.00	720	\$7,200.00	720	\$18,000.00	1800	Price per Unit	Soil Health Initiatives
Clay spreading @ \$150/ha max	\$6,000.00	40	\$10,500.00	70.0	\$10,500.00	70.0	\$27,000.00	180	Price per Unit	Soil Health Initiatives
<b>Total needed</b>	\$187,104.00		\$261,650.50		\$260,650.50		\$709,405.00			
<b>With year 3 at 70%</b>	\$187,104.00		\$183,155.35		\$182,455.35		\$552,714.70			

Consultancy 1 (<land and water condition assessment>) .2FTE for life of project	\$4,848.00	NA	\$8,000.00	NA	\$8,000.00	NA	\$20,848.00	NA	Estimated price per unit or Fixed	Interest from Program 2 subject
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**Subprogram \$ calculator**

risk containment	\$180,000.00
Profitable Perennials	\$140,000.00
Integrated Engineering	\$67,200.00
Soil Health Initiative	\$47,000.00
Biodiversity	\$198,750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$632,950.00</b>

Does not include Fte and Admin yet

\$62,545 - 0.6 FTE - project office

**(IWG) Contributing Sub programs not contracted to Esperance Regional Forum**

Sub Program	Works	MAT	RCT
Tree cropping & native plant industries	Revegetate for timber species	L12, B8	L5

## Co – Investment

### **Department of Water Co investment (Kelly Von Duve)**

The Department of Water (DoW) has contributed an indicative amount of \$40,000 of funding towards the Young River Catchment Plan for the rehabilitation of Yerritup Creek. While Yerritup Creek is not the only sub-catchment of the Young River that will be targeted for rehabilitation in due course, it is a large sub-catchment close to the Stokes Inlet. The riparian areas of streams in the catchment have been assessed by DoW officers and the survey showed that the lack of riparian vegetation is encouraging erosion and resulting in large amounts of sediment moving along the streams. This poses a threat to the ecological health of the Young River and the estuary.

The protection of Yerritup Creek is driven from a river restoration focus, with the primary objective to control erosion and sedimentation, improve biological filtration, energy dissipation, and to create habitats, food and ecological corridors. This is achievable simply by fencing off the waterway, revegetating an adequate 'buffer', and installing or improving stock crossings and watering points.

The DoW Rivercare Officer for the Esperance Region is available to provide landholders, community groups and other natural resource officers with technical advice for managing river systems, river restoration activities and river maintenance, addressing land degradation issues associated with waterways and improving biodiversity values. Funding is available from the Department of Water for any landholder who is keen to restore and protect a waterway on their property.

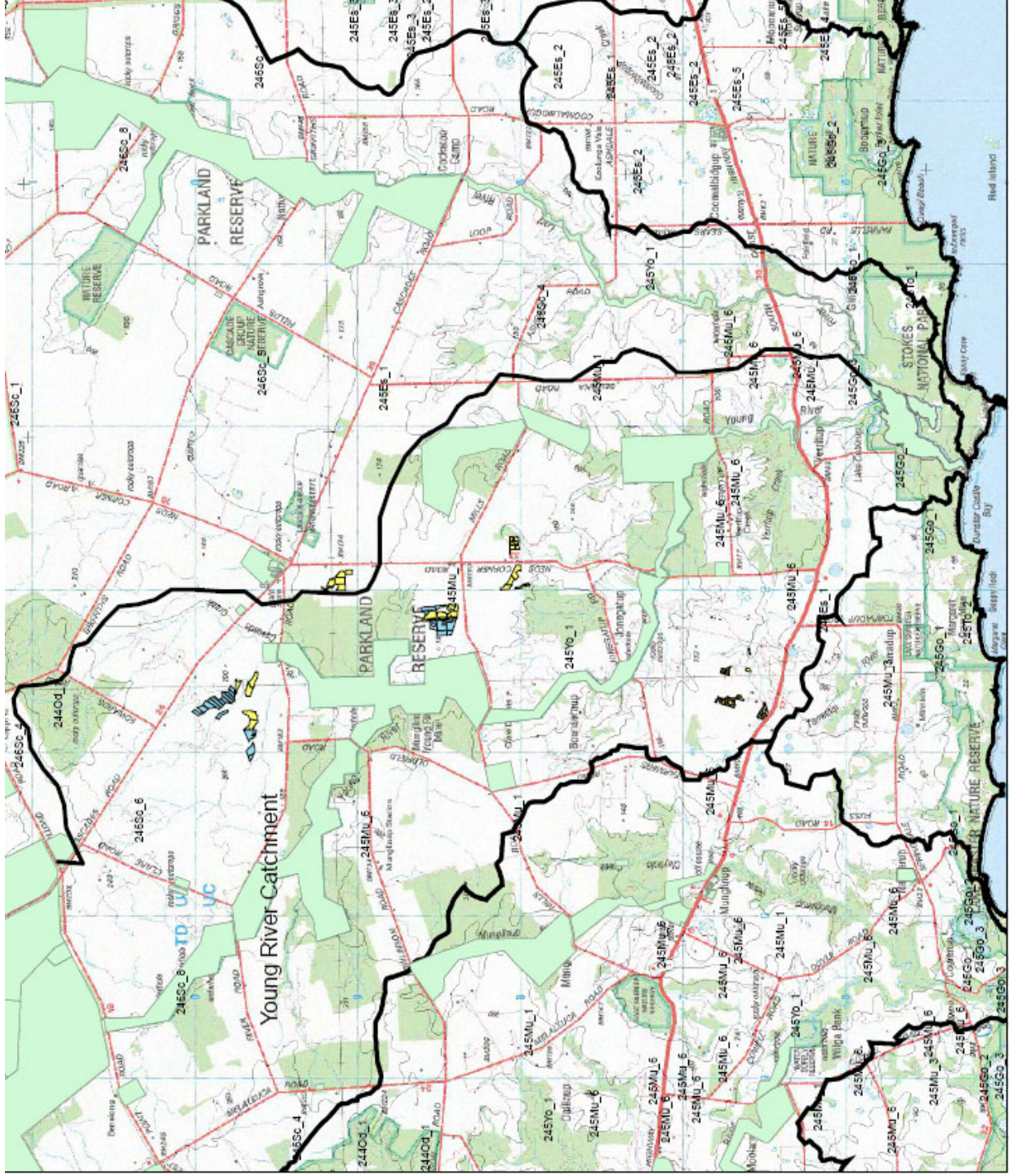
### **Forest Products Commission Investment within the Catchment (Mat Jones)**

The Forest Products Commission (FPC) co-investment in the catchment includes mainly Maritime Pine (*Pinus pinaster*) and to a lesser extent, eucalyptus species and sandalwood, total plantings are approximately 760 hectares (Figure 7). Maritime pine is suitable for planting on deep sands, which is generally marginal country for traditional agricultural practices and also the main recharge area where water moves quickly through the profile causing further down stream problems where the water discharges. Our other species are planted on duplex and/or shallow soils and are used to compliment the pine plantings.

Limitations to future plantings within the catchment are due to the dependence on rainfall and soil types. As the soils survey carried out by the Esperance Department of Agriculture and Food provide a good guide, the current data is very broad so specific areas are unable to define exactly so ground truthing is done to identify sites.

The approximate area estimated to be suitable for the FPC Maritime Pine (*Pinus pinaster*) plantings is 30% of the cleared catchment, however with the three species types we offer FPC would be able to plant a commercial species over most of the soil types found in the catchment 70 - 80% depending on the site condition and species allocation to the Esperance area.

Figure 7 Species selected for area within the Young Catchment.



Property	P Year	Species	Area
Whiting	2004	Eucalyptus	61.3
		Pine	5.4
		Sandalwood	2.2
Campbells		Pine	106.4
Cascades Sth (Carter)	2000	Pine	109.2
Treloar	2004	Eucalyptus	59.2
		Pine	64.8
2006 Properties			
Walter		Pine	153.4
Carmody		Pine	104.9
King		Pine	24.1
		Eucalyptus	37.2
Cater		Pine	19.9
		Sandalwood	11.4

Total 759.4



Plan produced by  
Matt Jones

28/06/06

2006 plantings are shown in blue, all previous years shown in yellow.



## **Constraints and Possible Solutions**

To ensure that the SCRIPT investment is effective, constraints to the two year investment plan have been identified. Possible solutions to these constraints should allow investment to occur and be adopted to ensure implementation is achieved. The table below outlines possible issues within the catchment and potential solutions.

<b><i>2 Year Investment Plan Constraints and Possible Solutions Considered</i></b>	
<b>Constraints</b>	<b>Possible Solutions</b>
Landholders capacity to meet in-kind contributions across all areas of investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redirect funds allocated to priority zone 1 landholders that are incapable of meeting in-kind or cash commitments to priority 2 &amp; 3 zone landholders.</li> <li>• Using the same prioritisation process focus funds into the Lort River Catchment.</li> </ul>
Availability of contractors to implement works	Source contractors outside of area.
Time left to implement the works (one and a half years, one season for perennial pasture establishment.	Extend implementation phase
Seasonal conditions not amenable to perennial pasture establishment	Extend implementation phase
Limited adoption of perennial pasture.	Extend invest to high priority areas in the Lort River Catchment. Investment in woody perennials such as agroforestry, oil mallees and Brushwood.
Limited adoption of surface water management works.	Recent flood damage can be used to show justification for surface water engineering works. Increase funding rate for high priority areas where continued damage to public infrastructure can be proven <sup>1</sup>

### ***Probability of success***

There is a strong commitment from the Young River Steering Committee to implement, steer and monitor this project. From recent meetings and the landholder survey, it is clear that the landholders have the drive and enthusiasm to complete this project. The next committee meeting will be held on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> where the plan will be further discussed.

As previously stated, there has been a lack of data in some areas of this analysis. In all cases, the works proposed have had 2 surveys done and will have follow up technical advice before works are approved. Best Management Practice, (BMP's) for the Esperance area will be adopted by the participants.

This project has a huge potential to encourage and foster change in attitude towards drainage and engineering works. It is believed that with the recent flood event, many landholders will be interested in implementing surface water and erosion management techniques in the future. This will link well with the water management forum to be held in Esperance in late February co-hosted by ERF and DAFWA.

<sup>1</sup> The access road to Stokes National Park has been washed out four times in the last seven years (Ian Hughes (Stokes National Park Ranger), pers. Comm.). Cooperative investment between SCRIPT, DEC, the Shire of Esperance and the owners of Young River Station is required to ensure that ongoing repair costs are reduced.

### ***Service provider / Project manager***

The service provider will be the Esperance Land Conservation District Committee, trading as the Esperance Regional Forum (ERF). They are the peak NRM group in the Esperance region which includes the Lake Warden catchments. ERF has employed a NRM coordinator for the last 4 years, and currently has 2 NRM Officers, an Administration Officer, and Lake Warden Project Officer. ERF provides a forum for all NRM/sustainable agriculture type groups in the Esperance region and have been active in participating in consultation events for SCRIPT and the development of their own operational plan.

- The Young River Implementation Plan is a community owned Plan.
- ERF is responsible for facilitating the Young River catchment Management Committee, which is made up of agency and community representatives.
- ERF is supported by the Esperance Department of Agriculture & Food Catchment Support Team, and the SCRIPT Biodiversity Implementation Officer, in this 'strategic catchment' process.
- The Young River Management Committee are responsible for developing the Implementation Plan, the day-to-day implementing of the Plan, monitoring & reviewing the Plan, ensuring the Plan meets the strategic objectives of the SCRIPT Regional Strategy, and for seeking technical advice from the relevant technical specialists.

### ***Recommendation***

<p><b>Recommendation:</b> That the Esperance Regional Forum manage the \$709,405 for implementation of the 07-08 period of the Young River catchment implementation plan (from the specified IWG sub programs), plus \$20 848 as a .2 FTE Project officer to assist the Land Condition and Water Quality Monitoring Project in their activities in the Young River catchment. (externally funded).</p>
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