

## HONOURS PROJECT

**Project Title:** Camera trap catches in relation to vegetation and habitat structure

**Supervisor:** Dr Richard Harris.



**Project:** This project would focus on the new camera trap arrays in two of the 'satellite' blocks surrounding the main Dryandra block. It would require developing a sampling methodology to characterize the dominate vegetation, and characterize the habitat structure at each camera trap, and then implement this methodology at all the new camera locations. It would also require processing and analysing the camera trap data collected to date with the aim of relating trap catch to vegetation patterns and habitat structural characteristics.

### Background

The area of native vegetation at Dryandra is the largest remnant of original vegetation in the western Wheatbelt. As a consequence, the area is an important conservation reserve not only for flora but also fauna; there are 24 mammal, 98 bird and 41 reptile species recorded at Dryandra, including endangered species such as the numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*), woylie (*Bettongia penicillata*) and red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*). The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) manages Dryandra Woodland, principally for conservation, with regular fauna surveys, feral predator control and fire management.

There are a number of long-term fauna monitoring transects as part of the Western Shield program. However, the vegetation and habitat structure at each trap site along the transect, has not been described in any detail and related to trap catch. DBCA are also in the process of establishing two new camera trap arrays in two of the 'satellite' blocks surrounding the main Dryandra block which also has not assessed floristically.

This project would be conducted in collaboration with Brett Beecham, DBCS Narrogin.