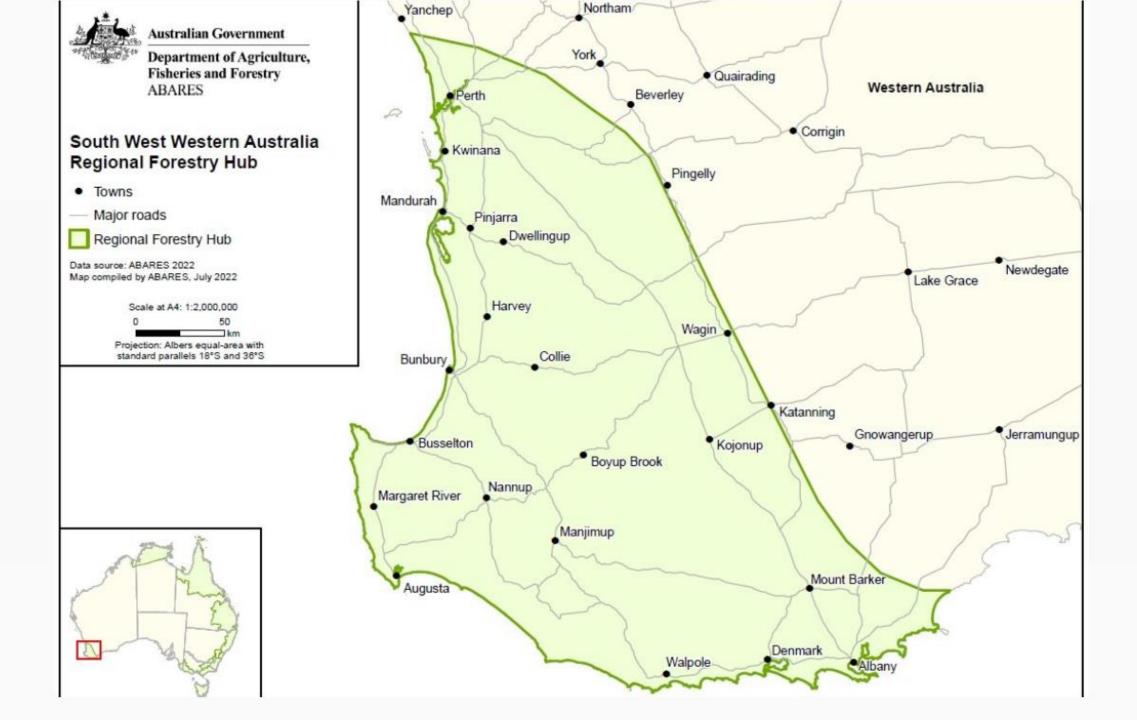
### Assessment of Noongar Cultural Values to Inform Forest Management Collie Region, Western Australia

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Project commissioned by South West Timber Hub

Project delivered by Archae-aus





# Project Aims

- Determine if there are correlations between Noongar and Western perspectives of measurable forest attributes
- Develop matrix of Noongar indicators to assess forest treatments
- Develop Noongar standards that align with international standards (Montreal Process)



#### Assessment Site - Munro Block (Kirup, Western Australia)

- Cell 1 control cell (no treatment)
- Cell 2 log sections cut to length, leaving bark and tops. Spray resprouts in year 1
- Cell 3 whole tree removal with concurrent chemical application to stumps
- Cell 4 trees felled and retained intact on site, no stump treatment
- Cell 5 manual thinning: notching and ringbarking



#### CELL 2

#### LOG SECTIONS CUT TO LENGTH, LEAVING BARK AND TOPS. SPRAY RESPROUTS IN YEAR 1

#### NOONGAR ASSESSMENT RESULT: VERY POOR

- HIGH FUEL LOAD
- MESSY
- INABILITY FOR PEOPLE TO USE THE FOREST
- UNHAPPY FOREST



#### CELL 3

#### WHOLE TREE REMOVAL WITH CONCURRENT CHEMICAL APPLICATION TO STUMPS

#### NOONGAR ASSESSMENT RESULT: EXCELLENT

- LOW FUEL LOAD
- HIGH FOREST CANOPY
- EASY MOVEMENT FOR ANIMALS
- VERY USEABLE FOR PEOPLE



#### CELL 4

#### TREES FELLED AND RETAINED INTACT ON SITE, NO STUMP TREATMENT

#### NOONGAR ASSESSMENT RESULT: VERY POOR

- HIGH FUEL LOAD
- SAPLINGS DRINKING TOO MUCH WATER



#### CELL 5

MANUAL THINNING: NOTCHING AND RINGBARKING

#### NOONGAR ASSESSMENT RESULT: **GOOD (BUT NOT QUITE AS GOOD AS CELL 3)**

- LOW FUEL LOAD
- HIGH FOREST CANOPY
- EASY MOVEMENT FOR ANIMALS
- VERY USEABLE FOR PEOPLE

# Key Findings

- 'LISTENING TO COUNTRY' IS VITAL
- MEASURING FOREST HEALTH IS A DYNAMIC PROCESS BASED
  ON INTERACTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND COUNTRY
- NOONGAR INDICATORS ARE BASED ON CULTURAL PRACTICE
- HEALTHY FORESTS NEED PEOPLE
- HEALTHY FORESTS PROVIDE FOR PEOPLE
- THE NOONGAR STANDARDS ALIGN WELL WITH THE MONTREAL STANDARDS

#### The most important thing...

#### VISION

Teams of local Noongar people are employed under the leadership of Elders to actively manage the ecological and spiritual health of forests for commercial gain and for the direct benefit of local communities.



FULL REPORT: www.swtimberhub.com.au

### thank you

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