

# *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

## **Notice of Initial Recovery Plan Decision for Six Listed Ecological Communities**

I, PETER ROBERT GARRETT, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, under section 269AA of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), hereby decide to have recovery plans for the following six threatened ecological communities listed under the Act:

- Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant);
- *Eucalyptus ovata* – *Callitris oblonga* Forest;
- Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions;
- Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest;
- Swamps of the Fleurieu Peninsula; and
- The community of native species dependent on natural discharge of groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin.

Even though recovery plans for these ecological communities were in preparation at the time the EPBC Act was amended in 2007, the communities were not technically listed under the EPBC Act at that time. This meant the transitional provisions, operating at that time, deeming that recovery plans were required to be prepared in relation to these listed ecologically communities, were invalid. Action to list these communities as threatened has since been completed and a decision on whether or not to require recovery plans for the listed ecological communities are required to be made.

In making my decision to require recovery plans for the listed ecological communities above, I took into account advice from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee and information provided by the department. On this basis, I consider that recovery plans would contribute to the protection, conservation and management of the listed ecological communities and would provide for the research and management actions necessary to stop the decline of, and support the recovery of, the listed ecological communities so that the chances of long-term survival in nature are maximised.

This notice is effective from the date of its signing.

Dated this Seventeenth day of November 2009

  
**Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts**