



ATTENTION: PhD Strategic Scholarship
University of New England and DECCW



***INSECT POLLINATORS &
THE REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS OF PLANT POPULATIONS
IN FRAGMENTED LANDSCAPES IN NSW***

The School of Environmental and Rural Science at the University of New England, in collaboration with the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), is seeking a suitably qualified PhD candidate to undertake research that addresses; ***Insect Pollinators and the Reproductive Success of Plant Populations in Fragmented Landscapes in NSW.***

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a strong background in ecology and hold a Class 1 honours (or equivalent) degree in an environmental science discipline or a related field. A background, or interest, in vegetation and insect pollinator assessment and conservation would be advantageous. The successful candidate must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia, hold an Australian driver's licence and be willing to undertake field work in remote areas. The scholarship offers a full annual tax-free stipend (**\$30,000/yr with a \$5,000/yr industry top-up**) for 3 years and is available immediately. The project is supported by substantial operating and in-kind support from DECCW.

Applicants should email a letter outlining their suitability for the position, accompanied by a brief CV (including contact details of two referees) and a copy of their academic transcripts to Prof Caroline Gross (cgross@une.edu.au). All applicants will need to apply through the UNE system for a strategic scholarship which will be awarded on a competitive basis. See <http://www.une.edu.au/research-services/pgstudy/prospectivestudents/howtoapply.php>. The position will remain open until we have appointed a suitable candidate.

Primary supervisor: Professor Caroline Gross, Ecosystem Management,
School of Environment and Rural Sciences
UNE (<http://www.une.edu.au/staff/cgross.php>).

Co-supervisor: Dr. Ian Oliver, Scientific Services Division, DECCW
(<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/planorgs.htm>).

Project Background:

During 2008-9 staff from the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) collected vegetation data from around 450 plots located in the Border Rivers-Gwydir, Hunter-Central Rivers, Central West and Western CMAs. Data collected include: vegetation structure, condition, and composition, site disturbance (observed), site history (from the land holder), and detailed ground cover assessment. Sites represent a range of disturbance and connectivity states.

Many of these plots were established to generate baseline data as part of a resource condition Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting partnership between DECCW and the CMAs. However, data collection over a short time-frame using standard field protocols provide an ideal starting point for a suitably qualified PhD candidate to undertake novel research that addresses: ***Insect Pollinators and the Reproductive Success of Plant Populations in Fragmented Landscapes in NSW.***

Research questions for consideration under this research project might include:

What is the relationship between vegetation condition and landscape connectivity and populations of insect pollinators using native vegetation?

What is the relationship between vegetation condition and landscape connectivity and the reproductive success of plants visited by insect pollinators?

What is the relationship between land use and land management practice and vegetation condition?

What is the relationship between landscape connectivity and vegetation condition?