



RECOVERY TEAM Annual report 2013

THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION		
Recovery Team	Lake Clifton Recovery Team	
Reporting Period Submission date	DATE FROM: June 2013	DATE TO: June 2014
Current membership		
	Member	Representing
Chair	Craig Olejnik	DPaW (Swan Coastal District – Nat Cons)
Exec Officer	Paul Tholen	DPaW (Swan Coastal District – Nat Cons)
members	Jill Pryde Michael Coote Dave Charles Dr. Ryan Vogwill Kim Wilson David Ford Nancy Fardin Carey Johnston Jennifer Alexander Dr Anas Ghadouani Dr. Leonie Valentine Dr. Katinka Ruthroff Dr Kath Grey	DPaW (Species and Communities) DPaW (Wetlands) DPaW (Swan Coastal District – PVS) UWA Hydrologist Peel Harvey Catchment Council Mandurah Shire Lake Clifton Landcare Group Department of Water PhD Candidate (Curtin University) UWA (Environmental Systems Engineering) UWA (Terrestrial Fauna) Murdoch University (Woodland Health) Palaeontologist
Dates meetings were held	April 2013 & March 2014	
Highlights of achievements for the previous 12 months suitable for publication in <i>WATSNU</i> and contribution to the Department of Parks and Wildlife annual report. Provide 1-2 paragraphs summarising total number of new populations located, surveys completed, list major management actions etc	<p>No new populations or extensions to current boundaries have been investigated this year. The 2013/2014 focus has been on determining catchment and water quality influences, habitat mapping and thrombolite formation.</p> <p>Mr. John Warden from the University of Texas is continuing his fieldwork on thrombolite genesis, which is looking into Microbial calcification and the role of salinity.</p> <p>Dr. Michael Whitehead has been actively investigating thrombolite formation and is near to publishing his results.</p> <p>Dr. Ryan Vogwill and Dr, Lindsay Collins have been investigating and mapping critical habitat to support the Lake Clifton Thrombolites and are in a position to present draft findings.</p>	

List of recovery actions coordinated by Recovery Team

Detail under the headings below the recovery actions undertaken during the reporting period. Provide separate detail for each species/community against each action. For species/community-specific recovery teams, the generic activity types below can be replaced by the specific recovery actions from the recovery plan where appropriate.

Monitoring and survey of existing and new populations/ occurrences, targeted surveys, critical habitat mapped etc.

No new populations have been mapped.

Dr. Ryan Vogwill is currently in the process of mapping critical habitat, which may be as extensive as the entire catchment.

Threat amelioration eg weed control/mapping, fencing/ repairs, fire management disease management, feral/ introduced animal control, installation of roadside markers

In 2010 after fauna surveys indicated critical weight range fauna such as Quenda and Brush tail possums were scarce, Western Shield targeted fox baiting was initiated by the District and will continue in 2014. Results from fauna surveys in March 2014 indicate quenda and possum populations are now increasing.

Several biodiversity prescribed burns have been scheduled for 2014; however these are yet to be implemented.

Conservation and research e.g. fire research, translocation, ex-situ conservation, revegetation/rehabilitation etc

Collaborative research programs continue at Lake Clifton with three PhD projects currently underway. Projects include hydrological studies of microbialite communities, study of the geology and evolution of microbial deposits; investigation of the microbial populations present in modern thrombolites, composition of the mat community and isotope analysis.

In 2013, the Department of Parks and Wildlife formed a partnership with the Peel Harvey Catchment Council to rehabilitate five degraded areas of land on the eastern side of Lake Clifton and within Yalgorup National Park. The project involved weed control (7.75ha), rabbit control (5.35 ha) and revegetation (2.9 ha new revegetation and 4.85 ha of infill).

Liaison, education/provision of advice e.g. promotional material inc newspaper/ magazine articles, liaison with land managers/ owners, input to impact assessment, development of specific management plans, volunteers assisting with surveys/ monitoring etc.

In 2012 the Department of Environment and Conservation drafted two Visitor Services Management Plans, one to look at the development of recreation and facilities in Yalgorup National Park and the other specific to interpretation and signage. The boardwalk and day use area located at the thrombolites has been targeted for improved signage and picnic opportunities. The Management Plans are scheduled for a five year review – 2017/2018.

In 2013 Christine Comer from the Peel Harvey Catchment Council engaged with the Lake Clifton Landcare Group to encourage local landholders in the rehabilitation of private property adjoining Lake Clifton. The second phase of developing community awareness included setting up photo monitoring points where visitors could upload photographs of the lake, taken during their visit to Lake Clifton which were broadcast on the Peel Harvey website.

Land use/tenure changes e.g. covenants, acquisitions, changes in land use or listed purpose etc.

The City of Mandurah is looking at using new bushfire mitigation legislation to reduce block size and encourage landholders to look at alternatives to bore water use.

The Department of Water is reviewing its water use policy for water usage in the area which is likely to incorporate monitoring of water abstraction for high end users such as industrial and commercial operations.

Conservation status reviews for taxa/TECs e.g. nominations for additions, deletions or change in status to state threatened or priority lists; changes to EPBC list	NIL
Recovery plans e.g. recovery plans/ IRPs drafted, approved, reviewed or updated	The Recovery Team has advised that the Recovery Plan is now out of date and is due for revision. The Swan Coastal District has dedicated the time of one of its officers to work with the Species and Communities Unit to fulfil this commitment.
Other actions completed	