

How can you be involved?

This plan has been written with input from a number of major stakeholders, including community catchment groups, sub-regional catchment groups, surface water users, local government authorities and State government agencies that operate in the Canning catchment.

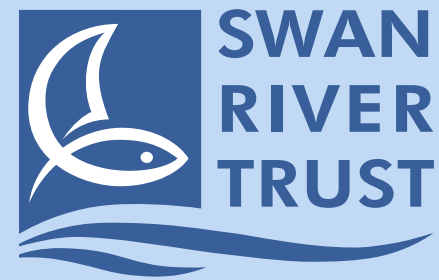
This is a draft version of the plan and the Swan River Trust and Water and Rivers Commission would like to know what you think about the plan, especially the recommendations included in the management programs.

The draft plan will be available for public comment until 18 November 2001. During this time, the Project Officer will meet with interested groups or individuals who would like to discuss any aspect of the plan. This is your opportunity to suggest any changes, express your opinion and provide information that you think should be included. All comments will be considered when writing the final plan.



Implementing
the Action Plan

August 2001



Swan-Canning Cleanup Program

The closing date for public submissions is 18 November 2001

Caring for the Canning

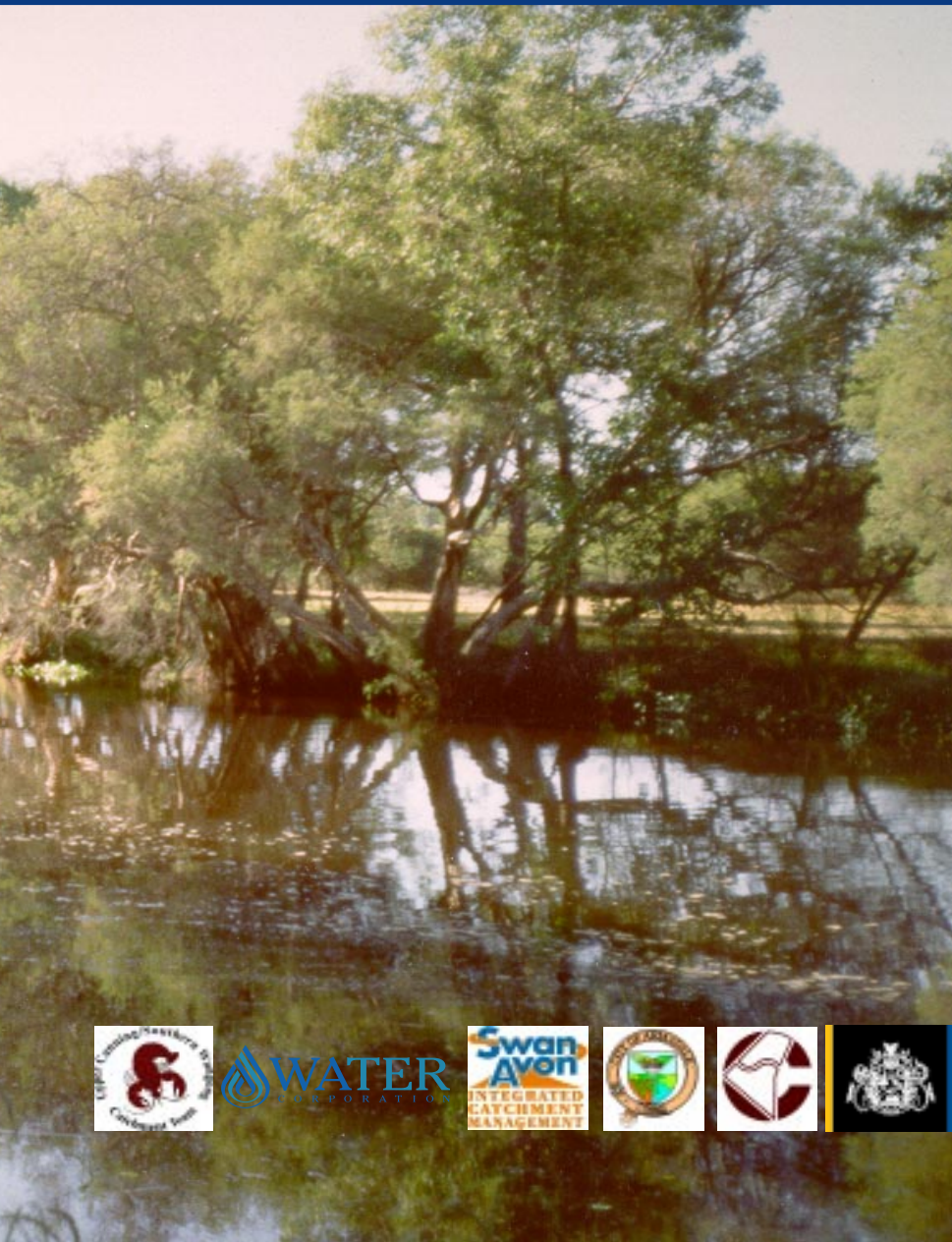
**A plan to revitalise the Canning,
Southern and Wungong rivers**

*To obtain a copy of the plan,
contact the Water and Rivers
Commission's
Swan Goldfields Agricultural
Region on 6250 8000.*

*Alternatively, a copy of the plan
may be viewed and comments
made on the Swan River Trust's
website*

www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt

DRAFT



Why is the Canning River system important?

The Canning River and its tributaries are a natural asset of the southern suburbs of Perth. The Canning River system:

- ✓ provides drinking water to the Perth metropolitan area;
- ✓ is an important ecological corridor, providing habitat and refuge to aquatic and terrestrial life;
- ✓ provides recreational opportunities such as cycling, swimming, fishing, bushwalking and canoeing;
- ✓ has important cultural and spiritual significance to Aboriginal communities;
- ✓ has historical significance to people in the Canning catchment;
- ✓ provides riparian land owners with a source of water; and
- ✓ flows into the Swan River estuary, a scenic and recreational icon of Perth that also supports an important ecosystem.



◀ As with many urban river systems, the Canning River system is showing signs of stress from these multitude of uses.



Intense, often toxic algal blooms have been regularly recorded in the river system since 1994, an indication that it is under significant stress due to intense modification and poor land use management within the catchment. The Canning River system is under stress due to the following reasons:

- ✗ Flow in the Canning River system has been significantly modified. This has contributed to the degradation of ecological values, a loss of river power and flooding flows;
- ✗ The Kent Street Weir creates an impounded body of water upstream of the weir during summer. Low flow and insufficient mixing of the water column leads to conditions favourable to algal blooms;
- ✗ There has been a loss of social focus and importance of the Canning River system. Community awareness and knowledge of river management issues need to be raised to promote behavioural change and community participation in catchment and river management;
- ✗ Nutrients from a variety of land uses are leaching into the river, contributing to algal blooms. Improved land use management is required to prevent nutrients, contaminants and turbid water entering the river system;
- ✗ Many tributaries have been modified into drainage networks. This has led to a loss of tributary habitat, biodiversity, landscape amenity and recreational opportunity, and ability to process nutrients;
- ✗ Fringing vegetation has been lost through stock grazing, human development and the creation of drains; and
- ✗ River pools are an important summer refuge and habitat for aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. River pools have been lost due to sedimentation and modification of the flow regime.

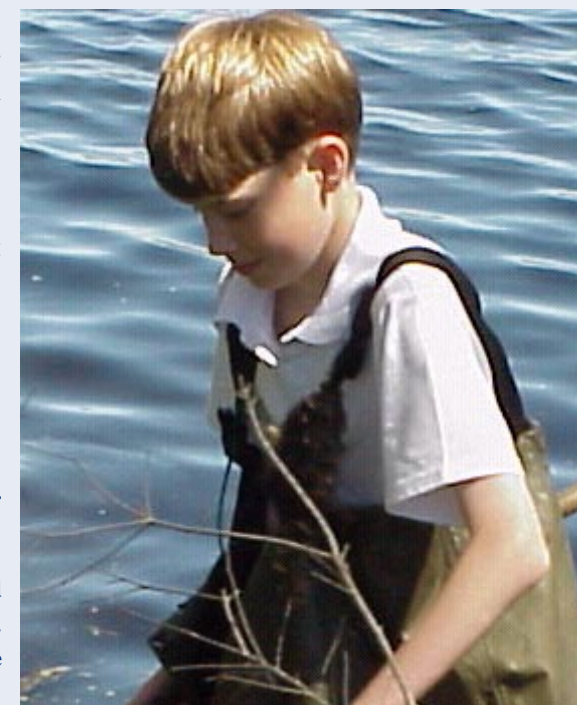
What is wrong with the Canning River system?

The future of the Canning River

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Action Plan recommended that a river management plan be developed and implemented for the Canning River system. The development of this plan commenced in July 1999. Soon after a Working Group of local stakeholders was established to assist in the development of the plan.

This plan has been prepared to complement an existing management framework for the Canning catchment, including the Upper Canning Southern Wungong Catchment Management Plan. It is a river management plan and as such focuses on the riparian zone, dealing with catchment issues where appropriate.

The implementation of this plan and the Upper Canning Southern Wungong Catchment Management Plan will coincide and in doing so will strengthen existing partnerships between all levels of government and the community.



The vision, stated in the diagram below, can also be described as the 'desired future state' for the Canning River system. The desired future state is outlined in detail under the following headings:

ECOLOGY

- ✓ Algal blooms are kept to a minimum in the Canning River system.
- ✓ The river supports healthy populations of terrestrial and aquatic life.
- ✓ There is a diverse river environment that supports floodplains, pools and riffles.
- ✓ The river has stabilised banks that are vegetated with native species and free of weeds.
- ✓ The river has the capability to recover from disturbances.

WATER QUALITY

- ✓ Water entering and flowing down the Canning River system meets water quality guidelines.

HUMAN USES

- ✓ The river can meet the needs of abstraction rights and public water supply, whilst providing adequate water to the environmental values of the river.
- ✓ The river can provide a variety of environmentally acceptable recreational opportunities.

COMMUNITY

- ✓ The river is socially important to the people of the Canning catchment.
- ✓ The community is aware and involved in management of the river.

What is really meant by this vision?

To achieve the vision of this plan, the Working Group developed a suite of recommendations that will be implemented through seven management programs. The recommendations listed under each management program will be implemented by the responsible organisation assigned to fulfil that recommendation. In many instances some recommendations will be implemented by several organisations or groups in a partnership approach.

