

**From:** [Jim Lane](#)  
**To:** [Nigel Sercombe](#); [Benson Todd](#); [Bob Hagan](#); [Greg Durell](#); [Luke Bentley](#); [Greg Mair](#); [Ken Atkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Rowan Dawson](#); [Allison Donovan](#); [Anthony Desmond](#); [Mark Cugley](#); [Shawn Debono](#); [Geoff Barrett](#); [Karl Brennan](#); [Drew Griffiths](#); [Wayne Elliott](#); [Kim Williams](#); [Duncan Palmer](#); [Cameron Shaw](#); [Ian Wilson](#); [Peter Hartley](#); [Robert Blok](#); [Deon Utber](#); [Sarah Comer](#); [Brett Beecham](#); [Mike Fitzgerald](#); [Val English](#); [Manda Page](#); [Melanie Smith](#); [Michael Coote](#); [Adrian Pinder](#); [Lachie McCaw](#); [Jasmine Rutherford](#); [Alan Clarke](#); [Yvonne Winchcombe](#)  
**Subject:** End of SWWMP - and beyond.  
**Date:** Thursday, 6 September 2018 4:52:00 PM

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Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to advise that the Executive Director of Biodiversity and Conservation Science's decision of July this year to end the department's 41 year *South West Wetlands Monitoring Program* (SWWMP) has been confirmed this week through the division's Ecosystem Science Program budget allocation process.

During the coming months Alan Clarke, Yvonne Winchcombe and I will be winding up this component of our work and will be available to field any queries you may have in relation to it. Information may also be sourced from annual SWWMP reports, with the 1977-2016 report being available on the DBCA website via the following link

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/wetlands/wetlands-monitoring-and-research#SWWMP>

Should your Region, District or Branch wish to continue the systematic monitoring of any of the 105 current (as at November 2017) SWWMP wetlands, the routine biannual monitoring periods are the nine-day periods commencing on the second Saturday of September and the first Saturday of November each year. This year the periods are therefore 8<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November. While the approx. 210 depth gauges will not, except in a few special cases, be maintained, we do not propose to remove them, except on some recreational lakes where lack of maintenance might pose safety issues.

Yvonne and Alan will be continuing, at least during 2018/19, the continuous water level and on-site rainfall monitoring of nine significant near-south-coast wetland habitats of the endangered Australasian Bittern to enable modelling (external) of the likely hydrological futures of these wetlands under various climate scenarios. There is also a possibility of the monitoring of at least some Ramsar wetlands being re-commenced and 'ramped up' by the Ecosystem Science Program in 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the considerable support and interest that your Regions, Districts and Branches have demonstrated in SWWMP over the years. If you would like to view a sample of the many uses that SWWMP data have been put to since 1977, please see Appendix 1 of the 1977-2016 annual SWWMP report, on pages 42-46.

As for us, we look forward to the opportunities, tasks and challenges that DBCA's new strategic directions will provide, and to continuing our positive working relationships with our many colleagues in DBCA and externally.

Kind regards

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