Water and Rivers Commission

RIVERCARE PROJECTS:

successes
impediments
learnings

A report on the Natural Heritage Trust's Rivercare Program in Western Australia for Rivercare projects funded in 2000.

Water and Rivers Commission
April 2003

Natural Heritage Trust
Helping Communities Helping Australia

Acknowledgments

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The project reviews were conducted as part of a monitoring program, required under the Natural Heritage Trust's State-Commonwealth Partnership Agreement with the Water and Rivers Commission, for the delivery of the Rivercare Program in Western Australia.

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Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope and aim of the review

The Water and Rivers Commission has responsibility delivering the Natural Heritage Trust's (NHT) Rivercare Program in Western Australia. Under the Partnership Agreement this includes reporting on the progress and achievements of projects, including project outputs and long-term environmental outcomes. A review was initiated through the "Waterways WA Coordination and Technical Support" project (973778) to monitor the progress of all community Rivercare projects and evaluate their success, mainly at output level at this stage.

The review aimed to determine:

- how Rivercare projects were progressing against their work plans;
- identify the major problems;
- views on the NHT process;
- what sort of technical assistance was required; and
- what constituted a successful project.

It also presented an opportunity for groups to share the lessons they have learned in implementing their project, as well as offering advice to other groups undertaking NHT projects.

1.2 The review method

Ten Rivercare projects were funded in 2000, for over $830 000. All ten Rivercare projects were reviewed. There were three projects outside the scope of this report and were not reviewed as they did not represent typical Rivercare projects:

- 003008 "Governor Broome Creek Catchment Management Action Plan and Implementation";
- 003063 " Rivercare Support Officer" and
- 003141 "Co-ordination and Implementation of the South West Regional Strategy for Natural Resource Management".

To conduct the review, five Rivercare officers working in the Southwest, Southcoast, Metropolitan, Central and Northern regions (covering the area between Geraldton and Esperance) contacted community groups and agencies working on Rivercare projects in 2000. The Rivercare officers visited proponents to discuss their project, collected information using a standard questionnaire and inspected onground works. The questionnaire came in three parts, including a subsidiary form to review projects with an emphasis on revegetation. It was based on Bushcare evaluation forms for consistency across programs. Samples of the forms are provided in Appendix 2.

Responses to the questions from the 10 project reviews were compiled and the tabulated. This report draws on the information collected from the database and from some tours of projects conducted by Regional Assessment Panels, to provide an overall picture of the progress and outcomes of the 2000 Rivercare projects.

1.3 Summary of projects

Six of the ten Rivercare projects were found in the Metropolitan and Kwinana Peel region, and one project each for the Southwest, Southcoast, Midwest Gascoyne and North west regions of WA. An indication of the spread of projects throughout the NHT regions is given in Figure 1, and the table in Appendix 1 provides a summary of the 2000 projects that were reviewed, listed in numeric order. The summary table indicates the proponent, project, learnings and useful information for other groups.

The 2000 projects received funds ranging in value from $9,900 to $150,000 over the life of the projects. A broad range of activities was undertaken by landholders, community groups and/ or government agencies, including:

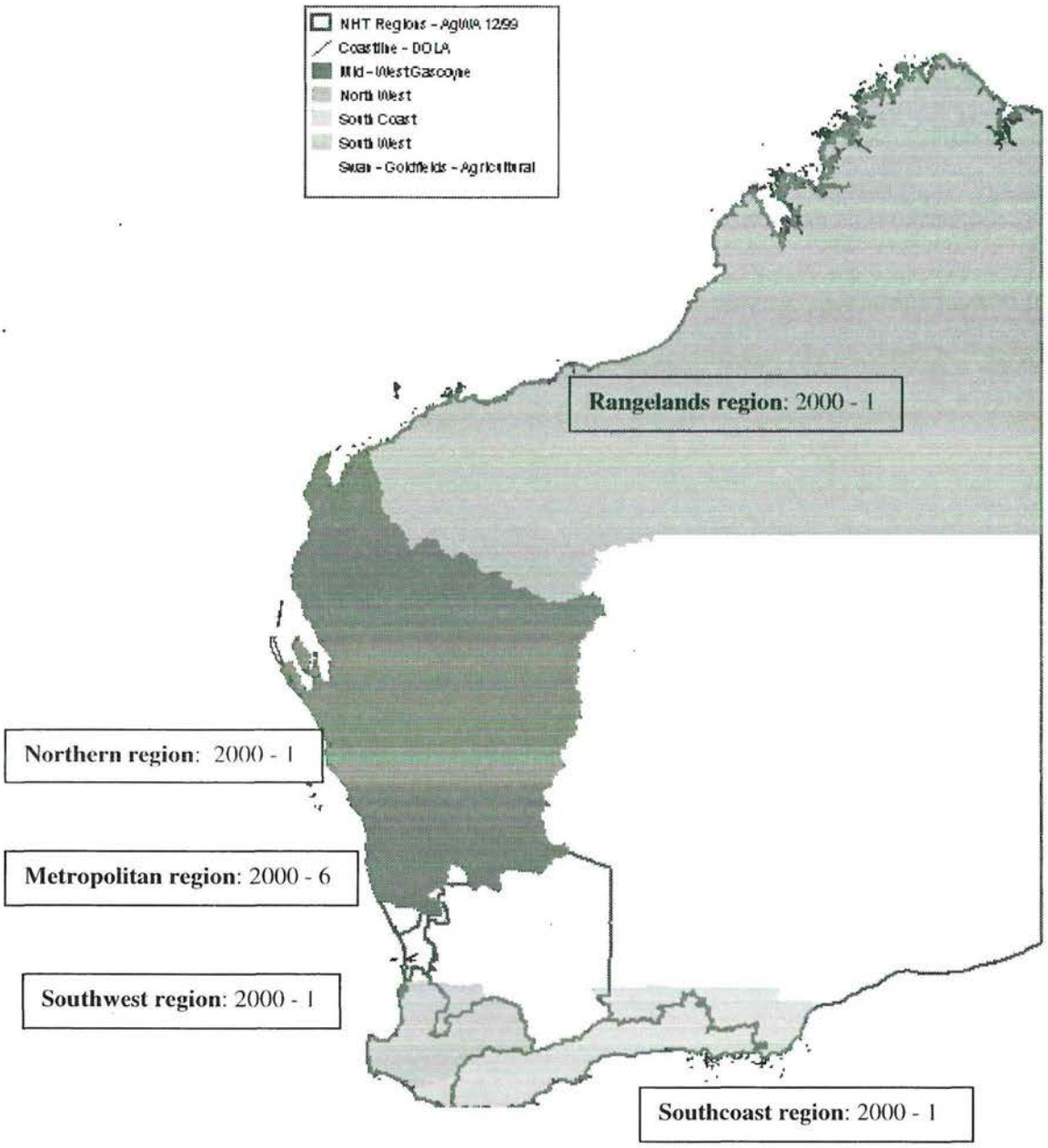
- onground works such as fencing and revegetation of wetland and dryland areas;

- development of river action plans; and
- large-scale integrated catchment planning and implementation exercises.

The review has shown that the ten 2000 Rivercare projects were on track. The majorities of projects achieved between 76 – 99% of their objectives and were in line with their proposed work plans. Problems with project progress were most commonly attributed to late receipt of funding, unfavourable climatic conditions, time constraints, lack of knowledge/support and staff changes.

A typical Rivercare project often results from a group of landholders with a common goal to improve the condition of their riparian ecosystems. Usually their objectives are to rehabilitate stream banks through revegetation, soft or hard engineering, weed control, fencing and stock exclusion from the riparian zone. The NHT provides funds for items such as fencing materials, seedlings, hire of equipment for site preparation and for payment of contractors to operate specialist equipment or apply hazardous chemicals such as in weed control. The NHT is also commonly asked to fund a full or part time coordinator to run the project and ensure the objectives are met. In return, the proponents provide a matching, in-kind contribution, which may take the form of planting seedlings, spending time direct seeding and constructing fences. They may also contribute cash to the project by, for instance, paying the balance of the cost of fencing material or form a partnership with another stakeholder such as a government agency, who would contribute some time and expertise of technical staff to the project.

Figure 1 Geographic distribution of 2000 Rivercare Projects



2 Key Learnings

2.1 Project statistics

Ten were involved in direct onground works, such as revegetation using seedlings or direct seeding, and fencing off areas of remnant vegetation or riparian zones. Many of the projects had elements of education of the community, awareness raising and capacity building, and / or planning exercises such as the production of Integrated Catchment Management Plans, or River Action Plans. Indirect onground activities also include workshops, field days, demonstration sites, and production of information packages. Action Plans and capacity building are important tools with which the community is able to then implement direct onground works. The remaining project was involved in the development and implementation of the Regional NRM Strategy.

On ground outcomes were recorded where relevant. The 2000 projects have:

- Approximately 123 000 seedlings planted;
- revegetated more than 120 hectares;
- Approximately 62 kilometres of waterways protected; and
- fenced more than 67.5 kilometres of streamline.

The majority of 2000 Rivercare projects progressed successfully with their workplans.

2.2 Technical support

All projects sought technical advice and support from the various Natural Resource Management agencies such as the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Agriculture WA and the Water and Rivers Commission. Information was also obtained from Catchment Landcare Coordinators, literature, other NHT facilitators and academic institutions.

Training offered by agencies such as the Water and Rivers Commission's River Restoration course and various workshops and field days organised by other groups were also important avenues of technical information.

Ten groups found access adequate to technical information and support. One respondent found access less than adequate and expressed the need for data agreements between the Commonwealth, State Government agencies and regional groups be developed. The assistance available from Landcare, Rivercare and Bushcare officers was highly valued. The demand for their services is great which often means groups have trouble gaining adequate support.

2.3 What is a successful project?

A successful project can be measured by the achievement of all its objectives and the completion, within a set timeframe, of the activities that were planned at the beginning of the project. For instance, if a group said they would plant 40,000 seedlings over two years and they achieved exactly this, then the project would be successful. The quality of these actions is also a measure, for example, the survival rate of seedlings planted, or the effectiveness of erosion and grazing control strategies. The measure of success from these outcomes would be difficult to determine in the short term. Many of the outcomes rely on the regeneration and rehabilitation of natural functioning ecosystems, or the behavioural and attitudinal change of the wider community, both of which require many years of development to show signs of 'success'. Some of these outcomes are also less tangible than others and are more difficult to measure in a meaningful way.

The learnings of a group can also be a valuable measure of success. Groups learn are continuously learning, which can often be more significant than for example, planting vast numbers of seedlings. The levels of capacity building, education and motivation of the community and gradual change in behaviour and attitudes are just as important measures of success as achievements on the ground. Section 2.5 looks at these in more detail.

For the purposes of this review however (projects in operation for two or three years), measures of success constituted the timely achievement of all tasks and actions in accordance with the workplan and the subsequent meeting of the project's objectives. The review shows that the majority of 2000 Rivercare projects achieved between 76-99% of their objectives and are in line with their proposed work plans. The majority of groups stated that they are happy with their project's progress, despite the setbacks and delays experienced.

From the feedback in the reviews it can be concluded that successful projects were those that had:

- a strong project coordinator;
- good community/landholder and local government support; and
- were simple, practical and achievable.

2.4 Main impediments

All proponents reported impediments to the implementation of their Rivercare projects. The most common impediments that caused delays and problems for project implementation were:

- unfavourable climatic conditions;
- funds delayed; and
- time constraints.

Other consistently reported problems included trouble with:

- weeds control resulting in reduced survival rates for seedlings;
- lack of knowledge;
- staff changes;
- inability to purchase equipment/seedlings; and
- lack of labour.

Out of the ten projects surveyed, eight reported unfavourable climatic conditions and 7 reported delays in funds. These impediments have not prevented the majority of projects from completing their workplans and achieving their original objectives. The impediments mainly delayed projects for approximately 6 months to 1 year; for example, waiting for the next planting season.

2.5 Benefits other than onground outcomes

The reviews revealed a number of catalytic, educational and social benefits from NHT projects.

Catalytic benefits gained from involvement in Rivercare projects included:

- Partnerships / relationships with local councils have been established or strengthened.
- Increased technical skills and management skills.

Educational benefits gained from being involved in Rivercare projects included:

- Expanded skills base of the community, for example in the area of direct seeding.
- There has been increased appreciation and awareness in the community of the importance of Rivercare and Landcare. Catchment communities are now better involved with Rivercare issues and are incorporating them into management plans.

Economic benefits gained from being involved in Rivercare projects included:

- Preventing loss of farmland
- Increase land values
- Local suppliers have benefited financially from fencing and seedling orders, as well as local contractors for site preparations etc.

Social benefits are gained from being involved in Rivercare projects. For instance:

- Increased communication and understanding of catchment processes and river restoration.
- The community learnt how to work together to obtain public/community benefits.
- New people have been introduced to Rivercare activities eg traditional owners, eco-tourism operators, landowners, local government.

2.6 Lessons learnt and advice to others

Learning from the experiences of others is vital for the ongoing refinement and performance of NHT projects. With this in mind, the reviews provided proponents with the opportunity to convey useful information and helpful project tips to other groups. It is hoped that this information can be documented nationally at some stage, for maximum benefit to others.

The questionnaires asked proponents what they would do differently next time, as a result of what they had learned from their Rivercare project:

- Make provisions for a paid coordinator in and NHT project submission. Volunteers from the community have little time to fill this role and may not have the skills required to administer and coordinate NHT projects.
- It is important to spend time with landowners when conducting foreshore surveys. This increases the amount of interest in implementation and the potential for landowners to agree to on-ground works.
- Continuity of activities and officers improves process/efficiencies in enabling greater on-ground activities.
- Build networks with agencies especially when working across local government boundaries. These networks result in greater outcomes.
- Be wary of relying on other planning processes.
- Implement surveys to ascertain the condition of local river foreshores to compile baseline data for future management.
- Obtain information from other groups and case studies eg regeneration techniques, block sedge planting, stream information, technical knowledge, stream evaluations.

2.7 Comments on the application and assessment process

Nine of the ten projects reviewed commented on the NHT application and assessment process. Nine projects criticised the application forms. They were considered too long, too complex, time consuming and not aimed at the community. The application forms and reporting requirements were considered excessive, and the timeframe to complete them unrealistic. This was problematic for groups who would have preferred to consult with stakeholders and agencies.

The majority of projects criticised the delay in receiving funds as this resulted in project delays.

Suggestions for improving the process included an increase in funding period to 5 years and a more streamlined process where reporting encompassed all funding programs,

2.8 Rivercare officers

With financial support from the NHT in four Rivercare projects (973778, 973799, 973806, 973816), the Water and Rivers Commission has been able to employ between 7-9 Rivercare officers to support community action in waterways management over the last 1-2 years. Officers are based in Perth, Northam, Bunbury, Geraldton and Albany. They are involved in a range of activities, including the following:

- Technical support and advice to community groups and landowners involved in on-ground stream rehabilitation and protection (about 30 streams across the Southwest and about 50-60 streams and wetlands in the Metropolitan and Central regions).

- Presentations at courses, workshops, field days, show days, etc.
- Waterways management, strategic and action planning.
- Foreshore surveys (mainly in the Southcoast, Southwest and Central regions).
- Running rivercare workshops (Southcoast, Southwest, Central and Metropolitan regions).
- Trial and rehabilitation sites of best management practices for revegetation, channel and bank protection (e.g. 3 Mile Flat, Udumung Brook, and Solomon - Yalgun Brook).
- Membership of sub-regional Catchment Support Teams (south-coast).
- Negotiating water sensitive design.
- Rivercare group formation (e.g. two groups in the Preston catchment near Donnybrook – Southwest region).
- Preparing newsletters and newspaper columns.
- Preparing technical and advisory notes on physical and ecological river processes and river and wetland management (Water Notes, Water Fact Sheets, River Restoration Manual Sections – produced by Water and Rivers Commission and Natural Heritage Trust).
- Design and implementation of large community and local government-linked projects (e.g. Garvey Park and Bannister Creek – Metropolitan Region).

In previous years, Rivercare Officers conducted the reviews. It was decided that the project managers review the projects given there were ten projects. In the past, the review process not only generated the feedback required from project proponents for this report, but also proved beneficial to the Rivercare officers. It provided more opportunities for contact with catchment groups and individual landholders and raised the Water and Rivers Commission's profile within the community.

There has been a high turnover of Rivercare staff in the past resulting in problems with continuity of employment, recruitment and gaining technical skills. This has resulted in perpetual on the job training. Reasons for this high turnover of staff are varied, but a common cause is the uncertainty of funding for the position and the short-term contracts offered as a consequence. Job security is a high priority for employees.

3 Snapshot of a Rivercare Project in Western Australia

The following project is a case study of the 2000 Rivercare projects that had significant on ground impact as a result of NHT funding.

3.1 Innovative Water and Bushland Management Work from the Serpentine Jarrahdale Community Catchment Plan (003086)

The Serpentine-Jarrahdale Land Conservation District Committee, in partnership with the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale were the proponents for years 4 and 5 of a NHT project, based on land/bush and rivercare activities under the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Community Catchment Plan. In concert with other state government agency partners, such as Water and Rivers Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Water Corporation, the objectives of the NHT projects were:

1. To stimulate new landholders to care for, and repair, water and bushland resources, under the direction of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Community Catchment Plan, and thereby to share the accumulated expertise and technical skills.

2. To provide ever-increasing motives for the community to manage their water, land and vegetation resources, including expanded incentives for private land conservation.

3. To provide technical and logistical support to the community and shire to implement the on-ground targets of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Community Catchment Plan (grouped into 3 categories):

- **Restoring waterways and wetlands** to improve riparian vegetation, river function, fauna habitat, water quality and reduce erosion;
- **Revegetating the land** to reduce erosion, waterlogging, create fauna habitat, link remnant vegetation;

- **Managing remnant vegetation** to protect biodiversity and fauna habitat.

4. To achieve a self-perpetuating Community Landcare Centre, promoting and coordinating on-ground environmental repair, which is able to take advantage of commercial opportunities.

An example of the types of projects that were part of this project is the case of a shire drain conveying water from a road and paddocks through a floodplain into the Serpentine River. Using river restoration techniques and lessons learnt from previous pool/riffle construction, including the Dirk Brook Project, rock batters were used to slow and direct the water and to protect against further bank erosion, and then a pool/riffle structure was constructed in the river. The pool receives the drainage water after it has filtered through the floodplain area, reduces the erosion cutting back into the paddock, and the water is filtered over the rocks and through vegetation volunteering onto the site.

As the Serpentine River feeds into the Peel-Harvey Estuary, a decrease in nutrients entering the system and reducing the velocity of water are the main aims of river care activities. The additional advantages of stabilized paddock water entry points, the creation of permanent pools of water and the increase in fringing vegetation are the benefits that are immediately apparent and encourage other land managers to replicate these activities across the landscape. Disputes over management responsibilities of eroding sites are also controlled, as the long term management needs are reduced.

With shire engineering expertise, local landholders knowledge, previous community river care projects experience (Serpentine River Group and the Dirk Brook Project Group) plus the facilitation by NHT funded officers, the project was planned, coordinated and completed in January 2003. Plates 1 and 2 show the placement of rocks in the drain and the river, respectively, in January 2003.

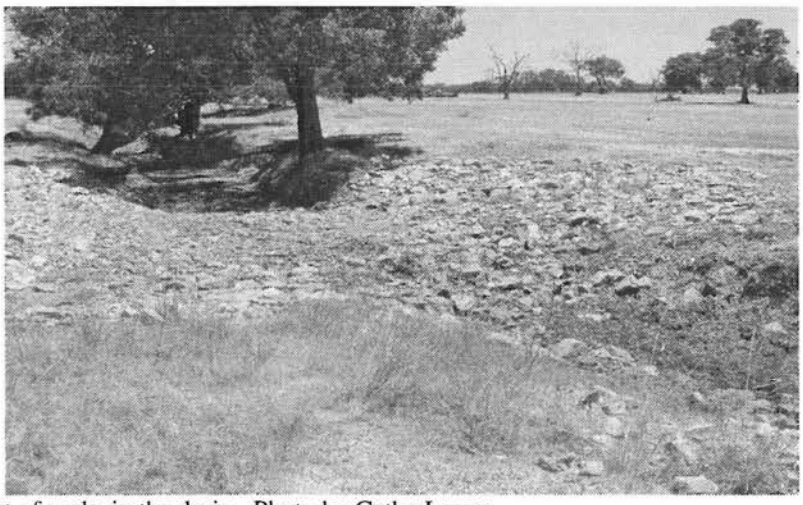


Plate 1: Placement of rocks in the drain. Photo by Cathy Lyons.

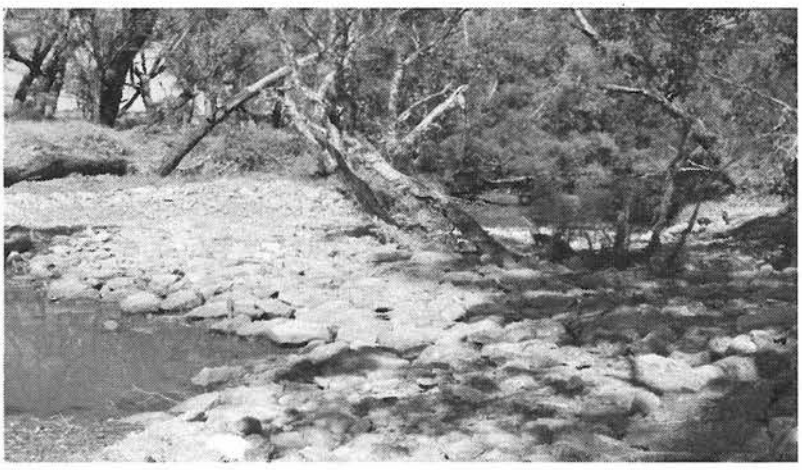


Plate 2: Placement of rocks within river. Photo by Cathy Lyons.

Plate 3: Shows the drain site in August 2003. Photo by Cathy Lyons

Plate 4: Shows the river site in August 2003. Photo by Cathy Lyons

Plate 5: Tree fallen into the river creating a natural pool riffle system. Photo by Cathy Lyons.

Under the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Community Catchment Plan, these type of projects are not carried out in isolation. The Serpentine River Group is currently working on ways to maintain environmental flows along the river, with Water and Rivers Commission and Water Corporation, especially during reduced flow periods in the height of summer. They are also committed to working on a community managed drought strategy with the aid of the Water and Rivers Commission. In addition, through the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Community Landcare Centre partnership, streamlining of all waterways in the catchment continues, as do projects that promote perennial pastures, weed control, water quality monitoring, wetland construction and restoration and biodiversity management.

Plates 1 and 2 show the placement of rocks in the drain and river respectively, in January 2003. Figures 3 and 4 show the drain and river in August 2003. Figure 5 shows a natural pool riffle system created by a fallen tree in the river.

4 Conclusions and Future Directions

4.1 Summary of the progress and main learnings of projects funded by Rivercare

It can be concluded from the review that the majority of 2000 Rivercare projects have been successful. They are progressing well, with the majority having achieved between 51- 99% of their objectives. The projects are in line with their proposed work plans and often exceeded targets. Despite the setbacks and delays groups experienced, the majority of were happy with their project's progress. Problems with project progress were most commonly attributed to weather, time constraints and late receipt of funding.

On-ground achievements are considerable, with the 2000 projects having planted approximately 123 000 seedlings, revegetated more than 120 hectares and fenced more than 67 kilometres of streamline. Projects have also demonstrated outcomes other than on ground works, which include catalytic, educational and social benefits. In addition, proponents have learned much about project planning and implementation and have identified areas they would handle differently next time.

The major learning of Rivercare projects reported the employment of a dedicated project coordinator is an absolute necessity if a project is to achieve its objectives and draw on its funds. Groups also suggested contacting and working with landowners when conducting foreshore surveys. The early involvement of landowners in the process aided in fostering future support for on-ground work.

The reviews highlighted the value of Rivercare and community support officers in action planning and in the provision of advice.

Respondents found the application and assessment process difficult, complex and onerous.

Feedback in the review shows successful projects were those that had:

- a strong project coordinator (such as Catchment Coordinators or Community Landcare Coordinators);
- good community/landholder and local government support; and
- were simple, practical and achievable.

4.2 Monitoring and evaluation of Rivercare projects - how can this be done in the future?

All Rivercare projects are assessed mid-way during their life, where they span two or more years, or at the end of the project where they are of a shorter duration. It should be stressed that the current monitoring and evaluation process is intended to be a review and learning exercise, not primarily an audit. It is thought that the best information can be collected at this time when the project is fresh in the minds of the proponents and they are most sensitive to their difficulties and successes. The current process is project based, mainly measuring actual on the ground outcomes against project targets.

The Water and Rivers Commission has the methodologies to assess in-stream and water quality outcomes, but resources have yet to be identified to allow this expertise to be applied to the evaluation of NHT projects in the long term. Ideally, completion reports would be used together with site visits by Rivercare officers to evaluate the success of projects. All projects with on-ground outputs will be visited on site at least once. On completion, a number of

representative Rivercare projects will be selected for evaluation and perhaps ongoing monitoring to assess long term outcomes, whether these are 'people' or environmental outcomes.

The Regional Assessment Panels (RAP) have conducted site visits to selected projects over the last few years which has assisted greatly in the RAPs understanding and appreciation of a project, particularly when assessing continuing applications. It would be useful if these evaluation tours were to continue in the new phase of the Natural Heritage Trust.

4.3 General recommendations for the Rivercare Program

1. Allocate more resources for onground support, ie, more resources to employ more technically skilled Rivercare, Landcare and Bushcare officers (and Catchment and Community Landcare Coordinators) throughout rural and metropolitan WA.

2. Improve the application and assessment process for the next phase of the Natural Heritage Trust to make it more 'user friendly' for farmers and other members of the community, and therefore a more attractive funding body to pursue.

3. Document the successes and failures of projects and the learnings and advice that project proponents have to offer as a result of their experience. Make the information accessible nationally.

4. Future reviews could also compare and contrast metropolitan and rural projects.

Appendix 1: Summary of 2000 Rivercare projects

Rivercare Outputs June 2000 - learnings

Project No.	Project Name	NHT Region	Proponent Organisation	Things groups would do differently next time	Useful information for other groups
003012	Developing and implementing a local river action plan for the waterways of the Vasse/Wonnerup Catchment	South West	Geographe Catchment Council	Systematic photographic monitoring would be a useful tool for monitoring the foreshore condition when surveys are being done before and after streamlining and revegetation projects. The use of a field assistant would greatly increase the efficiency of the surveying and allow more time to be spent with the landowner.	Important to spend as much time as possible with the landowner when doing foreshore surveys. This greatly increases the amount of interest in implementation and the potential to get landowners on side for on-ground works.
003051	Lake Indoon Catchment Management Group Rehabilitation Project	Mid West Gascoyne	Shire of Carnamah	Make provision for a paid coordinator in any NHT project submission as members of the community have little time to fill this role and/or may not have the skills to administer and coordinate NHT projects.	Make provision for a paid coordinator in any NHT project submission as members of the community have little time to fill this role and/or may not have the skills to administer and coordinate NHT projects.
003056	Implementation ICM in Bennett Brook	Metro	Bennett Brook Catchment Group Inc	No comment provided	Information used in case studies. This information can be sourced by other groups.
003058	Restoration of the Udumung Brook and Catchment	Metro	Wannamal Lake Catchment Group Inc	No comment provided	Case studies. New players need to talk to people who have done projects.
003069 (2)	Partnerships and People: Securing the Future of the Peel/Harvey and Leschenault sub-regions	Kwina na-Peel	Greening the Catchment Taskforce Inc	The project was very ambitious and complex across a broad area which placed a burden on the ability of the Project Manager to cope.	Be very wary of reliance upon other planning processes. For example, this project was very much compromised by not having SW framework.
003086 (2)	Innovative Water and Bushland Management Works from the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Community Catchment Plan	Kwina na – Peel	Serpentine-Jarrahdale Land Conservation District Committee	No comment provided.	Continuity of activity and officers leads to improving processes/efficiencies in enabling greater on-ground activities. Personal networks within agencies imperative working across local government authority/catchment boundaries brings greater outcomes.
003077	Catchment Wide Rehabilitation in Bayswater	Metro	Bayswater Integrated Catchment Management Group	• Planting techniques and weed management. • Wetasoil tree guards. • Need trained and dedicated volunteer manager. • Aim to do less in time period. • Use strong colonising species in first year to get coverage.	Revegetation techniques.
003083	Community Driven ICM and Conservation in the Bannister Creel Catchment	Metro	Bannister Creek Catchment Group	• Endorse use of block sedge. • Species selection and knowledge. • Small tube stock/planter trays have high mortality. • Direct seeding unsuccessful in floodplain.	• Block sedge planting. • Stream information. • Technical knowledge. • Stream evaluation.
003097	Teamwork for Southern Resources	South Coast	South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team Inc (SCRIPT)	No comment provided.	No comment provided.
003106	North West Rivercare Community Coordination and Support	North West	Water and Rivers Commission	No comment provided.	The North West regions are implementing survey programs to ascertain the condition of local River foreshores. The intentions are to compile baseline data to be utilised for future management purposes. It is intended that information compiled will eventually benefit a range of local land managers and industry groups keen to understand long term waterway processes.

Appendix 2: Sample Evaluation Forms

RIVERCARE PROGRAM – APPENDIX I
REVEGETATION ASSESSMENT

Project Number | **Project Title**

Relevant Catchment | **WRC Region**

Name of Group / Organisation | ***Officer Completing Form*** | ***Date*** / /

Purpose of Revegetation

- ☐ Habitat / Biodiversity
- ☐ Windbreak / Shelter
- ☐ Watertable / Salinity
- ☐ Erosion Control
  - ☐ Gully
  - ☐ Sheep / Paddock
  - ☐ Riparian (Creek / Riverbank)
- ☐ Other

Area of Revegetation

- ☐ 0 – 0.5 hectares
- ☐ 0.5 - 1.0 hectares
- ☐ 1.0 – 1.5 hectares
- ☐ > 5.0 hectares

Area?

Connectivity

- ☐ Adjoins rem veg
- ☐ isolated
- ☐ Distance to nearest native veg (km)

Shape and Position in Landscape

▲ N

(Please give approx dimensions)

Type of Revegetation

- ☐ Direct Seeding
- ☐ Tubestock

Seedling Protection

- ☐ Stakes
- ☐ Guards
  - ☐ Plastic sheets
  - ☐ Biodegradable netting
  - ☐ Other?
- ☐ Mulch
- ☐ None of the above

Average Spacing between Plant Rows

- ☐ 0 – 1 metres
- ☐ 1 - 3 metres
- ☐ 3 – 5 metres
- ☐ 5 – 8 metres

Understorey Species Planted? *YES* ☐ *NO* ☐

Site Preparation

Date of planting / sowing (*month/year*) /

- ☐ Fencing
- ☐ Herbicides — *Length of time before planting?* — *Type?*
- ☐ Slashing — *Length of time before planting?*
- ☐ Ripping — *Length of time before planting?*
- ☐ Scalping — *Length of time before planting?*

Time now elapsed since planting — *0 – 1 year* ☐ *1 – 2 years* ☐ *2 – 3 years* ☐ *>3 years* ☐

Appendix I – Revegetation Assessment

Current State of Revegetation

	0 – 0.5m	0.5 – 1.0m	1 – 3m	3 – 5m
Average Height of Vegetation	☐	☐	☐	☐
	<30%	50%	70%	>90%
Survival Rate of vegetation	☐	☐	☐	☐

Likely reasons for vegetation loss

- ☐ Competition with weeds and grasses
- ☐ Lack of water
- ☐ Waterlogging
- ☐ Salinity
- ☐ Grazing by pests
- ☐ Other

Can you please attach a list of species from the application and indicate the % om mix of each.

	YES	NO
Does the surviving vegetation appear healthy?	☐	☐
Are understorey species coming through?	☐	☐
Is the revegetated area strongly infested with weeds / grasses?	☐	☐
Does the revegetated area appear well maintained?	☐	☐

Comments

Covenants

	YES	NO	amount
Has the project received an increased fencing subsidy?	☐	☐	$
How many parcels of land does this cover?			☐ no. of parcels
How many landholders have entered or are in the process of entering into a covenant?			☐ no. of landholder's
What area of land does this cover?			☐ no. of hectares

Comments

Provide a general assessment on the revegetation components of the project. Is the work up to a reasonable standard? Is the revegetation technically appropriate for the purpose? Is the revegetation achieving or likely to achieve its intended purpose?

RIVERCARE PROGRAM – APPENDIX II
PROPONENT FEEDBACK & FIELD ASSESSMENT

Project Number | **Project Title**

Name of Proponent | ***Assessment Officer/s*** | ***Date*** / /

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Catalytic Effects

1(a) Have there been any broader spin-offs or benefits that have come from the project, such as those listed bellow?

Benefit	Outcome
☐ Expanding the skills base of the community	
☐ Social benefits to the community	
☐ Economic benefits to the community	
☐ Introducing new people to Rivercare	
☐ Involving other groups in the community	
☐ Other projects started with Government and funding	
☐ *Other*	*(specify)*

1(b) Have any of the following been measured? (*If so please give appropriate values*)

☐ Surveys ☐ Works Completed

☐ Research ☐ Local Investment $

☐ N°. Farmers Participating ☐ Other

Involvement and Support

2(a) Who has been involved / included in the project?

☐ Landholders ☐ Schools

☐ Local Government ☐ State Agencies *(specify)*

☐ Businesses ☐ Other *(specify)*

Appendix II – Feedback & Assessment

2(b) Describe the nature and extent of community involvement

2(c) Could or should the level of involvement have been improved? In what way?

Involvement and Support

3(a) Do you consider you had access to adequate technical information and advice?

YES ☐ *NO* ☐ *IN PART* ☐

3(b) From where was your information sourced?

- ☐ Bushcare facilitators
- ☐ Other NHT facilitators
- ☐ Greening Australia Field Officers
- ☐ Literature — *eg:*
- ☐ Academic institutions
- ☐ CSIRO
- ☐ State Agency Field Officers

3(c) How would you like to see the access to technical information and advice improved?

Problems

4 Did you encounter any major problems in meeting the objectives of the project?

YES ☐ *NO* ☐

5(a) Did you encounter any of the following specific impediments? *(tick any relevant boxes)*

- ☐ Biophysical
  - ☐ Unfavourable climatic conditions
  - ☐ Weeds
  - ☐ *other*
- ☐ Funding / Financial
  - ☐ Funds delayed
  - ☐ Inability to purchase equipment, seed, etc.
  - ☐ *other*
- ☐ People / Human resource
  - ☐ Unfavourable group dynamics
  - ☐ Lack of labour
  - ☐ *other*
- ☐ Technical resources / knowledge
  - ☐ Lack of technical knowledge / support
  - ☐ *other*
- ☐ Time constraints
- ☐ Planning
  - ☐ Inappropriate project planning
  - ☐ Inappropriate financial planning
  - ☐ *other*
- ☐ Local or State Government regulations
- ☐ Other

Appendix II – Feedback & Assessment

5(b) Describe how these impediments affected your project.

NHT Administrative Process

6. What are your views on the application form and reporting requirements?

7. Did you encounter any specific problems in developing, submitting or receiving funding for your project? *(please give details)*

Publicity

8. Have you undertaken any publicity or promotional activities? YES ☐ NO ☐

Planning

9. Do you consider the set objectives were achievable? YES ☐ NO ☐

10. Is the cause rather than the symptoms of the problem being addressed? YES ☐ NO ☐

11. Are there alternatives? YES ☐ NO ☐

Appendix II – Feedback & Assessment

Benefits

12. How would you rate the relative importance of landholder benefits to community benefits in this project?

Efficiency / Program delivery

13. How would you rate the relative importance of landholder benefits to community benefits in this project?

Acknowledgment of Bushcare or NHT

14. Did the project sites, publications, workshops etc adequately acknowledge the contribution of the Commonwealth (*signs, logos etc.*)? *YES* ☐ *NO* ☐

Key Issues and Problems

15. Please provide a brief overall assessment of the progress/ success of the project including any major problems
Also suggest how the problems could be addressed (by either the project managers themselves or through program delivery process).