12.25 pm

Characterising the condition and function of the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands, Kenwick Western Australia, to inform conservation management

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The Greater Brixton Street Wetlands (GBSW) comprises a complex series of seasonally inundated or seasonally waterlogged areas classified as basins, palusplains, floodplains, sumplands and channels. The GBSW is spatially defined by the cadastral boundary of Bush Forever site BF387 and is situated at the foot slopes of the Darling Scarp within the geomorphological unit known as the Pinjarra Plain. This area has been identified as one of the most important conservation areas on the Swan Coastal Plain, containing more than 550 native plant taxa, Declared Rare Flora, Priority Flora and Threatened Ecological Communities.

Weed incursion, inappropriate fire regimes, altered hydrological processes, inappropriate access, and climate change have been identified as key threats to the long-term ecological function of the biological values associated with the GBSW. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions aims to apply best practice principles, founded on robust science, for the management of key threatening processes that affect nationally listed ecological communities occurring across the GBSW.

The Department has commenced a series of surveys and investigations to characterise the condition and function of the GBSW. These include:

- Hydrological investigations to conceptualise the hydrological functioning of the GBSW to inform the assessment of threats from altered hydrology that in-turn informs management activities, such as the prioritisation of track closures and rehabilitation;
- Engaging the Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands to undertake water level monitoring to characterise wetland hydroperiod;
- Aquatic invertebrate surveys as part of a broader characterisation of aquatic fauna diversity in vegetated claypans (vernal pools) of the higher rainfall areas of the south-west;
- Weed mapping to inform strategic weed management;
- Vegetation condition surveys to establish baseline conditions to assess long-term trends; and
- Trials to determine appropriate techniques for weed management across populations of threatened flora.

Outcomes from the completed surveys and investigations have already resulted in the implementation of on-ground actions, including rehabilitation of tracks and track

closures, targeted weed management, and construction of specialised fencing. Ongoing work will continue to inform conservation management activities at the GBWS to ensure they meet the projects goals as well as recovery actions detailed in the relevant Interim Recovery Plans.

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PROGRAM

14th Annual WA Wetland Management Conference 2018

Celebrating World Wetlands Day
Friday 2nd February 2018
9am to 4pm

Lake Monger, Wembley, Western Australia

Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre,
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