



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team	Sedgeland in Holocene swales and thrombolite community of Lake Richmond.
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Reporting Period	January 2013-March 2014
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Current membership

	Member	Representing
Chair	Ms Valerie English	Parks and Wildlife Species and Communities Branch
members	Dr Neil Gibson	Parks and Wildlife, Science and Conservation Division
members	Professor Phillip Jennings	Wetlands Conservation Society
members	Dr Ryan Vogwill	University of WA
members	Ms Kate Brown	Parks and Wildlife, Urban Nature
members	Mr Nathan Leslie	City of Rockingham
members	Mr Bob Goodale	Community representative
members	Mr Tim Fisher	Parks and Wildlife, Regional Parks
members		Naragebup Environment Centre

Dates meetings were held	24 March 2014
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<p>Highlights of achievements for calendar year suitable for publication in <i>WATSNU</i>. Provide 1-2 paragraphs summarising total number of new populations located, surveys completed, list major management actions etc</p>	<p>A series of issues including negotiations and advice about areas that contain the sedgeland or thrombolite community and are the subject of proposals for reservation or development were dealt with in 2013. This included negotiations to minimise impacts with regard to development of land at Bakewell Drive Port Kennedy, East Rockingham Industrial Park, and the proposed Mangles Bay Marina that occurs near Lake Richmond. Amended offsets (for East Rockingham Industrial Park – IP14) that will result in superior establishment trials and increased resources for management of areas of the sedgeland within regional parks were negotiated.</p> <p>Under the direction of PaW's Regional Parks Branch control of sharp rush (<i>Juncus acutus</i>), giant reed (<i>Arundo donax</i>) and cotton bush (<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>) near the sedgeland TEC at Lake Cooloongup was continued. At Walyungup, cotton bush and <i>Juncus acutus</i> control was continued. Major works targeting impacts from off road vehicles were also undertaken at Port Kennedy Scientific Park.</p>
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<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.</p>	
<p>Monitoring and survey of existing and new populations/ occurrences, targeted surveys, critical habitat mapped etc.</p>	<p>Monitoring of illegal 4x4 access in Port Kennedy Regional Park was continued by Regional Parks Branch, and rocks were found to be effective in discouraging breaches.</p>
<p>Threat amelioration eg weed control/mapping, fencing/repairs, fire management disease management, feral/introduced animal control, installation of roadside markers</p>	<p>Under the direction of PaW's Regional Parks Branch control of sharp rush (<i>Juncus acutus</i>), giant reed (<i>Arundo donax</i>) and cotton bush (<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>) near the sedgelands TEC at Lake Cooloongup was continued. At Lake Walyungup, cotton bush and <i>Juncus acutus</i> control was continued.</p> <p>Rubbish clean ups and weekend ranger patrols with infringement notices were ongoing in Port Kennedy Regional Park, as was the installation and maintenance of rock barriers to block illegal 4x4 access into the park.</p>
<p>Conservation and research eg fire research, translocation, ex-situ conservation, revegetation/rehabilitation etc</p>	<p>Curtin University postgraduate students mapped the Lake Richmond microbialites and habitat types, and studied aspects of biology of the living mats. The students noted that the morphology of the microbialites varies around Lake Richmond, and water levels are receding over time. Sediments are burying the thrombolites, and the fringing sedgelands are becoming more extensive. Cores taken were dated at 100- 2, 400 years. The lake water is particularly eutrophic near the drain. The student work has not yet covered the diversity of the thrombolites, and further sampling is sought.</p> <p>Parks and Wildlife staff provided input into amendment of offsets for IP14 including extensive changes to the rehabilitation trials.</p>
<p>Liaison, education/provision of advice eg 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.</p>	<p>In 2013, the recovery team continued to liaise with numerous groups including local government, industry and the local community to implement the recommendations in the recovery plan for the thrombolites, and the updated recovery plan for the sedgelands. In particular, members of the team were involved in negotiations to minimise impacts with regard to development of land, or in seeking to improve management of land at various sites, as follows.</p> <p>Commonwealth conditions on the IP14 development were amended following collaboration between stakeholders including Parks and Wildlife and LandCorp. Outcomes include establishment of an improved creation trial, and an additional 9ha area of the TEC to be rehabilitated in Walyungup and Cooloongup Regional Parks.</p> <p>Liaison was continued with LandCorp about the Subdivision Guide Plan and Superlot Subdivision Guide Plan for the Bakewell Drive Port Kennedy sedgelands TEC occurrences.</p> <p>Parks and Wildlife's Regional Parks Branch continued regular liaison with the City of Rockingham rangers to ensure that a consistent approach is applied to unauthorised vehicle access in Port Kennedy Scientific Park.</p>
<p>Land use/tenure changes eg covenants, acquisitions, changes in land use or listed purpose etc</p>	<p>Liaison was continued with LandCorp with regard to the boundary of the area to be proposed for reservation at Bakewell Drive.</p>
<p>Conservation status reviews for taxa/TECs eg nominations for additions, deletions or change in status to state threatened or priority lists; changes to EPBC list</p>	
<p>Recovery plans eg recovery plans/ IRPs drafted, approved, reviewed or updated</p>	<p>Parks and Wildlife staff provided comment on drafts of LandCorps' management plan for the Conservation Area at IP14, which is required as a condition of development.</p>

	<p>The updated Recovery Plan for the sedgelands TEC was endorsed by the Australian Government in July 2012.</p> <p>The Recovery Team recommended that the plan for Lake Richmond thrombolites be updated following provision of improved information from the student projects that will help guide management.</p>
Other actions completed	<p>A representative from Naragebup and a hydrogeologist from UWA are new members of this team. Nathan Leslie replaced David Mort as representative of City of Rockingham.</p>