

# Feral barrier for Project Eden now completed

**AFTER 12 long weeks of toil at Taillefer Isthmus, the narrow neck of Shark Bay's Peron Peninsula, CALM Wanneroo staff Glynn Hughes, Dave Perkins and Simon Caunter have finished the 3.8-kilometre Project Eden feral barrier.**

The custom-made barrier is a very important part of Project Eden.

It is designed to prevent foxes, rabbits, feral cats, goats and sheep from reinvading the peninsula, which is being prepared for the reintroduction of some of the State's threatened native species.

These small mammals once thrived in the area, but were brought to the brink of extinction by introduced predators and herbivores that monopolised their

by Penny Walsh

food and habitat resources.

As well as being a physical barrier to reinvader, the Project Eden fence serves as a visual reminder to the local community and visitors that a long-term nature conservation campaign is being waged.

Overseer of the barrier building team was Glynn Hughes.

He has had plenty of experience in building fences before, but says he has never been involved in a project quite like this one.

"I think the strangest thing has been the variety of terrain we have been working in, everything from water to shell, soft sand and solid

rock," he said.

"The guys have also had to deal with the wind, sandstorms, flies and heat of a barren peninsula although there were some enjoyable and challenging aspects to it," Glynn said.

The end result of all the hard work is a state-of-the-art barrier that is just over two metres high, made from PVC-coated security mesh with a rabbit mesh overhang on the top and rabbit mesh buried on both sides at the bottom.

It will have a standard hot wire running across the top.

Included in its 3.8 km length is 400 m that stretches into the water at Shell Beach and 30 m that goes into the water at the Nanga Station end.

"We had to watch the

tides carefully—which was something new.

"It gets a bit dangerous if you are working in water anything more than shallow," said Glynn.

"We also kept a keen eye out for sharks. In the last week, Dave and Simon saw 'a six or seven footer' that scared the living daylights out of them. They didn't find out until later that it was a harmless variety!"

He said the response from locals and tourists to the barrier had been very positive.

"It really is quite pleasing to the eye, so I think the locals are relieved. Both they and visitors to Shark Bay seem to be very supportive of CALM's efforts to protect our native species."



*Project Eden Barrier builders Simon Caunter, Dave Perkins and Glynn Hughes from Perth District.*  
Photo by Penny Walsh

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25A



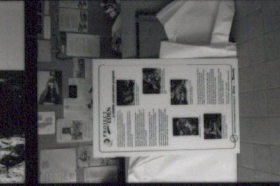
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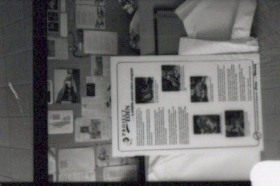
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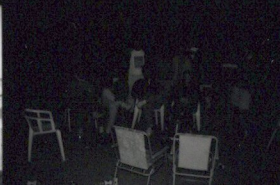
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- Project Eden - Barrier to ferals (nearly completed)  
- Buffer burning on the peninsula.

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SCIENCE AND INFORMATION."

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FROM LEFT → DR. NEIL BURROWS AND DR. PER CHRISTENSEN