



DECEMBER 2006

Environment is the biggest winner



Staff of National Lifestyle Villages celebrate after being named this year's outstanding achiever. Inset: (left to right) National Lifestyle Villages' Executive Chairman John Wood and Group Manager of Planning, Design and Project Management Richard Hammond with Environment Minister Mark McGowan.

By Rhianna King

REPRESENTATIVES from business, government and community groups celebrated together at the announcement of this year's WA Environment Awards organised by DEC.

About 380 people attended the awards dinner to honour projects that protect and restore the environment, and award groups whose projects are outstanding.

Having spent part of his day with legendary naturalist Sir David Attenborough and another

part in the company of former American Vice President and internationally renowned environmentalist Al Gore, didn't dampen the value Environment Minister Mark McGowan placed on the contribution of all the nominees to the protection and restoration of the environment.

"This is my first year at these awards as Environment Minister and I am privileged to be in the company of the nominees," he said.

"David Attenborough said 'the world is a very special place, full of wonder and marvel' and Al

Gore's message was that each of us has to make a difference.

"The people nominated for these awards clearly value our environment and have worked hard to make a difference.

"These awards are about acknowledging them."

The awards attracted 71 entries from around the State, making the judges' task a difficult one. Selection as a finalist in the awards is a great achievement and reflects a commitment to protecting our unique environment.

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WA backdrop for documentary

LEGENDARY naturalist and natural history presenter Sir David Attenborough visited Carnac Island in November to film footage for his documentary, *The Evolution of Snakes*.

Sir David and his team from the BBC spent a half day on the island accompanied by Environment Minister Mark McGowan and DEC staff.

DEC Public Affairs Officer John Hunter, who liaises with international companies and processes applications for commercial filming on lands and waters managed by the department, said it was great for the State and the conservation of its wildlife when people such as Sir David visited.

"It elevates the profile of WA and its unique wildlife when internationally viewed documentaries are made showing our assets and the quality of their management," he said.

"In 2003 Steve Irwin also visited Carnac Island to collect footage about our tiger snakes."

Carnac Island, 10 km south-west of Fremantle, is managed by DEC

and has the biggest concentration of tiger snakes in WA.

Sir David's documentary will examine the fact that many of the island's tiger snakes are blind, probably as a result of being attacked by seagulls. Tagging and monitoring by DEC scientist David Pearson has revealed that in some cases these snakes have been able to not only survive, but thrive, for many years.

After several 'takes' over a couple of hours, Sir David and the crew headed back to Fremantle for some rest and recuperation. It was then that marine conservation officer John Edwards suggested a quick visit to the DEC Marine Branch office. Much to his surprise the offer was accepted.

For the ensuing half hour, a very grandfatherly, quiet and humble man of world wildlife fame exchanged compliments with wide-eyed adoring fans, and as John said: "He is one of the reasons our people love to do what they do. He made their day and signed their books."



Sir David Attenborough on Carnac Island, known also for its population of Australian sealions. Photo - John Hunter/DEC

Fire fear for summer

THE State Government has injected an additional \$5.5million into firefighting resources this summer.

It coincides with actions by DEC to prepare for what could be WA's most severe bushfire season.

Unprecedented dry conditions mean WA is facing one of its biggest fire threats this summer.

New resources from the \$5.5million package include:

- mobile field-based control centres with high capacity satellite communications connections, office facilities, portable radio repeater, electronic mapping facilities and power generators;
- bulldozers and wheeled loaders based in the metropolitan area and in the southern forests;
- five heavy duty and two light duty units;

- two fire tankers with high lift 'snorkels' to extinguish fires burning in old trees;
- a new computer-based system that would keep track of personnel, equipment, machinery, aircraft and supplies involved in the suppression operation;
- a satellite-based system to track trucks and machines around the fire ground;
- a centrally-located cache of protective clothing, maps, radios, tents, lighting facilities and generators which could be rapidly dispatched to the fireground; and
- a trailer fitted out with equipment, generators and catering facilities to accommodate up to 100 fire crew members.

Environment Minister Mark McGowan told Parliament the south-west of the State was the only part of the world with both a Mediterranean climate and tall forests that shed an enormous amount of leaves, twigs and bark each year.

"Parts of the agricultural area, the south-west forests and the rural-urban interface areas, including the Perth hills and water catchments, are likely to be at increased risk," he said.

Some areas in the south-west land division received the lowest rainfall on record in winter.

"Indicators used by DEC show that soils and fuels did not become saturated in winter and that they are primed to contribute to an above normal fire potential and an early start to the fire season," Mr McGowan said.

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New Act to protect Swan, Canning

STATE Parliament has passed new legislation to protect the Swan and Canning rivers.

The *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* is due to come into effect in the middle of next year.

The new Act will replace the existing *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and the *Environmental Protection (Swan and Canning Rivers) Policy 1997*.

Developed by the Swan River Trust in consultation with stakeholder groups, the new legislation will provide greater protection and more integrated management for the Swan and Canning rivers. Under the new legislation, the Trust will lead the development of environmental targets and a River

Protection Strategy for the rivers.

The legislation establishes the Swan Canning Riverpark, which consists of the waterways and adjacent Crown land reserves of the Swan, Canning, Helena and Southern rivers.

There will be a streamlined and improved process for considering development applications affecting the rivers and more opportunity for public involvement in planning and decision making. Community membership of the Trust Board will be increased.

New regulations needed to support operation of the legislation will be developed during the next few months in consultation with stakeholders.

Working Together

In this final Environment and Conservation News column for 2006 I will begin by thanking all staff for your dedication, enthusiasm and contribution this year.

The amalgamation of two departments is a challenging task, and one that has meant all of us have had to deal with changes in our work, in some cases including structural changes and moving to a new place of work. I would particularly like to thank everyone for their support and goodwill during the amalgamation and integration process, and I look forward to us continuing to build a strong department that will serve Western Australia and its environment well in the years ahead.

The achievements and highlights for the year are too numerous to list, but have included increased funding for biodiversity conservation, marine parks and fire management, commencement of operation of the Contaminated Sites Act, another successful WA Environment Awards, and perhaps most significantly, increased community and political focus on the importance of climate change. In these and all our work areas, DEC staff can be proud of our achievements.

Together with the Minister for the Environment, Mark McGowan and my colleagues on the Department's Corporate Executive, I would like to extend to all our staff, our statutory authority members, and our many volunteers and partners, my best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. Inevitably our staff will be fighting wildfires during the summer, and their safety will be our top priority.

Keiran McNamara,
Director General



Ningaloo clean-up

DEC recently removed more than two tonnes of rubbish from the Maud Sanctuary Zone in the Ningaloo Marine Park as part of reef conservation efforts.

"Heavy lifting equipment was required to remove a variety of items ranging from lengths of steel chain which had been wrapped around coral reef to concrete blocks, lengths of steel pipe and old engine blocks," DEC's Exmouth District Marine Park Ranger Matt Smith said.

"Old vehicle tyres were also removed from below the sand along the beach. They had been used as part of the makeshift mooring arrangements."

Most of the rubbish removed by a contractor was from old makeshift moorings and small boat anchors, which had been used extensively in the past to moor boats close to shore in Bills Bay.

The clean-up follows a similar exercise in March 2005.

As part of efforts to protect Ningaloo Reef, DEC introduced the Coral Bay Boating Strategy in 2002 restricting unlawful mooring activities in the Coral Bay area.

The Department has installed environmentally friendly public moorings in the Coral Bay area with some at dive sites and others for overnight use.

Smoky vehicle reporting program

EXCESSIVE smoke from vehicles contains particles and other pollutants that contribute to air pollution in Perth and can have a negative impact on people's health.

DEC has operated a Smoky Vehicle Reporting Program (SVRP) since July 1995. Its primary focus has been as an educational tool that has notified owners that their vehicle is smoky and may need attention.

A vehicle is deemed to be smoky if it breaches the *Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002* that contains the '10-Second Rule'. The '10-Second Rule' states that a vehicle must not emit visible smoke emissions continually for 10 seconds or more.

The SVRP is now operating under the

CleanRun vehicle emissions reduction program and is being revised to engage more people and get tougher on repeat offenders.

To report a smoky vehicle you can:

- telephone 1800 OSMOKY (1800 076 659) – 24 hour recorded service;
- fax (08) 6467 5532; or
- email smokyvehicles@dec.wa.gov.au.

If your vehicle is emitting any visible smoke for more than 10 seconds, it may be in breach of the regulations, and you should ask a mechanic for advice.

More information on *CleanRun* can be found at <http://airquality.environment.wa.gov.au/cleanrun>.

Tough new rules on contaminated sites

WESTERN Australia will have Australia's most stringent rules on the management and clean up of contaminated sites following the introduction of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 on 1 December.

WA is the only State to have developed a comprehensive contaminated sites classification system.

Before the Act there was no legal requirement for property owners to report known or suspected contaminated sites on their land.

Now, owners of confirmed contaminated sites will be required to give information about the contamination to potential owners,

mortgagees or lessees before any transactions are finalised.

Introduction of the legislation followed years of intensive public information. Since 2001 DEC has provided verbal briefings to more than 100 industry groups including State Government agencies, developers, real estate professionals, fuel distributors, stakeholder groups, shires, tertiary education institutions, journalists and industry councils about the new legislation.

Since September this year DEC staff have spoken about the legislation to more than 1000 people at metropolitan and regional public information programs.

DEC staff visited 10 regional centres at Rockingham, Bunbury, Albany, Esperance, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Karratha, Port Hedland, Broome and Kununurra for public briefings and also gave presentations to DEC staff in each region and at three sessions in Perth.

Eleven additional information sessions were held in Perth to cater for specific interest groups, which included representatives from an Environmental Health Officers Conference, the Australian Contaminated Land Consultants Association, the Local Government Association, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Industry and Resources, law firms and environmental health officers.

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Cycle trail opens

THE Waterous Trail – the latest long distance cycle trail to be developed by DEC's Tracks and Trails Unit – has been opened by Environment Minister Mark McGowan.

The 60 km loop trail, connecting Waroona Dam with the Munda Biddi Trail, is the first of the overnight loops to be developed.

The trail is named after one of the original settlements in the area and has an easy grade making it ideal for families, beginner cyclists and those wanting to experience the bush at a leisurely pace.

DEC joined with other State Government departments, local governments, business, industry and the community to build the trail. The Water Corporation and Alcoa Australia were also partners in the project.

One of the most valuable contributions was by the Department of Corrective Services under an inter-department agreement.

The Karnt Prison and Bunbury Prison field-based crews contributed an estimated \$100,000 worth of support in trail construction.



Environment Minister Mark McGowan (left) embarks on a cycle through the Waterous Trail with Elisa Skillen from DEC's Tracks and Trails Unit, and the Member for Collie-Wellington, Mick Murray. Photo - DEC.

Fire fear for summer

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"In the north and interior regions, earlier heavy rains from tropical cyclones have led to above normal grass and other vegetation growth. The dry winter has allowed the grass to cure early and produce above normal fire potential.

"Numerous and extensive wildfires are already occurring throughout the northern half, and these are expected to impact on large tracts of remote lands until the wet season."

Thirty people have been appointed to seasonal frontline fire crews, increasing the total to 290. The crews are backed by 450 staff trained in incident management and support.

"The role played by our volunteer fire fighters, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, DEC and all those who are involved in this area is crucial in protecting our community," Mr McGowan said.

"The spring burn program for DEC's south-west forest regions covers about 120,000 ha. The summer/autumn/early-winter program will extend over a further 80,000 ha."

Big changes for new curator

ASK botanist Kevin Thiele about WA's flora and you get an enthusiastic answer.

The new WA Herbarium curator says there's so much more to discover.

"We're in an extraordinary position here, we're one of the very few first world herbaria in a biodiversity hot spot," he said.

"We have no idea how many plants there are still to be discovered in WA.

"If you plot the number of described species of plants in WA by years since the first explorers, you have a graph that's still going up steadily. This tells us there are vast numbers of species still out there."

Kevin, who did his PhD on the evolution of banksias, started with DEC in October after moving to WA from Victoria. He's not a stranger to WA, having visited on numerous occasions as part of his field work.

His arrival in WA heralds not only a new work place but also a change in lifestyle for Kevin, wife Suzanne Prober (a conservation ecologist with the CSIRO) and his three children aged 14, 12 and 9.



Kevin Thiele studies banksias. Photo - Sue McKenna/DEC

For the past 12 years he was a senior research fellow at the University of Queensland's Centre for Biological Information Technology.

During this time he lived on a farm with his family in eastern Victoria and telecommuted.

"I was on the university staff but was living 1500 km away," he said.

"We were able to raise a family in a beautiful area where we lived in two 90-year-old Melbourne railway carriages on an organic farm."

Kevin said he was enjoying being back in an office and relishing his new role.

"My role is to look after the functioning of the herbarium in terms of specimen curation, IT support and FloraBase," he said.

"The herbarium here is fantastic. In fact, in Australia we lead the world in the way we manage herbaria and the data they house.

"I've done a lot of work internationally and when you go to North America and Europe you see that Australia is punching way over its weight."

Regional Services Division integrates

DEC's Regional Services Division has combined staff from the merged departments of Conservation and Land Management and Environment in its regional and district offices.

The move covers several of the biggest divisional integrations of the two organisations, particularly since the co-location of staff is a high priority. Staff at the Kununurra, Karratha and Albany regional offices are now under one roof.

Regional Services Director Alan Walker said the transitional arrangements had gone well and support from the Acting Assistant Director of Regional Services, Declan Morgan, had been outstanding.

"The positive response of the staff in each office has also been outstanding," he said.

DEC's regional managers are Keith Hockeyy (Kimberley, Acting), Ian Walker (Pilbara), Kelly Gillen (Midwest), Alan Sands (Swan), Bruce Bone (Wheatbelt), Ian Kealley (Goldfields), Bob Chandler (South West), Peter Keppel (Warren) and John Watson (South Coast).

There are now 930 staff in DEC's Regional Services Division.

Kensington offices

In another move, DEC's Swan Region, Forest Management Branch and Sustainable Forest Management Policies and Practices Branch have moved across Kent Street to their 'new' office in East Technology Park.

Acting Marketing and Promotions Officer Brenda Smith said the Swan Region and FMB had been housed in a building opposite the Kensington Headquarters module for seven years.

This move sees a consolidation of SFM Perth-based staff and makes way for future demolition of SFM house for a new herbarium building to be constructed.



Regional Services Manager Alan Walker (fifth from right, back row) enjoyed a cup of tea and a chat with regional services staff during his visit to the Moora District. He was pictured with staff at Hi Vallee farm, near Badgingarra, where DEC is carrying out conservation projects with farm owners Don and Joy Williams. Alan met conservation employees, ecologists, nature conservation officers, marine park rangers, parks and visitor services staff and other staff, travelling to nature reserves and parks to look at the management of prescribed burning and bushfires, and taking part in a district presentation in the farm's shearing shed. Photo - Sue McKenna/DEC

Environment is the biggest winner

From page 1

On the same day that former American Vice President and internationally renowned environmentalist Al Gore presented a talk about climate change to a packed house at the Concert Hall, a recurring theme of the awards was the rise in public interest and concern about environmental issues.

The West Australian newspaper's News Editor Ben Harvey, said that for a long time the environment had rated as a "poor cousin" to other issues in the public arena. "But now the environment features at the forefront of public issues," he said.

He presented the Individual Award for Community Achievement to Michael Tichbon for his work with local rare flora and fauna.

For the Kimberley Toad Busters, winner of the Community Achievement-Community/Volunteer Group Awards, raising awareness for environmental issues was done on a community level.

Challenge

"The community of Kununurra rose to the challenge of trapping cane toads with a view to buying researchers more time," Sharon McLachlan from the group said.

"About 1200 volunteers, or 20 to 25 per cent of Kununurra's population, united to protect the environment against the invasion of the cane toad."

The winner of the Corporate Business Leading by Example Award and the overall Environment Award, National Lifestyle Villages, is trying to change the attitudes of an entire generation by designing environmentally sustainable homes for active baby boomers, regardless of their socio-economic position.

Accepting the awards, National Lifestyle Village Executive Chairman John Wood said it was groups of people that influenced trends.

"Our environment will suffer if we don't have businesses taking responsibility for our natural capital," he said.

Selected from the 10 category winners, National Lifestyle Villages (NVL) was named as this year's outstanding achiever.



Michael Tichbon, who won the Individual Community Achievement award.

NVL, a privately-owned Western Australian company, aims to build sustainable and beautiful homes for people regardless of their socio-economic position.

Presenting NVL with its award, Mr McGowan said the company's environmental management strategies incorporated biodiversity protection, energy efficiency, atmospheric management, water and waste management, sustainable transportation, light and noise pollution prevention, and monitoring and evaluation.

"Murdoch University estimated that NLV homes can use 50 per cent less energy, 62 per cent less water, and can contribute 82 per cent less waste to landfill per household compared to an average Perth medium density home," he said.

Executive Chairman John Wood said the company had won other awards, including Telstra Business of the Year, but winning an Environment Award made him particularly proud.

"When we saw the other finalists we didn't think we had a chance," he said.

"But we have a passion for what we do as well as trust and belief in the vision of supporting the environment."

"This is a courageous stance for a family business and at times that's been difficult."

Category winners

Community Achievement Individual: Michael Tichbon

By his own account, Michael Tichbon has been involved in protecting the environment his whole life. By his local community's account he's a living treasure. He is a well-known local expert in identifying and protecting rare plants and bushland in the Capel and Busselton areas and has developed innovative weed control techniques in consultation with DEC to protect rare vegetation communities. His pioneering research using controlled burning and selective herbicide



Stephen Davies from the Whiteman Park Board of Management presents Sharon McLachlan and her daughter Elli from the Kimberley Toad Busters with the Community Achievement-Community/Volunteer Group Award.

use has helped local land managers protect threatened flora in and around local wetlands. He has shared his love for the local bushland through guided bushwalks and photographic displays, and regularly shares his knowledge with Government departments, community groups, farmers and other landcare organisations.

Community/Volunteer group:

Kimberley Toad Busters. By enlisting the help of about 1200 volunteers, this group aims to trap cane toads in the State's north to buy scientists some time to come up with a biological control to fight the invasion of this toxic pest.

Corporate Business Leading by Example

National Lifestyle Villages. Also the winner of this year's outstanding achiever award, NVL aims to build sustainable and beautiful homes for people regardless of their socio-economic position.

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National taskgroup meets in Perth

Representatives from the National Reserve System (NRS) Taskgroup met in Perth on 14 and 15 November.

The taskgroup was formed in late 2005 under the auspices of the National Resource Management Ministerial Council to implement recommendations from the *Directions for the National Reserve System – A Partnership Approach*.

DEC's representative on the taskgroup is Acting Assistant Director Nature Conservation, Keith Claymore.

"The main focus of the group is to advance the establishment and improve the management of the National Reserve System (NRS)," Keith said.

"Specifically, the taskgroup is working on improving protected area system design and determining management standards for biodiversity conservation outcomes, and promoting and raising awareness of the NRS," he said.

"Part of the visit to Perth, which was hosted by DEC, was for the taskgroup to gain an appreciation of WA issues relating to the NRS."

With the assistance and guidance of Swan Coastal District Nature Conservation Officers Fiona Felton and Jackie Maguire, and Swan Region Ecologist Mark Garkaklis and Regional Leader Nature Conservation David Mitchell, the taskgroup visited and discussed the management of the Yanchep National Park caves. They also discussed the recovery of Threatened Ecological Communities, fuel reduction and



Members of the National Reserve System Taskgroup with DEC staff at Ellen Brook Nature Reserve in the Swan Region. Photo – DEC

flora regeneration adaptive management burns in Threatened Ecological Communities, NRS land acquisitions and management and recovery of the Western Swamp Tortoise.

Perth Hills District Senior Ranger Stephen Strachan guided the taskgroup on a short walk through the Walyunga National Park and discussed the significance of the area to Aboriginal people, the inclusion of Indigenous issues into park management and conservation issues for park management in weed management, feral animal control and native mammal conservation.

The NRS taskgroup meets on a regular basis throughout the year in different Australian jurisdictions.

Legal eagle retires

DEPARTMENT legal eagle Allison Clark has retired after a 15-year career.

Allison was the first legal officer appointed to the (then) Environmental Protection Authority and witnessed its evolution into the Department of Environment and Conservation today.

Strategic Policy director Rob Sippe, who worked with Allison over many years, said she would be warmly remembered for her forthrightness, integrity and helpfulness.

"She carried a prodigious workload by herself in the early years and later as head of a team," Rob said.

"She was general legal counsel, gave specialist advice on all parts of the Environmental Protection Act, was the instructing officer for new legislation, subordinate legislation and amendments, and organised cases going to the State Solicitor's Office for prosecutions."

"She was also the first chair of the Staff Consultative Committee formed for the merger with the Water and Rivers Commission and contributed heavily in resolving many of the challenges associated with that merger."

Rob said Allison had a tough job in the early days establishing herself as the department's legal officer, overcoming some initial resistance to the position.

"She worked very hard to gain the trust and confidence of what was then the Crown Law Department. She did that by forging close working relationships with a number of our key contacts there which greatly benefited the department."

Sonya Krishnan has taken on the position of Legal Services acting manager. She has been with the Department for more than three years, most recently with the Environmental Enforcement Unit.

Sonya said she was looking forward to delivering a high level of legal service that would be prompt and supportive.

Briefly...

Decade's work honoured

MORE than 150 people attended a celebration in Albany to mark 10 years of Land for Wildlife in the South Coast region.

Landholders, consultants, agency people and volunteers took part. The venue was decked with wildflowers and banners on environmental themes produced by local schoolchildren.

Land for Wildlife Officer Sylvia Leighton thanked everyone for their cooperation, while the program's leader Penny Hussey spoke about the achievements and its management of nearly a quarter of a million hectares of LFW sites.

Assessment reports released

TWO WA Conservation Commission performance assessment reports were released in November, one related to the management of Lesueur National Park and the other to the application of prescribed burning in the south-west.

The Lesueur report documents the assessment of the management standards applied by DEC against the requirements of the *Lesueur National Park and Coomallo Nature Reserve Management Plan 1995-2005*, which was produced to guide management direction and standards.

The prescribed burning report details an assessment of a number of individual prescribed burns undertaken by DEC across the south-west. It follows a recommendation by the Environmental Protection Authority in its *Review of the Fire Policies and Management Practices of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (October 2004)* that the commission audit DEC's prescribed burning program.

Both can be downloaded from the commission's website www.conservation.wa.gov.au.

Charity begins at home – or at DEC

DEC Crawley staff have been honoured by Charity Link, a collaboration of 110 WA charities, for their ongoing support of Charity Link's annual appeals.

The award was given as part of Charity Link's fifth birthday celebrations during which the group recognised five individuals and organisations that have made a significant contribution to the success of Charity Link.

For the past five years, the Crawley office led by Judy Kenward has taken part in the Western Power Charity Link Christmas Appeal by 'sponsoring' a local family in need and anonymously providing the food and gifts required to make a brighter Christmas.

"Christmas is typically a difficult time for families in need and so becoming involved in the Charity Link Christmas Appeal was a way we could make a real difference to an entire WA family each year," Judy said.

Charity Link Executive Officer Maureen Mawson said support from organisations such as DEC was vital to the success of the annual Christmas appeal and encouraged other local businesses to follow suit.

This year, DEC is planning to 'sponsor' three WA families, each headed by a single dad.

If you are interested in donating gifts, food or money to make the Christmases of these families special, please contact Judy at DEC Corporate Headquarters on 9442 0300.

New Northam office opens

DEC is restructuring its Wheatbelt Region to improve service delivery and management of the region.

This includes changing the boundaries of three of its operational districts and opening a new office in Northam.

The new operational districts are Avon-Mortlock, with headquarters in Northam; Yilgarn, with headquarters in Merredin; and Great Southern, with headquarters in Narrogin. There will be a work centre at Katanning.

DEC's Wheatbelt staff numbers have doubled in the past 10 years.

The State Government allocated \$480,000 for biodiversity conservation and prescribed burning in the 2006-07 Budget. Last year it allocated \$2.75million to DEC to retain 40 conservation employees who will carry out work associated with conservation, parks and visitor services and fire management through-

out the State, including the Wheatbelt.

DEC has allocated more than \$8 million a year to salinity projects across WA – many in this region including:

- revegetation programs and engineering works to protect key wetlands and remnant vegetation;
- the identification of catchments where biodiversity values can be retained and improved through an integrated catchment management approach;
- protection of conservation reserves against increasing salinity; and
- promoting revegetation with oil mallees and other native plants, in collaboration with the national Co-operative Research Centre for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity.

The new Northam office is at 55 Fitzgerald Street.

Environment is the biggest winner

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Government Leading by Example and Community Energy Efficiency

South East Regional Energy Group. Through a number of local initiatives this group, which is made up of the cities of Armadale and Gosnells and the Serpentine Jarradale Shire, aims to 'switch your thinking' to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Small Business Leading by Example

Smart Burn Pty Ltd. With its focus on improving air quality by reducing smoke haze and particulate emissions from domestic wood heaters, Smart Burn has developed a product that when placed in a wood-burning fire not only reduces emissions but also cleans the chimney of black soot and sap.

Bush, Land and Waterways

Swan River Trust. Through its initiative at Liege Street Wetland, the Swan River Trust is working with government and community groups to improve water quality and achieve other environmental

benefits in the area.

Coastal, Marine and Estuarine

Tangaroa Blue. This group has undertaken a range of activities designed to improve the health of the State's beaches and learn more about what objects end up in the ocean, what we can do to stop them getting there and what impact this has on the marine life.

Waste and Resources

Scott Print. Through a variety of practices, Scott Print has changed its printing, disposal and recycling techniques in line with its strong social, moral and ethical drive to contribute towards environmental sustainability.

Air Quality

Sustainable Transport Coalition WA. With a charter to reduce Perth's car dependence, lessen the city's air pollution, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the health of the community, this group has played a significant lobbying role and has implemented other initiatives.



Bush, Land and Waterways award. Pictured (left to right) were Tom Atkinson from the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL), Steve Atwell from the City of Canning, Rachel Spencer from the Swan River Trust, Julie Robert from SERCUL and Trust General Manager, Rod Hughes.



SEDO Senior Manager Policy and Program Development Tony Stewart with City of Armadale Councillor Pat Hart, who accepted two awards on the night – the Government Leading by Example Award and the Community Energy Efficiency Award.