



OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2007

Cane toad ad campaign continues

By Joanna Moore

THE STATE Government's fight against the cane toad has received a \$1 million boost.

Premier Alan Carpenter announced the funding at The University of Western Australia.

"The ultimate answer to stopping the invasion of the cane toad lies in science," he said.

Mr Carpenter said \$500,000 would go towards groundbreaking research that could ultimately lead to the development of a biological weapon designed to kill cane toads without harming native animals.

Professor Grant Morahan from the WA Institute for Medical Research will lead the research – a cane toad genetic research project.

Professor Morahan said the project aimed to determine the genetic

repertoire of the cane toad in order to discover its 'Achilles heel', enabling the development of a specific biological control mechanism.

"We need to find out what genes might be relevant to controlling the cane toad," he said.

"A successful control mechanism needs to either kill or interfere with the development of the toad or its breeding and it also needs to be self-propagating."

Professor Morahan said the initiative was the first Australian genome project and would also assist in other fields, including medical research.

During the announcement of the new funding Professor Dale Roberts, who is collaborating with Professor Morahan on the genome project, acknowledged the work of DEC in the battle against the cane toad.



Picture at the cane toad funding announcement (left to right) were Professor Dale Roberts from UWA, Premier Alan Carpenter, Professor Grant Morahan from the WA Institute for Medical Research and Dr Winston Kay from DEC, the Program Coordinator for the State Cane Toad Initiative. Photo – Joanna Moore.

If you see a cane toad...

DEC became the lead agency responsible for cane toad management in WA from 1 July 2005 and is responsible for investigating reported sightings of cane toads throughout the State.

Program Coordinator of the State Cane Toad Initiative Winston Kay said people who contact Perth-based DEC staff to report a suspected cane toad should be directed to DEC's Nature

Protection Branch on 9334 0292.

"In regional areas where local expertise is available, DEC staff should investigate local reports of cane toads and forward the details, including the outcomes of the investigation, to Nature Protection Branch by email (imports@dec.wa.gov.au)," Winston said.

"If no expertise is available in regional areas, details of the report should be forwarded to Nature

Protection Branch for investigation.

"This procedure does not apply to cane toad control operations currently underway in the Northern Territory east of Kununurra."

People who call the cane toad hotline (1800 084 881) during office hours will be transferred to DEC. Calls to this number after hours will be referred to a call centre linked to Nature Protection Branch.

He said the joint State-Commonwealth project to undertake a major biological survey of the Kimberley islands would be important for developing strategies to protect the biodiversity of the Kimberley.

The \$1 million funding also includes \$340,000 for on-ground

work by community groups and \$150,000 to fund a new coordinating role based in Kununurra.

The new funding takes the State Government's commitment to fighting the westward expansion of cane toads to almost \$12 million since December 2004.

Federal award for MATES program



Pictured (left to right) were South West Aboriginal Training Supervisor Karim Khan with Aboriginal trainees Carol Rodd, Jerry Narkle, Luke Puertollano and Ryan Humphries on project work at Shark Bay.

DEC's Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES) program has won a 2007 Federal Minister's Award for Excellence for Employers of Australian Apprentices.

The MATES program was awarded the top prize in the WA Southern Region category by the Federal Minister for Vocational and Further

Education, Andrew Robb.

DEC's Coordinator of Traineeship and Cadetship Programs, Laura Sinclair, said the MATES program – the first of its kind in the public sector – supported the department's aim to achieve 10 to 15 per cent Aboriginal employment by 2016.

"The object of the program is to

produce confident and competent trainees ready to step into field officer roles," Laura said.

"We now have about 80 Aboriginal staff – and many of these are current members or graduates of the MATES program, which has been employing trainees for five years.

Continued page 2...

Communication boost as DEC spearheads new electronics technology

WESTERN Australia's fire-fighting operations and emergency management will get a major boost as DEC spearheads the introduction of the latest satellite communications for its emergency services and land and marine management operations.

DEC's communications networks across the State will be expanded during the next two years following the allocation of \$6 million provided by the Australian Government's Clever Networks program.

"This is sharp end technology," the Manager of DEC's Fire Management Services, Rick Sneeuwjagt, said.

"People working away from our communication hubs will now be completely connected and traceable by satellite.

"They will be able to tap into information systems and gain instant access to maps and weather information on site.

"This will enable managers to establish command posts for incidents located in even the most remote areas of the State. It's wonderful."

He said DEC was regarded by other States' emergency net-

works as being a leader in its use of satellite and radio communications technology.

"We're the guinea pigs and our actions will be watched around the country," he said.

Money has come from two stages of the Clever Networks program. A total of \$1.75 million came from the Emergency Connect WA project in Round 1 and a further \$4.25 million came from the Bush Medivac WA project in Round 2.

DEC will use the funds to tap into satellite networks that will boost weather monitoring systems, remote sensing, voice and location tracking and text messaging.

Broadband satellite equipment will be installed in 16 remote offices which will then be able to use DECNet.

Three hundred and sixty tracking devices and 360 visual display terminals will be installed in remote vehicles, fire vehicles, aircraft and boats to better monitor and locate staff and equipment during emergency operations across the State. Nineteen radio repeater towers will be built to expand DEC's regional services network.

Continued page 2...

Working Together

This edition of *Environment and Conservation News* includes a wide variety of articles which reflect, in turn, the wide variety of functions that the Department performs throughout Western Australia.

In this period of strong economic growth and competition to attract and retain employees, that variety should be one of our strengths, and I have been encouraging Directors and Managers to look at designing jobs and work programs so that staff can have a greater breadth of satisfaction and achievement in their work. This variety is one of the benefits of the amalgamation of the two former agencies to form DEC that we all need to build on.

Nevertheless, with the employment market being so strong, we will have to be more innovative. A recent visit to southern Africa by three staff generated a lot of interest in working for DEC, and we are also actively pursuing interstate and other overseas markets to meet our recruitment needs.

I will conclude with two 'congratulations' – firstly to everyone involved in the Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme, for winning a second national award in addition to the 2003 Premier's Award for the WA public sector.

And secondly, congratulations to Kim Taylor on his appointment to the position of Deputy Director General Environment. The filling of other vacant senior executive positions in the department is underway.

Keiran McNamara,
Director General



Environment and Conservation News October-November 2007

Published by the Department of Environment and Conservation's Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division, Cygnet Hall, (cnr) Mounts Bay Road and Hackett Drive, CRAWLEY, Western Australia 6009

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

Tour operator praises DEC system

KIMBERLEY tour operator Michael McCulkin, whose Tri State Safaris won the 2006 Australian Tourism Awards, has praised DEC's licensing system.

"DEC is to be congratulated on how it manages tour operator licensing and the regular dissemination of information," Michael said.

"I am part of a working group looking at a new system for licensing tour operators in NSW and I strongly suggested that the group look at how good the Western Australian model is.

"We find that visiting the various national parks in the Kimberley region is made easy by the facilities and information provided and by

the friendly and professional approach of DEC staff."

DEC supports tourism and recreation in WA's spectacular natural environment by licensing tour operators and providing them with up-to-date information and news.

Licensing helps keep operators informed about tourism opportunities on DEC-managed lands and also enables land uses to be managed and monitored so they are ecologically sustainable.

This means tourism businesses – vehicle safaris, guided walks, adventure tours or corporate training – can return to locations again

and again, knowing they will be in the same unspoiled condition.

One of the ways the department supports tour operators is through the e-newsletter Touring Western Australia, which is sent to the 400 commercial tour operators who are licensed with the department.

DEC has also developed Tour Operator Handbooks and an online training program. These provide information on minimising risk to park visitors and on how operators can help maintain and protect WA's natural environment for the long-term benefit of the State's tourism industry.

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Federal award for MATES program

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"One catalyst for cultural change in the department has been the increased employment and involvement of Aboriginal people through the MATES program and the resulting incorporation of Aboriginal cultural advice and traditional land management practices into DEC's work.

"The MATES program is a great career opportunity for Aboriginal people who have a connection to country and want to be involved in managing that land."

The program has a rigorous selection process that includes looking for the connection to country.

"We advertise in regional areas and

trainees must be accepted by the community," Laura said.

"In addition to each trainee's enthusiasm and hard work, the success of MATES can be attributed to the training program we use to help the trainees develop their knowledge and careers and the incredible support the trainees receive in the workplace from their supervisors and managers."

The national award adds to the recognition already gained by the highly regarded MATES program which won the 2003 Premier's Award category for Leadership in Diversity, the overall Premier's Award for Excellence and, in 2004, the national Diversity@work Award.



Pictured at the Federal Award Ceremony (left to right) were Federal Minister for Vocational and Further Education Andrew Robb, DEC Policy Officer Tania Donovan, Coordinator of DEC's Traineeship and Cadetship Programs Laura Sinclair, DEC MATES graduate and Aboriginal Heritage Officer Eddie Wilkes and Ches Leonard from CCI Employfast. Photo courtesy of Department of Education, Science and Training.

Busy time for parks during Avon Descent

By Michael Phillips

THE ANNUAL Avon Descent white water race was a busy time for national park rangers and Parks and Visitor Services staff in the Perth Hills.

Day two of the August race saw the competitors travel down the Avon River through the Avon Valley and Walyunga national parks. Several spectator viewing points were located in these parks – the most popular being Emu Falls in Avon Valley and Syd's Rapids in Walyunga.

With the river levels the highest they have been in almost 10 years, the chance to see competitors tackling the rapids brought many spectators into both parks.

With the help of the Gingin/Chittering Lions Club at Avon Valley and the Bullsbrook Volunteer Fire Brigade at Walyunga, DEC staff efficiently managed the influx of visitors.

Perth Hills District Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator Jamie Ridley said he wanted to thank all staff involved for adopting such a positive approach.

"I was impressed with the way both parks were presented to the public," he said.

"The friendly and professional manner in which all staff approached their work and the public was pleasing."

"The high water levels and the sunshine certainly increased the visitor numbers, but there were no major issues and the event ran smoothly."

Thanks to the following staff for their involvement over the Avon Descent period – Kevin Hill, Elisa Skillen, Rebecca Hamilton, Gavin Amos, Rohan Carboon and John Rullo.

Thanks also to senior rangers Steve Strachan at Walyunga and Jim Maher at Avon Valley who, although both on leave during this year's Avon Descent, have put in many years ironing out the kinks in the event.

Communication boost as DEC spearheads new electronics technology

From page 1...

Another 40 portable satellite systems will be provided for staff in remote areas, and one airborne sensor for remote sensing will be acquired to assist mapping of wildfires, prescribed burns and vegetation changes.

DEC's mobile communication vehicles that support emergency management will be fitted with automatic self-aligning satellite equipment while 20 portable satellite-

based automatic weather stations that meet Bureau of Meteorology standards will collect and transmit weather data.

Eight DEC staff working in remote areas will be equipped with personnel broadband satellite units that connect to the department's internet operations.

"Remote communities will be able to communicate with us in detail on a day-to-day basis," Rick said.

Day at DEC for Minister

By Joanna Moore

ENVIRONMENT Minister David Templeman spent a day finding out more about the department's work and meeting DEC staff across three metropolitan offices in September.

His visit to DEC started at the WA Herbarium where curator Kevin Thiele and DEC Director General Keiran McNamara joined Mr Templeman for an inspection of the facilities.

Mr Templeman launched the Herbarium's latest innovation – online identification tools – in the new FloraBase 2.5, after Senior Technical Officer Ben Richardson demonstrated how it worked.

Mr Templeman took the opportunity to thank staff for their hard work.

"I particularly want to acknowledge the

leading-edge work which is being done within the limitations of the Herbarium's aging facilities," he said.

At DEC's Kensington offices, Mr Templeman toured the Customer Service Section, Nature Protection Branch, Fire Management module and Environmental Management Branch before joining staff for morning tea.

New centre

The location of the new Biodiversity Conservation Centre and Herbarium was one topic of discussion, with Mr Templeman visiting the site where the new facility will be built.

At the Atrium, Deputy Director General Kim Taylor introduced Mr Templeman to staff in the Public Affairs Branch, Air Quality Management Branch, Business Support Services, Legal Services, Information Services Section, Environmental Analysis and



Snakes alive! Environment Minister David Templeman gets friendly with a water python under the watchful eyes of Director General Keiran McNamara (left) and Manager of the Nature Protection Branch Dave Mell. Photo – Joanna Moore



*DEC Director General Keiran McNamara (left), Research Scientist Kelly Shepherd, Research Scientist Ryonen Butcher with a specimen of the newly named species *Prostanthera sp Murchison*, Environment Minister David Templeman and Research Scientist Juliet Wege at the WA Herbarium. Photo – Joanna Moore*

Review Branch and executive staff from the Strategic Policy and Sustainability divisions.

The Minister also met staff from the Pollution Response Unit, Environmental Enforcement Unit, Industry Regulation Branch, Environmental Management executive office, Contaminated Sites Branch, Community Education Branch, Keep Australia Beautiful team and the Sustainability

Programs Unit.

Mr Templeman also toured the Planning and Infrastructure Branch and the Marine Ecosystems and Terrestrial Ecosystems branches as well as inspecting the location of the new Office of Climate Change.

The busy day concluded with an afternoon tea with Atrium-based staff.

Count shows threat from camels

By Neil Burrows

AERIAL surveys of camels in the Central Ranges and parts of the Great Victoria Desert found camel populations have grown so much that they are harming the environment.

Pastoral and remote communities are affected as an estimated 400,000 camels run wild in WA's arid regions with another 400,000 outside its borders.

The Saving our Species-funded surveys show central Australia's feral camel population has doubled in the past decade.

Bruce Ward, Colin Ward, Graeme Liddelow and Neil Burrows from DEC's Science Division were joined by Samantha van Wyngaarden and David Warburton from the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) to undertake the survey. The aircraft was provided by Esperance Air Service.

They surveyed 30 300-kilometre long transects at an altitude of 76 metres to count camels and found more than 3000 camels in each sample box, or more than 18,000 camels in the 60,000 square kilometre survey area. The most concentrated areas of camels were in the more productive vegetation of the Central Ranges.

In some areas the average number of camels was two per square kilometre – enough to cause significant vegetation degradation.



The camel counting team - Vaughan Leiper (Esperance Air Service), Bruce Ward (DEC), Rob Roland (Esperance Air Service), Col Ward (DEC), Neil Burrows (DEC), David Warburton (DAFWA), Graeme Liddelow (DEC) and Sam Wyngaarden (DAFWA) on the Warburton airstrip. Photo – DEC

The survey is part of a collaborative survey and research program with agencies in South Australia. Once pooled and analysed,

data will provide reliable estimates of the distribution and density of camels in WA. This will assist greatly in assessing the

threat camels pose to conservation values and also with developing cost-effective control measures.

Waste: a delicate balancing act

CHANGING climate and the increasing amounts of waste being created by the world were leading topics at Western Australia's only internationally-recognised waste management conference.

Hosted by DEC in conjunction with the Western Australian Local Government Association and the Waste Management Association of Australia, the Waste and Recycle 2007 Conference – Planning in an Uncertain Climate: A Delicate Balancing Act? featured five keynote speakers and delegates from some of the world's leading waste management organisations.

Keynote speakers included Professor of Law at Georgetown University in the USA Lisa Heinzerling, Director of Biffa Waste Services Limited Peter Jones from the UK, strategist and author Chantell Ilbury from South Africa and Andrew Simmons, previously with the Waste and Resources Action

Programme in the UK. Enzo Favoino, an Italian organics specialist, provided delegates with a 'virtual' presentation as he was unable to attend because of illness.

DEC Conference Committee Chair Bernard Ryan said the conference offered valuable ideas and information that would help participants move towards more coordinated methods of recycling and reuse of products.

"The ever-growing amounts of waste produced around the world are putting increasing pressure on the international waste management community to find more acceptable solutions," he said.

"This problem is complicated by our changing climate and the need for a delicate balance between our environmental, social and economic needs.

"The conference provided a forum for current trends and issues with open discussion on possible solutions."



DEC Conference Committee Chair Bernard Ryan (left), Professor of Law at Georgetown University Lisa Heinzerling, Chantell Ilbury and Director of Biffa Waste Services Limited Peter Jones. Photo – Ray York.

Bid to find WA's cleanest beach

NOMINATIONS are being called for WA's cleanest beach.

The WA Clean Beach Challenge – a community pride program coordinated by Keep Australia Beautiful WA (KABWA) and Surf Life Saving WA rewards communities for protecting and enhancing their local beaches.

Program Manager Jennie Anderton said the WA Clean Beach Challenge aimed to help keep WA's beaches beautiful, environmentally healthy and litter free and to encourage care, protection and management of coastal regions.

"The competition will encourage beautification, education, partnerships, environmental programs, safety programs and the celebration of our beach culture," Jennie said.

"The WA Clean Beach Challenge is open

to all communities and beaches within WA."

Community groups, tourism associations, businesses, service groups, local government authorities, coastal area schools, surf life saving clubs, coast care groups, environment groups and recreational fishing groups can nominate a local beach.

Submissions can be made until December. Judging will be in February with the awards ceremony at the end of that month.

For more information about the process, judging criteria, award categories or to obtain an entrance form please visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au or contact KABWA by email (kabc@dec.wa.gov.au) or phone (6467 5143).



Some of the Keep Australia Beautiful team were (back row, left to right) Jennie Anderton, Anna Mcglynn, Josie Huxtable, Kate MacRae, (front row, left to right) Sherilee Macready, Sue Gazey, Shantell McClenaughan and Leah Martin. Absent: Amy Thom, Cindy Fryer, Brad Waghorn and Cliff Bliss. Photo – Emma Pointon.

A big thanks to staff

THANKS to everyone who completed the recent attraction and retention staff survey.

Almost 1000 staff responded – a 45 per cent response rate.

Many people provided written comments which will form a part of the final survey analysis, findings and recommendations.

Survey information will be shared with staff through Helpdesk broadcasts, DECmatters articles and a special Intranet site.

DEC's Workforce Planning Manager Allan

Chapman said it was important to note that the level of detail being collected by the survey was determined by its focus on attraction and retention issues.

"An opportunity will be provided to participate in a more in-depth survey early next year, as is required by the department to report to Government," he said.

For more information contact DEC's Workforce Planning and Performance Consultant Kym Squires on 0423 881 013 or kym.squires@dec.wa.gov.au.

New digs for wallabies



DEC's Yilgarn District Wildlife Officer Chris Phoebe releases a black-flanked rock-wallaby. Photo – Rowan Inglis

NINETEEN black-flanked rock wallabies have a new home in the Avon Valley.

DEC Yilgarn District staff and volunteers trapped and monitored wallaby populations in the wheatbelt and relocated them to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Paruna Wildlife Sanctuary.

DEC Conservation Officer Rowan Inglis said the monitoring program was aimed at learning more about the endangered species, their needs and the threats to their survival.

He said the program came about by combining the efforts of the Avon Catchment Council's 'Back from the Edge' program with DEC's *Western Shield* program which re-establishes fauna in areas where they had become locally extinct.

Volunteers included local landowners, members of the Kellerberrin Land Conservation District Committee, Wallatin Wildlife Group and DEC Bush Rangers.

"The assistance from volunteers and landowners has been critical to both the success of this work and the ongoing conservation of this species," Rowan said.

The monitoring program focused on Mount Caroline Nature Reserve and a private property in the Bruce Rock Shire.

By the end of two weeks, 53 rock wallabies had been captured from Mount Caroline and 35 from Bruce Rock.

Rowan said the numbers showed *Western Shield's* fox baiting program had helped boost the once locally extinct rock wallaby population.

Bunbury celebrates safety success

DEC's Bunbury Work Centre has celebrated its impressive safety record with a safety and wellbeing day.

The centre recorded five years' of injury free time until December 2006.

Bunbury Work Centre includes staff from the South West Region, Forest Management Branch, Sustainable Forest Management Division, Fire Management Services and individual specialists from Corporate Affairs, Waste Management, Environmental Management and Management Audit.

South West Regional Manager Bob Chandler said the day had included an awards presentation by the Director of Regional Services Alan Walker, on behalf of the Director General, to all 85 staff. Colleen Clemens, Alf Lorkeiwicz, Alf Shiosaki and John Kruger were specially recognised for their ongoing commitment and support to occupational health and safety in the workplace over many years.

Bob said the wellbeing day had also included information on home exercise, improving eating habits, correct posture, vehicle-recovery techniques and looking at fire experiences.

Impressive

He said the centre's good safety record was particularly impressive considering the type of work it undertook.

"The centre conducts a wide range of work including extensive fieldwork throughout the greater South West and North West regions, administrative and managerial work, financial management, whale and marine strandings, frog surveys, flora assessment and industry regulation," Bob said.

"A major part of daily work duties often involves travelling significant distances, working long hours and often being alone.

"Also of particular note is that the Bunbury



Pictured taking part in a home exercise program were (from left) Project Officer Amanda Broome, Project Officer Justin Chilcott, South West Regional Manager Bob Chandler and Regional Services Director Alan Walker. Photo – Ashlee Knapton.

work centre has, in a sense, been a construction site over the past three years, involving large scale building and renovation works.

"It is very encouraging and pleasing that no incidents were recorded during the major construction period when there was potentially a higher risk of an incident occurring."

Bob attributed the impressive safety record to a variety of factors.

"We've reinvigorated the Bunbury Occupational Safety and Health Committee, had new committee members, conducted workplace inspections, posture and stretching programs, driver awareness appraisals, safety inductions,

regular safety meetings, incident investigations and encouraged participation in introductory yoga sessions, the local indoor volleyball competition, DEC corporate team bowls, the local gym and ongoing staff social club activities.

"Together these initiatives go a long way to a safe work place and healthy work team."

Pollution response a winner

ROSSMOYNE Senior High School students had a close-up look at the work of DEC's Pollution Response Unit (PRU) – the State's lead unit in pollution issues, incidents and emergencies.

Jimmy Seow and Rebecca Grasl from the PRU visited the school to talk to students and teacher Martin Grasl about pollution response.

They talked to a Year 8 Science Extension class and a Year 11 Physics class about the work of the PRU, PRU Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) and Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear (CBRN) response.

The visit gave them a chance to discuss the choice of subjects and career pathways that could lead to a career in pollution response work after school.

Incidents

Jimmy outlined the type of incidents the PRU responds to and the types of environmental hazards they encounter.

He also explained the impact of the events on the community and the environment and how they could affect the students.

Rebecca demonstrated various PRU instruments and equipment.

"Different volatile organic compounds such as diesel and acetone were prepared in small jars by the school's laboratory staff and each student used the PRU's gas detection instruments to detect their readings," she said.

The students also saw inside the PRU vehicle and its equipment.

"The students were 'wowed' by some of



Rebecca Grasl shows students the lay-out and equipment in the PRU's vehicle. Photo – Martin Grasl

the equipment the PRU uses to detect gases, contain spills and monitor other nasties which may be found at chemical spills, fires, truck roll-over events and other potential environmentally hazardous situations," Rebecca said.

"The visit was a fun, educational and exciting time for the students, Martin Grasl and the PRU officers," Rebecca said.

"We hope some of the students will consider careers in Environmental Science and Chemistry and perhaps a career with DEC."

New parks promoted

DEC's Karratha office joined community celebrations at the Fenacling Festival in Karratha with gusto.

Pilbara Regional Manager Ian Walker promoted the soon-to-be-established national and marine parks.

The name Fenacling is a play on scientific names representing three main industries in the Roebourne Shire – Fe (iron) NaCl (sodium chloride) and ng (natural gas).

DEC Information Officer Judymae Napier said the festival featured stalls, sideshows, demonstrations, music, fireworks and other entertainment.

"This year our office focused on promoting the proposed Murujuga National Park, the Dampier Archipelago Islands National Park and the Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Island Marine Management Area, as well as the recent national heritage listing for the islands of the Dampier Archipelago, including the Burrup Peninsula," she said.

"With the support of DEC Special Projects Officer (Marine) Carolyn Thomson-Dans we provided show bags which included a LANDSCOPE magazine, marine park bookmarks, turtle stickers promoting marine parks, wrist bands promoting save the whales, a children's maze and a flip pad of protected marine species donated by the Federal Government."

New legislation to protect rivers

NEW legislation to protect and manage one of our most prized assets – the Swan and Canning rivers – has come into effect.

The *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* will provide a new mechanism to better protect the rivers, and set up a more coordinated management framework to deal with commercial and recreational activities, and urban and rural influences on the rivers.

Public authorities will now be required to take into account the objectives and principles of the new Act when they undertake their functions.

The legislation enabled the Swan Canning Riverpark to be created. It consists of the waterways and adjacent public land of the Swan, Canning, Helena and Southern rivers.

Riverpark manager Roxanne Shadbolt said the legislation allowed for joint management arrangements for amenities on the rivers and shorelines, resulting in greater protection for the environment.

To comply with the new legislation, Environment Minister David Templeman appointed a new Swan River Trust board.

The Minister also released a report on the community's future values and aspirations for the Swan and Canning rivers which indicates that the Perth community strongly valued the rivers as a key feature of the city's recreation, social and cultural landscape.



The new Swan River Trust Board (from left to right) James Freemantle, Nyoongar Elder Noel Nannup, Jane Chambers, Dudley Maier, Environment Minister David Templeman and Swan River Trust Chairman Charlie Welker. Photo – Swan River Trust

River health a common goal

A NEW key Memorandum of Understanding between the Swan River Trust and a local government – the City of Bayswater – will help address issues that have an impact on Western Australia's rivers and foreshores.

The City of Bayswater co-hosted the Swan River Trust's biannual Mayoral Forum, which was supported by more than

20 local governments.

The Swan River Trust and the City of Bayswater have agreed to work together to develop a water quality improvement partnership project plan between the council, community catchment groups and the State Government.

The agreement allows a targeted approach to address urban water quality issues and complements and builds on work with other important

partners – the Swan Catchment Council and Water Corporation.

The plan will focus primarily on the Bayswater Main Drain, which was recognised as one of the eight priorities for on-ground investment by the Swan River Trust.

The plan will be supported by the North Metro Conservation Group, enabling the involvement of community groups in projects.

Namesake returns to John Forrest



Artist Robert Juniper with his painting of Lord John Forrest. Photo – DEC

ROBERT Juniper, one of Western Australia's most famous artists, has donated a painting of WA's first Premier Lord John Forrest to John Forrest National Park.

The work will be housed at the Wildflower Tavern in the park.

DEC's Director of Regional Services Alan Walker said Robert was a State living treasure.

"He has made a very generous and personal donation," he said during a function at the tavern for Robert and his family and friends.

"To show our appreciation we would like to offer Robert a lifetime National Park Pass to use on visits to John Forrest National Park and other WA national parks."

Robert Juniper has been painting for more than six decades and his passion for the flora and fauna of WA is evident in his artwork.

His admiration for Lord Forrest was also apparent when he spoke about the donated painting and the inspiration behind it.

Robert spoke of the statesman's vision for taking water to the goldfields and his own childhood memories of when his father worked on the Kalgoorlie pipeline's second maintenance crew.

"My father worked on the pipeline between Merredin and Southern Cross and our family, along with other families, lived in tents along the pipeline," he said.

"This was an exceptionally memorable part of my life and ignited my passion for the WA landscape."

Critically endangered flame pea translocated

DEC STAFF have planted 206 prostrate flame pea seedlings at a site near Moora to help protect the species from becoming extinct.

Kensington Research Scientist Sandra Thomas said the prostrate flame pea (*Chorizema humile*) was critically endangered because of its limited range, quality of habitat and severely fragmented populations.

"The species is only known from a small number of natural populations in degraded vegetation on private property or road reserves in the Bindi Bindi and Coorow areas," she said.

DEC Conservation Officer Benson Todd said threatening processes such as grazing and trampling of vegetation, road maintenance, competition from introduced weeds and inappropriate fire regimes continued to diminish the quality and availability of suitable habitat.



DEC Conservation Officer Emma Clingan. Photo – Benson Todd.

"This has reduced natural populations to about 116 plants," he said. "The aim is to establish two new, secure and viable populations of the species."

The Moora site was selected because it had similar soil, vegetation and landform to the natural populations.

"The seedlings' progress will be closely monitored and they will be watered through the summer months," Benson said.

Sandra said the critical issue would be to collect enough seed from the natural populations to stock a second translocation for 2008.

"It is difficult to get seed from the species as it is heavily grazed by kangaroos and rabbits, which affects its ability to flower and set seed," she said.

"To combat this, cages have been installed to protect the plants in the natural and translocated populations."

Drummond Recovery Catchment Project making a difference

DEC OFFICERS spent three days on a farm in the Drummond Recovery Catchment planting 25,000 native seedlings.

The farm joined past revegetation work completed on farmer Geoff Ludeman's and neighbouring properties.

The project provided fencing material to fence 41 hectares of remnant woodland to

help manage it for conservation.

Perth Hills District Nature Conservation Officer Bob Huston said the aims of the project were to address salinity issues affecting a creekline draining towards one of the nature reserves in the recovery catchment and to develop a biodiversity linkage connecting Drummond Nature Reserve to a greater area of protected

remnant vegetation.

Since 2002, nearly 290,000 native seedlings have been planted to address salinity issues affecting nature reserves in the Drummond Recovery Catchment.

Fencing materials have been provided to protect nearly 55 hectares of remnant vegetation on farms with voluntary management guidelines to help farmers manage them.