



## Peter Lambert retires after 44 years

**AFTER a career spanning 44 years in the public service Peter Lambert has called it a day, hung up his uniform and announced his retirement.**

Peter started his career as a cadet fauna warden in Perth in 1964 at the age of 16. He experienced a change of heart in 1967 and decided to try his hand at something different, venturing into private enterprise, but he quickly worked out he was better off where he was and rejoined the department as a fisheries officer in 1968.

In the early stages of his career Peter worked at the Pemberton trout hatchery. He then moved to Lancelin where he had to share a fisherman's hut with the crew and then to Green Island, first living in a radio shack on top of a sand dune and later in a caravan at the bottom of a sand dune.

In 1973 he transferred to Kalgoorlie as a wildlife officer where he enjoyed working in remote areas including Giles, Docker River and the Nullarbor. He was later stationed in Pingelly where he managed Tutanning and Boyagin Rock nature reserves, monitored wetlands and waterbirds, and implemented the grey kangaroo management plan throughout the region.

Peter transferred to Busselton in 1979, specialising in flora until the formation of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in 1985.

It didn't seem long after CALM was formed when Peter was in a meeting and Charlie

Broadbent poked his head around the corner and said, "We don't have anything to do with whales do we?" This resulted in a tumultuous few days for Peter, who was crucial in successfully returning 96 out of the 114 stranded false killer whales back to the sea.

In 1988 Peter accepted an opportunity to transfer to Perth in a specialist flora role. Two years later he became a supervising wildlife officer and then a regional compliance coordinator responsible for a small team of dedicated wildlife officers operating throughout the Swan Region and elsewhere in the state on specialist tasks.

There were many highlights during Peter's long career, but some of the things that stood out for Peter included his trip to Heard Island with scientists from the Antarctic Division and the wilderness skills and tracking field training trips undertaken in remote parts of the state.

Peter particularly remembers the advanced bush survival exercise in the Pilbara with Bob Cooper when he and his colleagues walked over 90 kilometres in six days with no food other than a couple of stock cubes and a tea bag, sleeping on the ground with no swag or sleeping bag. It was during this exercise that Peter displayed his skills, night navigating across country using the star constellations as a guide.

Peter was an integral member of the large whale disentanglement team, responsible for releasing a number of entangled whales off our coast, and was involved with most of the department's stranded marine mammal rescue efforts.



*Peter Lambert on his visit to Heard Island.*

He was also involved in the annual whale watch patrols, and assisted in overseeing the management of the whale shark industry off Tantabiddi and Coral Bay on the Exmouth Cape.

Manager of the Nature Protection Branch, David Mell said that Peter was a central figure in wildlife rehabilitation.

"Peter was highly respected by his fellow wildlife officers for his work ethic, integrity, good nature, patience and sense of fairness particularly in the way he supported and managed his team," said David.

"He was also highly regarded by other departmental staff who frequently sought his advice on wildlife matters.

"Peter's general knowledge and identification skills were well known and he was often asked for advice when it came to identifying particular species of fauna or flora."

Peter is now looking forward to doing some travelling and also putting his nautical skills and love of the marine environment to good use by heading out on his yacht with his partner Jane. They also plan to contrast that by four-wheel driving the Canning Stock Route.

Peter will formally retire from the department on the 8 October, after clearing his remaining long service leave entitlement. We wish him all the best for a long and happy retirement.



# DEC fleet emissions *DEC*reased

**FOLLOWING the recent release of the *DEC*rease policy, DEC's Fleet Advisory Committee has undertaken a review of the more than 700 vehicles available to government agencies and produced a greatly refined list for the department.**

In 2008, State Fleet introduced a vehicle policy in a bid to reduce whole-of-government fleet emissions based on the quantity of greenhouse gases that a vehicle produced for a combined average of urban and country driving.

Passenger fleet vehicles were set at no more than 215 grams of carbon dioxide

equivalent per kilometre travelled, while sports utility and all-wheel-drive vehicles were set at 225 grams per kilometre of carbon dioxide equivalent. The government standard will be lowered further next month to 205 grams per kilometre and 215 grams per kilometre of carbon dioxide equivalent for passenger and SUV classes respectively.

DEC has now set a much stricter benchmark for its passenger fleet through the *DEC*rease policy's recommendation of 180 grams per kilometre of carbon dioxide equivalent. In addition the new DEC policy states that all non-operational 'blue-plated'

DEC passenger vehicles will consume less than 7.5 litres of fuel per 100 kilometres and achieve a minimum Green Vehicle Guide 'Greenhouse Rating' of 7 out of 10—unless there is a clear operational need for a vehicle that does not meet this standard.

Senior *DEC*rease Project Coordinator James Milne sits on the Fleet Advisory Committee and said he was pleased with the outcome.

"DEC is truly leading the way for all state government agencies with this preferred list of vehicles and Craig and his team should

be very proud of the work they have done," he said.

"From an energy and fuel burning source point of view our fleet is a significant contributor to DEC's greenhouse emissions, so targeting this area will have really positive environmental and, of course, financial outcomes."

The emissions figures cited here are based on data supplied by State Fleet who use the same calculations used in the Green Vehicle Guide—the federal government's National Greenhouse Factors for various fuel types.

## Remote regions program targets weeds in the Kimberley

**DEC staff from the south-west recently joined Kimberley staff to target weed infested areas along the Fitzroy River in an intensive three-week program.**

As part of an annual program to eradicate major weeds from environmentally sensitive areas along the iconic river, weed control works this year focused on Willare, 45 kilometres south-west of Derby, and Geikie Gorge National Park, 30 kilometres north-east of Fitzroy Crossing.

DEC Project Coordinator Bel Catcheside said a large infestation of rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) at Willare was the subject of two weeks of rigorous control works and surveys, involving day-long walks along the Fitzroy River through riparian vegetation.

"Rubber vine is a weed of national significance, and DEC continues to target the infestation at Willare, with this year's work consisting of on-the-spot control of known populations as well as surveys of new areas to determine the extent of the infestation," Bel said.

"One enormous seeding rubber vine had climbed eight metres into the native tree canopy and we spent two hours pulling its towering form down. This one plant alone had the potential to spread more than

24,000 seedlings."

At Geikie Gorge, the focus weed was rubber bush (*Calotropis procera*), which was removed using chainsaws.

"The team spent a week removing the weed, and in that time also removed a number of large trees that posed a safety risk to visitors at the popular national park," Bel said.

The project was part of DEC's Remote Regions Nature Conservation Program. Under the program, DEC employees based in the south-west are deployed to DEC's remote regions to help implement on-ground parks and visitor services, nature conservation and infrastructure initiatives.

This project saw four Perth-based crew members from DEC's Swan Region travel to the Kimberley to take part over the three weeks, while two staff from the West Kimberley District headed up the team.

The Remote Regions Nature Conservation Program was initiated in 2005. As well as helping remote regions with priority projects, the program aims to give interesting and rewarding opportunities for conservation employees in the south-west to work in different parts of the state.



Controlling weeds along the Fitzroy River were (left to right) volunteer John Knight, south-west crew member Gary Hunton, West Kimberley Nature Conservation Officer Ben Ansell, south-west crew member Craig Popperwell, south-west crew member Dudley Michael, volunteer Martin Meldon and south-west crew member Gareth Hoare (front).



# Finalists announced for the 2010 WA Environment Awards

**WESTERN** Australians working towards environmental care were acknowledged last week with the announcement of finalists for the 2010 WA Environment Awards.

Forty-four finalists have been selected highlighting the broad spectrum of organisations, government agencies, community groups and individuals committed to sustainability and conservation.

Department of Environment and Conservation WA Environment Awards Coordinator Mitzi Vance said 94 entries were received this year with nominees located throughout the state.

"It has been a tough year for the judges as the number and quality of submissions were high, highlighting the commitment and enthusiasm that the wider community has in caring for the environment," she said.

Each of the 11 categories was judged by a panel of three judges, whose recommendations were then reviewed and endorsed by an Executive Judging Panel.

Winners will be announced at a presentation dinner on Saturday, 6 November 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Perth. Tickets to the awards night and further information can be found at [www.dec.wa.gov.au/awards](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/awards).

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## 2010 WA Environment Awards finalists are:

### Corporate Business Leading by Example Category

Parmelia Hilton Hotel – *Leading Sustainability*  
Woolworths Limited – *Zero Food Waste by 2015*

### Small Business Leading by Example Category

Alexander Fullarton – *Solex*  
Gnaraloo Station Trust – *Environmental Protection Initiatives*  
Australian Native Nursery  
Stocktech Australia Pty Ltd – *Fertilise Wise Shades of Green*

### Government Leading by Example Category

City of Stirling – *Million Trees Initiative*  
Durack Institute of Technology – *A Culture of Sustainability*  
Department of Corrective Services – *Hakea Prison Recycling Program*  
Royal Perth Hospital – *Health Environmental Awareness Team*  
Department of Health – *Fiona Stanley Hospital Project*

### Biodiversity and Conservation Category

Care for Hedland Environmental Association – *Hedland Community Flatback Turtle Monitoring Program*  
Conservation Volunteers – *Rio Tinto Earth Assist*  
Roadside Conservation Committee  
South Coast NRM – *Project Dieback: Combating the Biological Bulldozer in the South Coast*  
Dr Nic Dunlop and the South Coast Purse Seine Fishery – *Shearwater Bycatch Reduction Program*

### Bush, Land and Waterways Category

Helena River Catchment Group – *Helena River Rehabilitation Project*  
Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group – *Foreshores Forever*  
Friends of Poison Gully Creek – *Poison Gully Creek Restoration Project*  
Department of Corrective Services – *Repay WA, Work Camps and Section 95 Community Work Programs*

### Resource and Waste Management Category

Green Skills – *Denmark Tip Shop and Recycling Education Centre*  
Roe Regional Organisation of Councils – *RoeROC Regional Waste and Recycling Site*  
South East Regional Energy Group – *Switched on Business and Industry*

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council – *A New Life for Old Mattresses*

Department of Transport – *Living Smart Household*

### Community Energy Efficiency Category

Western Australian Council of Social Services – *Climate Change Readiness for Community Services*  
Green Skills/Denmark Environment Centre – *Green Town Denmark Walpole*

### Rivers, Estuaries and Wetlands Category

Wilson Wetlands Action Group – *Wilson Wetlands: from weeds and arson attack to restored wetland*  
Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group – *Foreshores Forever*  
South Coast NRM – *Saving Lake Warden and Lake Gore*

### Environmental Education and Communication

Dept of Fisheries, Friends of Marmion Marine Park and Padbury SHS – *Perth Beachcombers Education Kit*  
South East Regional Energy Group – *Switched on Business and Industry*  
Edith Cowan University – *Energy Challenge Project*  
Australian Association for Environmental Education WA – *Engaging the Community in Every Sense*  
Conservation Volunteers Australia – *Rio Tinto Earth Assist*  
The Geographe Catchment Council – *Ribbons of Blue in the South West*

### Community Achievement – Regional Category

Tangaroa Blue Ocean Care Society – *Western Australian Marine Debris Project*  
Greenbushes Ratepayers and Residents Association – *Greenbushes Pool Project*  
Green Skills – *Green Skills Regional Program 1989 to 2010*  
The South Coast Licensed Fisherman's Association – *The Fishute*

### Community Achievement – Metropolitan Category

Conservation Volunteers Australia – *Rio Tinto Earth Assist*  
Canning River Regional Park Volunteers Inc – *20 years of work in CRRP*  
Perth Region NRM – *Coastcare Program*  
Neil Goldsborough – *Ongoing volunteer involvement in multiple environmental projects*





# Wild dog baiting program strengthened

**DEC's fight against wild dogs in central WA has been boosted by recent training on appropriate baiting methods delivered to a remote Aboriginal community near Wiluna.**

The Martu people of the Birrilliburu Native Title Claim travelled to Kalgoorlie to receive training from DEC's Invasive Species staff from Perth, with five people undertaking the training over two days.

DEC Regional Nature Conservation Manager Neville Hague said the training covered the safe handling, use, regulation and the most effective distribution of 1080 poison baits.

"This type of bait is the most appropriate control measure, as native species have a high tolerance to it due to its natural occurrence in the environment, but it is highly effective on introduced animals," he said.

"Wild dogs have long been a problem in the rangelands, as they cause significant loss of income to pastoralists through livestock losses, as well as having an environmental impact by preying on native species.

"DEC is working with landowners, including pastoralists, the Department of Agriculture and Food, local shires, and Indigenous communities on native title lands, to control wild dogs in areas where they pose the biggest threat to livestock and biodiversity."

In the last financial year, DEC's Goldfields Region distributed almost 80,000 baits including 23,000 by contract doggers and 39,000 by plane—while DEC's Midwest Region distributed about 25,000 baits in the Gascoyne and Murchison.

More than 30,000 kilometres of transects were baited and more than 40 hours were flown delivering the

aerial baits over DEC-managed areas.

More than 20,000 baits were provided to the region's Zone Control Authorities (ZCAs).

"The ZCAs, which are made up of local government representatives and pastoralists, have been provided with baits to assist in controlling dogs in buffer zones between DEC-managed land and adjoining pastoral properties," Neville said.

"Our program has a primary focus on wild dog control adjacent to properties carrying stock and actively controlling dogs against these boundaries.

"The program is underpinned by DEC's *Good neighbour policy*, which is designed to build and maintain good relations with the department's neighbouring land managers as well as uphold DEC as an active land manager within the rangelands communities."

## New specification for recycled materials in road making

**A STRATEGIC Waste Initiatives Scheme grant from the Waste Authority has funded a research project to determine the practicality of existing recycled concrete road base specifications for road pavements.**

Conducted by the ARRB Group and Curtin University, the project aims to update local government and industry knowledge and increase the acceptance of such materials.

The project involved a literacy review, laboratory trials and evaluation *in situ* of pavements constructed with recycled concrete road base specifications.

While this new specification is aimed primarily at local government, it was revealed that recycled products have exceptionally good performance characteristics and should be considered as a premium product suitable for high-stress road making applications.

Professor Hamid Nikraz of Curtin University said the

new specification addressed several issues without compromising pavement quality and overall performance

"The construction and demolition recycling industry continues to develop and improve its products to meet these specifications, and construction and demolition materials should be considered for adoption by designers, construction contractors and the state road authorities," Hamid said.

"It was found that the existing recycled concrete road base specifications, that have their origins based on virgin aggregate, did not account for the porous nature of crushed concrete and the potential for ongoing rehydration of cement in the recycled concrete road base pavement."

A copy of the research report and new draft specification is available from the Waste Authority website [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au).



1080 poison baits are being used to control dogs in the Gascoyne and Murchison.

