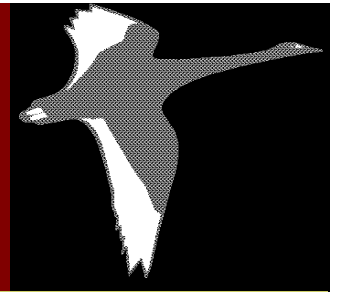


# Swan Region Newsletter

## January 2010



### New boardwalk for Penguin Island

DEC Swan Coastal District staff enlisted the help of Helicopters Australia to transport materials for the construction of a boardwalk on the southern end of Penguin Island.

Project Manager Sara Padgett said the boardwalk would complement the extensive northern boardwalk to create better access around the island.

"The boardwalk will help keep visitors off vegetation and safely away from the nesting birds, including little penguins, pelicans, bridles and crested terns," she said.

Budgeted at \$300,000, the design and construction of the southern boardwalk is one of Swan Coastal Districts largest capital works projects for the 2009-2010 financial year.

"After several months of logistical planning, the helicopter was found to be the most efficient and cost effective way to deliver the materials, while ensuring minimum disruption to the wildlife present," Sara said.

The materials were dropped on the eastern side of the island away from the nesting birds.

A team of 16 DEC staff and Helicopters Australia personnel assisted on the day and thirty tonnes of construction material was delivered to the island.

Sara said operations personnel located at both the 'lift' and 'drop' zones noted that there appeared to be minimal disturbance to wildlife throughout the days activities

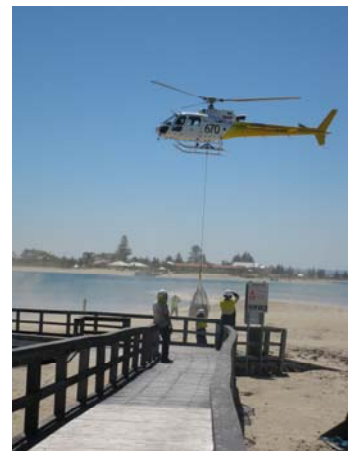
"This was a real team effort, from Directors Peter Sharp and

Peter Dans, right through to the Penguin Island staff, Swan Coastal District and Jarrahdale AWU crew members and the Helicopters Australia personnel who conducted the operation," she said.

"The expertise of each and every crew member ensured the operation was successful and sensitivities relating to the aircraft operations managed appropriately."

It is anticipated the construction of the boardwalk will be completed by the DEC Jarrahdale work crew by March 2010, providing an enhanced visitor experience to Penguin Island.

Sara said the Swan Coastal District hoped the project could be used as a case study for other regions facing transportation challenges and would be happy to share the information and experience gained from the operation.



### NRM Award for David Mitchell

Congratulations to David Mitchell, Regional Leader Nature Conservation, who, in September 2009 was presented with an "Award of Recognition" by the Perth Region NRM (formerly Swan Catchment Council).

The Hon D E M Faragher MLC, Minister for Environment; Youth officiated at the awards evening and was there to congratulate David on his achievements.

The award was given in recognition of the long term (over ten years) support and membership of Perth Region NRM Board, the Natural Diversity Reference Group, and for input to the many strategic documents, sub-committees and workshops which have helped the Board to reach its goals.

David sees the award as recognition of dogged persistence and has placed the award neatly in his office.