



SWAN-CANNING CLEANUP PROGRAM YEAR ONE IN REVIEW

A comprehensive Action Plan for restoring and protecting the Swan-Canning river system was released by the Minister for Water Resources in June 1999.

We have reached the end of year one of the five-year program to implement the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program (SCCP – pronounced SCOOP) Action Plan.

Getting new projects started and coordinating the wide range of SCCP activities has played a central role in shaping the activities of the Swan River Trust over the past year.

More than half the entire Swan River Trust budget was directed into projects and activities run under the SCCP.

A primary aim of the SCCP is to reduce nutrient input to the Swan-Canning system, but individual activities ranged from on-ground foreshore restoration works to state of the art research trials and community education.

In 1999/2000 the Cleanup Program involved 22 major projects with almost 50 people from five government agencies contributing all or part of their working hours to these projects.

Such a large program requires significant coordination to ensure outcomes are most effective.

Some of the program's major achievements in 1999/2000 are highlighted on pages 2 and 3.

Swan River Trust
Strategic Plan 1999/2000



SWAN RIVER TRUST
Strategic Plan 1999 - 2000

The Swan River Trust was established with planning, protection and management functions for the Swan and Canning rivers and adjoining lands.

Mission
To work with the Government, local government and community to ensure that the Swan and Canning river system is conserved and managed to enhance its environmental quality and public amenity.

We must be a creative team with a deep commitment to deliver quality river planning and management.

Vision
To cherish the Swan River as a valued river system and a source of enjoyment for the community forever.

The Trust has recently prepared a Strategic Plan setting out four outcomes for the future management of the Swan and Canning rivers.


The Plan includes the key stakeholder reach that the Trust needs to work with to achieve these outcomes.

The plan will be distributed to major stakeholders for feedback, including State and local government, catchment and recreational groups.

Your feedback is important to us.

Copies of the Strategic Plan are available by contacting our office on 9278 0400.

INVITATION



Contributing to health of the Swan and Canning Rivers
A project of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program

SWAN-CANNING CLEANUP PROGRAM
COMMUNITY FORUM
Year One In Review

*The Minister for Water Resources,
Dr Kim Hames*
invites you to attend this year's
SCCP Community Forum

In June 1999 the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Action Plan was launched by the Minister and implementation of the Plan's recommendations is now in full swing.

We would like you to attend and share the achievements of the year and to discuss next year's challenges.

Attendance at the forum is free

Telephone enquiries:
Silvana Affolter, Swan River Trust (08) 9278 0360

24 June 2000 9 am to 10.45 am
**Alexander Library Theatre, Perth Cultural Centre,
Francis Street, Northbridge**

RSVP by 16 June 2000 to Maggie on tel: 9278 0400

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PhosLock™ trials looking good

In a joint project between the Swan River Trust, the Water and Rivers Commission and CSIRO, PhosLock™ (modified clay) has been applied to a section of the Canning River in an effort to reduce phosphorus (P) available to phytoplankton and reduce algal blooms. The project is funded by the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.



PhosLock™ trial

After the addition of the PhosLock™, and before the onset of heavy rains mid-month, there was a rapid reduction in available phosphorus. Phosphorus is rapidly adsorbed to the PhosLock™ clay particles as it falls through the water column and settles on the river sediments.

Sediment samples from the trial area show that the PhosLock™ was still present, even after the recent summer rains.

Tests conducted by the CSIRO showed that the sediment was binding phosphorus regenerated by decomposing phytoplankton and other organic matter. In contrast, sediments from outside the trial area were releasing phosphorus in forms that are readily available for uptake by potentially toxic blue-green algae.

These initial results are promising and are helping the Water and Rivers Commission validate the performance of PhosLock™ in the Canning River application.

It remains to be seen how well PhosLock™ performs over time and how much should be applied under any given circumstance. Monitoring is therefore continuing in the Canning River, and additional trials have been scheduled at Marbellup Brook in Albany and the Vasse River in Busselton for 2000.



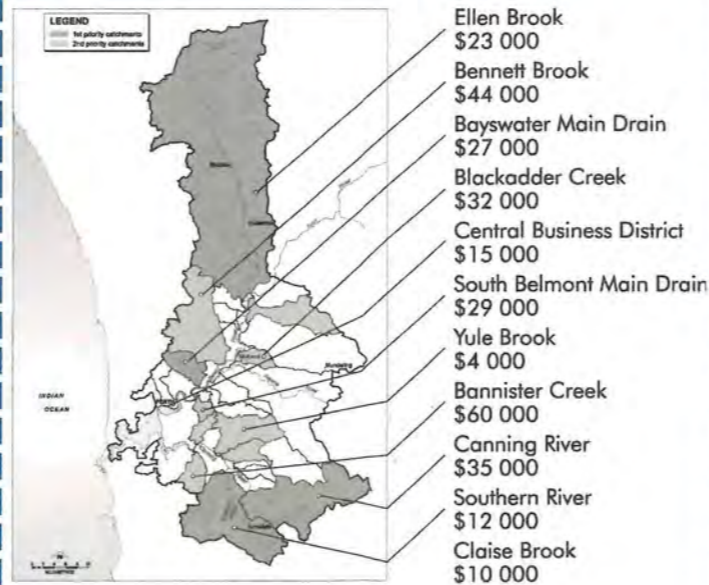
Contributing to health of the Swan and Canning Rivers

A project of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program

SUPPORT FOR CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AND FORESHORE RESTORATION

Efforts to strengthen and support Integrated Catchment Management resulted in \$195,000 being allocated to catchment groups in priority catchments to provide administrative/executive, operational and coordinator salary support in the first year. These catchments have been identified as contributing the highest levels of nutrients to the river system.

The SCCP also provided a further \$100,000 to the Swan-Canning Urban Landcare Program (SCULP) to help fund a range of community and local government restoration works. This program also attracted \$250,000 funding from Alcoa.



Projects directly funded by SCCP in the priority catchments of the Swan-Canning river system

These projects are just a few of the activities under way for the river and catchment. You can find out more by attending the Community Forum, or asking for a copy of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Year-One In Review summary report. Telephone Silvana Affolter on 9278 0360.

Swan Catchment Centre training calendar

The Swan Catchment Centre provides essential support to the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program with strategic, targeted community support for catchment management. Sixteen Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) groups and LCDCs, and about 200 community groups are working voluntarily to restore and protect the natural environment of the Swan catchment.

As part of this support, a training calendar has been developed by the Swan Catchment Centre, the Department of Environmental Protection's Ecoplan and Greening Australia (Western Australia) in response to requests by community groups involved in environmental restoration and protection in the Swan catchment to help them in planning for their year's activities.

The calendar details training which is being provided to community group members by the Swan Catchment Centre, Ecoplan and other training providers. Next quarter's training (July to September) includes the following local courses, talks and workshops: Fungi Walk and Talk; Managing Wetlands; Training in weed identification and removal and bush regeneration techniques; Habitat & Bushland Management Workshop; Catchment Group Chairperson Skills Workshop; Landcare Education Field Study Course; Weed Control Techniques; Introduction to the Propagation of Plants; Safe Use of Herbicides Training Course and Talk on Native Pond Plants.

For further information or to advertise your training or educational events, please contact Bronwyn Ryan at the Swan Catchment Centre on (08) 9220 5300



Steve Dargie of Turf Management Solutions instructs Swan community conservation group members in safe methods of applying herbicides to control environmental weeds

Spirit of the Swan goes to air

Channel 7 joined forces with the Swan River Trust to produce a Seven News special that celebrates the Spirit of the Swan.

Presented by Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon, the one-hour documentary which aired on 4 March 2000 examined the river's central place in our city's heart, history and future.

It included an Aboriginal perspective, historical footage, and wildlife on and in the river. The documentary examined the pressures that our activity in the catchment has placed on the Swan, the recent blue-green bloom, and management initiatives in the river and the catchment. It also highlighted what people can do to help — leading into a series of community service announcements.



Channel 7 filming the next announcements on the Canning River

The community service announcements are part of a Swan-Canning Cleanup Program campaign to raise awareness about things people can do in their own homes, gardens and recreation to help protect the river. According to Channel 7 ratings, they estimated that in the first ten days on air, over 1.13 million viewers had seen the announcements.

The Swan Catchment Centre is responding to information requests, and a wider awareness campaign will follow to reinforce the message that we can all help to do the right thing by the river.

Copies of the documentary are available for loan on video to use for education purposes. Please contact Silvana Affolter on 9278 0360.

Community group directory

The Swan Catchment Centre and the Swan River Trust have undertaken to update and build on previous directories to produce a "live" listing of active community groups that will be made available through the Swan Catchment Centre's website. In this form, the information can be easily updated.

It also provides a terrific opportunity for community groups to promote themselves and their activities. The Swan Catchment Centre and the Swan River Trust are also currently pursuing publication of this directory in a hard copy format for distribution to community conservation groups at a later date.



Find out how you can do the right thing by the river — phone 1800 062 549 or check the advice on our web site www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt

Swan River Trust Assessment and Policy Section



The Trust's Assessment team: From left, Ross Montgomery, Ila Hayward, Rita Sputore-Keller, Kym Davis, Peter Tapsell, Melinda Reid and Byron Davy

The Swan River Trust received a lot of media exposure during the February algal bloom. This unfortunate event highlighted the Trust's role in monitoring water quality, research on causes and cures of pollution, and cleaning up algae along the foreshores.

However, there is more to the Swan River Trust than water science. The Trust devotes much of its time to regulating development on and around the rivers. A comprehensive range of policies guide its decisions, supported by regulations which apply to activities that do not amount to development but may have an impact on the river.

The Trust assesses applications, which have included water taxis, houseboats, subterranean boat houses, floating restaurants, canal developments, urban villages and some rather large single residences near the river's edge. The Trust Board makes a recommendation to the Minister for Water Resources who then issues a notice of his decision. The assessment officers review the issues and consult a variety of sources to ensure that the Trust is in a position to make an informed recommendation to the Minister.

Many of the proposals and the resulting decisions are contentious and it is usual to receive a large number of representations from the public. Sometimes proposed developments are advertised for public comment.

The task of the Trust is to steer a balanced course in regulating development. What we approve today will have an impact on our future options and those of our children; each decision in some way changes the river. The Swan River Trust aims to ensure that the character and recreational and environmental values of the river are maintained in a way that meets the community's expectations.

Out and about with the Trust field crew



SRT crew 'renourishing' eroded beaches with sand

From January to April 2000 the Swan River Trust field crew removed over 16 tonnes of rubbish from the Swan and Canning river foreshores.

The crew's main clean-up activity is collecting domestic rubbish along foreshores and in waterways of the Swan-Canning rivers.

Over the last few years the trend in domestic rubbish collected shows a decrease and 1999/2000 looks like breaking another record. This is a positive trend and relates to community education about the river and accordingly, behavioural change.

The crew also replenished eroded beaches by removing about 50 tonnes of sand from beaches with a surplus supply and renourishing others that had become eroded.

About 9 tonnes of sand contaminated by the *Microcystis* bloom in February was skimmed from foreshore beaches and disposed of at the tip.

Hot off the press

Audit of the Swan River Management Strategy: A status report, Swan River Trust, Report No. 31, 1999

Swan River Trust Strategic Plan 1999/2000

For schools and families "I can do that" posters

Resource sheets – eleven educational topics on the Swan and Canning rivers



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TRUST**

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Protecting the Swan-Canning river system for the future