

Cleaner Production Training

As part of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program (SCCP) Industry Survey project, representatives from 12 local governments have received training in cleaner production techniques such as recycling options. The training is designed to help them carry out surveys of small businesses to determine their pollution risk.

In 1997, 550 small businesses were surveyed to determine the risk small business poses to the health of the Swan and Canning rivers. The results were very useful and showed the survey technique to be so valuable that it was decided that surveying would be continued.

The main findings of the survey were:

- 16% of businesses dispose of waste to the stormwater system;
- 18% of businesses stored waste materials inappropriately;
- 19% of businesses dispose their waste to groundwater;
- 42% requested more recycling information; and
- 82% do not have adequate emergency plans in place.

An Internet database has been established to manage the information. It is anticipated each local government area will end up with a record of how small businesses in their areas are performing environmentally.



An electroplating business showing chemicals stored in a bunded area. This building was purpose-built for electroplating and as such all of the floors of the building slope toward the bunded area for containment of any spills.

Training courses

The Swan River Trust is running two courses in cleaner production. One for local governments to learn the survey technique and be better able to identify problems with businesses and another for small to medium size businesses to construct a cleaner production plan for their premises.

It is expected that the effort will improve the image of a business and the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program is devising an environmental awards system to recognise business efforts. Awards will be presented to business and will help consumers in making informed decisions.

Natarsha Woods, Environmental Officer for the Swan River Trust said "staff will walk away with an action plan to help them reduce, reuse and recycle materials as well as cut down their risk of having a pollution incident".

Course Outline:

Local government environmental officer

- Module 1 – Introduction to Cleaner Production
- Module 2 – Production Technologies and Practices
- Module 3 – Environmental Management

Small/medium size businesses

- Module 1 – Environmental Management
- Module 2 – Cleaner Production
- Module 3 – Process Review: Materials and Waste
- Module 4 – Process Review: Energy and Water
- Module 5 – The Cleaner Production Plan

The cost of the training is \$150 and is undertaken in Perth. A training course in cleaner production designed for small/medium size businesses is now taking place. The Swan River Trust plans to hold further training courses early in 2001. If you would like more information about training in cleaner production, simply contact Natarsha Woods at the Swan River Trust on 9278 0400.

Support for catchment groups



Bannister Creek Catchment Group coordinator Julie Robert outside the group's first independent office

The Bannister Creek Catchment Group now has its own office in Edgware Road, Lynwood, near the Wandarra Hall.

Coordinator Julie Robert said that the City of Canning had made the office available to the group and also made several improvements including replacement of gutters, exterior painting and provision of a new hot water system.

Funding for office equipment and furniture was provided by the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program as part of its efforts to strengthen and support Integrated Catchment Management.

The office was officially opened by the Mayor of City of Canning on Saturday 9 September 2000.

In the near future, the building will be made available to the Canning Catchment Coordinating Group.

Swan Catchment Centre training calendar

Next quarter's training (October to December) includes the following local courses, talks and workshops:

- Seeking Sponsorship Seminar
- Dealing with Drains Forum
- Native Plants in Pots Talk
- Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Seminar
- Summer Flowers Talk
- Permaculture Design Course

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

Local government Natural Resource Management (NRM) policy

The SCCP is funding a local government NRM policy development project aimed at improving the environmental performance of land use activities in the Swan-Canning system. The project is being managed by the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) and a senior environmental officer, Greg Ryan, has recently been appointed. Greg is contactable by telephoning 9479 4808.

The focus of the project is initially on policy and strategy development, with subsequent tasks related to implementation of those policies and strategies.

This project will significantly improve NRM at a local government level particularly with respect to nutrient reduction in the Swan-Canning system.

The SCCP has given a commitment to fund the project for up to five years.



Contributing to health of the Swan and Canning Rivers

A project of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program

SCCP Community Forum held

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program held its annual community forum to brief the community on progress of the program on 24 June 2000. Water Resources Minister, Dr Kim Hames, addressed the Saturday morning forum, which was attended by approximately 60 community members and State and local government representatives. The highlight of the day was the showing of a video depicting the SCCP achievements through its first year of implementing the Action Plan's recommendations. Copies of the video and a summary brochure are available by contacting Silvana Affolter at the Swan River Trust on 9278 0360.



Shoreline Protection and Revegetation

The Swan River Trust and City of Melville are working together to restore Jeff Joseph Reserve. The Swan River Trust is conducting a shoreline protection and revegetation trial on the shoreline. The project is funded by the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.

The site is divided into two sections. Erosion controls have been combined with revegetation on the actively eroding shoreline. The more stable shoreline has simply been revegetated.



Baffle boards

Baffle boards are structures that reduce the impact of waves and the effects of river currents and tidal scour, thus minimising shoreline erosion. The trial consists of baffle boards placed in six configurations including straight, angled and doubled.

Matting

The purpose of matting is to hold seedlings in place while they are establishing. Matting must be strong enough to ensure the successful establishment of seedlings. Four types of matting have been trialed including woodwool matting, polyethylene matting and two types of coconut fibre matting.

Revegetation

Revegetation consists of planting the salt tolerant native shore rush (*Juncus kraussii*). After establishment, the plants will minimise the erosive energy of waves, river currents and tidal scour, impede the growth of weeds and provide a habitat for native fauna.

Monitoring

The trial is monitored monthly and when storms or other unusual conditions occur. Shoreline erosion, sand movement and plant survival are being monitored.

For further information on the trial call the Swan River Trust on 9278 0400.

Caring for Canning

Would you like to have your say on how the Canning River system should be managed in the future?

Well you can!

A draft management plan for the Canning, Southern and Wungong rivers will soon be released for public comment.

Titled 'Caring for the Canning: a plan to revitalise the Canning, Southern and Wungong rivers', the draft management plan is a major project of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.

The aim of the plan is to improve the ecological health and reduce the frequency of algal blooms in the Canning River system.

In September 1999, a Working Group was established to assist in developing recommendations for the plan.

The Working Group is facilitated by the Water and Rivers Commission and includes representatives from the Upper Canning Southern Wungong Catchment Team, Canning Catchment Coordinating Group, City of Armadale, City of Gosnells, City of Canning, and the Water Corporation.

The recommendations focus on the following issues:

- Managing flow to maintain the ecological values of the river
- Managing the Kent Street Weir
- Surface water allocation and management
- Water quality protection
- Drainage management
- River restoration
- Sediment and erosion control
- Improving the social focus of the river environment

'Caring for the Canning' is expected to be released for public comment in early November. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft, please contact Lucy Sands at the Water and Rivers Commission's Swan Goldfields Agricultural Region on 6250 8029 or email: lucy.sands@wrc.wa.gov.au.



Drain licensing feasibility report

Drains have long been recognised as conduits for nutrient transport to the river system, and an investigation of drain licensing as a means of improving water quality in drains was recommended in the SCCP Action Plan.

Funding was provided to the Department of Environmental Protection to investigate the feasibility and likely impact of this proposal. While there are significant difficulties associated with licensing, there are also likely to be some very useful outputs resulting from a detailed investigation of the proposal.

The draft report is soon to be presented to the Swan River Trust for circulation and broad discussion.

Recreational user awareness

The Swan River Trust was once again involved in the 2000 Club Marine Perth Boat, Dive and Fishing Show held at the Fremantle Passenger Terminal from 2 to 8 August. This is the third year that the Trust has provided show enthusiasts with information on the Trust's activities and advice on better boating and fishing practices. Our booth was staffed continuously by Trust staff and daily briefings on the February algal bloom in the Swan River were also presented to onlookers.

The Trust believes it's important to promote community involvement by providing information on issues affecting protection and management of the river system and by seeking community views on river issues.



February Swan River Algal Bloom briefings to onlookers took place on a daily basis.

Out and about with the Trust field crew



At 7:15am on Sunday morning 2 July the emergency call came: "Fumes appear to be coming off milky looking water behind the Sandringham Hotel closest to Abernethy Street in Belmont and there appears to be the smell of something like kerosene in the air".

By 9:00am, containment booms and absorbent materials had been deployed at the Abernethy Road Main Drain by the Trust's Pollution Response Team, the Belmont Fire Brigade confirmed that the product was diesel fuel and believed that the site was safe from any fire or explosion risk and the Water and Rivers Commission Pollution Officer had been notified to track the source of the spill.

A quantity of emulsified fuel was also found along the foreshore downstream of the containment site, so Cleanaway Pty Ltd was called and asked to supply a suction truck to remove the spilt product.

The source of the spill was located at 1:30pm still leaking diesel fuel, so the Belmont Fire Brigade was once again called to protect the site and all taps of the fuel tank were turned off stopping the flow of diesel fuel.

By 6:45pm Trust response team completed removal of the spilt product. All booms were left in place overnight to absorb any diesel fuel still entering the area.

By the end of the retrieval of all spilt product 440 litres of diesel fuel had been collected. The owner of the fuel tank received an invoice totalling \$12,283.03 to cover all expenses.

Material collected during 1999-2000

As you can see from the following table, the past few years show a decrease in domestic rubbish collected by Trust field crew from the Swan and Canning rivers and foreshores.

This is a positive trend and is attributed to community education and awareness and subsequent behavioral change.

Summary of material removed by field staff from waterways and foreshores:

MATERIAL COLLECTED	Units	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
Domestic rubbish collected from beaches	tonne	123.05	80	87.5	85	51
Logs and timber from fallen trees	tonne	252.6	152	109	150	123
Rotting weed removed from foreshores	tonne	347.5	460	612	350	172
Derelict/ abandoned boats salvaged	each	4	5	6	1	3
Dead fish left by prawning parties	tonne	12.45	11.35	11	10	5.9
Dead birds	each	26	31	176	120	118
Syringes on beaches and public places	each	109	146	242	118	230
Dead animals (cattle & sheep)	each	5	9	8	6	4
Stolen vehicles salvaged from river	each	no stats	no stats	2	4	2

Hot off the press

- Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Action Plan Implementation: Year 1 in Review Summary, June 2000.

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Protecting the Swan-Canning river system for the future