



SWAN RIVER TRUST

# RIVERVIEW

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## Swan and Canning rivers – an inclusive plan for the future



On Monday 6 May 2002 the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr Judy Edwards and the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Ms Alannah MacTiernan, launched an exciting new project that will guide future development on Perth's major rivers.

The Swan and Canning Rivers Precinct Planning Project will build on the work by the Swan River Trust published in 1997 as the Landscape Description of the rivers.

The Landscape Description divides the rivers into 23 precincts. Each precinct is described in terms of its environmental, social and historical character. One outcome of preparing the description was the realisation that the river is a significant landscape system, yet there is no plan or set of plans to guide its management and protection.

The Project has been initiated following intense developmental research by the Swan River Trust and the Western Australian Planning Commission.

Dr Edwards said the Project aimed to better integrate planning controls for land use development around the Swan and Canning rivers, by encouraging stronger collaboration between State and local governments, and local communities.

"This Project attempts to bring the key stakeholders together to co-ordinate a common approach, which does not detract from the natural beauty of the Swan and Canning rivers," she said.

It sets out objectives for conservation, management, use and development of both rivers' landscape, which also take into consideration social, environmental, cultural, development and design factors.

Dr Edwards said the next step was to invite local governments and local communities along both rivers to join the Trust and Planning Commission in developing these individual plans.

"A draft handbook has been prepared to assist this process – with the highest priority given to preparing precinct plans for areas where there is likely to be emerging pressure for development," she said.

"Once completed and adopted, I am confident the precinct plans will guide the Swan River Trust and local governments to ensure that our children inherit a river setting with many of the attributes we take for granted."

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan said the plan's

multi-layered approach would reinforce the Government's commitment to the future of the Swan and Canning rivers at a State Government and local government level.

Ms MacTiernan said the Project was extraordinarily important, because of the increasing complexity of development proposals submitted to local governments and the Trust.

"Local governments and their communities will have a crucial role in ensuring that local areas along the river retain their character and in identifying opportunities for better management and development," she said.

"Community groups will contribute their specific knowledge of the river and local areas, while members of the design professions, such as town planning, landscaping and architecture generally, will be asked to devise design approaches that best suit the function and landscape of the rivers.

"These rivers are resources for the whole community – not just those living close to them and we need to recognise that development adjacent to the rivers can have a profound effect on the landscape values."

For more information on this exciting project check out the Trust's website at [www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt) or contact Ross Montgomery at the Swan River Trust on 9278 0400.

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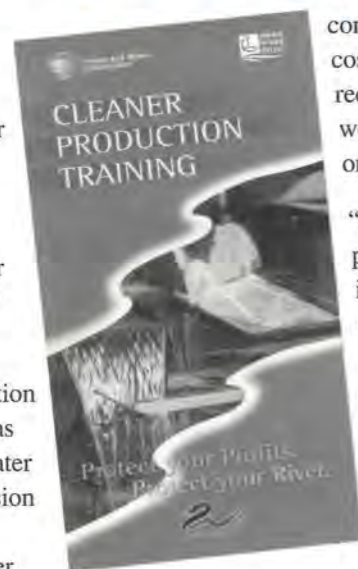
## Cleaner production: *protect your profits – protect your river*

For the first time in Western Australia a Cleaner Production Training Package for Industry was launched by Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards on 29 May.

The Cleaner Production Training Package was developed by the Water and Rivers Commission with the Centre of Excellence in Cleaner Production, Curtin University of Technology, to help businesses apply pollution prevention and cleaner production methodologies.

Through more efficient use of materials, energy and wastes, light industries in the Swan-Canning catchment can make a significant contribution to improving the health of the rivers.

The Minister said the use of Cleaner Production practices would help light industry in the metropolitan area become environmentally cleaner, as well as more



competitive. Industrial running costs are reduced as a result of recycling and material re-use that would otherwise need disposing of or expensive treatment.

“It makes good sense to avoid potential pollution events and increase profitability by undertaking cleaner production training and then by adopting cleaner production practises,” Dr Edwards said.

“Drains, soak wells, septic systems and even groundwater connect to the river – so it’s not the place for industrial waste.

“The consequences of polluting are serious the fines are high and businesses may have to pay the costs of restoring the environment.”

Dr Edwards said many businesses that had already been involved in Cleaner Production Training and had applied the practices to their workplaces had reported significant benefits in addition to increased savings.

“They found that staff became more aware of the environment, and employing

## New information sheets now available

The Swan Catchment Centre, the Department of Conservation and Land Management’s Ecoplan program and Greening Australia (WA) are pleased to offer the following Information Sheets as part of the Skills for Nature Conservation community training program.

- What Scum Is That? – How to identify, monitor, sample and manage algal blooms
- To Plant or Not to Plant? – Outlines perceptions and understandings of Swan coastal plain native vegetation landscapes; the role of the rehabilitator; and alternatives to planting
- Do you need a website? – How to create a successful website; why have one, what is involved; maintaining the site

- Monitoring and Evaluation – Explore why your group should monitor and evaluate your work; planning for monitoring and evaluation; methods for monitoring vegetation and tips for managing fauna
- Chairperson Skills – How to be an effective chairperson; the role of a chairperson; and designing effective meetings
- Bookkeeping and the GST – Effective record keeping and requirements for major funding bodies; information on the role of a treasurer; the goods and services tax (GST) and recording of volunteer hours

Information Sheets from previous years are also available. Topics include: project and



cleaner production practices improved employee health and safety. They also discovered that the use of new technologies improved their public image, which in turn can attract new business,” she said.

Cleaner Production Training is provided by the Water and Rivers Commission and is delivered at several levels, depending on the needs of the business. Experience of implementing cleaner production practices also shows that many improvements can be made at no or little cost to the business. This improves the company’s profitability and its environmental performance.

The Cleaner Production Training project has received funding from the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program – as well as the Commonwealth’s Coasts and Clean Seas initiative.

Cleaner production training is innovative and easy to access by contacting Lucy Sands at the Water and Rivers Commission on 6250 8000.

### Swan River Action Kit

Resources and activities for environmental discovery



Contact Karen Ireland at the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333

time management, attracting volunteers, project evaluation, creating effective displays, and media relations.

Free copies can be posted to you by contacting the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333.

## Corporate Care Day success

A group of volunteers from a Perth management consulting firm got down and dirty for a Corporate Care Day with the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program on 10 May.

More than 26 Deloitte Consulting volunteers ‘helped to keep our rivers



Volunteers from Deloitte Consulting.



Volunteers from Challenge Bank Loans Division.

healthy’ by participating in the event as part of their company’s worldwide community initiative Global Impact Day (GID).

The office volunteers weeded and planted sedges as part of the Coolgardie Drain restoration and revegetation maintenance project to help the Living Stream Project at Garvey Park with the Belmont-Victoria Park Catchment Group and the City of Belmont.

The efforts of the enthusiastic professionals were among more than

15,000 colleagues worldwide doing similar work for GID.

Earlier in the year volunteers from Challenge Bank’s Loans Division went wetland weeding along the Fairford Street Drain this time with the Bayswater Integrated Catchment Management Group.

“The Corporate Care Day Program has been developed as an initiative of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program to give the corporate sector a chance to play their part in caring for our rivers,” said Darryl Miller, Acting Manager Swan River Trust.

“These outings give companies and staff the opportunity to take part in revegetation and restoration projects, working with catchment management groups out in the catchment and in this way businesses can make a significant contribution and do something worthwhile for their community.”

For more information about how you or your group, or department or business can be involved in a Corporate Care Day, making your contribution to HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY please contact Wendy Yorke at the Swan River Trust on 9278 0400.

## Spreading the word – helping to keep our rivers healthy

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program’s innovative interactive activity – the Drain Game – has proved popular in getting the ‘Help keep our rivers healthy’ message out to new target audiences.

Aimed at children as well as their parents and carers, the colourful, fun activity entertains while demonstrating how everybody in the community can ‘help keep our rivers healthy’ by keeping rubbish and garden waste out of the storm water drains.

Trust staff were kept busy at this year’s Autumn River Festival held along the Swan River from Maylands to Guildford on Sunday 7 April 2002. Now in its third year, the Trust is keen to once again be a major sponsor of this event in 2003 which celebrates the Swan River’s natural beauty.

Also held in April, Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards officially opened an environmental expo, ECOTOPIA, as part of this year’s Garden Week.

ECOTOPIA was an environmental expose representing several exciting projects conducted within our community to save our flora and fauna from further loss of habitat.

Coordinated by the Nursery and Garden Industry of Western Australia, ECOTOPIA brought together several key organisations, major volunteer groups, Government Departments and schools that work directly in the rehabilitation, restoration of Western Australia’s biodiversity and landscapes.

“This outstanding display gives us a rare opportunity to experience some of the

natural beauty of WA’s diverse environments and learn of the challenges they face without leaving Perth,” Dr Edwards said.

“ECOTOPIA also showed by example that, even in our backyards, we can all play a part in sustaining WA’s unique and delicate biodiversity.

“For example, choosing the right plants for the right place helps to reduce fertiliser and water use, while fauna friendly gardening can look great and protect our unique wildlife.”

The Cleanup Program’s Drain Game was a raging success with over 6000 children making the connection that what goes down the stormwater drain ends up in the river.

# Out and about –

A derelict sunken vessel with the potential of becoming a navigational hazard was pulled out of the Swan River between the East Fremantle pens and the Red Herring Restaurant in East Fremantle on 2 May.

The Trust was unable to establish ownership of Vessel 1233 but under Section 69 of the Swan River Act the Trust may take possession and, if ownership cannot be established, dispose of any property that is abandoned, derelict or a danger to persons or property.

A 10 tonne crane lifted the vessel to a point where the water could be pumped out and it was then delivered to the Red Hill land fill site for disposal.



Total cost to the Trust was \$1600 but unfortunately funds cannot be recovered at this stage.

The Trust is investigating ownership of the vessel with a view to recovering costs incurred.

## Skills for nature conservation training calendar

The *Skills for Nature Conservation* community training program aims to help Perth's growing and increasingly active community tackle threats facing

our unique environment. Next quarter's training (July to September 2002) includes the following courses, talks and workshops:

### JULY TO SEPTEMBER – 2002

Date	Course title	Description
20 July	Volunteers – Sustaining your most important asset	This seminar will assist those who have a role in managing volunteers and will cover issues such as mechanisms for volunteer recruitment, legal obligations and meeting expectations.
4 August	Making the most of fauna tracks and traces	This introductory course is designed to show participants how to undertake basic, non-intrusive observations of fauna and how this knowledge can contribute to bushland, waterways and wetland management.
17 August	How to develop and implement management plans	This seminar will help participants learn how to take the next step in planning and implementing management plans.
7 September	Community/Government partnerships - How to make them happen	Effective partnerships between the environmental volunteer community and all levels of government are pivotal to achieving environmental outcomes and increasing community participation in decision-making. Several case studies will be presented which illustrate how local environmental groups have developed strong working relationships with State and local governments.

For more information on these courses or to register your interest please contact Alison Nesbit at the Swan Catchment Centre on 9374 3333.

## Hot off the press

- *Swan and Canning Rivers Boating Guide – a must for all river recreational users*
- **Introducing the Swan and Canning Rivers Precinct Planning Project**
- **Swan and Canning Rivers Precinct Planning Project Vision Statement and Guiding Principles**
- **Nutrients in Tributaries of the Swan-Canning Estuarine System (1987) Seasonal and Flow Variation**
- **Cleaner Production Training, Protect your Profits. Protect your River, May 2002**



**SWAN RIVER TRUST**

Level 3 Hyatt Centre  
87 Adelaide Terrace  
East Perth WA 6004  
Phone: (08) 9278 0400  
Fax: (08) 9278 0401  
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**website: [www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/srt)**

*Protecting the Swan-Canning river system for the future*