

ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004



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Caring for the Swan and Canning rivers



Vision

To cherish the Swan and Canning rivers as a valued river system and a source of enjoyment for the community forever. We must be a creative team with a deep commitment to deliver quality river planning and management.

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.



Swan River Trust and Department of Environment officers conducting weekly water sampling in the Swan River for the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program in the Trust's new patrol vessel, the Noel Robins (photo Swan River Trust).

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Hon Dr Judy Edwards, MLA
Minister for the Environment

Letter to the Minister

**To the Hon Dr Judy Edwards, MLA
Minister for the Environment**

In accordance with the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and Section 66 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985*, I have pleasure in submitting the 16th annual report on the operations of the Swan River Trust for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Welker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charlie Welker
CHAIRMAN
31 August 2004



Chairman's report

My first year as Swan River Trust Chairman has been an eventful and rewarding experience. There were many changes this year, including increased emphasis on protecting the health and amenity of our Swan and Canning rivers from nutrient input and incompatible development. The impact of a drying climate further complicates protection efforts. Other changes included new Trust membership and organisational structure. The State Government announced significant new funding to care for the Swan and Canning rivers, *Riverplan* was launched and implementation began, and the health of the rivers was again in the spotlight with several dominant algal blooms and fish deaths.

A highlight for the Trust was on 13 January 2004 when the Premier and the Minister for the Environment jointly announced more than \$15 million additional funding for new initiatives to be implemented by 2008. The initiatives included proposed new legislation to give the Trust teeth to address the challenges facing the rivers, to create the Swan Canning Riverpark, and extra funding for programs to tackle nutrients and protect and improve the health of the rivers. The Swan River was also named the first heritage icon, commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Swan River Colony and recognising the value West Australians place on their central natural asset. The additional funding boosts foreshore protection and restoration, drain rehabilitation and nutrient stripping, and on-ground catchment work by volunteer community environment groups. It was coupled with funds to implement the Swan and Canning Rivers Environmental Protection Policy management plan known as *Riverplan*.

The initiatives were designed to respond to community, industry and Government demand for improved management of the Swan and Canning rivers and Catchment as they continue to face pressures from rural and urban development and other human activities. This requires sustaining and balancing environmental, social and economic demands. This in turn provides the impetus to establish the Trust as the agency responsible for the protection and improvement in health of the Swan and Canning rivers. The Trust must also provide the framework to integrate the efforts of State agencies, local government and the community at the catchment level to achieve this objective. Work on vital new legislation to achieve this has proceeded, including extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community, with the aim of having a Bill before Parliament.

Public access to the rivers is a key principle in the Trust's approach to development and environmental operations. Everyone should be able to enjoy and access the rivers, and everyone should be mindful of how their actions throughout the catchment can impact on the rivers. The Trust registered a decrease in community satisfaction with the health of the rivers in our annual community survey this year. River health is linked to nutrient input. This is a critical issue that we need to continue to address through enforcement, and implementation of environmental activities including the new Government initiatives. The solution to a healthy river system lies in a combination of actions implemented by the Trust and other organisations working with each other and the community – together we can make a difference.

An important element of the discussion occurring about future protection of the rivers centres on managing drains. Traditionally, the management focus for drains has been flood protection and managing groundwater levels in developed areas. Urban drains are a major source of nutrients and other contaminants to the Swan and Canning rivers and it is essential that a sustained and appropriately resourced approach to managing drains for broader environmental outcomes is implemented so that the rivers are protected and restored. The Trust believes there may be a good opportunity to further the drain management effort as part of the new legislation being developed.

During the year, the rivers continued to show signs of distress, with prolonged potentially toxic blue-green algal blooms in the upper Canning River and prolonged algal blooms in the Swan River, including one that resulted in fish deaths. It is at least the fifth year in a row that there has been a blue-green algal bloom in the Canning River, indicating a concerning trend and an on-going need for intervention.

There were prolonged blooms of another type of algae, *Karlodinium micrum*, in the Swan River in autumn and winter, with the winter bloom resulting in the deaths of an estimated 32,000 fish. This is the same algal species that was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of fish in the Swan and Canning rivers between April and June last year. Trust scientists are still uncertain why there were fish deaths in June this year when none resulted from *Karlodinium micrum* blooms earlier in the year. The Trust continued to strengthen relationships throughout Australia and the United States as they compiled more information on the species.

The prolonged blooms are one sign that impacts of 175 years of development, interference with the river system, diversion of freshwater river flows and other human activities are continuing to take their toll on the river system. This strengthens the Trust's resolve to ensure that our HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY campaign as part of our flagship environmental management Swan-Canning Cleanup Program is targeted and implemented to maximum effect. A major evaluation of the Cleanup Program is under way and due to be completed in 2005. This program supports and reinforces efforts of community catchment groups in the Swan and Canning Catchment.

Many Perth residents can remember crabbing and fishing in the Swan and Canning rivers when they were children, and they often remind me and fellow Trust members and officers of 'the good old days' when every trip to the river resulted in a successful catch. The river has changed over time. The Trust is working to improve water quality and habitat biodiversity which in turn aids and promotes increased diversity of fish and other species. It is clearly time we acknowledged that river conditions have altered, and the impact of population pressures, and climate change are taking their toll on the rivers.

Meanwhile, from an operational perspective, this year the Trust has held some of its regular meetings in local government localities and has taken the opportunity on these occasions to meet with local and sub-regional catchment groups to observe their outstanding on-ground accomplishments. I extend my gratitude to these groups and I am sure that our relationships will continue to strengthen. Internally, the Trust has also changed its operating structure to better deal with environmental priorities.

Waterways Management, Strategic Programs and Communications sections were established, and River Management was realigned and transformed into Environmental Management. Extra operational staff were appointed and the Trust will be moving to more suitable accommodation in the next financial year. The Trust is also exploring different ways we can best engage with the Indigenous community, reflecting the Trust's awareness of incorporating Indigenous thinking and values into its decisions.

My thanks to everyone who contributed to the Trust's work this year; the Trust members, Trust officers who have worked in this challenging year, partners and the community. In particular, I acknowledge Trust members Dr Brian Martin, Cr Marion Blair and Dr Tim Mather whose terms expired during the year and welcome new members Cr Pat Hart, Mr Jim Freemantle, Dr Bruce Hamilton and Dr Jane Chambers.

The next year promises to be filled with many more achievements as the Trust implements its newly funded initiatives, and progresses new legislation and the review of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program. I look forward to the Trust forging the way as a leader in catchment management, strengthening partnerships, and continuing its work to protect the Swan and Canning rivers.



Charlie Welker
CHAIRMAN

Operations summary

Water information

Aims

To understand and assess the water quality, to assist in assessment of general environmental quality of the Swan and Canning River System and establishment of environmental standards.

To provide information to assist public health authorities assess hazards to public health and recreational use of the rivers associated with algal blooms.

Achievements

- Applied modified clay Phoslock™ to three sites on main drains discharging into the Canning River and assessed effectiveness in removing phosphorus before the nutrient-rich water enters the river;
- Operated the two oxygenation plants on the Canning River;
- Applied the modified clay Algaefloc on the Canning River to assess effectiveness in removing algae;
- Used computer modelling to support decision-making in managing impacts from development in the Southern and Wungong rivers region;
- Instigated weekly Algae Activity Report on river conditions;
- Completed weekly sampling of the Swan and Canning Estuary and fortnightly sampling of rivers and drains flowing into the estuary;
- Completed additional sampling in response to algal bloom and fish death events;
- Completed a water and sediment snapshot of the Two Rivers Catchment; and
- Designed catchment water quality report cards for the new Swan River Trust website.

Future directions

- Complete long term data analysis for trends in algal bloom patterns in the Swan and Canning rivers;
- Continue monitoring and reporting against Swan-Canning Cleanup Program targets;
- Continue development of nutrient intervention technologies;
- Continue computer modelling to direct management actions in achieving water quality targets;
- New webpage on Swan River Trust website with report cards and more sampling results;
- Establish benchmarks for nutrient intervention works;
- Detail sub-catchment nutrient contribution to the Swan and Canning River System; and
- Identify nutrient contribution of land use types.

Riverside planning and development

Aims

To plan for the conservation, enhancement and appropriate development of the Swan and Canning River System.

Achievements

- The Trust considered 212 applications for development within and adjoining the Swan River Trust Management Area;
- Effective use of media and advertising to promote Trust planning and development decisions;
- Development applications were assessed to ensure developments did not adversely affect the environment and amenity of the Swan and Canning rivers; and
- Legislative and administrative changes were proposed to increase efficiency and transparency in the development assessment processes, as part of new legislation for the Swan and Canning rivers.

Future directions

- Passage of new legislation to streamline the approvals processes, and give legislative backing to open and transparent process which enhance public participation;
- Continue the review of key development policies;
- Continue to establish partnerships with local government to promote the Trust's outcomes;
- Continue to provide the community with the opportunity to comment on the Trust's recommendations to the Minister for the Environment;
- Increase the information provided to the public through publications and media;
- Develop precinct policy plans to guide and provide certainty for decision making on riverside development; and
- Complete review of development policies to promote and enhance appropriate community use of the rivers and foreshores.

Management planning

Aims

To prepare management plans based on sound information to ensure conservation and enhancement of the Swan and Canning River System while allowing appropriate development and recreational use.

Achievements

- Established the Strategic Programs section of the Swan River Trust;
- Supported and collaborated with the Environmental Protection Authority to produce *Riverplan*, the implementation framework for the Swan and Canning Rivers Environmental Protection Policy;
- Established a *Riverplan* implementation team and started implementing *Riverplan*;
- Started draft of new legislation;
- Prepared preliminary information paper and consulted with more than 80 key stakeholder organisations on the proposed legislative changes and creation of the Swan Canning Riverpark; and
- Implemented a Swan-Canning Industry Project Strategic Plan and coordinated the Swan-Canning Industry Working Group.

Future directions

- Complete draft of new legislation;
- Start preparation of a management plan for the proposed new Swan Canning Riverpark, subject to the passage of enabling legislation;
- Continue with the implementation process for *Riverplan*;
- Continue working with light industry and local governments to develop best management practices, guidelines and general environmental awareness of pollution issues; and
- Develop a holistic implementation strategy for the protection of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Protection of waterways and foreshores

Aims

To protect the Swan and Canning River System from the adverse effects of human activity and to facilitate public use and enjoyment of the river.

Achievements

- Established Waterways Management and Environmental Management sections of the Swan River Trust;
- Undertook the *Riverbank* Program of shoreline protection and restoration, and repair of foreshore walls;
- Implementation of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, including:
 - Start of the Cleanup Program evaluation;
 - Oxygenation of 2.3 kilometres of the Canning River to help reduce the release of phosphorus, remove nitrogen and prevent anoxic conditions;
 - Supporting the Swan Catchment Centre deliver community education about the river and its connection with the land through the Swan River Action Kit and Skills for Nature Conservation training program, as well as Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA in the Swan Region;
 - Delivered Heavenly Hectares seminars, Property Planning workshops and Field Days for small landholders;
 - Developed and ran a highly successful community involvement Great Gardens Program for urban gardeners in spring and autumn;
 - Collaborated with the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council to provide training to local government in the use of the Natural Resources Manual and the *TurfSustain* Manual to reduce impacts from local government activities on the waterways and catchment;
 - Increased financial support to community-based catchment management;
 - Started construction of a nutrient-stripping wetland in the Canning River Catchment;
- Continuation of foreshore condition assessments and establishment of the Foreshore Assessment Program;
- Prepared drafting instructions for new legislation to improve management and protection of the Swan and Canning rivers; and
- Successfully responded to waterway and foreshore emergencies, carried out environmental maintenance and replenishment, and supported operational staff in the field.

Future directions

- Support passage of new legislation to improve the management and protection of the Swan and Canning rivers;
- Complete the evaluation of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program;
- Propose a revamped water quality management strategy for the Swan and Canning rivers;
- Continued implementation of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, including consideration to any recommended changes as a result of the evaluation;
- Support more local governments through the boosted *Riverbank* Program and design a *Riverbank* brochure for the community;
- Develop and implement nutrient intervention strategies in major drains;
- Develop Environmental Water Provisions (EWPs) for the Canning River System;
- Continue responding to waterway and foreshore emergencies; and
- Continue maintaining and replenishing the waterways and foreshores and supporting operational staff in the field.

Communications

Aims

To increase community awareness, education, and involvement in the conservation and management of the Swan and Canning River System.

Achievements

- Established new Communications section;
- Participated in a wide variety of community events;
- Established new media partnerships and increased community knowledge through enhanced media management;
- Enhanced corporate identity through professional brand building;
- Published and reprinted variety of brochures;
- Published and distributed three RiverView newsletters to an expanded stakeholder audience;
- Developed and managed the weekly Algae Activity Report;
- Engaged the Phosphorus Action Group to deliver environmental education for the Swan River Trust and Swan-Canning Cleanup Program;
- Incorporated the Department of Environment's Issues Alert System, Community Involvement Framework and Risk Communications Strategies into the Trust's existing systems;
- Facilitated 12 Corporate Care Days; and
- Enhanced corporate culture, staff development and improved internal communications.

Future directions

- Complete and implement the Trust's first strategic Communications Plan;
- Enhance and expand stakeholder relationships;
- Increase community awareness of the Trust's work and programs;
- Assess the effectiveness of communications programs;
- Provide information to the public through a variety of mediums including new displays and publications; and
- Further develop community skills in activities that contribute to caring for the rivers.

The Swan River Trust

Caring for the Swan and Canning rivers

The Swan River Trust was established in 1989 and constituted under the *Swan River Trust Act 1988*. It is a State Government agency responsible to the Minister for the Environment. The Swan River Trust works with State and local government and the community to protect and manage the Swan and Canning River System.

In January 2004 the Swan River was identified as one of the State's most treasured assets when it was named the first heritage icon marking the 175th anniversary of the Swan River Colony. As well as cultural and historical significance, the waterways and foreshores of the Swan and Canning rivers are also the central focus of our metropolitan urban landscape. They provide a range of recreational opportunities, while maintaining a functional living environment in the heart of WA's major urban area, supporting businesses and tourist enterprises and contributing to surrounding property values.

Functions

Specifically, the functions of the Swan River Trust are to:

- manage and protect the river system and work with local government and other bodies to provide facilities around the rivers;
- advise the Minister for the Environment on development proposals within the Trust's Management Area;
- control and prevent pollution of the rivers and keep them clear of rubbish;
- advise on and control erosion of river banks;
- provide advice to local governments and the Western Australian Planning Commission on town planning issues affecting the rivers; and
- promote community awareness of issues affecting the health of the river system and increase community involvement in river protection and restoration.

Structure

The eight-member Trust meets twice per month. Daily operation of the Trust is conducted by 39 full-time professional, technical and administrative staff who are provided by the Water and Rivers Commission under the *Swan River Trust Act 1988*. Last year as a result of the Machinery of Government Taskforce Report in 2001, the Department of Environmental Protection, Water and Rivers Commission and Keep Australia Beautiful Council amalgamated operations, creating the Department of Environment. References to the Department of Environment throughout this Annual Report relate to operations, as legislation reflecting these changes has yet to be passed by Parliament.

Expansion

A restructure and expansion of the Trust operational positions resulted in part from recommendations in the September 2003 Organisation Structural Review. This growth led to a need to relocate to a larger office within the Hyatt Centre, which is planned to take place early in the 2003–04 financial year. The new Trust office is located at Level 1, 20 Terrace Road, East Perth.

Organisational structure

The Trust's officers work in six sections – Assessment and Planning, Environmental Management, Waterways Management, Communications, Strategic Programs, and Administration (see *Fig. 1*). The officers work closely with local government, the Department of Environment, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, and the Environmental Protection Authority.

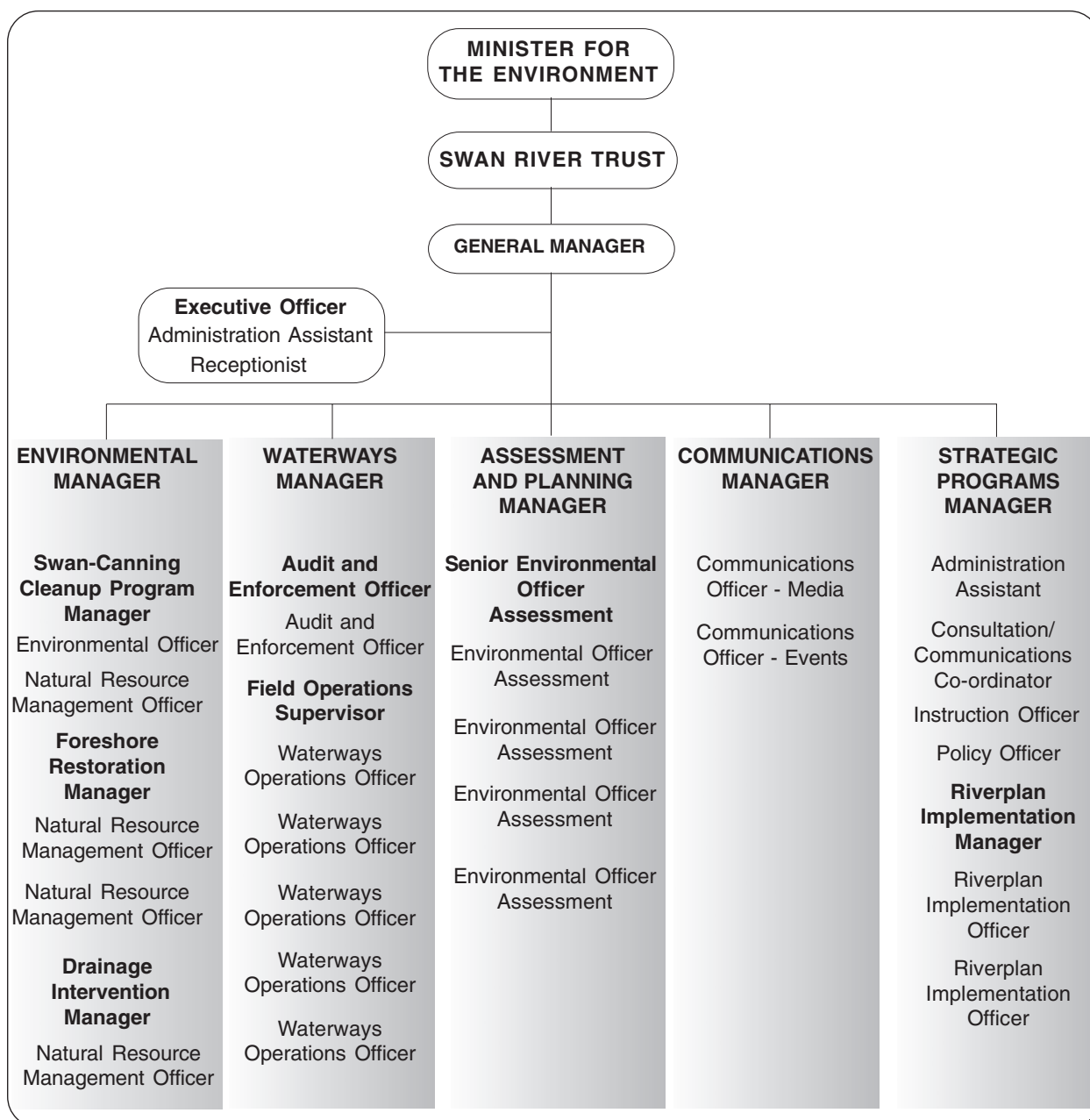


Figure 1. Swan River Trust organisation structure

Changes

The organisational structure of the Trust changed significantly this year. The Strategic Programs section was created in part to address legislation and policy management encompassing the new initiatives announced by the State Government in January 2004. River Management was streamlined to focus on environmental issues and renamed Environmental Management. Waterways Management was formed to deal with regulations and enforcement, and management of the Trust's Ellam Street depot and operations staff. The role of Community Relations was absorbed into a new Communications section to effectively cater for Trust operational and strategic communications.

Assessment and planning

Assessment and Planning staff aim to ensure development is consistent with protecting or improving the environmental values and amenity of the Trust's Management Area. Officers also prepare policies and advice concerning development and land use around the river, and support local governments in the preparation of foreshore management plans. Officers are also pursuing the progression of a State Planning Policy to provide a regional framework to ensure river and landscape protection principles are embedded in planning decisions along the river. They maintain key Trust development policies, and implement the process through which developments are assessed and community input considered. Assessment reports form the basis of Trust advice to the Minister.

Environmental management

The Environmental Management section aims to develop and guide the Trust's main environmental management programs for the rivers. Officers focus on delivering and reviewing the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, foreshore condition assessment and restoration through the *Riverbank* Program, and development of initiatives to reduce the amount of nutrients entering the waterways through nutrient intervention technologies as part of the Drain Nutrient Intervention Program. Staff support the development of catchment and foreshore management plans, and implement nutrient-stripping on-ground works to address the health of the rivers.

Waterways management

The Waterways Management section is responsible for the day-to-day state of the waterways, including cleaning and maintaining beaches and foreshores, and undertaking pollution investigation and control. Officers focus on strong compliance audit to ensure development along the rivers is approved and complies with approval conditions, logistical support for the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, river and catchment monitoring and the *Riverbank* and Drain Nutrient Intervention programs.

Communications

The Communications section aims to raise community awareness of issues affecting the river, provide environmental education, and increase community involvement through the development of community skills in river and catchment restoration projects. Officers focus on enhancement of communications planning capacity, planning for and responding to critical issues and incidents, establishing and maintaining strong corporate and government relations, and delivering community awareness, education and involvement programs such as the Great Gardens workshops, the Algae Activity Report, and the Corporate Care Day program. Officers implement strategic communications including media, stakeholder and issues management, and community development as well as the production of publications and promotional materials, events management and creative communications initiatives.

Strategic programs

The Strategic Programs section aims to guide the strategic direction of the Trust and oversee its strategic level programs. Officers focus on development and presentation to Government of new legislation for the Swan and Canning rivers, implementing *Riverplan*, developing a management framework for the proposed Swan Canning Riverpark, and developing an implementation strategy underpinning the new legislation.

Administration

Administration staff support the Trust General Manager and all officers, and deal with matters relating to the Trust and its eight members. The position of Trust Manager was reclassified as General Manager in June 2004, and an Executive Officer position was created in November 2003.

Committees and meetings

Throughout the year, officers represented the Trust on a wide range of committees and attended meetings that oversaw or were involved in initiatives or activities that impacted on the Swan and Canning River System. These included:

- Brookdale Redevelopment Project Technical Working Group – Armadale Redevelopment Authority;
- Canning River Regional Park Community Advisory Committee – Department of Conservation and Land Management;
- Capital City Perth Strategy Steering Committee – Department for Planning and Infrastructure;
- Central Business District Airconditioner Waste Disposal Working Group – Swan River Trust;
- Cleanup Australia Day – Keep Australia Beautiful Council;
- Conservation and Landcare Committee – Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia;
- Drainage Reform Group – Department of Environment;
- Environmental Education Working Group – Swan Catchment Council;

- Hydrocotyle Working Group – City of Canning;
- Liege Street Demonstration Wetland Project Steering Committee – Swan River Trust;
- Local Environment Enforcement Group – Swan River Trust;
- Nedlands Foreshore Enhancement and Management Plan Working Group – City of Nedlands;
- Perth District Emergency Management Advisory Committee – Western Australia Police Service;
- Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme – Department for Planning and Infrastructure;
- Sir James Mitchell Advisory Committee – City of South Perth;
- Skyworks 2004 Committee – City of Perth;
- Strategy for the Management of Sewage Discharge from Vessels into the Marine Environment Steering Group – Department for Planning and Infrastructure;
- Swan Alcoa Landcare Program Assessment Panel – Swan Catchment Council;
- Swan Regional Riverside Park Steering Committee – City of Swan;
- Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Project Managers Group – Swan River Trust;
- The Network City: Perth's Planning Strategy Environment and Heritage Working Group – Department for Planning and Infrastructure;
- Water for a Healthy Country – CSIRO; and
- Yacht Club/Marina Environmental Management System Steering Committee – Swan River Trust.

The Swan River Trust

The Swan River Trust comprises eight members drawn from the community, local and State government agencies. They are:

- a Chairman appointed by the Minister for the Environment;
- a member of the Water and Rivers Commission Board;
- two nominees of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (from the Western Australian Planning Commission, and Marine and Harbours section);
- a representative of the Western Australian Local Government Association appointed by the Minister for the Environment; and
- three independent members appointed by the Minister for the Environment.

Representation

A representative from the Office of Water Regulation (OWR) was a member of the Trust until the end of December 2003 when the OWR was disbanded. The regulator functions of the OWR continued through the newly-established Economic Regulation Authority, but the Trust position was replaced with an independent member position.

In April 2004, the Minister for the Environment invited expressions of interest from people with an interest in and involvement with members of the Noongar community to fill this independent vacancy on the Trust. Several expressions were received. The move to seek greater Noongar input in the Swan River Trust reflected a recommendation of the April 2002 Syme Report.

Relationship with local governments

The Trust has a strong partnership with local government. When the Trust is considering a development application, local governments from areas affected by the development may nominate a representative to attend the Trust meeting to vote on the development. Local government representatives are also regularly invited to attend committee and other meetings. This relationship was further strengthened in 2004 when the Trust instigated visits to municipalities. In March, the Trust met with representatives from the City of Armadale, before holding the Trust meeting in the City Chambers. The Trust also visited the City of Gosnells in April and the City of Swan in June. It intends to continue the visits, with meetings planned at four other local municipalities in the new financial year.

Membership changes

There were many changes to the Trust in 2003-04. Charlie Welker replaced Geoff Totterdell as Trust chairman on 1 July 2003. Neil Foley replaced Ray Stokes as the Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Western Australian Planning Commission) nominee in July 2003. Jim Freemantle replaced Tim Mather as an independent member in November 2003. Pat Hart's term as an independent member expired in May 2003 and she was replaced by Dr Bruce Hamilton in July 2003, but Cr Hart returned to the Trust in the capacity of Western Australian Local Government Association representative in November 2003 when she replaced Cr Marion Blair. Dr Hamilton took a leave of absence in May 2003. Dr Brian Martin's position became vacant when the Office of Water Regulation was disbanded on 31 December. Dr Jane Chambers was appointed to the Trust by the Minister for the Environment on 28 June 2004. Dr Chambers did not attend any Trust meetings in 2003-04.

Trust members

Charlie Welker BSc (Hons)

Chairman: Mr Welker has been Principal of Strategen, an environmental company, since 1994, and previously held senior positions in environmental agencies in WA and Victoria, including more than two years as the full-time deputy chairman in the WA Environmental Protection Authority. During this time Mr Welker was involved in environmental impact assessment and the development of environmental legislation and policies, the most recent example being the licensing review. He is a certified Environmental Auditor by the Quality Society of Australasia. Mr Welker is also chairman of the Premier's Water Foundation.

Col Rod Willox AM, RFD, ED, JP

Deputy chairman, nominee of the Water and Rivers Commission Board: Col Willox is a graduate of the Australian Defence College and has degrees in Medical Science (microbiology and biochemistry) and Pathology. He also has a Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety Management. He is a former company director in a risk management consultancy. Col Willox is active in community organisations, particularly related to environmental health and waste management, and in local government where he is a Councillor for the City of Stirling. He is deputy chairman of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council and chairman of the Department of Environment audit committee. Col Willox is also chairman of the Australia Day Council (WA) and a property owner in the Avon Catchment.

Dr Jane Chambers PhD, BSc (Hons)

Member: Dr Jane Chambers was appointed to the Trust on 28 June 2004. She is a Lecturer in Aquatic Ecology in Environmental Science, Murdoch University. She has over 20 years experience in research relating to algae and aquatic plants, nutrient dynamics and eutrophication of freshwater and estuarine areas, and has been active in developing technology for the creation and restoration of wetlands and riparian vegetation. More recently she has investigated the impact of secondary salinisation in the Avon Catchment. She has published several papers and books, including one that was compiled with Swan River Trust and Department of Environment scientists.

Mr Cleve Flottmann BE

Nominee of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure: Mr Flottmann has an extensive background in engineering and project management, particularly in urban planning and development and in the maritime sectors. In a diverse career he has worked for Commonwealth and State governments, and as a private engineering consultant. He is currently Manager New Coastal Assets in the Asset Management Directorate of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

Mr Neil Foley BA, MSc, Grad Dip Inf Man, Grad Dip Property, Cert R E Man

Nominee of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure: Mr Foley has qualifications in urban and regional planning, property, real estate and information management. He has 25 years experience in town planning in WA, at State and local government levels. Currently he is a Manager of the Metropolitan North Branch of Department for Planning and Infrastructure. Mr Foley represents the Western Australian Planning Commission.

Mr Jim Freemantle BEc, M Admin

Member: *Mr Freemantle holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Master of Administration from Monash University. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Australian Institute of Banking and Finance. Mr Freemantle was Chief Executive Officer of Home Building Society from 1995–2003. He previously held senior positions in banking and corporate consulting and currently holds the positions of John Wollaston College Board of Management member and Western Australian Planning Commission Housing Advisory Committee member, Trustee of Anglican Diocese of Perth, deputy chairman of Racing and Wagering WA, chairman of Prostate Cancer Foundation (WA Division), Director of the MDA National Group and chairman of its Capital Committee.*

Dr Bruce Hamilton

Member: *Dr Hamilton has worked for 28 years in the WA Government, primarily in environmental and Natural Resource Management. He also has a strong interest in organisational management, with an emphasis on people and community participation. From 1972 Dr Hamilton worked with the Environmental Protection Authority for 14 years, then was Chief Executive Officer of the Waterways Commission for 10 years and the Director of Resource Investigations for the Department of Environment from 1996. Since 1999, Dr Hamilton has been a private consultant working in natural resource management, environmental management and organisational management.*

Cr Pat Hart

Nominee of the Western Australian Local Government Association: *Cr Hart is a retired business proprietor with over 30 years involvement in rural and urban community organisations. She has served on numerous committees involved with catchment management and has been chair of the Swan Catchment Council and the Swan-Avon Integrated Catchment Management Group, as well as a member of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Taskforce. Cr Hart is currently chair of the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare, and member of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board and Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group. Cr Hart is a Councillor with the City of Armadale.*

Immediate past members

Cr Marion Blair

Nominee of the Western Australian Local Government Association until November 2003: *Marion Blair has been a Councillor of the City of Belmont since 1987 and was Deputy Mayor for seven years. She was Deputy President of the Local Government Association, East Zone representative on the West Australian Local Government Association, State president of the Australian Local Government Women's Association WA branch and is currently a member of the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council, which, as part of its responsibilities, looks after regional community services and the environment including the Swan River. Cr Blair's term expired at the end of June 2003 but she continued her service to the Swan River Trust until November 2003.*

Dr Brian Martin MSc Agric, PhD

Coordinator of Water Services until 31 December 2003: *Dr Martin is an economist who has worked in a range of State and Commonwealth Government agencies over 29 years, primarily in the area of policy development. In 1996 he was appointed Coordinator of Water Services in Western Australia, with the task of establishing and leading the Office of Water Regulation. Dr Martin completed his service to the Swan River Trust on 31 December 2003, when the Office of Water Regulation was abolished as part of the formation of the new Economic Regulation Authority.*

Dr Tim Mather BVSc FAICD MAVA

Member until November 2003: *Dr Mather is a business owner and manager, and retired veterinarian with extensive experience in environment and human/animal ecosystem relationships. He has trained in business and financial management and architectural studies and is a regular river user with an interest in rowing and yachting. Dr Mather's term expired at the end of June 2003 but he continued his service to the Swan River Trust until November 2003.*

Issues

The Swan and Canning River System faces a number of challenges and threats. In the past year, these have included a wide range of planning and environmental factors.

People

Perth's population growth has the potential to increase the density of residences within the city and around the river system. This was illustrated by the outcomes of the on-going Dialogue with the City project conducted by the Western Australian Planning Commission, which began in January 2003. It indicated that the river corridor from Midland to Fremantle was a prime area for increasing population density. Population growth is leading to more pressure for recreational facilities around the rivers including a demand for more launching ramps as private boat ownership increases, reduced setbacks, and an increasing need for foreshore strategic plans.

Development

There has also been pressure to develop parts of the large reserve areas around the river to encourage greater public usage. The challenge for the Trust continued to be ensuring that any foreshore development was designed in such a way that major view lines were not compromised and that major landscape features were not diminished and appropriate access was maintained for the community. The Trust and its officers also continued to assess tourism developments in a way that minimised their impacts on the river system.

Environment

The increased development of the catchment, foreshore and the river system results in increased pressure on the ecosystem. The major issues that the Trust and its officers addressed this year were nutrient enrichment, vegetation clearing, erosion of foreshores, chemical contamination of ground water and surface water, acidification of wetlands, aquatic weeds, toxic algal blooms and fish kills. In addition to the direct impacts of development, an overall change in the climatic conditions of the south west of Australia as a result of global development pressures has resulted in long term reduced rainfall. This reduced rainfall further stresses the ecosystem and often compounds the direct development pressures.

Actions for the future

To combat these pressures in the future, the Trust has identified that it will need to work with other authorities to identify appropriate development nodes around the rivers along with those areas unsuitable for future development and in need of protection.

State of the rivers

The health of the Swan and Canning rivers is integral to the work of the Trust.

Significant event

The most significant event in the Swan and Canning River System this year was another large and protracted *Karlodinium micrum* bloom, which began in February 2004 in the middle and upper Swan River. The onset of winter rains flushed the bloom into Melville Water resulting in a localised fish kill at Como foreshore and Matilda Bay in late June. The isolated fish kill resulted in the death of an estimated 24,000 Blowfish and 8000 Gobbleguts in Melville Waters.

Comparison of 2003 and 2004 *Karlodinium micrum* algal blooms

A similar significant *Karlodinium micrum* bloom occurred last autumn, but there were some notable differences between the two years. The 2004 bloom resulted in relatively few associated fish deaths, in contrast to last autumn when tens of thousands of fish were killed from April to June 2003. The conditions that were thought to instigate last year's bloom were quite dissimilar to this year – primarily derived from the different rainfall pattern. In autumn 2003, there was above average rainfall followed by a period of dry sunny weather until the onset of the winter rains in June. Autumn 2004 was very dry, with below average rainfall. This was followed by a late onset of winter rains which started in mid-May 2004, and fell consistently throughout June.

The different rainfall pattern created remarkably contrasting physical conditions and nutrient concentrations in the middle and upper estuary. In 2003, early autumn rains delivered high nitrogen concentrations into the surface layer and created a stratified water column. In addition, the stratified conditions led to elevated concentrations of soluble nutrients in the bottom layer.

It is unclear why there was a *Karlodinium micrum* bloom in 2004 similar to last year, because there was an absence of early autumn inflows leading to high nutrient concentrations in the surface and bottom waters.

The reason for the re-occurrence of *Karlodinium micrum* this year is yet to be answered but it may possibly be a consequence of last year's seeding of dormant cells in the river sediments. The fact that this year's *Karlodinium micrum* bloom was not preceded by elevated nutrient concentrations may be explained by its capacity to ingest other algae when nutrient concentrations are low.

High nutrient inputs

Although it remains uncertain as to why this particular species has dominated the last two autumns, the fact remains that nutrient inputs in the middle and upper Swan River are excessive and algal bloom activity is high.

Nutrient concentrations in the middle and upper Swan River are often higher than Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council guidelines for near pristine estuaries and lowland rivers. The management targets for this region are also failing (see *Performance Indicators - Key Effectiveness Indicator 1*).

Canning River algal blooms

There was an algal bloom health warning alert in the Canning River from 21 January 2004 to 31 March 2004. The dominant species were the potentially toxic blue-green algae *Anabaena circinalis*, *Microcystis flosaquae* and *Microcystis aeruginosa*. In late summer two separate blooms began. A bloom of *Microcystis species* formed 1.3 km upstream of Nicholson Road, while closer to the Kent Street Weir, the bloom was dominated by *Anabaena circinalis*. By early February 2004, both blooms had spread to Nicholson Road, with *Microcystis* species becoming increasingly dominant over the entire affected reach.

In an attempt to remove the algal bloom from a section of the river, the Swan River Trust and Department of Environment in partnership with the CSIRO conducted a flocculation clay trial on 25 and 26 February 2004. However, the results were inconclusive.

Canning River - Kent Street Weir

The Kent Street Weir boards were re-installed in the Upper Canning River on 22 October 2003. Soon after this the river stratified resulting in low oxygen concentrations. The oxygenation plants operated between November 2003 and May 2004, improving dissolved oxygen by at least 3.0mg/L.

Salt intrusion through and possibly over the weir boards occurred in early May 2004 causing stratification as far upstream as Nicholson Bridge. This persisted after the boards were removed on 2 June 2004 until heavy rains began later in the month.

Stressed ecosystems

The Swan River upstream of the Causeway and the Canning River above Kent Street Weir both showed obvious signs of ecosystem stress. In the lower reaches, from Melville Waters to Fremantle Port, the natural flushing by relatively nutrient-poor marine waters helped to maintain relatively good water quality and ecosystem health. However, this region is also vulnerable, as demonstrated by the June 2004 fish kill in Melville Waters, and the summer 2000 *Microcystis* bloom. Climate change forecasters predict an increase in unusual weather events, which may have profound consequences for the health of the Swan and Canning River System.

Actions for the future

Continued and strengthened efforts are required to mitigate nutrient leakage from the Swan and Canning Catchment to redress the decline in ecosystem health that has occurred in recent decades. It is well recognised that improvements in the health of the Swan and Canning River System may take decades to become apparent.

Swan River Trust's response

Collect water information

Estuary water sampling

Water sampling is a key component of the Swan River Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program. Trust officers work with Department of Environment officers who collect water samples from the Swan and Canning Estuary, its tributaries and throughout the Swan and Canning Catchment. Results from the samples are used by the Trust, department and catchment groups, and are made available to the community on the Trust website and through the weekly Algae Activity Report.

Weekly water sampling of physical, chemical and biological variables was conducted at 10 Swan River sites and seven Canning River sites. An additional four upper Canning River sites were sampled during summer (see Fig. 2). Two Fremantle Port sites were also sampled to provide data on the fate of estuarine nutrients for the Port's Marine Quality Monitoring Program.

***Karlodinium micrum* algal blooms**

Extra sampling was also conducted in March and June 2004 in the Swan River after isolated *Karlodinium micrum* algal blooms were detected. About 100 dead fish were found at Guildford in March but their bodies were too decomposed to detect whether they died as a result of the algal bloom. The late-June bloom resulted in the deaths of about 8000 Gobbleguts and 22,000 Blowfish at Como and another 2000 Blowfish at Matilda Bay. Extra precautionary sampling was undertaken in the upper Swan River every Thursday from March to June, and additional phytoplankton and physical water quality data was reported to the Trust's officers each week.

Algae activity report

The Algae Activity Report started in November 2003 in response to community requests for more detailed information regarding algae patterns in the Swan and Canning rivers. The reports featured on a dedicated Trust webpage and were broadcast as part of the Friday Night News and Weather Report on Channel 9.

Catchment water sampling

Fortnightly sampling of nutrients and dissolved solids in 15 tributaries took place throughout the year. Sampling results were used to test compliance with water quality targets set by the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Action Plan and monitor trends over time. Data on nutrients entering the Swan and Canning River System provided information for the Trust, its officers, committees and publications as well as for the Department of Environment.

Continuous stream flow data from seven tributaries to the Swan and Canning rivers was also collected and validated (see Fig. 3). The Jane Brook site that had previously been a non-continuous site was converted to a continuous monitoring site. Non-continuous stream flow data was collected for Bannister and Blackadder creeks.

Catchment snapshot

A water and sediment snapshot was completed throughout the Two Rivers Catchment, and Trust and Department of Environment officers worked towards the development of a drainage improvement framework for the South Belmont Main Drain Catchment. The Trust and Department of Environment officers also worked with the Two Rivers Catchment Group, including participation in the development of the Canning Plain Catchment Management Plan, and continued investigation into drainage and groundwater quality throughout the Mills Street Main Drain Catchment.

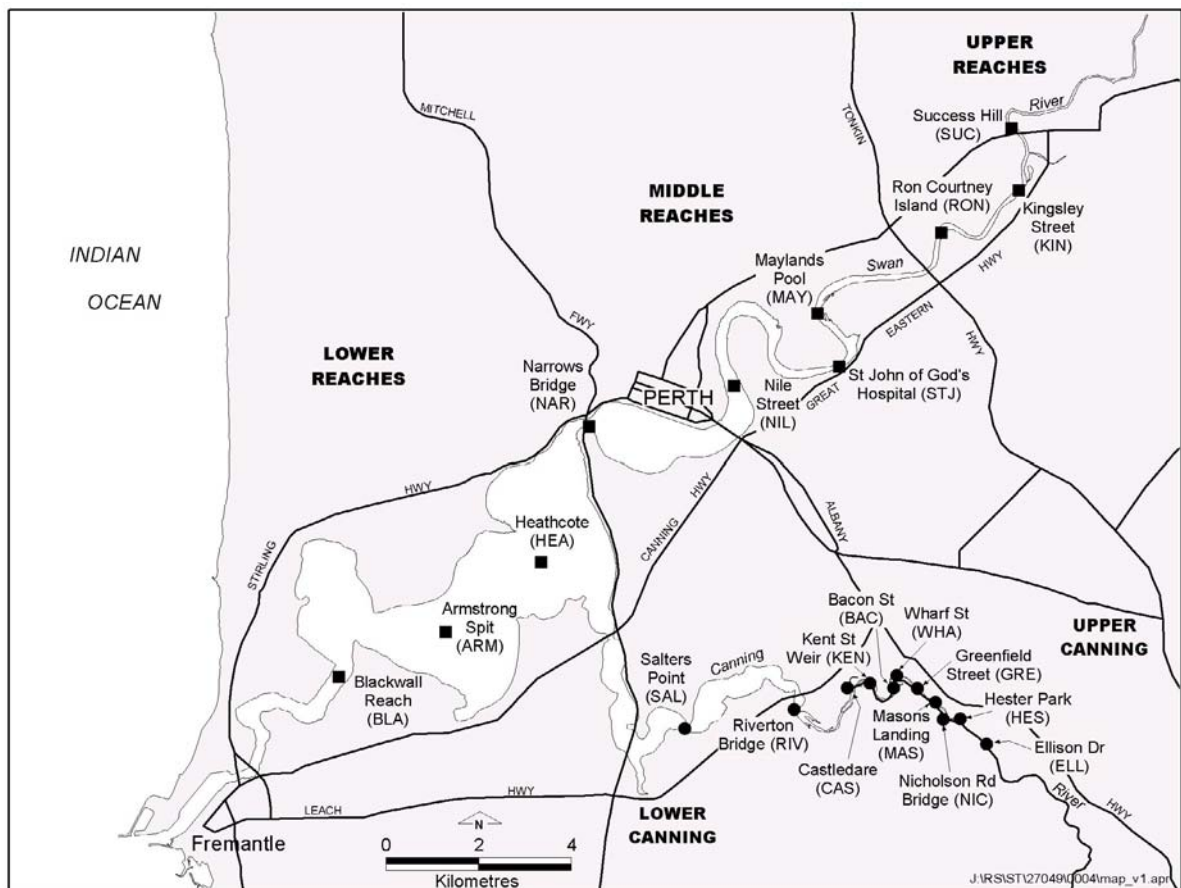


Figure 2. The Swan and Canning River System estuarine sampling sites

A total of 17 sites were sampled regularly over the year with another four sites sampled in the Canning River during summer and autumn when algal blooms frequently occur. Nutrients, phytoplankton, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, salinity and other water quality parameters were sampled weekly.

Oxygenation

Data analysis of previous Canning River oxygenation and sediment remediation trials focused on the Kent Street Weir pool continued with on-going assistance from the CSIRO. The oxygen plant operated at full capacity and was able to respond to low oxygen events during the summer. Sampling was extended over summer to gain a better understanding of the ecological processes driving algal blooms in the pool.

Modelling

Computer models were created by Department of Environment officers to support Trust decisions for catchment and estuary intervention and to assess changes in the estuary that could follow changes in catchment and estuary water quality. Several catchment models were created this year but the estuary modelling was postponed to direct limited staff resources to catchment models which were a priority because they guided initiatives for investment. The most significant model created this year was for the Southern River. The model examined potential nutrient-related impacts that urban development proposed in the Southern River–Forrestdale–Brookdale–Wungong Structure Plan would have on the catchment and river. The North-East Corridor Extension Strategy and Environmental Management Support System were also modelled.

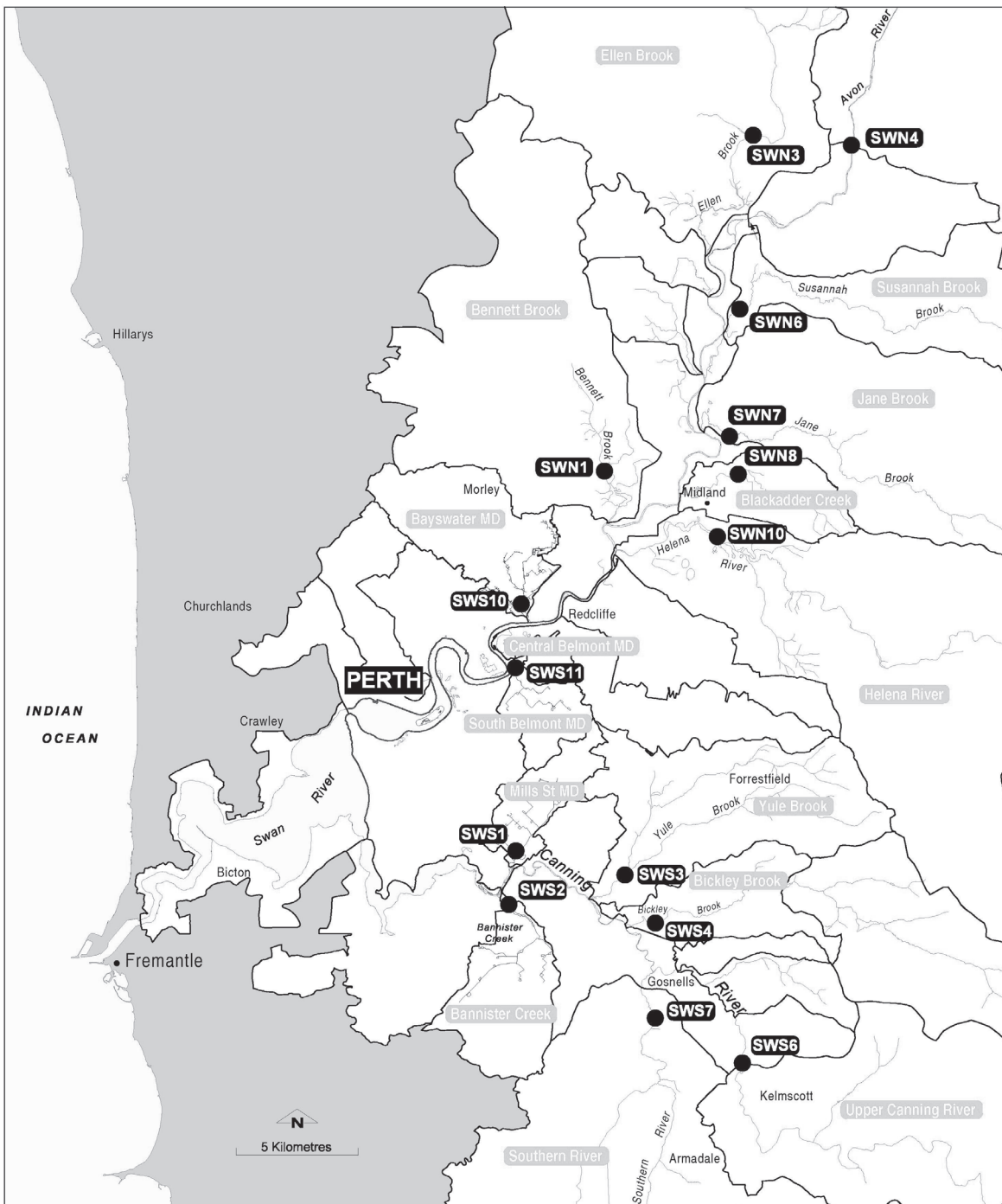


Figure 3. Catchment sampling sites for tributaries and drains in the Swan and Canning Catchment

Fifteen sites were sampled fortnightly for nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus. Sub-catchment names and sampling sites are shown.

Publications

Draft catchment water quality report cards were designed and will be a feature of the new Trust website when it is launched in the new financial year. RiverScience 7: Developing targets for the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program was published, and drafts were completed for several more publications in the RiverScience series. An Environmental Management and Cleaner Production Directory will be published early in the next financial year. It is a collection of national and international environmental guidelines and cleaner production guides for small and medium-sized businesses. Reports released were:

- Nutrient and Contaminant Assessment for the Mills Street Main Drain Catchment;
- Drainage Improvement Framework for the Mills Street Main Drain Catchment;
- Canning River Drain Study: 1999 Water Quality in five Urban Main Drains; and
- An interactive mapping package CD-ROM for the Mills Street Main Drain.

Regulation and development

Assessing development applications is a core function of the Trust and the planning section staff.

Applications

The Trust provided advice to the Minister for the Environment, Western Australian Planning Commission and local government on proposed developments in and adjacent to the Swan River Trust Management Area. This year, the Trust received 207 applications for development or advice, and assessed 212 applications, with the difference being a carry-over from the previous year. Of the 102 Trust recommendations sent to the Minister for the Environment for determination, one per cent was modified and none were rejected under the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and Clause 30A of the Metropolitan Region Scheme. The remaining applications were advice to local government and the Western Australian Planning Commission. The Trust is reviewing its procedures to streamline and improve its processing of development applications. During 2003–04, at the request of the Minister for the Environment, members of the public are now provided with a two week comment period on Trust advice.

Major proposals

Notable proposals considered by the Trust under the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* were:

- approval for the redesigned Riverside Pier Hotel, Perth, in August 2003;
- approval for the extension of the Mount Henry Bridge and Narrows Bridge for the Perth to Mandurah Railway, with conditions including protection of the river and surrounding environment through a construction management plan, environmental management plan, and contributions to the maintenance of adjacent reserves;
- recommended refusal of a proposed culvert on Southern River as part of the Tonkin Highway extension due to numerous environmental impacts. This development proposal was withdrawn prior to the Minister for the Environment issuing a determination, with the applicant deciding to proceed by constructing a bridge, as originally approved;
- approval for the construction of a tidal wetland by the City of Fremantle at Prawn Bay in North Fremantle, which was subsequently approved by the Minister for the Environment in January 2004; and
- approval of a constructed wetland at Liege Street, Cannington, that was subsequently approved by the Minister for the Environment in March 2004, to help strip nutrients from the Liege Street Main Drain before they reached the Canning River.

Policy reviews

The Trust and the officers also reviewed some of its development policies, which were available to the public via the Trust website. At present, the Trust is reviewing:

- Development Setbacks;
- Sewage Disposal;
- Foreshore Restoration, Foreshore Walls and Retaining Walls;
- Private Jetties, Boatsheds, Launching Ramps and Landbacked Wharves; and
- Jetties Operated by Local Government or Commercial Operators.

Event proposals

The Swan River Trust Regulations 1989 require spectator events held on land or waters within the Trust's Management Area to be approved by the Trust, which ensures public access to the rivers and foreshores is maintained, appropriate environmental protection controls are in place, and the site is cleaned up after the event. During 2003–04, the Trust considered 32 requests to hold spectator events.

Precinct Policy Plan

The regional framework supporting the Trust's Precinct Policy Plan is to be provided by a Statement of Planning Policy that is currently prepared in draft. Implementation of the project is unlikely to progress until the passage of new legislation affecting the Trust and the planning process.

Management planning

Strategic planning is a significant function of the Trust, which has expanded substantially in the past year.

New State Government initiatives

Initiatives announced by the State Government on 13 January 2004 included the development of new legislation to better protect and manage the Swan and Canning rivers. The new legislation will include proposals to increase the number of community members on the Swan River Trust, create the Swan Canning Riverpark and extend the Trust's powers to integrate and manage activities that affect the health of the rivers.

Consultation

Community consultation in the first half of 2004 included briefings of more than 80 key stakeholder organisations, distribution of a preliminary information paper, a series of four workshops and the establishment of a stakeholder reference group to help obtain community views of the proposals. The reference group includes Indigenous, business, recreation, environment and government representatives. The Trust is aiming to release a Consultation Paper about the legislative proposals for public comment in the next financial year.

Swan Canning Riverpark

The creation of a new Swan Canning Riverpark is one of the initiatives to be included in the proposed new legislation. Establishment of the park would enable integrated management of the waterways and the adjacent public reserves within a consistent regional approach. As a multiple-use park similar in concept to Kings Park, the Swan Canning Riverpark would be managed by the Trust to ensure that the community continued to enjoy the wide range of benefits and amenity provided by the rivers.

A management strategy for the park would be developed in consultation with the broader community. It would also complement State and local government management plans for parks and reserves in the area. The park boundaries are proposed to include the waterways of the Swan, Canning, Helena and Wungong rivers, and the adjacent public reserves within the existing Swan River Trust Management Area.

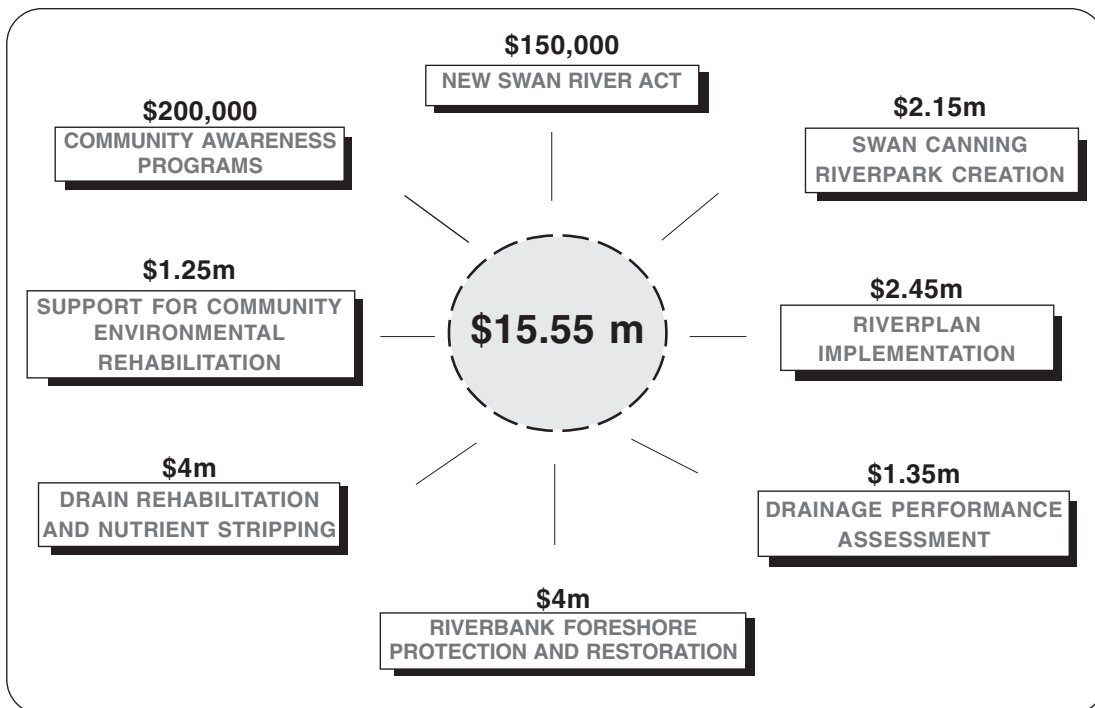


Figure 4. Distribution of additional funding to the existing Swan River Trust's budget, announced in January 2004 for projects 2004-08

Riverplan

Draft Riverplan

Riverplan – An Environmental Management Framework for the Swan and Canning Rivers was released for public comment in July 2003. Forty-two public submissions were received during the public comment period, which closed on 24 October 2003. The revised document was endorsed by the Swan River Trust and Environmental Protection Authority in June 2004, and is expected to be released early in the next financial year.

Fulfilling the Swan and Canning Rivers Environmental Protection Policy requirements

A *Riverplan* team was established as part of the Strategic Programs section in January 2004 to assess roles, responsibilities and current activities of organisations in relation to the fulfilment of the Swan and Canning Rivers Environmental Protection Policy. The Swan River Trust, Department of Environment and City of South Perth participated in a trial of the assessment process and a draft report on their roles, responsibilities and current activities was prepared. Next year the program will be refined and rolled out to assess other State agencies and local governments.

The Strategic Programs team also started a project to combine information collected during the assessment of organisations with existing information regarding the state of the Swan and Canning rivers. A *Riverplan* page was included on the Swan River Trust website and the team produced the first edition of the *Riverplan* newsletter.

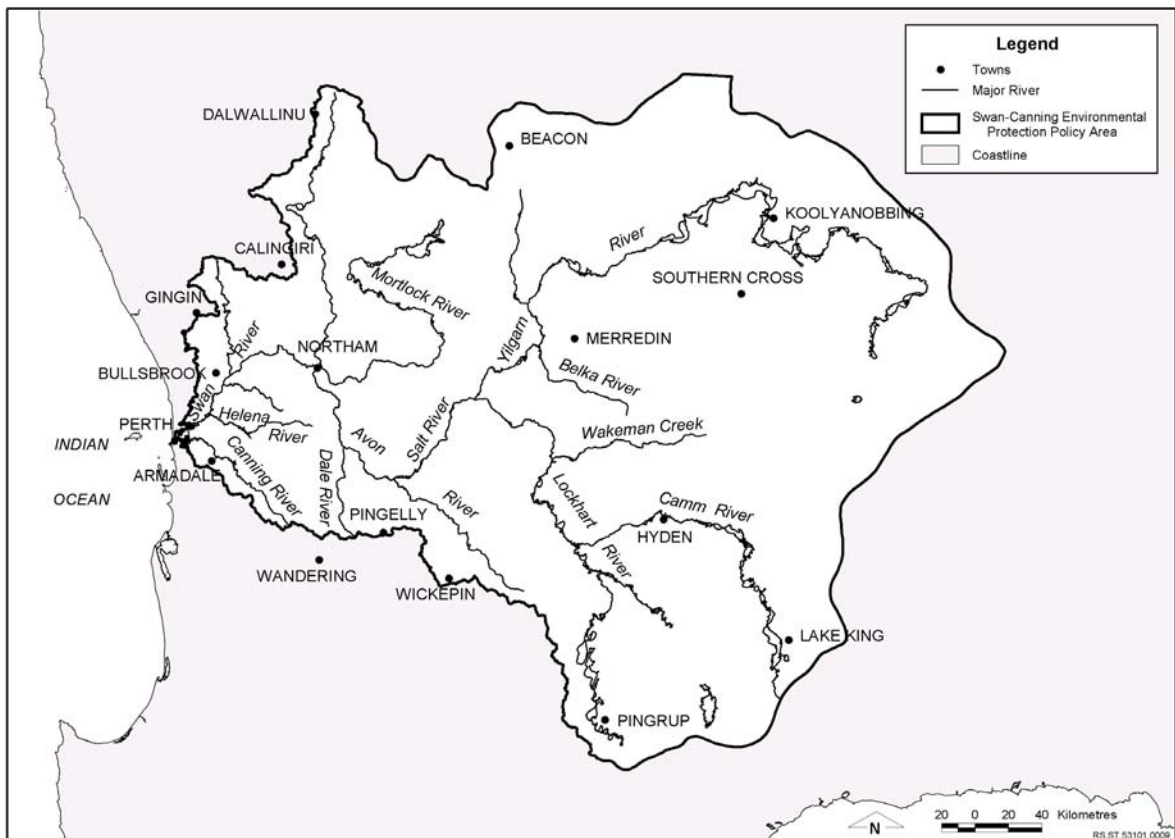


Figure 5. Swan and Canning Rivers Environmental Protection Policy Area

Swan-Canning Industry Project

Developing partnerships

The Swan-Canning Industry Project focused on developing collaborative partnerships with industry, government and the community to coordinate and develop resources, on-ground support, training, incentives and a regulatory framework to engage small businesses in environmental best management practices and cleaner production initiatives. The Swan-Canning Industry Working Group was established as part of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program's Best Management Practices for the Swan Canning project, in conjunction with the Trust, Swan Catchment Council and Department of Environment.

Strategic plan

This year the Swan-Canning Industry Working Group developed and implemented a Swan-Canning Industry Project Strategic Plan to replace the recommendations in the Swan-Canning Industry Survey Final Report 2000. The project was renamed the Light Industry Project. A project coordinator was appointed to provide executive support to the Working Group and provide on-ground support to industry.

An Environmental Law for Small Business fact sheet and industry specific information sheets for the nursery and cleaning industries were drafted and regular light industry information bulletins were circulated. The fact sheets are part of a series that will form the basis for the development of long term behaviour change programs and will be distributed by local government health officers, industry associations and local business support groups, catchment groups and Department of Environment licensing and enforcement officers. They are designed to increase awareness of environmental legislative responsibilities and offer light industry and small business owners opportunities to ensure their business is eco-friendly.

The expansion of the Green Stamp Program successfully used by the Motor Trade Association was explored. This program is an industry or sector specific accreditation system that includes provision of on-ground support to encourage continuous improvement of businesses. The cleaning services and printing industry are currently developing and trialing a Green Stamp Program.

The Working Group successfully lobbied for an appropriate regulatory framework to manage pollution from light industry. The Unauthorised Discharge Regulations were recently gazetted and the project is now focusing on implementing strategies to encourage and support local government to adopt the Regulations and use them proactively to manage light industry and small business.

Protect and restore waterways and foreshores

The Swan River Trust coordinates the work necessary to balance the use and protection of the waterways and shorelines of the Swan and Canning rivers and their tributaries, and restore degraded environments.

Audit and Enforcement

Waterways management

A second Audit and Enforcement officer was employed as part of the new Waterways Management section this year to strengthen the Trust's operational enforcement capabilities. Several investigations have been conducted with the newly formed Department of Environment Environmental Enforcement Unit (EEU). The EEU is a specialist investigative unit established to provide support, management and enforcement quality control in respect of environmental enforcement, including all investigations and prosecution actions.

Complaints and incidents

Trust officers, including field crew and planning officers, checked the progress of development works within the Trust Management Area to ensure compliance with

Table 1. Reported complaints and incidents

Complaint/Incident	2003–04
Oil slicks/spills	39
Offensive odour	3
River discolouration	6
Industrial discharge/dewatering	3
Sewage discharge	14
Herbicide/pesticide spraying	4
Chemical spills	1
Waste dump	31
Foaming	3
Watercraft nuisance	44
Algal blooms	14
Aquatic deaths	18
Destruction of vegetation	8
Unauthorised development	15
General complaints	78
TOTAL	281

development conditions. Audit and Enforcement officers followed up 281 complaints, compared to 278 complaints in 2002–03. Of the 281 complaints received, 64 were referred to other agencies for follow-up. Water craft were the source of most complaints received by Trust Audit and Enforcement officers. The majority of these complaints related to speeding vessels and other breaches of the Navigable Waters Regulations, and were referred to the Marine Safety Section of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

Responding to incidents

Audit and Enforcement officers started using the new Department of Environment Incident Complaint Management System (ICMS) in 2004. ICMS replaced several different systems that were used by the various agencies before being amalgamated into the Department of Environment. Audit and Enforcement officers also conducted regular site visits and river patrols using the Trust's new work vessel, the *Noel Robins*, which was officially launched in December 2003. The patrols were used to identify unapproved developments, pollution incidents, damage to vegetation, riverbanks and the riverbed, and the use of boats as residences.

Protecting and managing the Swan River Trust Management Area

As part of its general role to protect and manage its Management Area the Trust operates under delegated powers to control pollution under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The Trust officers' pollution control strategy has three components:

- assessing whether activities near the waterways could be causing pollution;
- working with other agencies, the community and industry to develop and implement ways of preventing pollution; and
- responding to pollution incidents to establish and deal with the source and to ensure that contaminants are cleaned up.

The Trust also continued to support small industry training and education through the Swan-Canning Industry Project.

Sewage spills prosecution

A major outcome for the year was the Minister for the Environment's consent for the Department of Environment to prosecute the Water Corporation and Swan Water Services Pty Ltd for causing pollution under Section 49(3) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The prosecution related to alleged sewage spills of 3,000 litres, 1.3 million litres and 180,000 litres into the Swan River at Guildford on 29 May, 10 July and 14 November 2003, respectively. At the time of reporting, the case was yet to be heard.

Pollution

This year there was a significant increase in the number of pollution complaints with a total of 104 received, compared to 90 last year. The greatest increase in complaints was in the areas of oil slicks/spills and waste dumping. The increase is most likely a result of greater community awareness of the health of the Swan and Canning rivers, together with increased surveillance by Trust officers.

Table 2. Pollution complaints and incidents by category

Pollution complaint/incident	5-year average	2003–04
Oil slicks/spills	27	39
Offensive odour	5	3
River discolouration	7	6
Industrial discharge/dewatering	8	3
Sewage discharge	13	14
Herbicide/pesticide spraying	2	4
Chemical spills	5	1
Waste dumping	20	31
Foaming	2	3
TOTAL	89	104

Oil spills

Thirty-nine minor oil spills contaminating the Swan and Canning River System were reported this year. In particular, Trust officers attended two diesel spills near the Royal Perth Yacht Club and Matilda Bay in July 2003 and April 2004. No source of the diesel was found and most of it was contained and recovered by Trust officers. In response to these incidents, the Trust will be reviewing policies relating to the storage and loading of hydrocarbons in the vicinity of the rivers.

Oil spill prosecution

The Department of Environment's EEU charged a man over a diesel spill on 16 September 2003 which caused disruption to operations of the Barrack Street Jetty facility, and resulted in a lengthy cleanup response. The Department has alleged that the man caused pollution by allowing diesel to be emitted from the Barrack Street Jetty facility into the Swan River, contrary to section 49(3) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The matter was heard in the Perth Court of Petty Sessions on 17 December 2003 and a hearing date has been set for late 2004.

Sewage spills

There were 14 complaints received this year regarding sewage spills into the Swan and Canning rivers and their tributaries. Of the 10 confirmed complaints, the major incidents related to a Water Corporation pump station in Guildford. However, separately there were eight other incidents that resulted in a small amount of sewage entering the river system at various locations. Inspection and water quality testing found that no significant impact was caused as a result of these incidents.

Table 3. Sewage spill incidents 2003–04

Date	Location	Estimated Quantity (kL)	Cause	Environmental hazard assessment
10/7/03	Guildford Road, Guildford (Swan River)	1300	Overflow from pump station diverted to river during power failure	Significant – no sampling or assessment undertaken at the time of spill as incident was not discovered until an inquiry by Water Corporation into a spill from same pump station in November.
22/7/03	Clayton Street, Bellevue (Helena River)	0.2	Blocked sewerage main	Low – no visible impact or discolouration.
11/8/03	Willcock Street, Ferndale (Canning River)	0.05	Gasket failure on pressure main	Low – only 50 litres discharged into the Canning River. No visible impact or discolouration.
14/8/03	Guildford Road, Bayswater (Swan River)	15	Sewerage main blocked by tree roots	Moderate – several kL of waste water were recovered by Water Corporation so total volume likely to be less than 15kL. Water quality testing found that there was no detectable impact on the Swan River.
24/9/03	Guildford Road, Maylands (Swan River)	Less than 0.1	Blocked sewerage main	Low – likely a small volume entered the Swan River. No visible impact or discolouration.
14/11/03	Guildford Bridge Pump Station (Swan River)	180	Overflow from pump station diverted to river during power	Significant – river in the area closed for several days until Department of Health testing confirmed water quality had returned to a satisfactory state.
5/1/04	Pier 21 North Fremantle (Swan River)	Less than 0.5	Faulty sewerage connection	Low – small volume of sewage entered river. No visible impact or discolouration.
24/1/04	New Esplanade Hotel, Perth (Swan River)	Less than 3	Defective internal pipework	Low – no visible impact or discolouration.
16/3/04	Hill Street, East Perth (Swan River)	0.5	Ruptured sewerage main	Low – no visible impact or discolouration.
9/6/04	Great Eastern Highway, Midland (Swan River)	7	Blocked sewerage main	Low – entered Swan River via Blackadder Creek. No visible impact or discolouration.

Maintaining riverbanks and foreshores

Destruction

This year there was an increase in the number of reported incidents where trees were destroyed or poisoned along the Swan and Canning riverbanks and their tributaries. Most incidents were likely to be vandalism by people living near the rivers who wanted to improve their views. The Trust takes the issue of destroying trees very seriously and is continuing to investigate ways to deter people from harming riverbank vegetation. Destroying vegetation is against the law and the Trust will be increasing its surveillance to detect such incidents.

Maintenance

Waterways operations officers completed on-going foreshore maintenance and waterways cleaning during the year. This included continual litter and debris removal, especially from jetties and bridge supports in the months leading up to winter. Trust officers cleaned and maintained 45 river beaches and about 358 kilometres of foreshores along the Swan, Canning, Helena and Southern rivers this year, with a priority given to 33 public beaches and foreshores and about 146 kilometres of total shoreline. The remaining 12 beaches were visited periodically and maintenance undertaken according to the resources available and the size of the problem.

Logs and timber from fallen trees weighing a total of 84 tonnes were removed from the rivers this year. Shopping trolleys continued to be a problem in the Canning and Southern rivers. Most rubbish, debris and pollution was the result of irresponsible human behaviour.

Table 4. Summary of material removed by field staff from waterways and foreshores

Material collected	Units	97–98	98–99	99–00	00–01	01–02	02–03	03–04
Domestic rubbish collected from beaches	Tonne	87	85	46	56	77	22	51
Logs and timber from fallen trees	Tonne	109	150	109	101	121	53	84
Rotting weed removed from foreshores	Tonne	612	350	197	390	529	101	85
Tyres	Each	106	70	60	69	46	47	32
Drums assorted	Each	56	23	14	38	31	7	17
Display signs	Each	9	8	6	22	22	8	12
Derelict and abandoned boats salvaged	Each	6	1	1	3	7	0	9
Shopping trolleys	Each	62	92	81	64	92	51	45
Dead fish left by prawning parties	Tonne	11	10	7	5	4	4.5	2.2
Dead birds	Each	176	120	123	158	83	41	9
Syringes left on beaches and public places	Each	242	118	232	169	144	96	51
Dead animals (cattle, goats and sheep)	Each	8	6	4	11	7	3	0
White goods (washing machines/fridges)	Each	4	7	6	10	3	8	5
Bamboo removed from foreshores	Tonne	0	61	0	0	0	0	0
Sand renourishment of public beaches	Tonne	854	533	492	1712	1075	993	558
Rock renourishment to stop erosion	Tonne	0	109	38	414	74	11.5	430
Vehicles salvaged from river	Each	2	4	1	2	0	0	1

Trust officers worked with local councils on a range of foreshore maintenance projects, including the City of Perth regarding the removal and relocation of 275 tonnes of concrete debris and rubble from Trinity College to Claisebrook Cove in East Perth, and walling repairs to address erosion between the brewery and upstream steps of Mounts Bay Road.

Beach replenishment

Waterways operations officers also completed annual beach replenishment in spring. This included replenishing eroded beaches and levelling all major beaches to remove gullies caused by stormwater discharge from the many drains and run-off. This year 558 tonnes of beach sand was recycled from accumulation sites to help restore eroded public beaches.

Canning River maintenance

Spot spraying of the noxious aquatic weed *Hydrocotyle* was also carried out by Trust officers. It was removed in bulk in 1993 and since then inspections and spot spraying of *Hydrocotyle* regrowth and other declared aquatic weeds have taken place. An outbreak of *Hydrocotyle* was identified in the Canning River and its drainage system this year. Plants were sprayed before the infestations could spread and monitoring of these areas to enable early detection of any re-establishment continued throughout the year. Trust officers, on behalf of the Department of Environment, also organised the installation and removal of 'stop boards' and fittings at the Kent Street Weir on the Canning River.

Ron Courtney Island

The Trust is responsible for the management of Ron Courtney Island, located in the Swan River opposite Garvey Park in Redcliffe, and the Trust's officers carry out maintenance four times a year. Clearing the weeds and undergrowth is necessary to stop fires destroying the island's vegetation. This year, the maintenance program included mowing to clear the open areas of weeds and removing undergrowth from around trees and reeds. Staff also relocated hollow logs to the island to provide wildlife nesting opportunities. An ongoing program to replace plants lost to poor weather conditions and continuing vandalism resulted in vegetation flourishing and bird life increasing in numbers.

Protecting and rehabilitating foreshores

Natural Resource Management (NRM) officers were involved with the Trust's Foreshore Assessment and *Riverbank* programs, which were designed to assess the current biophysical state, natural and human induced pressures on the Swan and Canning River System, and propose possible responses. This work is aiding strategic foreshore protection, rehabilitation and overall management.

Foreshore assessment

The Foreshore Assessment Program was initiated this year in partnership with the Swan Catchment Council. It was established to increase the Trust's ability to prioritise foreshore protection and restoration, and links with the implementation of *Riverplan*, the new Swan River Trust legislation and proposed Swan Canning Riverpark. The program was designed to have far-reaching benefits for State and local government, stakeholders and the community, through the development of more strategic and sustainable foreshore management, filling knowledge gaps, development of decision support tools and information resources, and establishment of adaptive foreshore management mechanisms.

An additional officer was appointed to help with project development and data collection within the Trust's Management Area. Trust NRM officers designed biophysical assessments that could be used across the variable Swan and Canning Catchment landscape, began collection of baseline data and started creating a database with mapping and multi-criteria assessment capabilities. The collection of baseline data will be important for ongoing research, monitoring and evaluation. A Swan River Trust Regional Herbarium was also initiated in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Land Management's WA Herbarium.

Riverbank

The Foreshore Assessment Program also increases the strategic impact of the *Riverbank* Program funding. In January 2004, the State Government announced an eight-fold increase in funding to the *Riverbank* Program, from \$125,000 per year to \$1 million per year for the next four years. *Riverbank* was designed to assess and undertake trials of shoreline restoration techniques and to support local government, sometimes in collaboration with community and other stakeholders, in shoreline protection and rehabilitation works.

This year, *Riverbank* funded six local governments for projects focused on improving ecosystem structure and function of the Swan and Canning rivers' foreshores and reducing public safety risks associated with erosion threats to infrastructure.



Tackling nutrients

Swan-Canning Cleanup Program

The Trust's flagship environmental management program, the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, was established in 1994 to tackle nutrients entering and remaining in the river system. Many of the Cleanup Program projects target the protection of waterways and foreshores through improved land practices and river intervention techniques, and have been grouped in this section.

Action plan

The Cleanup Program's five-year Action Plan was launched in 1999 to:

1. support Integrated Catchment Management to reduce nutrient inputs;
2. improve planning and land-use management to reduce nutrient inputs;
3. modify river conditions to reduce algal blooms; and
4. monitor river health, fill critical gaps in knowledge and report progress to the community.

An external review of the Action Plan began in 2004 to address the Cleanup Program's future direction as well as its achievements, issues and problems. It will also include a review of targets.

Working with local governments

The Cleanup Program funded the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) to prepare Natural Resource Management policies and strategies for local governments, and to improve their environmental management performance. EMRC officers updated the NRM manual and policy, and ensured these updates were available through the EMRC website. EMRC and Cleanup Program officers launched the *TurfSustain Handbook*, and drafted policy and guidelines for landscaping with local plants, small rural properties, and foreshore management. A stormwater awareness display was also produced and is available for use by local governments, community groups and the EMRC.

Small landholders learning to manage sustainably

Cleanup Program officers also helped small landholders within the Swan and Canning Catchment implement sustainable practices while reducing nutrient loss. The project has been very successful this year, with the 2004 round of Heavenly Hectares seminars attracting a record 560 participants for nine seminars. These seminars generated a record nine Property Planning workshops. A total of 810 new participants joined 913 returning participants in the program for the financial year. The field days were also popular, covering table grapes, horse and pasture management, and understanding and testing soils and fertilisers in the Ellen Brook area. The project was a finalist in the WA Environment Awards, recognising its contribution to behaviour change towards sustainable land management. The new project officer repackaged the program and increased promotion in 2004. Within the Swan and Canning Catchment, the project has reached a total of about 20 per cent of the expected client group since its instigation and efforts continued to attract new landholders. Project partner, the Department of Agriculture, expanded the concept and started to deliver it to locations outside the Swan and Canning Catchment and increased the project team to four officers.

Water sensitive urban design

A paper on land use planning to manage water quality through water sensitive design was prepared for a forum on drainage management in the Swan and Canning Catchment. The forum paper addressed planning issues in relation to total urban and rural water management, the current planning approval system, opportunities and constraints and potential future improvements and actions. The Swan River Trust was represented on the inter-agency Drainage Reform Group.

Caring for the Canning

Cleanup Program officers also promoted river management that aimed to reduce the occurrence and severity of algal blooms in the Canning River through the development of Environmental Water Provisions (EWPs). A community-based Canning Environmental Flows Steering Committee was established as part of *Caring for the Canning – a plan to revitalise the Canning, Southern and Wungong rivers*. An inter-agency technical working group was also established to develop a strategy for determining ecological water requirements for the Canning River System.

Workshops were held to inform and consult with the community about the project and identify community values and the desired future state of the Canning River System. The Technical Working Group developed a strategy in consultation with the Canning Environmental Flows Steering Committee for flow investigation at strategic locations along the rivers. The flow investigation will contribute towards modelling flows in the Canning River System, which will subsequently be used to determine the Ecological Water Requirements (EWRs) for the Canning System and identify risks associated with environmental releases.

Oxygenating the Canning River

Annual oxygenation of the Canning River again took place between November 2003 and May 2004. Two oxygenation plants pumped extra oxygen into a 2.3km section of the Kent Street Weir pool, as an intervention technique designed to decrease the severity and occurrence of algal blooms by lessening the symptoms of eutrophication. Cleanup Program officers refined operation of the system with an improved maintenance routine including flushing the pipes to prevent them from floating and regular downloading and inspection of control probe data. Maintenance of the system and analysis of the data collected while it was in operation was on-going.

An experimental application of modified flocculating clay (Algaefloc) to remove algae from surface waters was performed in February. However, the application did not have a measurable affect on algae in the trial area, near the Bacon Street boat ramp.

Supporting on-ground work

On-ground works throughout the Swan and Canning Catchment were also supported by the Cleanup Program. It provided \$425,000 to the four sub-regional NRM groups within the catchment to help meet staffing and administrative costs (see Fig. 6). The funding was targeted at priority catchments highlighted in the Cleanup Program Action Plan. The security resulting from this funding also helps groups leverage other funding and form partnerships with key stakeholders for implementation of on-ground activities.

A new regional delivery model for NRM in the Swan region was established by the Swan Catchment Council with support from the Trust. The new model establishes sub-regional NRM groups to work with the network of community groups to ensure that local scale projects work collectively to each regional group's results. The model will allow the implementation of the Swan Region Strategy, with Cleanup Program funds contributing to the employment of eight officers focused on nutrient reduction in the Swan and Canning River System. This new model has resulted in a number of significant changes to NRM delivery, such as the strengthening of partnerships between a number of catchment and community groups. The Cleanup Program is supporting a sub-regional planning process in the next financial year to determine priority activities and staff roles.

Swan Alcoa Landcare Program

In 2003–04, the Trust increased its contribution to the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per year. Program partner Alcoa World Alumina Australia contributed \$200,000. The combined \$450,000 funds were provided to 34 community environmental groups to implement 95 separate restoration projects throughout the Swan region (see Fig. 6). The projects were designed to address retention, restoration and management of bushland, coastal, wetland and riverine vegetation and protection and enhancement of the quality of streams, rivers, wetlands, dams and groundwater. In-kind support from the community, excluding the significant contributions provided by landholders, contributed about 19,290 hours, or a further \$290,000 directly to the works. The program was significantly over-subscribed this year resulting in a very high project standard. The Trust worked closely with the Swan Catchment Council, which manages this program.

The success of the program was highlighted by the Government's announcement in January 2004, that from next financial year the Trust's contribution would be increased to \$350,000 per year, enabling \$550,000 to be provided to community environmental and catchment groups to complete extensive on-ground works.

Since its inception in 1998 the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program has funded more than 400 projects worth over \$2 million across the metropolitan area, and almost 800,000 trees have been planted. Based on an average contribution of \$3,700 per kilometre, over the past six years the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program has also

committed to supporting about 280km of fencing to protect waterways and remnant vegetation in the catchment, and helped attract \$3.5 million in partnership funding from other sources towards restoration projects in the Swan Region.

Drain Nutrient Intervention Program

Constructed wetlands

The new Drain Nutrient Intervention Program focused on the Canning Plain catchment – in particular the design and development of the Liege Street Main Drain Restoration Wetland project in the Canning River Regional Park. This project included extensive stakeholder consultation, partner negotiation for nutrient intervention, collection of baseline data in Liege Street Main Drain, coordination of stakeholder and project partner input into the wetland design and approval for construction. A project steering committee was formed and earthworks started in April 2004. The project is expected to be completed in the next financial year and will feature more than 60,000 native plants. The completed project will strip nutrients before they enter the Canning River, improve water quality, provide habitat and increase the amenity value of the area.

Phoslock™

The Liege Street Main Drain and Mills Street Main Drain were also targeted for nutrient reduction through the Drain Nutrient Intervention Program. The Mills Street Main Drain was dosed with the phosphorus-binding clay Phoslock™ at two locations for four months, and a second system on the Liege Street Main Drain was operated for three months.

New technologies

As part of the program the Trust also issued a request for proposals for new nutrient intervention technologies. These have been assessed with help from Department of Environment and CSIRO staff. Several new approaches are being considered as a result of this process.

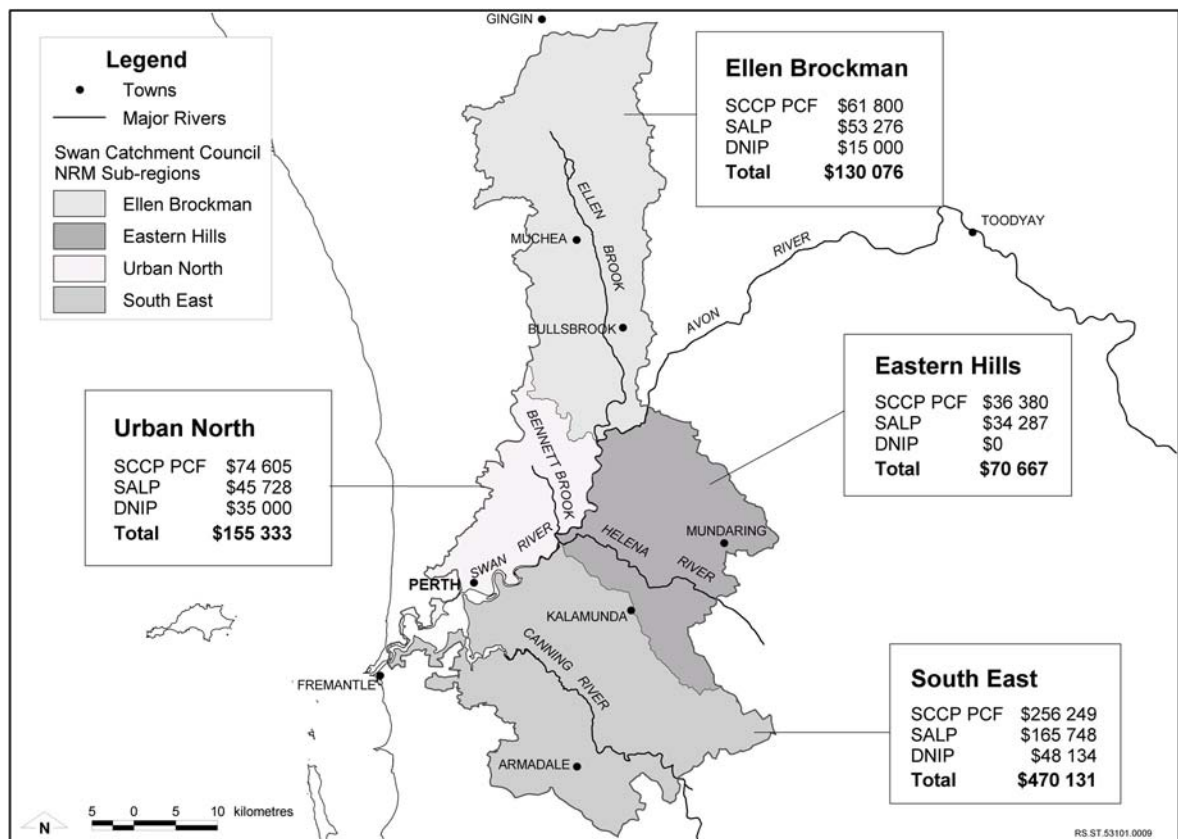


Figure 6. Catchment funding from the Swan River Trust

Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Priority Catchment Funding (SCCP PCF), Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) funding and Drain Nutrient Intervention Program (DNIP) funding. Note: The figure shows the portion of the Swan Catchment Council Natural Resource Management sub-regions within the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Catchment.

Community awareness, education and involvement

The Trust's newly formed Communications section provided a wide range of environmental and strategic communications and community relations services to all sections of the organisation to meet community needs.

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Cross Media Public Awareness Campaign was implemented from the Integrated Communications Strategy 2002–04, including public participation, sponsorship, professional brand building, interactive engagement, corporate engagement and media. Two new strategies introduced this year were urban garden and environmental education.

Public participation

The Cleanup Program's community development projects increased this year. A record number of Corporate Care Days were held by the Trust, and the new Great Gardens workshops spring and autumn series attracted more than 5000 participants. Community demand increased, with specific requests for further environmental education information about ways to get more involved in caring for the rivers. The Trust attended a wide range of community events, including the Autumn River Festival and Garden Week.

Annual Community Forum

The Cleanup Program Community Forum was held in September 2003 in Forrest Place, City of Perth. It showcased 27 projects and catchment groups in a trade fair format, and attracted more than 100 community members per hour during the afternoon. The Minister for the Environment launched the new video, *You Can Make the Difference*, that demonstrated how the community could get more involved. The 2003 Swan-Canning Cleanup Program implementing the Action Plan reporting brochure was published after the forum.

Sponsorship

The Cleanup Program sponsored a range of river-friendly initiatives, including:

- sustainable garden competitions in the City of Melville and Town of Vincent;
- the Great Gardens workshops;
- Catchments, Corridors and Coasts River Care Day;
- a two-day 'Enabling Change' workshop for catchment coordinators and environmental educators in order to facilitate integrated environmental messages throughout the catchment; and
- the Autumn River Festival.

Professional brand building

The Cleanup Program's key community message, HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY, was featured on more than 7000 calico bags and 850 t-shirts. It was the first year the Trust introduced calico bags, which were filled with environmental education information and distributed to the community at public events, reducing the use of plastic bags and envelopes.

Interactive engagement

The popularity of the Drain Game continued to increase this year. The interactive children's game was used at more than 30 community events and educational opportunities. Cleanup Program children's activity sheets that promote activities that everyone can do to HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY were distributed to Drain Game participants, and new children's stickers were produced.

Corporate engagement

The 12 Corporate Care Days held this year were a significant achievement for the Cleanup Program's corporate interaction. Six Perth corporations, a community club and a group of 10 schools supported 371 volunteer participants who spent a day in the catchment planting more than 14,100 trees, weeding and removing rubbish (*see Table below*).

Table 5. Corporate Care Days in 2003–04

Date	Corporation	Catchment Group	Location	Activity
July 03	Challenge Bank	Bannister Creek Catchment Group	Canvale Lake	Planting
Sept 03	Melville Amateur Angling Club	Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group	John Okey Davis Park	Planting and tree guarding
Sept 03	Challenge Bank	Belmont Victoria Park Catchment Group	Coolgardie Drain Living Stream	Planting
Oct 03	Pricewaterhouse Coopers	Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group	Westfield Park Reserve	Planting and removal of rubbish
Oct 03	Woodside	Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group	Southwood Park	Planting
Nov 03	Electronic Data Systems Australia	Claisebrook Catchment Group	Point Fraser	Planting
March 04	National Australia Bank	Bannister Creek Catchment Group	Piney Lakes	Tour of Piney Lakes Environmental Centre and weeding
June 04	Westpac Bank	Bannister Creek Catchment Group	Attadale Foreshore	Planting
June 04	Westpac Bank	Bannister Creek Catchment Group	Attadale Foreshore	Planting
June 04	Westpac Bank	Bannister Creek Catchment Group	Attadale Foreshore	Planting
June 04	Arbor Day – students from 10 schools	Two Rivers Catchment Group	South East Regional Centre for Landcare Department for Planning and Infrastructure Reserve, Thornlie	Planting
June 04	Melville Amateur Angling Club	Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group	John Okey Davis Park	Planting

Urban gardens

The Trust's urban landcare ethic to look after the land in order to look after the rivers was promoted through a range of initiatives implemented through the new Urban Garden Strategy this year. The strategy was made possible by additional funds announced at the end of June 2003. It included support for the Fertilise Wise campaign delivered by the Phosphorus Action Group and sponsorship of the Great Gardens workshops.

Great Gardens

Free Great Gardens workshops sponsored by the Trust were among the agency's top achievements this year. They provided community members with the knowledge and skills to implement river-friendly gardening practices. More than 5000 Perth residents attended the autumn and spring Great Gardens workshops supported by the Water Corporation with endorsement from the Nursery and Garden Industry Association of WA. Market research and community feedback demonstrated that behaviour changes in domestic urban landcare were taking place as a result of these new initiatives. Members of the community continued to seek consultation with the Great Gardens team and requested more workshops.

Environmental education

To address the increased community demand for information on river issues, this year the Phosphorus Action Group represented the Cleanup Program at local community festivals, community and school talks, and an increased number of planting days. The Cleanup Program provided the Phosphorus Action Group with an additional \$40,000 for this purpose.

A major focus this year was the development of new media partnerships. A television partnership was established with Channel 9, which broadcast Healthy Rivers commercials, and editorial content in Postcards WA and Gardening WA segments. Healthy Rivers advertising also aired on Austereo's 92.9 and Mix 94.5FM, and featured segments on Earth Care and Breakfast Talkback. These new Trust initiatives were made possible by the additional \$250,000 funding announced by the State Government in late June 2003 and \$200,000 in January 2004. Other advertising included the Great Gardens workshops in The West Australian and Community Newspapers.

Supporting environmental education in the catchments

The Trust's Cleanup Program supported Swan Catchment Centre and Swan Regional Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA officers in the delivery of an extensive range of community development and involvement services that raised community awareness, developed skills and promoted behaviour change in Natural Resource Management. Swan Region Ribbons of Blue coordinators are housed in the Swan Catchment Centre.

Swan Catchment Centre

Swan Catchment Centre staff provided a range of community training workshops, including five acid sulfate soil workshops, the Skills for Nature Conservation Program and associated calendar of events, two Indigenous cultural awareness workshops, and two catchment officer support network meetings. They also facilitated 12 community consultation workshops for the Swan Region NRM Strategy, and strengthened partnerships with catchment groups through team building and sub-regional planning workshops.

Swan Catchment Centre staff including the Ribbons of Blue regional coordinators also provided a range of educational opportunities for schools and community groups. These included training seven facilitators to run learning circles about environmental issues in community centres based on the Swan River Action Kit, conducting three learning circles for seniors groups and presenting eight talks to community service groups in response to the autumn 2003 fish kills. The centre staff organised an Enabling Change workshop for community support officers and developed a partnership with the Department of Education and Training to run *Sustainable Management of School Bushlands* workshops with school gardeners.

Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA

The Cleanup Program also supported the Ribbons of Blue environmental education network that raises awareness and understanding, provides educational opportunities and develops skills for school and community groups and supports community-based water quality monitoring programs. Their operational and strategic plan significantly evolved to incorporate other Cleanup Program funded projects, including learning circles using the Swan River Action Kit, Swan River Education Kit workshops for school teachers and delivery of community service talks. Fifty schools and 20 community and catchment groups were involved in the program. The Ribbons of Blue newsletter was redesigned and distributed quarterly. Ninety community members and school teachers attended nine skills training workshops and three teacher professional development workshops were held.

Thirty-six school and community groups participated over a three-week period in the National Macroinvertebrate Snapshot Event 2003 when they monitored the region's waterways, wetlands and stormwater systems. A Saltwatch WA Bus Tour for primary school students was also conducted in the Swan and Avon Catchment. Swan Regional coordinators also conducted a variety of presentations and talks for community groups and at events including: Catchments, Corridors and Coasts; Restoring our Rivers workshop; Children's Groundwater Festival; and Nuts about Nature Day. They also participated in Garden Week, Triple S Science Fair, the Cleanup Program Community Forum and the Autumn River Festival.

Stakeholder communications

The Swan River Trust provides advice and promotes public education to foster understanding and values that recognise the Swan and Canning rivers as Perth's central natural resource, and to promote behaviours that protect and maintain the resource.

New Communications direction

The new Communications section enabled the Trust to deliver an expanded range of communications this year. The Trust incorporated the Department of Environment's Issues Alert System, Community Involvement Framework and Risk Communications Strategies into the Trust's existing systems. Trust officers gave talks and presentations to more than 10 community organisations and schools, and the Trust was represented at more than 25 community events.

The Trust held six Ministerial launches this year. The most significant of these were:

- release of draft *Riverplan* document for public consultation, July 2003;
- launch of the new Trust work boat, the *Noel Robins*, named in honour of the Trust's inaugural deputy chairman, December 2003; and
- the State Government's new initiatives stakeholder breakfast and media announcement.

The Trust's popular Fishing for a Healthy River brochure was updated and reprinted. It was also translated into traditional Chinese and Vietnamese and widely distributed. Three editions of the Trust's newsletter were published, and its size increased to eight pages. A stakeholder information request sheet was produced and distributed with the January RiverView newsletter to update the Trust's stakeholder database and make the newsletter available to the community electronically. The website was redesigned, the new domain name www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au was registered, and awaits content upload next year.

Trust officers participated in a two-day cultural awareness workshop to help staff involved with Noongar consultation.

In January 2003, the Trust linked up to a new telephone on-hold recording, which featured six key messages promoting the work of the Trust. The Trust's emergency pollution response telephone number was promoted through this and other communications strategies, including sponsorship of advertising in 7000 copies of the WA Medical and Dental Practices Year Planner 2004, sponsorship of 2000 copies of On The Swan 2005 calendars, and the distribution of letters and posters advertising the emergency number for riverside recreational clubs and businesses.

The Trust received a Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership encouragement award with business partners Ross and Galloway and the City of Melville, and the Cleanup Program's joint project Heavenly Hectares, run in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Landcare Solutions, was a finalist in the WA Environment Awards promoting behaviour change category.

Media

Stories were featured in a wide range of State and local newspapers as well as the Western Fisheries, Gardening WA, Intersector and Travel Talk magazines, ABC television Stateline and Channel 7 Today Tonight, and radio and television news bulletins. A list of media statements is included as Appendix 1.

The Algae Activity Report was broadcast each Friday night on the Channel 9 News and Weather Report from November 2003 providing increased information to the community regarding the weekly algal densities in the Swan and Canning rivers.

Algae response

The Communications and Response Strategy to the *Karlodinium micrum* algal bloom that resulted in fish kills between April and June 2003 was a major focus for the Trust this year. Long term strategies implemented included continuing intense media attention, the preparation of a RiverScience publication featuring *Karlodinium micrum*, development of *Karlodinium micrum* display materials and brochure, a community information package, presentations for public forums and other talks as requested by the community. These resources were used to host public forums in Melville, Midland, Gosnells and North Perth during August 2003 as well as at partnership forums with the Water Corporation, the Conservation Council, and catchment and community group special meetings.

Output measures

Output 1: Collect water information to support State planning, agencies and community

Output description: Provision of research and information for estuary and river restoration and management.

Table 6. Water information

	2002–03 Actual	2003–04 Target	2003–04 Actual	Reason for variation
Quantity				
Area of waterways and catchment monitored km ²	1,683	1,683	1,701	Improved mapping from decision support modelling projects.
Number of research and development projects	7	2	3	New flocculating clay trial completed.
Quality				
Extent to which the monitoring network covers the waterways and catchment	92%	90%	80%	Area monitored is unchanged. The change has resulted from the change in catchment area reporting. This does not include the Avon Catchment.
Reliability of monitoring information	95%	95%	95%	
Per cent of project milestones met	97%	95%	95%	
Level of community satisfaction with water cleanliness	68%	70%	54%	Reflects community concerns over high profile events including algal blooms, fish deaths and sewage/oil spills.
Timeliness				
Per cent waterways and catchment monitoring reports completed on time	93%	95%	95%	
Projects completed on time	2	2	3	New flocculating clay trial completed.

Output 2: Regulate riverside development

Output description: Assess applications for development, planning schemes and policy.

Table 7. Development, planning scheme and policy applications

	2002–03 Actual	2003–04 Target	2003–04 Actual	Reason for variation
Quantity				
Management area subject to development control policy and advice (km ²)	69	69	69	
Number of development applications assessed	224	Not reported	212	
Quality				
Ministerial acceptance of recommendations and conditions on development	100%	95%	99%	
Level of community satisfaction with land development and landscapes around the river reflecting community expectation	74%	75%	73%	
Timeliness				
Average number of days to process planning and development applications	54	65	66	

Output 3: Management plans

Output description: Prepares management programs (often jointly with local government) for the management of the waterways and the management area. Includes catchment management plans.

Table 8. Preparation of management plans

	2002–03 Actual	2003–04 Target	2003–04 Actual	Reason for variation
Quantity				
Production of management plans and strategies	0	1	1	
Quality				
Stakeholder acceptance of management plans and strategies	71%	80%	66%	Community more aware of water health issues following high profile events including algal blooms, fish deaths, and sewage/oil spills.
Level of community satisfaction with availability of public access to rivers and provision of sufficient facilities for community use	68%	NA	71%	
Timeliness				
Plans prepared within timeframe	NA	1	1	

Output 4: Protection of waterways and foreshores

Output description: Maintenance and restoration of waterways and foreshores. Audit and enforcement of the Act and regulations.

Table 9. Waterways and foreshore quality and maintenance

	2002–03 Actual	2003–04 Target	2003–04 Actual	Reason for variation
Quantity				
Length of foreshore subject to regular maintenance and restoration (km)	146	146	146	
Management area subject to waterways and foreshore protection (km ²)	69	69	69	
Area of the waterways and catchment impacting on water quality management (km ²)	1,683	1,683*	2,126	Improved system for reporting the area of the Catchment based on decision support modelling. This does not include the Avon Catchment.
Quality				
Length of foreshore scheduled for maintenance and restoration as per cent of total foreshore	41%	41%	41%	
Per cent of sub-catchments within phosphorus input target	93%	93%	93%	
Per cent of sub-catchments within nitrogen input target	93%	93%	100%	
Level of community satisfaction with the condition of the foreshores	70%	70%	64%	
Timeliness				
Per cent of achievement of scheduled maintenance and restoration program completed on time	96%	90%	90%	
Mean time taken to resolve complaints (days)	0.9	1.0	0.82	Additional audit and enforcement officer appointed.
Per cent of water quality improvement projects achieving milestones on time	92%	92%	93%	

* This figure should have been 2116 km², based on the previous year's estimates.



AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

SWAN RIVER TRUST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the key effectiveness and efficiency performance indicators of the Swan River Trust are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Trust's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended June 30, 2004.

Scope

The Board's Role

The Board is responsible for developing and maintaining proper records and systems for preparing performance indicators.

The performance indicators consist of key indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.

Summary of my Role

As required by the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, I have independently audited the performance indicators to express an opinion on them. This was done by looking at a sample of the evidence.

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the performance indicators is error free, nor does it examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the performance indicators.

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
October 18, 2004

Performance indicators

CERTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

We hereby certify that the Performance Indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Swan River Trust's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Swan River Trust for the financial year ended 30 June 2004.



Charles Welker
CHAIRMAN
27 August 2004



Rod Willox
MEMBER
27 August 2004

Government strategic goal

To ensure that Western Australia has an environment in which resources are managed, developed and used sustainably, biological diversity is preserved and habitats protected.

Swan River Trust outcome

Conservation and management of the Swan and Canning River System.

Key Effectiveness Indicator 1

The extent to which management water quality targets are achieved in the Swan and Canning Estuary and Catchment.

The Effectiveness Indicators are:

- Total nitrogen (N) and total phosphorus (P) concentration in 15 tributaries of the Swan and Canning Catchment compared to target levels; and
- Chlorophyll-*a* (chl-*a*) concentration and dissolved oxygen (DO) saturation in surface waters of the Swan and Canning Estuary compared to target levels.

Excess N and P entering the Swan and Canning River System contributed to nuisance and toxic algal blooms. Controlling nutrients entering the system from the catchments is essential to decrease the frequency of algal blooms and prevent further deterioration in estuarine water quality. In recognition of the long timeframes required for catchment management to affect nutrient levels in tributaries, short and long term targets were developed.

The Swan and Canning Catchment targets

The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program's short and long-term targets for N and P concentration in tributaries are shown in Table 10.

Table 10. Swan-Canning Cleanup Program nitrogen and phosphorus targets for tributaries of the Swan and Canning Estuary

Target	Total N concentration	Total P concentration
Short term	2.0 mg/L	0.2 mg/L
Long term	1.0 mg/L	0.1 mg/L

Monitoring in the Swan and Canning Catchment

The fifteen Swan and Canning tributaries were sampled fortnightly between June and November, because many tributaries cease to flow after November and only commence to flow with June rainfall. Reporting against the 2004 Key Effectiveness Indicators uses data collected up to and including November 2003. The data from the three previous years, a total of about 30 samples, is used to test compliance.

If a tributary is already passing the short term target, it is assessed against the long-term target. If the tributary is passing both its short and long term targets, it is assessed to ensure its water quality is not degrading.

Performance 2004: Swan and Canning Catchment targets

Interpreting the Catchment Tables

The colour of the cells in Tables 11 and 12 indicates the catchment target comparison.

Key to interpreting the Catchment Performance Indicator results in Tables 11 and 12.

Black	Tributary failed the short-term target in the previous year and was assessed against the short-term target in the current year.
Grey	Tributary previously passed the short-term target but failed the long-term target and was assessed against the long-term target this year.
White	Tributary passed both targets, and the data is being used to make sure the tributary continues to meet its long-term target.

The number within the brackets is derived statistically, and is the maximum number of high samples permitted to occur if the target is met. The number outside the bracket is the actual number of samples from the tributaries that had higher concentrations of N or P than the target levels shown in Table 10. If the number outside the bracket is lower than the number inside the bracket, the Trust concludes that the target has been achieved.

Table 11. Compliance of monitored tributaries discharging into the Swan and Canning Estuary with short and long term nitrogen targets

Tributary	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Ellen Brook	(12) 19	(12) 18	(12) 17	(12) 11	(12) 30
Mills Street Main Drain	(12) 17	(12) 13	(12) 12	(12) 28	(12) 25
Bannister Creek	(12) 14	(12) 10	(12) 30	(12) 29	(12) 27
Bayswater Main Drain	(12) 32	(12) 30	(12) 27	(12) 24	(12) 21
Southern River	(12) 29	(12) 26	(12) 23	(12) 22	(12) 22
Bickley Brook	(12) 27	(12) 25	(12) 21	(12) 17	(12) 18
Bennett Brook	(12) 24	(12) 22	(12) 21	(12) 22	(12) 23
Yule Brook	(12) 17	(12) 16	(12) 18	(12) 14	(12) 15
Blackadder Creek	(12) 20	(12) 16	(12) 14	(12) 12	(21) 13
Canning River	(12) 19	(12) 15	(12) 12	(21) 6	(21) 7
Helena River	(11) 15	(11) 13	(11) 14	(10) 10	(19) 10
South Belmont Main Drain	(12) 11	(21) 5	(21) 5	(21) 4	(21) 6
Avon River	(21) 14	(21) 14	(21) 10	(21) 4	(21) 4
Susannah Brook	(19) 11	(19) 10	(18) 9	(18) 5	(19) 3
Jane Brook	(20) 11	(19) 8	(19) 7	(20) 6	(21) 7
Short term target met (%)	80	87	93	100	100
Long term target met (%)	27	27	33	47	47

Table 12. Compliance of monitored tributaries discharging into the Swan and Canning Estuary with short and long term phosphorus targets

Tributary	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Ellen Brook	(12) 32	(12) 30	(12) 30	(12) 28	(12) 29
Mills Street Main Drain	(12) 15	(12) 11	(12) 29	(12) 26	(12) 27
Southern River	(12) 26	(12) 25	(12) 27	(12) 29	(12) 30
South Belmont Main Drain	(12) 16	(12) 17	(12) 19	(12) 17	(12) 15
Bannister Creek	(12) 22	(12) 19	(12) 17	(12) 12	(21) 7
Yule Brook	(21) 4	(21) 7	(21) 11	(21) 11	(21) 6
Bayswater Main Drain	(21) 11	(21) 12	(22) 10	(21) 7	(21) 3
Bickley Brook	(21) 5	(21) 6	(21) 6	(21) 7	(21) 7
Blackadder Creek	(21) 1	(21) 2	(21) 2	(21) 3	(21) 2
Jane Brook	(20) 1	(19) 2	(19) 2	(20) 1	(21) 0
Avon River	(21) 1	(21) 0	(21) 0	(21) 1	(21) 1
Bennett Brook	(21) 2	(21) 0	(21) 0	(21) 1	(21) 1
Canning River	(21) 0	(21) 0	(21) 0	(21) 1	(21) 2
Helena River	(20) 0	(20) 0	(20) 0	(19) 0	(19) 0
Susannah Brook	(19) 0	(19) 0	(18) 0	(18) 0	(19) 0
Short term target met (%)	87	93	93	93	93
Long term target met (%)	67	67	67	73	73

Catchment Results 2000-04

Total nitrogen concentration

In 2000, 80 per cent of the tributaries achieved their short term target. That number rose to 100 per cent, with all tributaries achieving the short term target for the first time in 2003. The number of tributaries passing the long term target has also improved since 2000, when 27 per cent of tributaries were passing the long term target. This year 47 per cent of tributaries passed the long term target.

Total phosphorus concentration

In 2000, 87 per cent of tributaries met the short term target. Ninety-three per cent of tributaries met the target in 2001, and the figure has remained at that level in following years. Ellen Brook is the only tributary where P concentrations remain higher than the short term target. Only 67 per cent of tributaries met the long term P target in 2000 and this figure did not show any change until 2003 when 73 per cent met the target.

Summary

The nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations in the Swan and Canning tributaries are low to moderate and have fallen over the 2000–04 reporting period. These results are encouraging, however it is possible that the results reflect climate change and drier winters because nutrients entering the Swan and Canning tributaries from the catchments tend to be relatively low during periods of low rainfall. There has been below average rainfall for the last few years.

It is significant that phosphorus levels in Ellen Brook remain high. This tributary discharges directly into the upper Swan River and has a significant influence on phytoplankton growth in the middle and upper basins of the Swan Estuary. Viewing the 2004 data (29 of 30 samples having phosphorus concentrations greater than 0.2mg/L), it is unlikely that Ellen Brook will meet its short term target soon.

The Swan and Canning Estuary targets

Key performance indicators are chlorophyll-*a* (chl-*a*) and dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations in the top metre of water, referred to as surface waters (see *Table 13*). The targets for the middle and upper basins represent a first management objective for chl-*a* and DO. Once these targets are met, new targets will be set in a series of benchmarks until quality in the basins is acceptable.

Table 13. Swan-Canning Cleanup Program chlorophyll-*a* and dissolved oxygen targets for the Swan and Canning Estuary

Estuary Basin	Chl- <i>a</i> Target (mg/L)	Surface DO (% saturation)
Upper Swan	19.98	81.2
Middle Swan	8.75	75.1
Lower Swan Canning	3.55	82.1
Middle Canning	11.67	49.1

Monitoring in the Swan and Canning Estuary

To calculate compliance with the estuary targets, weekly samples are taken between January and May from each of the four estuary basins resulting, in about 20 samples per basin, per year. These were pooled with the previous two years of data, giving a total of about 60 samples to test compliance.

Performance 2004: Swan and Canning Estuary targets

Interpreting the estuary tables

Monitoring data from each estuary basin was compared to the targets in *Table 13*. There are only two possible outcomes, a pass or fail (see *Tables 14 and 15*).

For chlorophyll-*a* a fail is when a sample has a higher concentration than the target, and for dissolved oxygen a fail is when a sample has a lower saturation than the target.

Key to interpreting the Estuary Performance

Indicator results in *Tables 14 and 15*:

	Target not met
	Target met

Table 14. Chlorophyll-*a* concentration in the basins of the Swan and Canning Estuary compared to the targets

Basin	2001	2002	2003	2004
Upper Swan	(2) 15	(2) 18	(2) 25	(3) 17
Middle Swan	(2) 18	(2) 18	(2) 18	(3) 13
Lower Swan Canning	(9) 6	(9) 4	(10) 3	(10) 2
Middle Canning	Not assessed	Not assessed	(3) 8	(3) 6

Table 15. Dissolved oxygen saturation in the basins of the Swan and Canning Estuary compared to the targets

Basin	2001	2002	2003	2004
Upper Swan	(0) 21	(0) 20	(0) 33	(1) 16
Middle Swan	(0) 14	(0) 11	(0) 7	(1) 8
Lower Swan Canning	(5) 7	(5) 2	(6) 4	(6) 4
Middle Canning	Not assessed	Not assessed	(1) 5	(1) 5

Results 2001-04

Chlorophyll-a concentration

The lower basin of the Swan and Canning Estuary has met the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program chlorophyll-a target in all four years (see *Table 14*). Neither the middle nor upper basin of the Swan Estuary, nor the middle basin of the Canning Estuary met their target.

Oxygen saturation

The lower basin of the Swan and Canning Estuary again met its dissolved oxygen target in 2004 (see *Table 15*). The upper and middle Swan, and the middle Canning, again failed to meet their dissolved oxygen targets in 2004.

Summary

The water quality in the lower estuary basin is generally consistently good. Water quality in the middle basins of both the Swan and Canning Estuary and the upper basin of the Swan Estuary is currently unacceptable. These basins are expected to fail their targets until there is a decrease in nutrient concentration in the estuary. To date, the compliance scheme, data and targets are generally performing as expected. Although there is no reason to suspect a real decline in water quality, the lower basin did not meet the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program dissolved oxygen target in 2001.

Phytoplankton, and to some extent, oxygen in the estuary during summer is primarily influenced by the seasonal and long term store of nutrients in the bottom sediments. This means that there will be an unknown period between achieving the Cleanup Program catchment targets and seeing the desired change in the estuary. There is no evidence that phytoplankton biomass or oxygen in the middle or upper estuary basins has changed this year from the previous reporting period.

Key Effectiveness Indicator 2

The extent to which the planning and development recommendations of the Trust are accepted and implemented.

Measure: Level of acceptance of conditions recommended by the Trust for developments.

Placing conditions on approved developments works towards maintaining the balance between conservation and development, and reflects the community's values which is consistent with the Trust's desired outcome.

This data reflects the percentage of recommendations made by the Trust that were accepted by the Minister for the Environment. Development requiring Ministerial approval is dealt with under Part 5 of the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and under Clause 30A(1) a of the *Metropolitan Region Scheme*.

The Trust makes recommendations to the Minister for the Environment on applications received that either commence development within or that may affect the Swan River Trust Management Area. The Trust's recommendations aim to ensure that development complements the rivers' amenity and does not have a detrimental impact on the environment. The Minister for the Environment determines refusal or approval of the Part 5 applications, and in the case of Clause 30A applications regarding whether the recommendation is acceptable to be forwarded to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

Table 16. Percentage of recommendations made by the Swan River Trust that were accepted by the Minister for the Environment

Year	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
% Accepted	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	99%
% Modified	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
% Rejected	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Key Effectiveness Indicator 3

The extent to which the Swan River Trust management of the river and surrounding areas is viewed by the community.

In April 2004, a consultant commissioned by the Trust conducted a random telephone survey within the Swan and Canning Catchment of 1,284 Perth residents to ascertain their views on the condition of the rivers and the facilities provided. In 2003 and 2004, a response rate of 31 per cent meant 400 participants were sampled to give a survey error of ± 4.9 per cent at the 95 per cent level of confidence. The methodology used was primarily consistent with that used for the research project since 1998. However, the past two years included grouping residents who lived within one kilometre of the river as 'adjacent' respondents, and those further away from the river as 'outside' respondents. Weights were applied to the data based on the relative populations of the adjacent and outside sample areas to reflect the Perth metropolitan community attitudes as a whole.

Assessment of the survey data about community satisfaction on the condition of the rivers and facilities provided is calculated using the weighted data averaged over 10 survey questions.

Eighty-four per cent of respondents were aware of the Trust, compared to 79 per cent in 2003. Of these respondents, 64 per cent were either satisfied (54 per cent) or very satisfied (10 per cent) with the Trust's management of the rivers and surrounding foreshore areas. The highest proportion of dissatisfaction this year related to water cleanliness of the river being maintained, while last year it related to food/dining outlets along the foreshore. Awareness of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program fell this year, with 59 per cent of respondents stating they were aware of the program, compared to 67 per cent in 2003.

Measure: Level of community satisfaction with the availability of public access to the Swan and Canning River System.

Table 17. Level of community satisfaction

Survey	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
Level of satisfaction	70%	71%	75%	69%	63%

Note: Of the 400 residents surveyed, 26 per cent were undecided on the above measure.

Measure: Community assessment of whether sufficient facilities are provided for their use.

Table 18. Community assessment of sufficient facilities

Survey	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
Level of satisfaction	68%	68%	72%	67%	62%

Note: Of the 400 residents surveyed, 23 per cent were undecided on the above measure.

Measure: Total number of pollution complaints/incidents.

Table 19. Complaints and incidents in 2003–04

Year	Number of complaints
1999–00	82
2000–01	99
2001–02	72
2002–03	90
2003–04	104
5-year average	89

The Trust works towards the sustainable use of the system while retaining the balance between conservation and development that reflects community values. This is a key management goal for the river system. Response to pollution complaints aims to reduce the impact of incidents and protect the waterways. Environmental quality, aesthetics, access and use are values placed on the Swan and Canning rivers by the community.

In 2003–04 there was an increase in the total number of pollution complaints received. The increase is most likely a result of greater community awareness of the health of the Swan and Canning rivers, together with increased surveillance by Trust officers. The greatest increase in complaints was in the area of oil slicks/spills and waste dumping. There were 28 oil slicks/spills in 2002–03 and 39 in 2003–04, while waste dumping complaints increased from 16 in 2002–03 to 31 in 2003–04. Notably, industrial discharge/dewatering complaints decreased from 13 in 2002–03 to only three in 2003–04. A breakdown of pollution complaints for 2003–04 is featured in Table 2.

Key Efficiency Indicators

OUTPUT 1: Collect water information to support State planning, agencies and community

Output description: Provision of research and information for estuary and river restoration and management.

Table 20. Comparison of water information and research cost for 2002–03 and 2003–04

	2002–03 Actual	2003–04 Target	2003–04 Actual
Cost/unit			
Cost of waterways monitoring and reporting per km ² of catchment and waterway	\$268*	\$530	\$441
Average cost per project of research and development	\$102,967*	\$167,564	\$122,580

Reduced overhead costs due to increased Swan River Trust operations.

* State Budget figures used this year corrects historic error.

OUTPUT 2: Regulate riverside development

Output description: Assess applications for development, planning schemes and policy.

Table 21. Comparison of applications for development, planning schemes and policies cost for 2002–03 and 2003–04

	2002–03 Actual	2003–04 Target	2003–04 Actual
Cost/unit			
Cost of development control policy and advice per km ² of management area	\$6957*	\$10,412	\$6615

Variations relate to temporary staff vacancies that have now been addressed.

* State Budget figures used this year corrects historic error.

OUTPUT 3: Management plans

Output description: Prepares management programs (often jointly with local government) for the management of the waterways and the management area. Includes catchment management plans.

Table 22. Comparison of management plans preparation cost for 2002–03 and 2003–04

	2002–03 Actual	2003–04 Target	2003–04 Actual
Cost/unit			
Average cost of production of management plan or strategy	\$0	\$55,120	\$150,473

Expanded Swan River Trust business due to new Government initiatives including *Riverplan* and the development of the proposed Swan Canning Riverpark.

OUTPUT 4: Protection of waterways and foreshores

Output description: Maintenance and restoration of waterways and foreshores. Audit and enforcement of the Act and regulations.

Table 23. Comparison of waterways and foreshore protection cost for 2002–03 and 2003–04

	2002–03 Actual	2003–04 Target	2003–04 Actual
Cost/unit			
Cost of maintenance and restoration per km of foreshore	\$4959	\$5207	\$4826
Cost of waterways and foreshore protection per km ² of management area*	\$2371	\$3809	\$2858
Cost of water quality improvement projects per km ² of waterways and catchment**	\$1099	\$1349	\$2160

* Reduced overhead costs due to increased Swan River Trust operations and savings in the Trust's audit and enforcement activities. These savings will not continue in 2004–05.

** New Government initiatives resulted in expanded foreshore and waterways protection activities including the new Drain Nutrient Intervention Program, increased contribution to the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program and new environmental education initiatives including the Great Gardens workshops.



AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

SWAN RIVER TRUST FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the controls exercised by the Swan River Trust provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (ii) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Treasurer's Instructions, the financial position of the Trust at June 30, 2004 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Scope

The Board's Role

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounts and maintaining adequate systems of internal control, preparing the financial statements, and complying with the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 (the Act) and other relevant written law.

The financial statements consist of the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Summary of my Role

As required by the Act, I have independently audited the accounts and financial statements to express an opinion on the controls and financial statements. This was done by looking at a sample of the evidence.

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements.

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
October 18, 2004

Financial statements

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

The accompanying financial statements of the Swan River Trust have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2004 and the financial position as at 30 June 2004.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Brendan O'Neil
A/PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER
27 August 2004



Charles Welker
CHAIRMAN
27 August 2004



Rod Willox
MEMBER
27 August 2004

SWAN RIVER TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	Note	2003-04 \$	2002-03 \$
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employee expenses	2	1,678,048	1,221,350
Supplies and services	3	3,319,679	2,557,951
Depreciation expense	4	69,546	61,758
Borrowing costs expense	5	10,730	11,637
Administration expense	6	255,554	154,024
Grants and subsidies	7	1,710,473	808,316
Capital user charge	8	96,815	47,761
Cost of disposal of non-current asset	10	7,546	-
Total cost of services		7,148,391	4,862,797
Revenues from ordinary activities			
<i>Revenue from operating activities</i>			
Grants and contributions	9	176,428	-
<i>Revenue from non-operating activities</i>			
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	10	-	44,655
Other revenues from ordinary activities	11	95,924	166,767
Total revenues from ordinary activities		272,352	211,422
NET COST OF SERVICES		6,876,039	4,651,375
REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Output appropriations	12	7,208,000	5,079,000
Resources received free of charge		1,571	16,370
Total revenues from State Government		7,209,571	5,095,370
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with WA State Government as owners		333,532	443,995
The Statement of Financial Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes			

SWAN RIVER TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2004

	Note	2003–04 \$	2002–03 \$
Current Assets			
Cash assets	22(a)	596,355	373,833
Restricted cash assets	13	10,000	20,000
Receivables	14	153,341	129,720
Amounts receivable for outputs	15	100,000	135,000
Other assets	16	434	454
Total Current Assets		<u>860,130</u>	<u>659,007</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Amounts receivable for outputs	15	118,000	57,000
Property, plant and equipment	17	659,558	561,687
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>777,558</u>	<u>618,687</u>
Total Assets		<u>1,637,688</u>	<u>1,277,694</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables	18	4,923	140
Interest bearing liabilities	19	59,545	46,722
Other liabilities	20	84,979	84,989
Total Current Liabilities		<u>149,447</u>	<u>131,851</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Interest bearing liabilities	19	92,662	113,796
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>92,662</u>	<u>113,796</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>242,109</u>	<u>245,647</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,395,579</u>	<u>1,032,047</u>
Equity			
Contributed equity	21	84,000	76,000
Reserves		22,000	–
Accumulated surplus		1,289,579	956,047
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>1,395,579</u>	<u>1,032,047</u>
The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes			

SWAN RIVER TRUST
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	Note	2003–04 Inflows (Outflows) \$	2002–03 Inflows (Outflows) \$
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Output appropriations		7,047,000	4,952,000
Capital contributions		8,000	8,000
Holding account drawdowns		135,000	91,000
Net cash provided by State Government		<u>7,190,000</u>	<u>5,051,000</u>
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee costs		(1,660,033)	(1,221,350)
Supplies and services		(3,576,180)	(2,777,578)
Grants and subsidies		(1,710,473)	(808,316)
Borrowing costs		(10,710)	(11,599)
Capital user charge		(96,815)	(47,761)
GST payments on purchases		(648,593)	(366,279)
Receipts			
Other receipts		100,429	169,600
Grants and contributions		176,428	–
GST receipts on sales		33,736	15,987
GST receipts from taxation authority		576,007	322,393
Net cash used in operating activities	22(c)	<u>(6,816,204)</u>	<u>(4,724,903)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		–	44,655
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(152,963)	(191,987)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(152,963)</u>	<u>(147,332)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of borrowings		(8,311)	(8,126)
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(8,311)</u>	<u>(8,126)</u>
Net increase in cash held		212,522	170,639
Cash assets at the beginning of the financial year		393,833	223,194
CASH ASSETS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	22(a)	<u>606,355</u>	<u>393,833</u>
The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes			

1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements. Unless otherwise stated these policies are consistent with those adopted in the previous year.

General Statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording. The *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Accounting Standards, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and UIG Consensus Views. The modifications are intended to fulfil the requirements of general application to the public sector, together with the need for greater disclosure and also to satisfy accountability requirements.

If any such modification has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and where practicable, the resulting financial effect, are disclosed in individual notes to these financial statements.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities which, as noted, are measured at fair value.

(a) Output Appropriations

Output Appropriations are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Trust gains control of the appropriated funds. The Trust gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited into the Trust's bank account or credited to the holding account held at the Department of Treasury and Finance.

(b) Contributed Equity

Under UIG 38 "Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities" transfers in the nature of equity contributions must be designated by the Government (owners) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions in the financial statements. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity in the Statement of Financial Position.

(c) Grants and Other Contributions Revenue

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the Trust obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon their receipt.

Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

(d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets and the rendering of services, is recognised when the Trust has passed control of the goods or other assets or delivery of the service to the customer.

(e) Acquisition of Assets

The cost method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets. Cost is measured as the fair value of the assets given up or liabilities undertaken at the date of acquisition plus incidental costs directly attributable to the acquisition.

Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Assets costing less than \$1,000 are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

(f) Depreciation of Non-current Assets

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis, using rates which are reviewed annually. Expected useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Plant and Equipment	5–9 years
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(g) Cash

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash assets and restricted cash assets net of outstanding bank overdrafts. These include short-term deposits that are readily convertible to cash on hand and are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

(h) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at the amounts receivable as they are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised where some doubt as to collection exists and in any event where the debt is more than 60 days overdue.

(i) Payables

Payables, including accruals not yet billed, are recognised when the Trust becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. Payables are generally settled within 30 days.

(j) Interest-bearing Liabilities

Bank loans and other loans are recorded at an amount equal to the net proceeds received. Borrowing costs expense is recognised on an accrual basis.

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

(k) Employee Benefits

All employees performing the functions of the Trust are employees of the Water and Rivers Commission. Therefore the Trust has no liability in relation to employee benefits. Liability for employee entitlements rest with the Water and Rivers Commission.

(l) Resources Received Free of Charge or For Nominal Value

Resources received free of charge or for nominal value which can be reliably measured are recognised as revenues and as assets or expenses as appropriate at fair value.

(m) Valuation of Non Current Assets

The Trust has a policy of reporting land at fair value. Certain non-current assets have been revalued from time to time as disclosed in the financial statements. Increments are taken to asset revaluation reserve. Decrements have been offset against previous increments (if any) relating to the same assets and the balance (if any) charged against profits.

Other assets are recognised at cost.

(n) Comparative Figure

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified so as to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

(o) Rounding

Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar, or in certain cases, to the nearest thousand dollars.

	2003-04 \$	2002-03 \$
2 EMPLOYEE EXPENSES		
Salaries	1,424,765	1,036,718
Salaries on-costs	<u>253,283</u>	<u>184,632</u>
	<u>1,678,048</u>	<u>1,221,350</u>
3 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES		
Services contracted to other State departments	2,179,990	1,794,175
Consultants and contractors	758,099	622,420
Repairs and maintenance	53,758	26,660
Other	<u>327,832</u>	<u>114,696</u>
	<u>3,319,679</u>	<u>2,557,951</u>

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2003–04 \$	2002–03 \$
4 DEPRECIATION EXPENSE		
Plant, machinery and equipment	69,546	61,758
5 BORROWING COSTS EXPENSE		
Interest paid	10,730	11,637
6 ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE		
Lease rental payments	67,677	54,830
Other staff costs	55,353	26,938
Communications	27,691	15,619
Consumables	104,833	56,637
	<u>255,554</u>	<u>154,024</u>
7 GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES		
Expenses incurred for the year	1,710,473	808,316
8 CAPITAL USER CHARGE	96,815	47,761
<p>A capital user charge rate of 8% has been set by the Government for 2003–04 and represents the opportunity cost of capital invested in the net assets of the Trust used in the provision of outputs. The charge is calculated on the net assets adjusted to take account of exempt assets. Payments are made to the Department of Treasury and Finance on a quarterly basis.</p>		
9 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Office of Water Regulation	96,000	–
Swan Catchment Council	80,428	–
	<u>176,428</u>	<u>–</u>
10 NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON CURRENT ASSETS		
<u>Gain on disposal of non-current assets</u>		
Plant and equipment	–	44,655
<u>Loss on disposal of non-current assets</u>		
Plant and equipment	(7,546)	–
Net gain/(loss)	<u>(7,546)</u>	<u>44,655</u>
11 OTHER REVENUES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
Sundry revenue	95,924	166,767

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2003–04 \$	2002–03 \$
12 REVENUES FROM GOVERNMENT		
Appropriation revenue received during the year:		
Output appropriations ^(a)	7,208,000	5,079,000
	<u>7,208,000</u>	<u>5,079,000</u>
Resources received free of charge ^(b)		
Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Office of the Auditor General ^(c)	–	11,500
Department of Land Administration	30	539
Crown Solicitors Office	1,541	4,331
	<u>1,571</u>	<u>16,370</u>

- (a) Output appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the full cost of outputs delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.
- (b) Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal consideration, the Trust recognises revenues (except where the contribution of assets or services is in the nature of contributions by owners, in which case the Trust shall make a direct adjustment to equity) equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable.
- (c) Commencing with the 2003–04 audit, the Office of the Auditor General will be charging a fee for auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators. The fee for the 2003–04 audit (\$13,750) will be due and payable in the 2004–05 financial year.

13 RESTRICTED CASH ASSETS

Current		
Developer Bonds	10,000	20,000
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>

The cash held in this account is to be used in repaying bond monies.

14 RECEIVABLES

Trade debtors	10,336	24,841
GST receivable	143,005	104,879
	<u>153,341</u>	<u>129,720</u>

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2003–04 \$	2002–03 \$
15 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR OUTPUTS		
Current	100,000	135,000
Non-current	118,000	57,000
	<u>218,000</u>	<u>192,000</u>
<p>This asset represents the non-cash component of output appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.</p>		
16 OTHER ASSETS		
Prepayments	434	454
17 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment at cost	693,075	556,022
Accumulated depreciation	(267,517)	(249,972)
	<u>425,558</u>	<u>306,050</u>
Plant and equipment under construction		
Construction costs	–	43,637
	<u>–</u>	<u>43,637</u>
Freehold land at fair value ^(a)	234,000	212,000
	<u>234,000</u>	<u>212,000</u>
	<u>659,558</u>	<u>561,687</u>

(a) The revaluation of freehold land was performed in June 2004 in accordance with an independent valuation by the Valuer General's Office. Fair value has been determined on the basis of current market buying values. The valuation was made in accordance with a policy of annual revaluation.

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below.

2004	Plant and equipment \$	Plant and equipment under construction \$	Freehold Land \$	Total \$
Carrying amount at start of year	306,050	43,637	212,000	561,687
Additions	44,162	108,801	–	152,963
Disposals	(7,546)	–	–	(7,546)
Transfers in/(out)	152,438	(152,438)	–	–
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	–	–	22,000	22,000
Depreciation	(69,546)	–	–	(69,546)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>425,558</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>234,000</u>	<u>659,558</u>

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2003-04 \$	2002-03 \$
18 PAYABLES		
Trade payables	4,923	140
19 INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES		
Borrowings from WA Treasury Corporation		
Balance of Loan 30 June 2004		
Current:	59,545	46,722
Non-current:	92,662	113,796
	<u>152,207</u>	<u>160,518</u>
20 OTHER LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses	74,979	64,989
Developer bond	10,000	20,000
	<u>84,979</u>	<u>84,989</u>
21 EQUITY		
Contributed equity		
Opening balance	76,000	68,000
Capital contributions ^(a)	8,000	8,000
Closing balance	<u>84,000</u>	<u>76,000</u>
 (a) Capital Contributions have been designated as contributions by owners and are credited directly to equity in the Statement of Financial Position.		
Reserves		
Asset Revaluation Reserve ^(b)		
Opening balance	-	-
Net revaluation increments:		
Land	22,000	-
Closing balance	<u>22,000</u>	<u>-</u>
 (b) The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets, as described in accounting policy note 1(m).		
Accumulated surplus		
Opening balance	956,047	512,052
Change in net assets	333,532	443,995
Closing balance	<u>1,289,579</u>	<u>956,047</u>
Total equity	<u>1,395,579</u>	<u>1,032,047</u>

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2003-04	2002-03
	\$	\$

22 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Cash assets	596,355	373,833
Restricted cash assets	10,000	20,000
	<u>606,355</u>	<u>393,833</u>

(b) Non-cash financing and investing activities

During the financial year, there were no assets/liabilities transferred/assumed from other government agencies not reflected in the Statement of Cash Flows.

(c) Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows used in operating activities.

Net cost of services	(6,876,039)	(4,651,375)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation expense	69,546	61,758
Resources received free of charge	1,571	16,370
Net (gain)/loss on sale of non-current assets	7,546	(44,655)
(Increase)/decrease in assets:		
Receivables	14,505	(7,167)
Other assets	20	38
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:		
Payables	4,783	(78,616)
Other liabilities	(10)	10,000
Net GST receipts/(payments)	(38,850)	(27,899)
Change in GST in receivables/payables	724	(3,357)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(6,816,204)</u>	<u>(4,724,903)</u>

23 COMMITMENTS OF EXPENDITURE

The Trust has no commitments of expenditure at 30 June 2004.

24 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The Trust has no contingent liabilities and contingent assets at 30 June 2004.

25 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE

No events have occurred after reporting date which would materially impact on the financial statements.

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

26 EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS

a) Significant variations between actual and prior year actual

Details and reasons for significant variations between actual results with corresponding items of the preceding year are detailed below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% and \$200,000.

Output	Note	2004	2003	Variance	Variance
		Actual	Actual		
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Collect water information to support state planning, agencies and community		1,042	1,118	(76)	(7)
Regulate riverside development		423	459	(36)	(8)
Management plans	(i)	138	20	118	590
Protection of waterways and foreshores	(ii)	5,274	3,054	2,220	73
		<u>6,877</u>	<u>4,651</u>	<u>2,226</u>	

Explanation of Variances

(i) Management plans

The variance was as a result of new government initiatives commenced in 2003–04 in relation to the establishment of a Swan Canning Riverpark.

(ii) Protection of waterways and foreshores

The variance is a result of new Government initiatives commenced in 2003–04 including:

- the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Drain Nutrient Intervention Program;
- establishment of the *Riverplan* Audit Team;
- an environmental education campaign; and
- the Urban Garden Strategy.

The Swan River Trust also increased its audit and enforcement capacity.

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

b) Significant variations between estimate and actual

Details and reasons for significant variations between actual results with corresponding items of the preceding year are detailed below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10 per cent and \$200,000.

Output	Note	2004 Actual \$'000	2003 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
Collect water information to support state planning, agencies and community		1,042	1,228	(186)	(15)
Regulate riverside development	(iii)	423	718	(295)	(41)
Management plans	(iv)	138	55	83	151
Protection of waterways and foreshores	(v)	5,274	3,294	1,980	60
		6,877	5,295	1,582	

Explanation of Variances

(iii) Regulated riverside development

The variance is a result of savings on salary costs for statutory assessments.

(iv) Management plans

The variance was as a result of new Government initiatives not shown in budget estimates in relation to the establishment of a Swan Canning Riverpark.

(v) Protection of waterways and foreshores

The variance is a result of new Government initiatives including:

- the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Drain Nutrient Intervention Program,
- establishment of the *Riverplan* Audit Team;
- an environmental education campaign; and
- the Urban Garden Strategy.

The Swan River Trust also increased its audit and enforcement capacity.

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2003-04	2002-03
	\$	\$

27 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Interest Rate Risk Exposure

The following table details the Trust's exposure to interest rate risk as at the reporting date:

	Weighted average effective interest rate	Variable Interest Rate	Fixed interest rate maturities			Non- Interest Bearing	Total
			Less than 1 Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years		
2004	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets							
Cash assets		-	-	-	-	596	596
Restricted cash assets		-	-	-	-	10	10
Receivables		-	-	-	-	153	153
			-	-	-	759	759
Financial liabilities							
Payables		-	-	-	-	80	80
WATC/Bank loans	6.65	-	59	69	24	-	152
			-	59	69	24	80
						80	232
2003							
Financial assets		-	-	-		524	524
Financial liabilities	6.62	-	62	59	40	65	226

(b) Credit Risk Exposure

The Trust does not have any significant exposure to any individual customer or counter party. Amounts owing by other Government agencies are guaranteed and therefore no credit risk exists in respect to those amounts. In respect of other financial assets the carrying amounts represent the Trust's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to those assets. All financial assets are unsecured.

The following is an analysis of amounts owing within the categories of government and private sector:

Western Australian Government agencies	10,336	665
Private Sector	-	24,176
Commonwealth Government - ATO (GST)	143,005	104,879
Total	153,341	129,720

(c) Net Fair Values

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements are not materially different from their net fair values, determined in accordance with the accounting policies disclosed in note 1 to the financial statements.

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2003-04	2002-03
	\$	\$

28 REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND SENIOR OFFICERS

Remuneration of members of the accountable authority

The number of members of the accountable authority, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

\$	2004	2003
0 – 10,000	4	3
10,001 – 20,000	1	1

The total remuneration of the members of the accountable authority is: 30,934 29,115

The superannuation included here represents the superannuation expense incurred by the Trust in respect of members of the accountable authority.

No members of the accountable authority are members of the Pension Scheme.

Remuneration of Senior Officers

The number of senior officers other than senior officers reported as members of the accountable authority, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

\$	2004	2003
30,001 – 40,000	1	–
60,001 – 70,000	1	–
90,001 – 100,000	–	1

The total remuneration of senior officers is: 97,686 96,739

The superannuation included here represents the superannuation expense incurred by the Trust in respect of senior officers.

No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

29 RELATED AND AFFILIATED BODIES

The Trust does not provide any assistance to other agencies which would deem them to be regarded as related or affiliated bodies under the definitions included in Treasurer's Instruction 951.

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2003–04	2002–03
	\$	\$

30 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Write Offs

Unrecoverable amounts written-off by the Minister	1,760	–
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Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

The Trust had no losses through theft, defaults and other causes during the financial year.

Gifts of Public Property

The Trust had no gifts of public property during the financial year.

31 International Financial Reporting Standards

The Swan River Trust is adopting international accounting standards in compliance with AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*.

AASB 1 requires an opening balance sheet as at 1 July 2004 and the restatement of the financial statements for the reporting period to 30 June 2005 on the IFRS basis. These financial statements will be presented as comparatives in the first annual financial report prepared on an IFRS basis for the period ending 30 June 2006.

AASB 1047 *Disclosing the Impacts of Adopting Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards* requires financial reports for periods ending on or after 30 June 2004 to disclose:

1. How the transition to Australian equivalents to IFRSs is being managed

The Swan River Trust currently has a Service Level Agreement with the Water and Rivers Commission to deliver the financial statements which is compliant with generally accepted accounting principles.

The Finance and Administration branch within the Commission has been assessing and monitoring the impact of IFRS.

The result of this review has concluded that there is no material impact that would affect the overall financial statements.

The review has also determined that the Commission's Financial Management Information System is adequate to collect the necessary information to comply with IFRS.

The effect of IFRS will continue to be monitored in case of changes in the Trust's circumstances or operations.

2. Key differences in accounting policies that are expected to arise from adopting Australian equivalents to IFRS

The Swan River Trust identified there were no key differences in the accounting policies that are expected to arise from adopting Australian Equivalents to IFRS.

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

32 OUTPUT INFORMATION

	Collect Water Information		Regulate Riverside Development		Management Plans		Protection of Waterways and Foreshores		TOTAL	
	2003-04 \$000	2002-03 \$000	2003-04 \$000	2002-03 \$000	2003-04 \$000	2002-03 \$000	2003-04 \$000	2002-03 \$000	2003-04 \$000	2002-03 \$000
COST OF SERVICES										
Expenses from ordinary activities										
Employee expenses	79	100	317	285	118	17	1,164	819	1,678	1,221
Supplies and services	973	1,011	103	170	21	4	2,223	1,373	3,320	2,558
Depreciation expense	11	15	4	6	1	-	53	41	69	62
Borrowing costs expense	2	3	1	1	-	-	8	8	11	12
Administration expense	(2)	27	8	11	2	-	248	116	256	154
Grants and subsidies	2	3	1	2	-	-	1,707	803	1,710	808
Capital user charge	15	12	6	5	2	-	74	31	97	48
Cost of disposal of non-current asset	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	8	-
Total cost of services	1,082	1,171	440	480	144	21	5,483	3,191	7,149	4,863
Revenues from ordinary activities										
Grants and contributions	26	-	11	-	4	-	135	-	176	-
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	-	12	-	4	-	-	-	29	-	45
Other revenues from ordinary activities	14	41	6	17	2	1	74	108	96	167
Total revenues from ordinary activities	40	53	17	21	6	1	209	137	272	212
NET COST OF SERVICES	1,042	1,118	423	459	138	20	5,274	3,054	6,877	4,651
REVENUES FROM GOVERNMENT										
Output appropriation	1,088	1,222	444	500	146	23	5,530	3,334	7,208	5,079
Resources received free of charge	1	3	-	2	-	-	1	11	2	16
Total revenues from Government	1,089	1,225	444	502	146	23	5,531	3,345	7,210	5,095
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	47	107	21	43	8	3	257	291	333	444

Reporting requirements

The Water and Rivers Commission provides the Trust with staff, facilities and corporate services under arrangements provided for by Section 31 of the *Swan River Trust Act 1988*. Water and Rivers Commission outcomes for Disability Services, Equal Employment Opportunity, Cultural Diversity and Language Services, and Youth are applicable to the Swan River Trust. These outcomes can be found in the Water and Rivers Commission Annual Report.

Conflict of interest

The Swan River Trust has procedures for identifying, preventing and resolving conflicts of interest. The procedures are outlined in the Department of Environment Code of Conduct 2003.

All Trust personnel with duties related to the negotiation of a contract must disclose current or prospective interests to their immediate supervisor. The interest of a member's immediate family must also be disclosed, if they are known. Where a person possesses such an interest, then either the basis of that interest should be discontinued, or the person should cease the duties involved or obtain management permission to continue.

Trust members are also required to declare conflicts of interest. This year Trust members declared a conflict of interest in 19 items.

Freedom of information

Under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, there were two requests this year, two less than in the previous financial year. A company was provided edited access in July 2003 to CSBP investigation reports and data, at a cost of \$30. In March 2004 a Member of Parliament was provided full access to sampling and testing data of the Swan and Canning rivers, also at a cost of \$30.

Advertising and marketing

Expenditure incurred by the Swan River Trust in 2003–04 in relation to Section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*.

Table 24. Advertising and marketing expenditure

Class of Expenditure	Supplier	Expenditure \$
Media Advertising Agencies	Channel Nine	10,000.00
	Garden Gurus	60,334.00
	Media Decisions	114,529.48
	Total	184,863.48
Advertising Agencies	Marketforce Productions	23,776.32
	Total	23,776.32
Market Research Organisations	Patterson Market Research	9,000.00
	Total	9,000.00

Corporate governance

The Trust

The Trust operates in accordance with the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, the Department of Environment Code of Conduct adopted in November 2003, and the Swan River Trust Meeting Procedures 1996.

Remuneration for the Trust includes an annual fee for the chairman and sitting fees for the members. On 27 November 2003 the chairman's annual fee was increased from \$17,100 to \$26,800 per year; half-day members sitting fees were increased from \$176 to \$300; and full-day members sitting fees were increased from \$266 to \$450. Full-day meetings were held on 2 March, 19 April and 8 June 2004.

There were 22 ordinary and two special Trust meetings during 2003–04. The following table indicates members' attendance.

Table 25. Trust meeting attendance 2003–04

Trust Member	Number of ordinary Trust meetings attended	Maximum possible number of ordinary meetings	Number of special Trust meetings attended	Maximum possible number of special meetings
Cr Marion Blair	7	9	0	0
Dr Jane Chambers	0	0	0	0
Mr Cleve Flottman	16	22	2	2
Mr Neil Foley	21	22	2	2
Mr Jim Freemantle	15	15	2	2
Dr Bruce Hamilton	19	22	1	2
Cr Pat Hart	14	15	2	2
Dr Brian Martin	10	12	0	0
Mr Tim Mather	9	9	0	0
Mr Charlie Welker	22	22	2	2
Mr Rod Willox	20	22	2	2

On 21 July 2003 the Trust resolved to disband the River Management Committee because it was deemed appropriate to have greater focus on strategic management issues and that the Senior Officers Group provided adequate coverage of matters previously handled by the River Management Committee.

On 2 February 2004 the Trust resolved to establish the Swan River Trust Finance Committee in order to manage the State Government's new initiatives funding announced in January. The committee members are chairman Charlie Welker, Rod Willox and Jim Freemantle.

Sustainability

All Trust work is based on environmental, social and economic values of the Swan and Canning River System to ensure its sustainability. This year, the Trust made submissions to the State Sustainability Strategy and Swan Region Natural Resource Management Strategy. The Trust and its Great Gardens program were also featured in the State Government's *Sustainable Living in Western Australia* brochure and website www.sustainableliving.wa.gov.au.

State Sustainability Strategy

The Trust supported the development of the State Sustainability Strategy, in particular, all foundation and process principles, visions and goals, as well as the focus on partnership approaches, the development of sustainability strategies at the regional scale, and the focus on 'sense of place'. The Trust also identified the following areas of interest in which it requested recognition:

- partnerships for action (including participation in the State–Local Government Round Table on sustainability);
- planning for sustainability;

- sustainability in regions;
- Indigenous communities in regions;
- maintaining our biodiversity;
- protecting aquatic systems;
- preserving cultural heritage and landscapes and creating 'sense of place';
- community services and development;
- education and community awareness for sustainability; and
- eco-efficiency and industrial ecology.

Swan Region Natural Resource Management Strategy

The Trust supported the regional coordination of Natural Resource Management in the Swan Region and recommended stronger links with *Riverplan* and the Strategy. The Trust also recommended a high level partnership arrangement be developed between the Trust and Swan Catchment Council, and consideration be given to Trust membership of the Council.

Strategic plan

The Strategic Plan developed by the Trust for 1999–2000 remained relevant and continued to be applied in 2003–04.

Internal audit

The Trust relies upon the internal audit of the Water and Rivers Commission financial records for assurance of compliance with the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985*, Regulations and Treasurer's Instructions.

Asset management

The Trust has assets worth \$1,637,688. The Trust has complied with all Treasurer's Instructions, carried out a stocktake, undertaken capital asset planning and asset evaluation at market value, and complied with all relevant accounting standards to ensure effective management of these assets.

Risk management

Swan River Trust operations are included in Department of Environment risk management strategies.

Performance monitoring and reporting

Swan River Trust officers provide written monthly reports on activities and financial statements to the Trust. Additionally, performance is evaluated at 31 December and 30 June each year. Annual performance is reported in the Trust's Annual Report to the Minister for the Environment, and Parliament. In accordance with the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* Section 66 (1) the Swan River Trust is required to submit a draft copy of the Annual Report to the Minister for the Environment by 31 August each year.

Code of conduct

Swan River Trust officers operate under the Department of Environment Code of Conduct 2003, as required by the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics. All officers have access to the Code of Conduct on the Department of Environment intranet and in hard copy, and they are regularly reminded of its application.

Customer service charter

In delivering its services, the Trust seeks to:

- involve stakeholders and the community;
- be professionally objective on the basis of the best scientific information and professional advice available;
- make sure our services are cost effective;
- respond to enquiries promptly and courteously;

- return calls within 24 hours if telephone enquiries cannot be dealt with immediately;
- meet deadlines for responses to statutory referrals;
- maintain an average development application processing time of no more than 66 days;
- ensure people reporting pollution and making complaints are advised of the outcome of their complaint;
- ensure that all information is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and up-to-date;
- uphold the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*; and
- consider the needs of people with disabilities and other special needs.

Ministerial directions

Under Section 7 (3) of the *Swan River Trust Act 1988*, the Minister for the Environment may give directions in writing to the Trust, generally with respect to the performance of its functions. The Trust is to give effect to any such direction. The Minister for the Environment made one such direction this year, regarding a planning development application.

Industrial agreements

Swan River Trust officers are provided by the Water and Rivers Commission and are subject to industrial agreements negotiated with the Commission.

Executive remuneration is paid in accordance with public service conditions, and reflect the Water and Rivers Commission industrial agreements.

Workers' compensation statistics

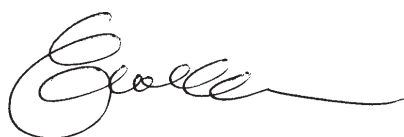
The Department of Environment provides the Trust with the officers and corporate services necessary to carry out its functions, therefore, reporting workers' compensation statistics are covered within the Water and Rivers Commission Annual Report.

Compliance with legislation

The Swan River Trust complied with the following written laws:

Commercial Arbitration Act 1985
East Perth Redevelopment Act 1991
Environmental Protection Act 1986
Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985
Health Act 1911
Local Government Act 1995
Marine and Harbours Act 1981
Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act 1963
Midland Redevelopment Act 1999
Navigation Act 1912, Navigable Waters Regulations
Port Authorities Act 1999
Public Sector Management Act 1994
Swan River Trust Act 1988
Town Planning and Development Act 1928
Waterways Conservation Act 1976

These laws include regulations and other subsidiary legislation. The Trust also complied with its obligations under a range of legislation generally applying to management of the Public Sector.



Charles Welker
CHAIRMAN



Rod Hughes
A/GENERAL MANAGER

Appendix 1

Swan River Trust media statements 2003-04

2004	
June	May
30 Fish kill at Como beach and Matilda Bay	28 Trust Board recommends against Ascot redevelopment
28 Fish Kill Swan River Fact Sheet June 2004	21 Preventative measures to protect Swan River at Bayswater wetlands
14 Last chance to submit comments on commercial houseboat trial	12 Azolla cover on Canning River
11 School students join Men of the Trees 25-year celebrations	
April	March
8 SRT cleaning up diesel spill at Royal Perth Yacht Club	25 Acid sulphate soils identified at Bayswater wetland
8 Upper Canning River re-opened to public	25 New Great Gardens workshops
2 Noongar input sought for Swan River Trust Board	17 Dead fish found in Swan River
	5 Swan River Trust and community working together to Cleanup Australia
February	January
26 High levels of Karlodinium algae detected in Swan River	27 Potentially toxic algae in Canning River
13 Algae increasing in the Swan River	22 New program to save our rivers
2003	
December	November
4 Finalé to celebrate Great Gardens series success	26 New solutions sought for nutrient prevention
4 Algae Activity Reports on television and website	27 Swan-Canning Cleanup Program to be reviewed
2 New Swan River Trust work boat honours top sailor	21 Corporate volunteers revegetate wetlands at East Perth
	13 New direction for Swan River Trust
	7 Recognition for Swan River Trust in Prime Minister's Awards
October	September
28 Community invited to provide input into future management of Canning and Southern rivers and Wungong Brook	17 Diesel spill at Barrack Square jetties
August	July
22 Free public forums to help save Swan and Canning rivers	29 <i>Riverplan</i> to help develop stronger statutory protection for rivers
20 Fish Kill 2003	18 Swan River heavy metals results made public
20 Swan and Canning Rivers Algal Bloom and Fish Kills What Happened, Why?	10 Swan, Canning algal bloom is over
	1 Toxic bloom ends

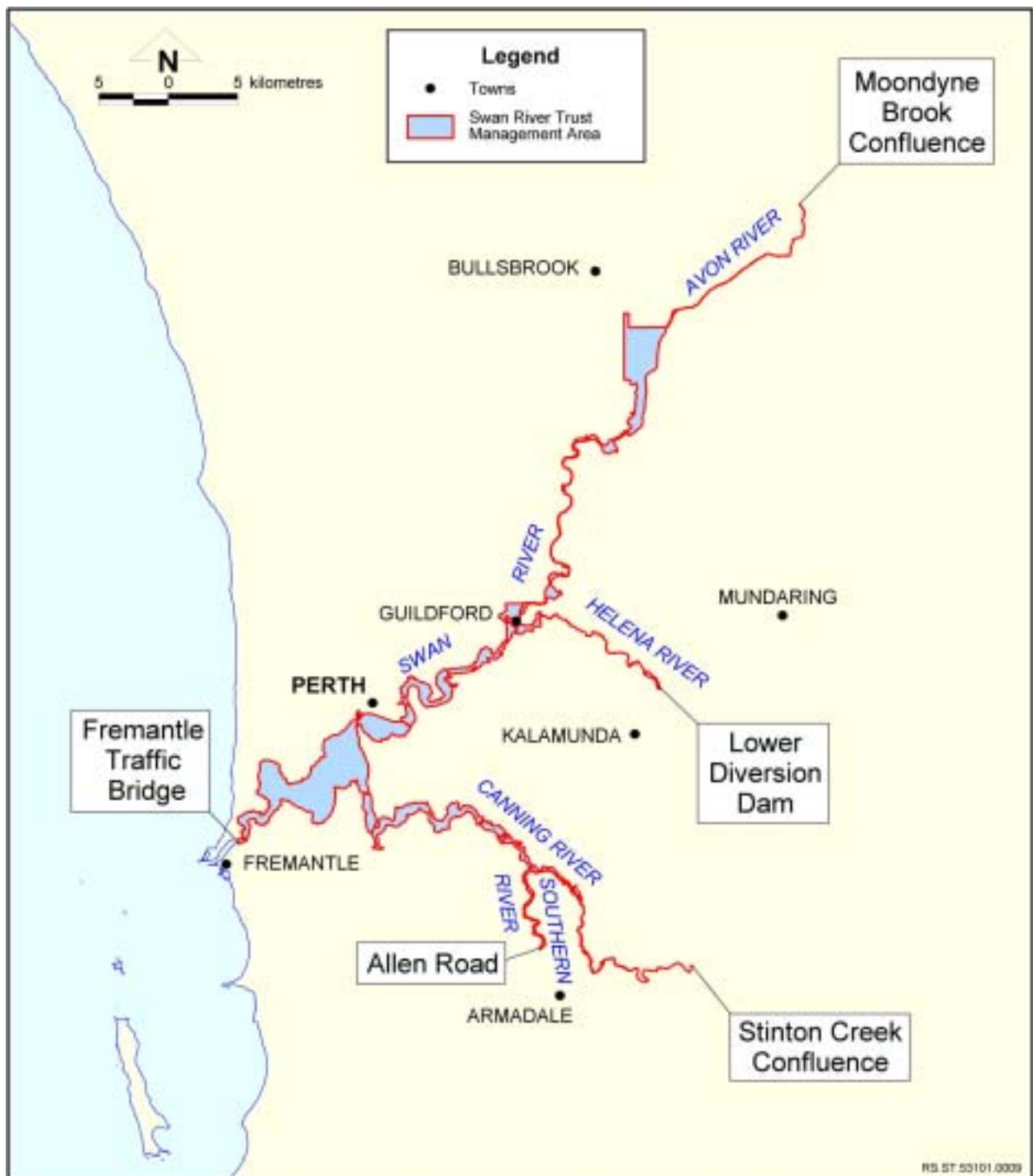


Figure 7. Swan River Trust Management Area

The Swan River Trust Management Area includes the waters of the Swan and Canning rivers and adjoining parks and recreation reservations – extending upstream from the Fremantle Traffic Bridge to Moondyne Brook on the Avon River, to the Lower Diversion Dam on the Helena River, along Southern River to the Allen Road crossing and the Canning River to its confluence with Stinton Creek.

