



swan river trust annual report

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05



caring for the swan and canning rivers

Mission

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

Vision

To cherish the Swan River 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.

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-Canning River System.

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 80 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.



Annual Report Swan River Trust 2004-05

East Perth: Swan River Trust

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Cover photo: The Liege Street Wetland, near the Canning River, is one of the Swan River Trust's leading environmental management initiatives in its new Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program. This program was made possible by additional State Government funding. It works in partnership with other government agencies, industry and the community through drainage restoration works as part of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program. Photos: Aries Photography, Tom Atkinson, Dieter Tracey.

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Letter to the Minister for the Environment; Science

To the Hon Dr Judy Edwards, MLA
Minister for the Environment; Science



*Hon Dr Judy Edwards, MLA
Minister for the Environment;
Science*

I have pleasure in submitting the 17th Annual Report on the operations of the Swan River Trust for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, in accordance with the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and Section 66 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Welker', written over a horizontal line.

Charlie Welker

CHAIRMAN

31 August 2005

Chairman's Report

This has been another challenging and busy year for the Swan River Trust. As forecast last year, a major effort during 2004-05 was directed at developing the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill. The Bill was released for stakeholder comment in December 2004 following intensive consultation with key groups. The proposed legislation clarifies jurisdiction, powers and accountability for managing activities that affect the rivers and provides a stronger statutory basis for the Trust to work with stakeholders. If passed, the new laws will create the Swan Canning Riverpark and enable the Trust to more fully protect, maintain and enhance Perth's central waterways. Producing such an important piece of legislation in this period was a major accomplishment for the Trust. I extend my thanks to everyone involved in the development process, in particular key stakeholder groups.



The Trust's direction in the coming year will also be shaped by the external evaluation of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Action Plan, which aims to target excess nutrients in the rivers and the algal blooms they cause. The evaluation, completed at the end of 2004-05, has provided an in-depth analysis of the program's achievements and set the scene for the next phase of the program's implementation in the coming five to 10 years. The achievements of this major program should be celebrated however we know there are many years of hard work ahead to achieve our aims. Building a new action plan will be an important and exciting exercise during 2005-06 and we look forward to working with our Cleanup Program partners. A very important partnership among these is with the Swan Catchment Council, which helps deliver Cleanup Program objectives through the Swan Region Natural Resource Management Strategy that was accredited during 2004-05.

Providing advice on development proposals in and along the river continues to be a major component of the Trust's business. This year several complex and contentious proposals have come before the Trust. We have encouraged community and stakeholder involvement in this process through advertising proposals, holding hearings on key projects and through the process of submissions to the Minister for the Environment on Trust recommendations. This important aspect of the Trust's work was complemented by a review of Trust development policies and working with developers to refine and improve proposals. The Trust has also continued its programs of developing links with local governments by conducting meetings and site visits during the year.

The *Karlodinium micrum* algal blooms and associated fish kill events each year since 2003 highlight the consequences of excessive nutrient levels and low freshwater flows in our rivers. Poor water quality, including low oxygen levels and high densities of *Karlodinium micrum* killed about 5000 fish from Guildford to Bayswater during March and April 2005. Other algal species were also persistent in the river system during the year. Generally, the state of the rivers suggests that while some nutrient targets are being met we have not achieved water quality conditions sufficient to reduce blooms.

It is heartening to note the increasing number of Perth residents who share my concern about river health. Seventy per cent of our 400 annual community survey respondents perceived problems caused by the level of nutrients in the rivers to be a threat. Pollution, loss of habitat for wildlife, rubbish and debris in the rivers, and fish kill events were also of significant community

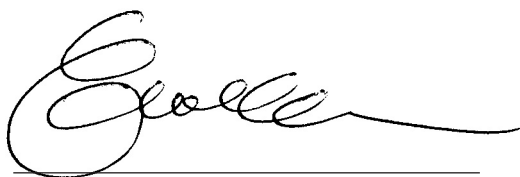
concern. The Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program and Riverbank Program address these concerns, but these are long-term strategies. More immediate success has resulted from the popular Heavenly Hectares seminars, Property Planning and Great Gardens workshops. Many participants are demonstrating a willingness to adopt more sustainable land management practices across the rural and urban areas of the catchment.

The existence of acid sulfate soils throughout areas of Perth has emerged this year as a more serious environmental issue of concern. The impact from contaminated run-off and groundwater is likely to increase in coming years. The Trust now requires development proponents working on sites likely to be at risk of containing acid sulfate soils to conduct testing before consideration of a development application.

Human impacts on the rivers continue to be a major concern for the Trust. This year there were three major sewage spills, with the largest resulting in a portion of the Swan River being closed to the public for a week. Other incidents that impacted on river health and amenity included fuel spills, burnt boats, illegal dumping, deliberate damage to foreshore trees and vegetation, and littering. Each year I repeat my call for all community members to take responsibility for their actions and care for the rivers.

My thanks to those who contributed to the Trust's work this year – the Trust members, officers, project partners and community. I acknowledge Mr Cleve Flottmann who was the nominee for the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, and welcome his replacement Mr Steve Jenkins to the Trust. The December 2004 appointment of the Trust's first general manager to guide the authority, which has grown considerably this year, will help focus the Trust for the future.

Next year will mark a major turning point for the Trust, with the tabling of the Bill in Parliament and the strategic refocusing of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Action Plan. On-ground initiatives boosted with the additional \$15.55 million will be realising their potential and the Trust will strengthen the many partnerships it has developed. While this funding announced in 2004 is most welcome, the Trust will continue to look for new funding opportunities to expand the essential work required to manage and protect the Swan and Canning rivers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Welker', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Charlie Welker
CHAIRMAN

Operations summary

Collect water information

Aims

To provide research and information for estuary and river restoration and management.

Achievements

- Increased monitoring and sampling in response to persisting low oxygen levels and algal blooms in the mid and upper reaches of the Swan River.
- Established research partnerships with local and international organisations to further knowledge and understanding of algae and related toxins.
- Developed Catchment Nutrient Reports for condition and nutrient contributions of the 15 major sub-catchments in the Swan-Canning Catchment.
- Increased catchment modelling for rural and rural-residential catchments to help decision makers target their actions to meet load and concentration targets.
- Expanded weekly Algae Activity television and website reporting to print media.

Issues

- Additional funding required for scientific research and analysis to guide management.
- The need to expand variables monitored to include certain metals and pollutants, and target and identify harmful algal species will increase laboratory costs.
- Initiated a zero impact approach with developers in the Southern River area regarding nutrient impact on the river system.

Future directions

- Development of a modelling strategy to assess land-use change in terms of water yields and nutrient loading to help establish long-term direction for the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.
- New program to monitor non-nutrient contaminants and ecological health of the rivers, streams and drains.
- Continued monitoring and support for the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program and any changes that come into effect as a result of its evaluation.
- Enhance partnerships with research institutions to increase understanding of the river ecology to guide management.
- Statistically analyse all data collected during the past 10 years to improve knowledge of the Swan-Canning River System.

Total cost of services

\$1,128,000

Regulate riverside development

Aims

To assess applications for development, planning schemes and policy to ensure the conservation, enhancement and appropriate development of land in the Swan-Canning River System.

Achievements

- Assessed 223 development applications with the objective to ensure public access and safety, and environmental protection and amenity of the Swan and Canning rivers.
- Developed guidelines for applicants and reviewed key policies for development control.
- Created a Spectator and Entertainment Events Policy for events taking place inside the Trust's Management Area.
- Supported progress towards a Swan River Concept Plan for the middle to upper Swan River to guide and coordinate foreshore development for these reaches of the river.
- Developed the Swan-Canning Statement of Planning Policy in conjunction with the Western Australian Planning Commission.
- Developed a River Protection Management Strategy with the City of Perth for the annual Skyworks event.
- Liaised with the Department for Planning and Infrastructure regarding development concepts for the Western Foreshore area next to the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- Instigated wider public consultation and reporting through the media.

Issues

- Contentious development applications include proposed demolition of the Ascot Inn to make way for a residential complex, and erection of a second jetty at Mends Street enabling extension of the adjacent café/kiosk.
- Limitations of power in the current *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and *Regulations 1989* being addressed in the proposed new legislation.
- Public access to the rivers, especially regarding private or domestic jetties.

Future directions

- Passage of new legislation to streamline the approvals processes and provide a legislative basis for open and transparent processes that enhance public participation.
- Pursue greater involvement in strategic plans for foreshore development.
- Continue to assess all development applications and provide relevant advice and recommendations according to jurisdiction, and feedback to proponents.
- Actively seek public comment about development issues and applications on and next to the Trust's Management Area.
- Uphold and increase public access to the rivers and their foreshores and ensure public safety.
- Continue to reinforce importance of zero environmental impacts of new developments on waterways as a minimum, including use of environmental offsets.

Total cost of services

\$648,000

Management plans

Aims

To prepare management programs and plans for the management of the waterways and the management and catchment areas.

Achievements

- Prepared the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill.
- Engaged key stakeholders in development of the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill.
- Prepared development of a Swan Canning Riverpark management plan.
- Released *Riverplan* final document in August 2004.
- Piloted a program to assess the contribution of State agencies and local governments to the implementation of the *Environmental Protection (Swan and Canning Rivers) Policy 1988*.

Issues

- In recent years concerns have been expressed about the lack of clear accountability and integrated management of activities affecting the Swan and Canning rivers.
- Feedback obtained so far on the principles contained in the draft legislation has been generally positive, however some stakeholders raised questions about how some instruments, might operate in a range of situations.

Future directions

- Public consultation on the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill during July 2005.
- Finalise the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill for presentation to Parliament in the spring session, 2005.
- Begin development of the River Protection Strategy as the successor to *Riverplan* with enhanced coordination between the Trust and other agencies.
- Progress development of the management plan for the proposed riverpark.

Total cost of services

\$542,000

Protection of waterways and foreshores

Aims

To maintain and restore waterways and foreshores, and provide audit and enforcement of the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and *Regulations 1989*.

Achievements

- Coordinated response and logistical support to algal blooms and fish kill events during winter 2004 and autumn 2005.
- Responded to and helped investigate river incidents including three major sewage spills.
- Maintained 45 river beaches.
- Conducted audits of riverside developments to ensure they adhered to the conditions of their approvals.
- Inspected the river for unauthorised developments.

Issues

- Littering and illegal dumping continues to be a problem requiring valuable resources.
- Complacency when dealing with substances that may impact on river health.
- Reliant on third parties maintaining their networks of sewerage and stormwater systems.
- Continuing vandalism on Ron Courtney Island affecting the vegetation and health of the island.
- Weed infestations in the upper Canning River requiring valuable resources.

Future directions

- Continue to maintain the waterways and foreshores in the Trust's Management Area.
- Continue to provide logistical and operational support during river incidents and emergencies.
- Continue river inspections to ensure developments adhere to conditions and there are no unauthorised developments.
- Increased control of third parties regarding maintenance of their sewerage and stormwater networks if the proposed legislation is enacted.
- Work with Strategic Programs officers in the development of management plan and operational plans for the proposed Swan Canning Riverpark.

Total cost of services

\$5,915,000

Environmental management

Aims

To develop and implement a range of environmental management programs based on natural resource best management practices to improve, protect and enhance the waterways, foreshores and catchments.

Achievements

- Conducted an extensive independent evaluation of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.
- Undertook enhanced *Riverbank* Program of shoreline protection and restoration, and repair of foreshore walls in partnership with local governments, and continued to assess foreshore conditions.
- Established the Swan River Trust Regional Herbarium with more than 300 plant specimens.
- Provided ongoing financial support to community-based catchment management through the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program and direct funding to Natural Resource Management groups.
- Built a nutrient-stripping wetland in the Canning Plain Catchment and began works on re-engineering drain compensating basins.
- Supported the Swan Catchment Council to implement structural changes required as part of the Swan Region Natural Resource Management Strategy, including catchment divisions.

Issues

- Breach in the Kent Street Weir required resources to be reallocated from other areas resulting in some projects not being completed on time.
- *Riverbank* Program funding was reliant on matching contributions from local and/or State government agencies that had not been able to allocate sufficient matching funds in their 2004-05 budgets to exhaust the \$1 million available for the year. This will be addressed in the following years as more projects are developed and project partners build *Riverbank* projects into their budgets.
- Prevalence of acid sulfate soils that can impact on the waterways via run-off and groundwater.
- The need for more informed research to guide environmental management strategies about seasonal nutrient loads into the Swan and Canning rivers and their tributaries.
- Ageing infrastructures, such as drainage systems and river crossings requiring wide-spread improvements.

Future directions

- Implement recommendations from the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program evaluation, and incorporate recommendations in the creation of a new Cleanup Program Action Plan and new management framework.
- Continue focus in the Canning Plain Catchment to develop and implement nutrient intervention strategies in major drains.
- Complete initial data collection for the Foreshore Condition Assessment Project in the Trust's Management Area.
- Conduct further research and implement management strategies in areas affected by acid sulfate soils that pose a threat to the waterways.

Total cost of services

This is not a formal service but acknowledges the importance of environmental programs to the Trust's work. The budget for environmental management is apportioned across the formal services.

Communications

Aims

To keep stakeholders informed of issues relating to the Swan-Canning River System and ensure stakeholder management, community involvement and environmental education opportunities are maximised to achieve sustained community behaviour change to protect the rivers.

Achievements

- Implemented the Swan River Trust's first Strategic Communications Plan.
- Provided corporate support and communications planning throughout the Trust.
- New website launched with updated features and expanded information.
- Increased media relationships and profile.
- Enhanced strategic corporate relationships and collaboration with Trust project partners.
- Continued to support highly successful community environmental education programs Great Gardens and Heavenly Hectares and expanded the Corporate Care Day volunteer program.

Issues

- The Draft Swan and Canning Management Bill provides the opportunity to strategically reposition the Trust throughout the Swan-Avon Catchment community.
- A better informed public requiring more timely and detailed information about the rivers' ecology.
- Limited resources to deal with increased public enquiries, information and presentation requests.
- Need for more in-depth research capacity across the Trust's program areas to guide communications planning and targeted community development programs.
- Although annual market research demonstrates that community awareness of the Swan River Trust is good, there is an increasing demand to improve stakeholders' knowledge of the Trust's work, and in particular Statutory Assessments and new environmental management programs.
- Funding of the Trust's behaviour change community development program – the Great Gardens workshops.

Future directions

- Increase community sustainable behaviour change through Great Gardens and Corporate Care Day programs, manage the delivery of Heavenly Hectares, Property Planning, and Ribbons of Blue in the Swan Region.
- Manage support for community groups and community environmental education programs in the Swan Region through the Swan Catchment Centre.
- Continue weekly Algae Activity Report on television, website and in the newspaper.
- Continue to provide accurate and timely information about river issues to the media.
- Enhance the strategic positioning of the Trust in the community by using a range of tools including extensive market research and community-based social marketing.
- Greater focus on strategic communications planning and corporate relationships.

Total cost of services

This is not a formal service but acknowledges the importance of communications to the Trust's work. The budget for communications is apportioned across the formal service.

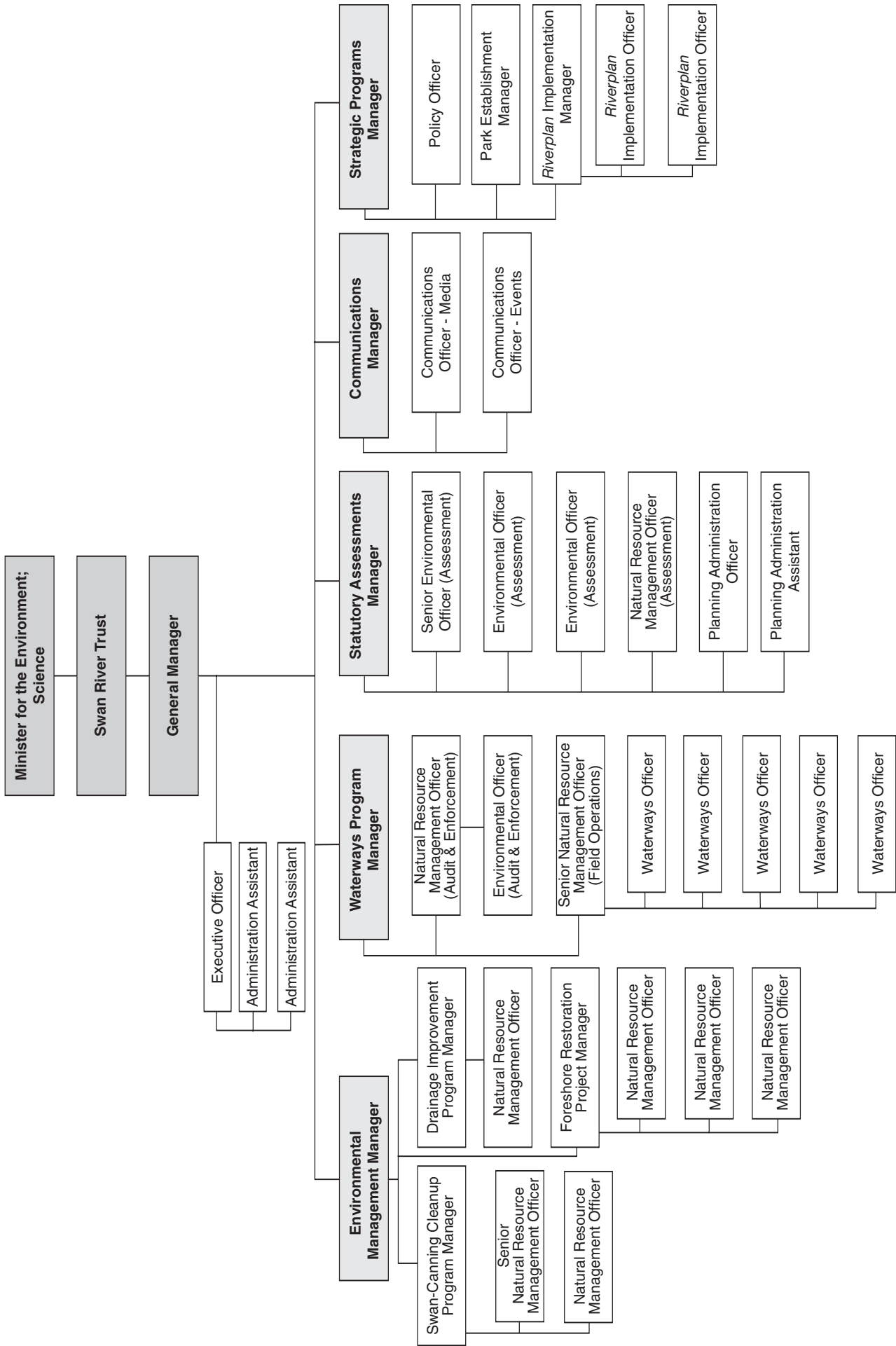


Figure 1. Swan River Trust organisational structure

The Swan River Trust

Caring for the Swan and Canning rivers

The Swan River Trust was constituted under the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and established in 1989. It is a State Government authority responsible to the Minister for the Environment. The Trust works with the community, State and local government to implement the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* to protect, conserve, manage and enhance Perth's waterways.

The Swan and Canning rivers are the central focus of Perth's metropolitan landscape. They are the social, cultural and recreational heart for many West Australians. This strong bond was recognised in January 2004 when the Swan River was announced the first heritage icon commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Swan River Colony. At the same time, the State Government announced an additional \$15.55 million for projects between 2004 and 2008 to increase river health. This funding boost has been a significant focus of the Trust's strategic direction and works in 2004-05.

Functions and powers of the Swan River Trust

The Swan River Trust:

- manages and protects the waterways and land in its Management Area and partners local governments and other bodies to undertake works and provide facilities around the Swan and Canning rivers;
- advises the Minister for the Environment on development proposals in the Management Area;
- provides advice and assistance to the Western Australian Planning Commission and local governments on town planning issues, and ensures proper provision is made in planning schemes for:
 - reservation of river foreshores;
 - protection and public use of land and waters; and
 - protection of wildlife habitat;
- coordinates and promotes initiatives by other organisations to care for the rivers, including the implementation of management strategies;
- controls and prevents pollution of the rivers and keeps them clear of rubbish;
- undertakes, promotes and advises on measures to control or prevent soil erosion that may affect the Management Area; and
- provides information and promotes public education related to river issues.

The Trust has a strong partnership with local government. Representatives from local government may be nominated to attend Trust meetings and vote on developments related to their area. Local government representatives are also regularly invited to attend committee and other meetings. The Trust continued to strengthen this relationship throughout the year by visiting several local governments, conducting site tours, and holding Trust meetings in council chambers.

The Trust has a close working relationship with the Department of Environment, sharing similar philosophies and carrying out complementary functions. The Trust receives technical and administrative support from the department.

Organisational structure

Daily operation of the Swan River Trust is conducted by professional, technical and administrative staff provided by the Water and Rivers Commission.¹ As the authority restructured and refocused over the past two years, it grew to 40 staff in 2004-05 and relocated to larger offices in August 2004. The new premises are at Level 1, Hyatt Business Centre, 20 Terrace Road, East Perth. The waterways operations depot and staff remain next to the Swan River at Ellam Street, Victoria Park. Managerial positions for each section of the restructured Trust were advertised this year. Four were filled successfully and two will be readvertised next year.

Services

Administration

Administration officers support the Swan River Trust, general manager and officers in the daily running of the authority and Trust meetings.

Communications

Communications officers keep the community informed, raise awareness by providing environmental education and involvement opportunities leading to the adoption of sustained behaviour change for the protection of the Swan-Canning River System. They deliver Trust community awareness, environmental education and involvement through initiatives such as the Algae Activity Report, Corporate Care Day program and support for the Great Gardens workshops. Officers implement communications planning and strategies across the authority through the annual Strategic Communications Plan. This includes stakeholder and issue management, strategic and media relations, corporate identity, community development, corporate culture and evaluation framework.

Environmental Management

Environmental Management officers develop and guide the main environmental management programs for the Swan and Canning rivers and their tributaries. Officers establish programs in collaboration with the community, local governments and other agencies to address identified problems affecting river health. They deliver and manage the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, *Riverbank* Program and Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program. They assess foreshore condition and help implement restoration projects, and develop and implement initiatives to reduce the amount of nutrients entering the waterways.

Statutory Assessments

Statutory Assessments officers ensure development is consistent with protecting or enhancing the Trust's Management Area's environmental values and amenity. They review all applications for development including events in or adjoining the Management Area. They provide reports to the Trust to recommend a course of action for the Minister for the Environment, or to provide advice to the Western Australian Planning Commission or local governments. Statutory Assessments officers work with the WAPC to ensure river and landscape protection principles are embedded in

¹ The Water and Rivers Commission, Department of Environmental Protection and the Keep Australia Beautiful Council amalgamated to form 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.

planning decisions along the river. They also review and strengthen Trust development and environmental policies.

Strategic Programs

Strategic Programs officers guide the strategic direction of the Trust and oversee the Trust's strategic level programs and the development of legislation and management plans. Officers developed the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill and implemented *Riverplan*, the management framework to guide State and local government effort in delivering the objectives of the *Environmental Protection (Swan and Canning Rivers) Policy 1988*.

Waterways Management

Waterways Management officers focus on the daily state of the waterways. They inspect the rivers to ensure compliance with regulations and development conditions and take enforcement action where appropriate. Waterways Management officers are responsible for the on-ground management of the rivers and foreshores and they remove debris and hazards as required. They provide logistical support to programs undertaken through Environmental Management and Statutory Assessments.

Trust membership

There are eight members of the Swan River Trust. Four are nominees from the Water and Rivers Commission Board, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure representing marine and planning sections, and the West Australian Local Government Association. The Minister for the Environment appoints the four community members, who have areas of expertise identified as beneficial to the Trust.

Full Swan River Trust meetings and Trust Development and Regulation Committee meetings are held once per month. Trust Finance and Audit Committee and Trust Park and *Riverplan* Committee meetings are held throughout the year as required.

Member profiles

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 has a Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety Management, and 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 and

risk management 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 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. She 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. This year Dr Chambers published *Scumbook: A Guide to Common Algae and Aquatic Plants in Wetlands and Estuaries of South-Western Australia*. It is a field guide she compiled with Swan River Trust, Department of Environment and Murdoch University scientists with support from the Water Corporation.

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 at State and local government levels in WA. He is a Department for Planning and Infrastructure program leader.

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 Home Building Society chief executive from 1995-03. He previously held senior positions in banking and corporate consulting. Mr Freemantle holds the positions of Dairy Western Australia director, Western Australian Planning Commission Central Perth Planning Committee member, Anglican Diocese of Perth trustee, Racing and Wagering WA deputy chairman, Prostate Cancer Foundation (WA Division) chairman, MDA National Group director 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 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 Waterways Commission chief executive for 10 years and the Resource Investigations director 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. Cr Hart was a member of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Taskforce. She is 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.

Mr Steve Jenkins

Nominee of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure: Steve Jenkins is the Coastal Facilities Business Unit acting general manager in the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. He is responsible for the strategic leadership of the business of coastal facilities management. Mr Jenkins provides high level advice to the Department for Planning and Infrastructure director general and executive on matters relating to coastal facilities. He manages the operational performance of the business unit involving the department's coastal facilities, including the ports of Derby and Wyndham. Mr Jenkins is also a board member of the Ministerial Fishing Industry Advisory Committee.

Mr Cleve Flottmann BE-Immediate past member

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. He has worked for Commonwealth and State governments, and as a private engineering consultant. Mr Flottmann is New Coastal Assets Operations directorate manager in the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. Mr Steve Jenkins replaced Mr Flottmann on the Trust from 7 July 2004.

State of the rivers

The Swan River Trust's Management Area includes the lower Swan River from the Fremantle Traffic Bridge to the Narrows Bridge, middle Swan from the Narrows Bridge to the Causeway, and the upper Swan from above the Causeway. It includes the Canning River, divided by the Kent Street Weir. Tidal influences affect the Swan River and lower Canning River, which are scientifically recognised as an estuary.

The Trust's Swan-Canning Cleanup Program sets clear goals and objectives to improve the health of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Key goals:

- nuisance and toxic algal blooms are kept to a minimum;
- water quality is suitable for maintaining a healthy ecosystem; and
- contaminants in tributary run-off from the catchments are within set targets.

Key objectives:

- reduce the frequency and occurrence of nuisance and toxic algal blooms;
- identify how and where nutrients enter and cycle within the rivers and determine the best way to minimise these inputs;
- improve water quality by managing river sediments to reduce the store of organic material and nutrients; and
- understand the mechanisms that trigger algal blooms and control their growth.

These goals and objectives set the basis for improving the health of the Swan and Canning rivers. Currently, the Trust aims to reduce the levels of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) entering the Swan and Canning rivers to reduce the incidence and severity of algal blooms and improve river health.

Performance Targets

Cleanup Program targets were set to monitor river health and identify trends for N and P concentrations in 15 tributaries of the Swan-Canning Catchment, and chlorophyll-*a* concentrations and dissolved oxygen saturation in surface waters. This information guides the environmental management of the river system and recognises the long timeframes required for catchment management to affect nutrient levels.

Other initiatives in the rivers, such as the use of Phoslock™ to reduce P levels and oxygenation to improve oxygen levels in bottom waters of the Canning River recognise that we need to treat the symptoms as well as the causes, at least in the short term. The nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations from the Swan and Canning tributaries have fallen during the 2000-05 reporting period.

The Swan River

The lower Swan continues to meet the Cleanup Program targets for key performance indicators oxygen and chlorophyll-*a*, as it has done during the previous three years. This probably reflects the positive benefits of tidal flushing and dilution of nutrients with lower nutrient seawater. The middle and upper Swan continue to head towards their targets which may possibly reflect the ongoing trends of increasing compliance with short- and long-term nutrient targets in the tributaries discharging into the Swan River during the last five years.

The rate of supply of organic matter and nutrients from the catchment to the Swan has not significantly altered compared to previous years. However, the flow of water from the catchments has declined considerably due to decreased rainfall. As a result, the period for which the upper Swan was stratified extended from a brief autumn period to well into winter. The existing oxygen demand in the sediment is so high in the upper Swan that any event which restricts mixing of oxygen through the surface waters results in rapid deoxygenation of bottom waters. This leads to long periods when little or no oxygen is available for fish and benthic organisms. Tackling this serious problem will be a priority over the next few years, and improving oxygenation will be a future emphasis in addressing the health of the Swan River.

The Canning River

The health of the Canning River however remains precarious. The Kent Street Weir has a major impact on the river and distinguishes the upper and lower levels of the river. When the weir boards are in place, there is an estuarine environment downstream of the weir, while upstream the waterway remains a freshwater body. Salt water encroaches a little further upstream during winter when the weir boards are removed.

The performance indicators show that improvement, if any, has been very small. Nutrients in the Southern River, which feed into the Canning River, remain the same or are decreasing in terms of compliance with the long-term targets. The Cleanup Program oxygen level targets are increasingly not being met.

This reinforces the importance of the oxygenation program that continues to provide important 'life support' to the upper Canning River, at least enabling the maintenance of reasonable oxygen levels and some ecosystem functionality. Expansion of the oxygenation over the next few years is considered to be a key part of keeping the Canning River alive in the short term. In the long term, results of catchment management, drain intervention projects, and the impacts of urban and rural land and water management will effectively reduce nutrient and organic matter input that contributes to oxygen depletion and algal blooms.

However, the good news is that this is the first year in the past six that the upper Canning has not been closed due to blue-green algal blooms, indicating a possible change in trend from previous years.

River stressors

Lack of oxygen in the upper Swan

This year there was an almost complete loss of oxygen in the higher reaches of the upper Swan around the Guildford Road Bridge area in April and May during still, calm, overcast and warm days. This period extended for less than two weeks and was relieved by a few windy days. It is a measure of the transience of the deoxygenation event and the vulnerability of the system that the presence or absence of a sea breeze has such an effect.

For the last decade, the upper Swan has gone through extended periods of low to no dissolved oxygen due primarily to the breakdown of organic matter by bacteria sourced from collapsing algal blooms or flowing in from urban run-off. This year was the first time the loss of oxygen extended all the way from the bottom to the surface, which possibly indicates a new state for the river.

Relatively small amounts of rain also induce stratification that reduces oxygen mixing followed by rapid deoxygenation of bottom and near surface waters. This was experienced in the Swan River in May 2005. As rain and flow increased into June, the deoxygenated water moved downstream from the Guildford area to below the Narrows Bridge. The area immediately downstream of the Narrows Bridge is therefore now predominantly low in oxygen in winter and summer.

Acid sulfate soils

The identification of a strong link between acid sulfate soil drainage and the impact on fish health was also of significance this year. Drainage from acid sulfate soils has recently been identified as a potential major influence on water quality and biota survival in the Swan and Canning rivers, but until recently no clear link had been made between acidity and fish deaths. For the first time during a fish death incident at Bayswater in April, fresh samples were collected in time for examination of the gills, which revealed damage consistent with low pH and high metal toxicity. This observation provides a link between the presence of acid sulfate soils near the Swan and Canning rivers and their potentially detrimental impact on the river ecology. This is a new priority for the Trust.

Algae activity

The potentially harmful dinoflagellate phytoplankton *Karlodinium micrum* was again prominent in the rivers during autumn, especially in the upper Swan River in April. The relationship between fish deaths and the presence of high levels of algae is complex. High concentrations of this species did not automatically kill fish at periods when other algal concentrations were quite low. However, fish deaths did occur when *Karlodinium micrum* combined with deoxygenated bottom waters.

Predominant algae activity this year included dinoflagellates *Karlodinium micrum* and *Prorocentrum dentatum*, and the diatom *Skeletonema*. *Karlodinium micrum* was associated with fish kill events in the upper and middle Swan River. The nuisance red tide producing *Prorocentrum dentatum* gave off a fishy odour and discoloured the lower Swan and Canning rivers. The estuarine diatom *Skeletonema* was present in concentrations in the Swan River and lower Canning, near Riverton in particular in June 2005.

Fish kill events

Fish are stressed by a number of factors. Asphyxiation from lack of oxygen is the main cause of death, exacerbated by the presence of harmful algae such as *Karlodinium micrum*, which can reduce the ability of fish to absorb oxygen through their gills. As previously noted, acid sulfate soils drainage has also been identified as contributing to poor water quality and fish stress. There are now multiple stressors that contribute to fish deaths and the Trust will need to properly understand how stressors are caused to effectively tackle their management.

A significantly lower number of fish kill incidents occurred this year, with about 5000 fish deaths recorded mostly during April and May in the upper Swan. Of the eight events recorded, the earlier deaths were attributed to fish diseases, later fish deaths to low oxygen, and some attributed to low oxygen and the presence of *Karlodinium micrum*. Some of the reported fish deaths were discarded bait fish or by-catch from recreational fishermen. Although fish kill events are an indication of poor river health, the magnitude decreased significantly this year compared to the 30,000 dead fish last year and hundreds of thousands of dead fish in 2003.

Swan River Trust's response

Collect water information

Environmental monitoring of the waterways and catchments

The Swan-Canning River System has been identified as under severe ecological stress. The river system and catchment are monitored to understand ecological processes, implement the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Action Plan, and identify causes and underlying mechanisms in the river system and nutrients in the catchment.

Water sampling data was collected weekly from nine sites on the Swan River and seven sites on the Canning River (see Figure 2). Data included nutrient and chlorophyll concentrations, physical parameters and the identification of phytoplankton groups. The environmental monitoring program also tested compliance with water quality targets set by the Cleanup Program Action Plan and responded to event driven sampling requirements for recurrent *Karlotinium micrum* and *Prorocentrum dentatum* algal blooms, as well as fish kill events and low dissolved oxygen levels.

Several partnerships were established to further scientific research. Collaboration with Murdoch University, the Chemistry Centre and Department of Fisheries was initiated to verify the use of algal toxin identification kits in the Swan-Canning River System and identify which nutrient species fuel algal blooms.

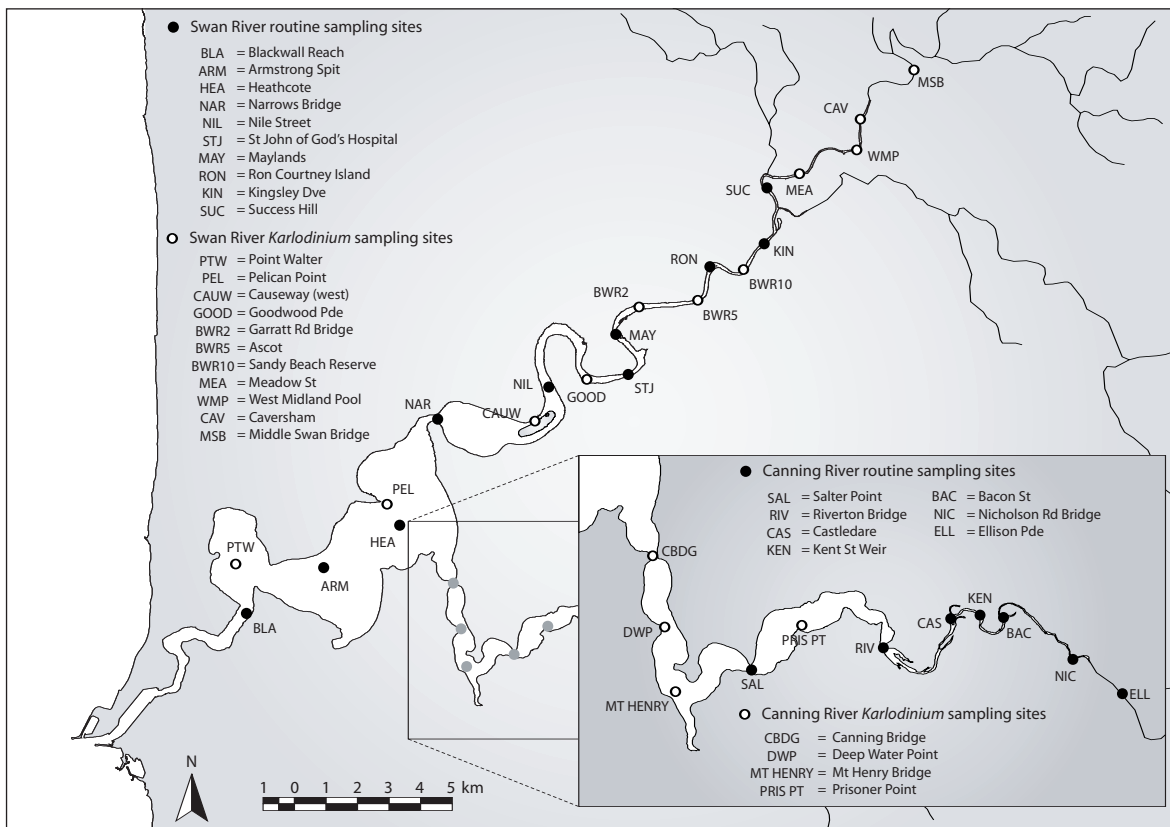


Figure 2. The weekly Swan-Canning River System and *Karlotinium micrum* sampling sites

There was also increased focus specifically on the dinoflagellate algae *Karlodinium micrum*. A visiting *Karlodinium* expert from the United States conducted testing in March with results expected in the next financial year. The project aims to identify whether increased *Karlodinium* toxin concentrations preceding or accompanying fish kill events are a result of increased cell numbers or increased cellular toxicity. An internal project was initiated to identify the development of *Karlodinium* algal blooms in the river system and additional weekly sampling started in October 2004. Sediment samples were cultured to identify whether *Karlodinium* was water or sediment borne. Next year all data collected and sampled in the Swan-Canning River System over the past decade will be statistically analysed in a new project, addressing a variety of questions that aim to improve knowledge of the system.

Recommendations in the Cleanup Program Action Plan evaluation and a review of the monitoring project are likely to result in changes to environmental monitoring. Currently there are issues regarding insufficient funding to allow scientific interpretation of results and there is a severe strain on resources whenever officers are required to deal with algal blooms as well as maintain routine tasks. The cause of identified environmental problems and underlying mechanisms cannot currently be determined or followed up due to the logistical and financial constraints of the monitoring, as it involves additional research. It is intended to change this through collaboration with research institutions. Expansion of the monitoring project by adding variables to be measured such as certain metals and pollutants has been identified, along with the need to specifically target and identify harmful algal species, but these additions will significantly increase laboratory costs.

Nutrients, temperature and conductivity were tested fortnightly at 15 sites in the Swan-Canning Catchment (see Figure 3), along with compliance with water quality targets set by the Cleanup Program Action Plan. An auto-sampling and gauged sampling station network was maintained around the Swan-Canning Coastal Plain to measure flow and nutrient loads entering the system. It is intended to review the catchment monitoring project in the new financial year, focusing on number and location of sampling sites, sampling frequencies and variables currently measured.

Modelling

Knowledge of the land and nutrient point sources is essential to implement initiatives to meet load and concentration targets established by the Cleanup Program Action Plan. A decision support system is being established for sub-catchments in the Swan-Canning Catchment to demonstrate the consequences of change to the catchment and river system. The decision support system will help catchment managers and decision makers target their actions to meet load and concentration targets. During the past year, project work focused on a mixture of urban, rural and rural-residential catchments where there was significant pressure from urbanisation.

A traditional decision support system focused on medium to large scale catchments and provided a broad picture regarding land use and climate change consequences. Another decision support system focused on the urban catchments, assessing the likely benefit in terms of nutrient reduction when a suite of urban best management practices was applied.

The Large Scale Catchment Model continued to be applied to the 14 sub-catchments and the first calibration on water, sediment and nutrient yields was completed, taking into account diffuse source and climate inputs. Modelling was successful in 13 of the 14 sub-catchments. The daily hydrograph in the Helena River was highly modified by water releases for the Helena Pump Back Station. A method is being developed to erase these releases from the daily hydrograph observed

at the gauging station. Collection of historical land use and point source data was completed and load reduction targets were estimated for Southern River where major urbanisation is planned. The Trust used modelling information when it set a zero nett loss environmental impact for developers.

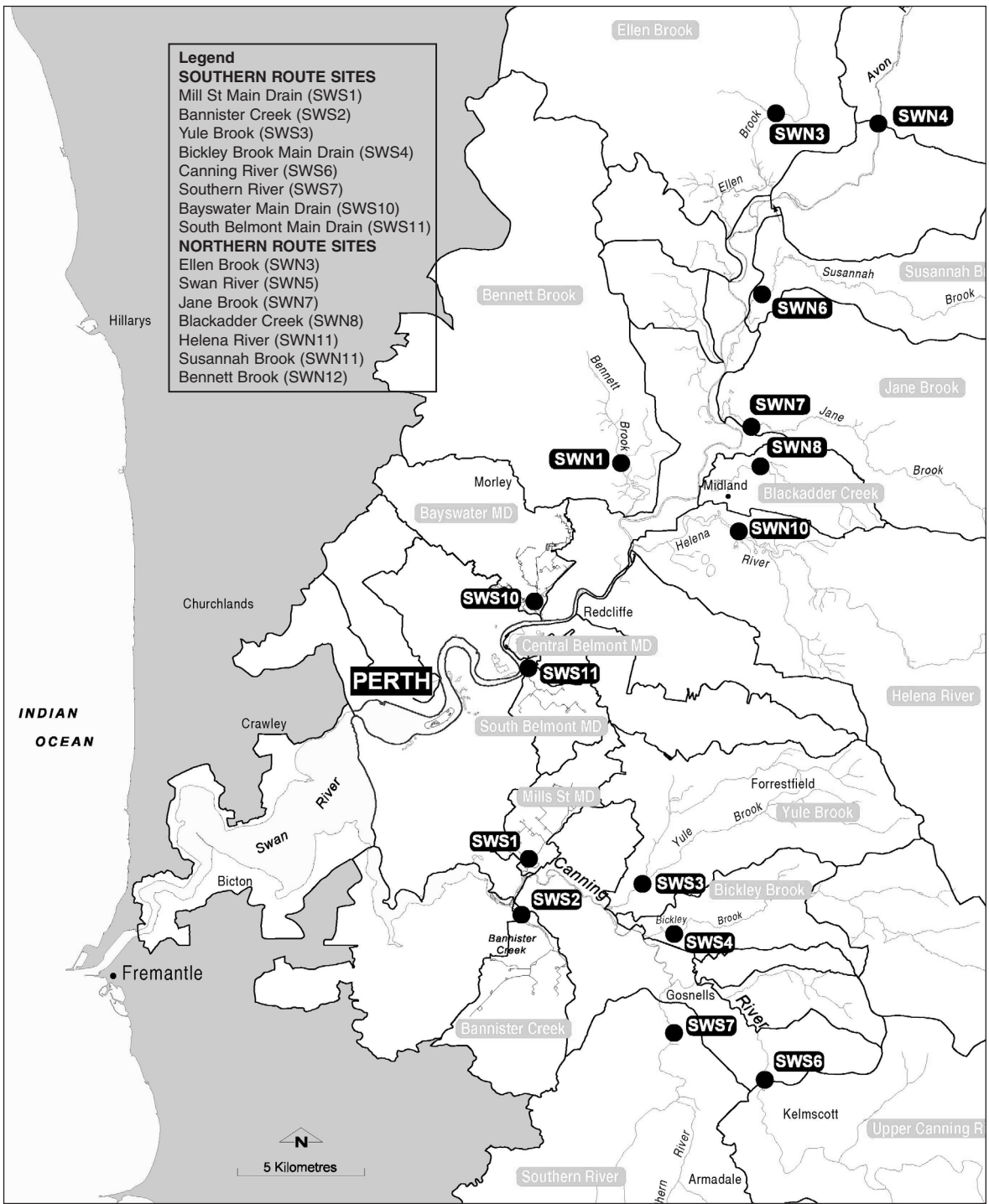
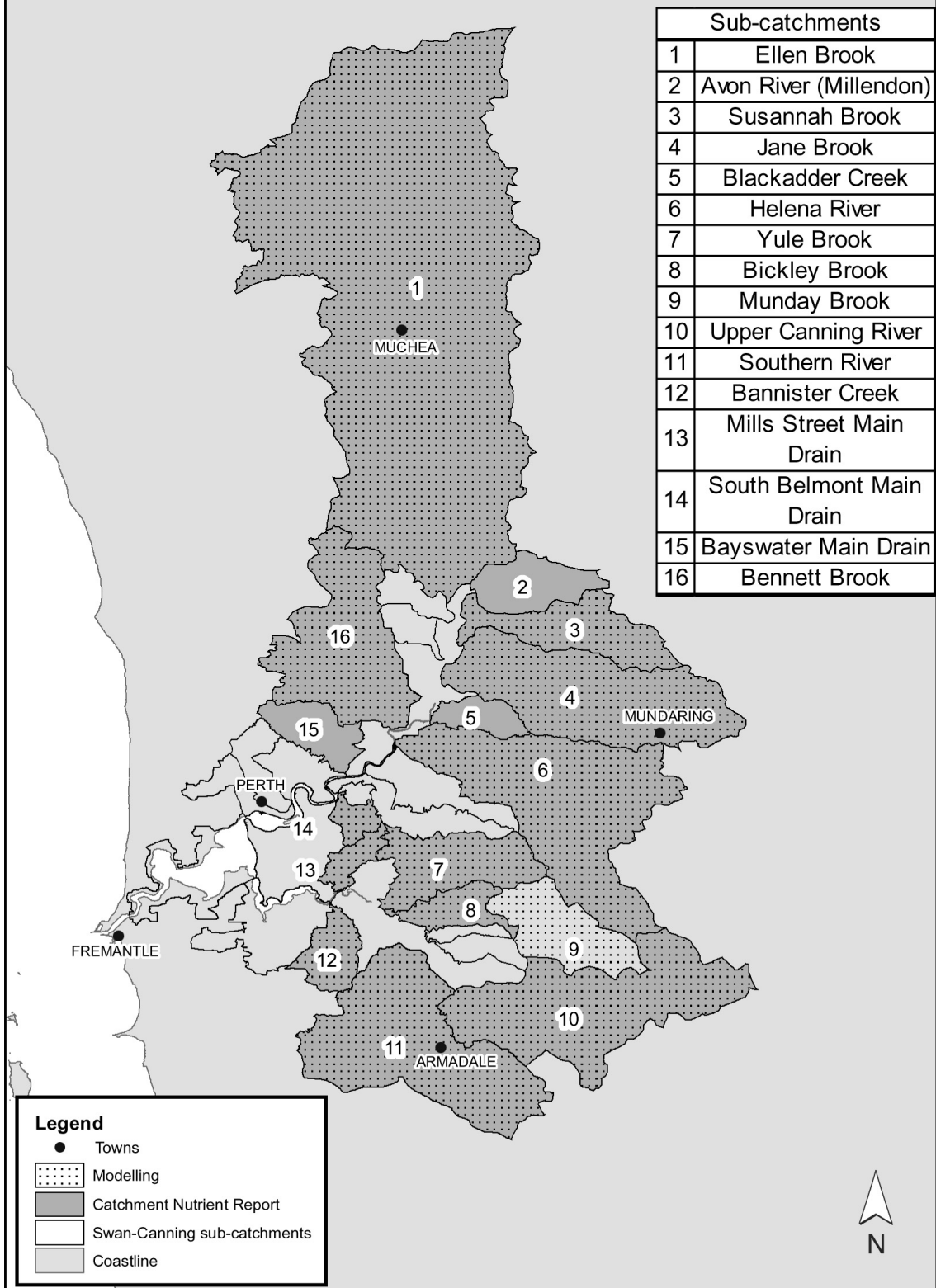


Figure 3. Swan-Canning Catchment tributary and drain sampling sites

Catchment Nutrient Report and Modelling Areas



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Figure 4. Swan-Canning sub-catchments modelled and featured in Catchment Nutrient Reports

Publications

Information on the environmental health of the Swan-Canning River System and Catchment was made available to the public through a variety of mediums. Physical water quality reports for the Swan River were published weekly on the Trust's website, with the Canning River reports available to the public since the launch of the new Trust website in June. The monitoring data was used to compile the weekly Algae Activity Report featured on the Channel 9 news and weather, the Trust website and extended to *The West Australian* in February 2005. Data was added to the Department of Environment Water Information Network, and RiverScience resource brochures about algal blooms and nitrogen and phosphorus cycles were published. Catchment Nutrient Reports were developed to identify the nutrient loads entering the Swan-Canning River System from each sub-catchment. These reports documented the trends and issues, and were featured as A3 printable documents on the Trust's new website.

Regulate riverside development

Statutory assessments officers processed 223 applications relating to proposed developments in and next to the Trust's Management Area this year. There were:

- 57 *Swan River Trust Act 1988* Part 5 applications for Ministerial Determination;
- 42 Metropolitan Region Scheme Clause 30A applications for Ministerial Advice; and
- 124 applications for Trust advice on developments and subdivisions.

Forty-six Regulation 8 applications to hold events in the Trust's Management Area were assessed compared to 32 last year.

The Trust Development and Regulation Committee's first meeting was in February 2005. The committee was formed to reduce the number of development applications going to a Trust meeting. The committee was given delegated authority to provide advice to the Minister for the Environment as well as State and local government authorities on all matters other than applications considered under Part 5 of the *Swan River Trust Act 1988*.

Site visits were conducted during the year to familiarise Trust members with specific locations, provide networking opportunities and strengthen the Trust's relationship with local government authorities.

The Trust worked to be more accountable to the community by notifying the public about significant development applications via media statements and advertising for public comment. The two-week public comment period on the website remained a popular form of feedback for Trust recommendations. The Trust conducted public comment advertising prior to assessing six development proposals and one policy (see Table 5, page 52). Most public comment through this process was received for the development application for Mends Street Jetty in South Perth, which proposed to alter the size of the café/kiosk and create a separate jetty for the Transperth Ferry. There were 100 written submissions with a further 1682 signatures on petitions. There were 82 public submissions about the proposed demolition of the Ascot Inn to make way for a residential complex.

The Trust widened the opportunity for public comment by conducting hearings with key stakeholders on a number of complex issues, including the proposal to build a ferry jetty on the Burswood Peninsula. The Trust recommended the Minister refuse the proposal due to the applicant's inability to provide a navigation management plan that would ensure public safety in the area.

A comprehensive River Protection Management Strategy was developed with the City of Perth for the annual Skyworks event, which incorporated plans for litter management, minimising environmental damage, foreshore protection and emergency response. The 2005 Skyworks was one of the first events to be approved under the new Spectator and Entertainment Events Policy.

Policies

The Spectator and Entertainment Events Policy was created due to the increasing number of applications the Trust was receiving under Regulation 8 of the *Swan River Trust Regulations 1989*. The Trust received 27 submissions about the new policy when it was advertised for public comment and referred to stakeholders. The Trust also considered public submissions received last year when it reviewed its Houseboat Policy this year. It resolved to maintain the current maximum number of five houseboats on the Swan River. Furthermore, the Trust adopted revised versions of the development setbacks, sewage disposal, foreshore restoration, foreshore walls and retaining walls policies.

Major proposals

Maintenance and improvement of public access along the river system and protection of the landscape from the visual and environmental impacts of development were the main development issues facing the Trust this year. Of the development applications assessed by the Trust, significant applications recommended for approval were:

- Stage Two Point Fraser redevelopment in the City of Perth;
- improvements to facilities at Garvey Park in the City of Belmont;
- improvements to Pioneer Park in the City of Gosnells;
- a bike path linking Banks Reserve in East Perth to Bardon Park in Maylands; and
- foreshore works around The Coombe in the Town of Mosman Park.

The Trust took a stronger line of maintaining or enhancing public access and safety where applications were not consistent with its policies. It recommended refusal for a number of proposals including:

- steps to the base of limestone cliffs at Rocky Bay due to public safety concerns; and
- a telecommunications tower in the City of Gosnells because it was not compatible with land reserved for Parks and Recreation.

Current development applications with the Trust for consideration include:

- Mends Street Jetty in South Perth which proposes to alter the size of the café/kiosk and create a separate jetty for the Transperth Ferry; and
- development of the Ascot Inn site as a residential complex.

Strategic plans

New policy developments include the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill, and the Swan-Canning Statement of Planning Policy. The draft Bill proposes provisions for improving and streamlining parts of the development assessment process, and the planning policy strengthens the ability of the Trust to protect the visual landscape. The planning policy was developed by the Trust in conjunction with the Western Australian Planning Commission as a result of the Precinct Policy Plan initiated in 2002, and advertised for public comment. It is anticipated that the policy will

tie in with the proposed Swan Canning Riverpark, which is a feature of the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill.

Throughout the year the Trust also liaised with the Department for Planning and Infrastructure regarding development concepts for the Western Foreshore area next to the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Trust played a major role on the steering committee for the production of plans for the Woodbridge-Viveash foreshore area in the City of Swan. The Trust is represented on the steering committee for the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council's Swan Concept Plan for the municipalities of Bayswater, Belmont, Bassendean and Swan up to Middle Swan Bridge. The Trust provided comment on a number of Town Planning Scheme amendments and Metropolitan Region Scheme amendments. It is anticipated that the Trust will liaise with greater frequency with other agencies including those further out in the catchments in the future, where there are opportunities to influence planning schemes and reduce impacts on the river system by land use.

Management plans

The newly created Strategic Programs drafted new legislation and implemented *Riverplan*.

New legislation

Concerns have been expressed in recent years about the lack of clear accountability and integrated management of activities affecting the Swan and Canning rivers.

The development of new legislation and a riverpark to better protect and manage the Swan and Canning rivers was announced in January 2004 as part of the State Government's \$15.55 million new initiatives to boost protection of the rivers.

The Swan River Trust considered a range of proposals for inclusion in the new legislation. Throughout 2004, the Trust consulted more than 80 key stakeholder groups representing State and local government, recreation, industry, Aboriginal, catchment management and conservation interests, in the development of legislative proposals. There was general support for the proposed concepts and requests for further detail.

The Trust's legislation team worked with Parliamentary Counsel to develop the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill and accompanying Explanatory Notes that were released in December 2004 for discussion with key stakeholders. These documents are located on the Trust's website.

The Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill focuses on the broader perspective and integrated management required to address the combined effect of human influences in the catchment and in the rivers. Initiatives in the draft Bill were designed to strengthen the Trust's powers to coordinate and manage activities that affect the ecological and community benefits of the rivers. This included the provision of mechanisms for a more coordinated approach to tackle pressures from increased commercial and recreational use on the rivers, as well as urban, industrial and agricultural practices in surrounding areas.

The new legislation proposes to combine the general provisions of the existing *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and the *Environmental Protection (Swan and Canning Rivers) Policy 1988*. The draft legislation provides a stronger statutory basis for the Trust to work with stakeholders to develop and implement a river protection strategy to replace *Riverplan* as the arrangements for implementation of the *Environmental Protection (Swan and Canning Rivers) Policy 1988*.

The proposed legislation clarifies jurisdiction, powers and accountability for managing activities that affect the Swan and Canning rivers. The draft legislation proposes to:

- restructure the Swan River Trust, increase community membership and strengthen the Trust's powers to manage the health of the rivers;
- establish the Swan Canning Riverpark, consisting of the waterways and adjacent Crown land reserves of the Swan, Canning, Helena and Southern rivers;
- provide for the establishment of environmental and related targets for the ecological and community benefits and amenity of the rivers;
- require other agencies to have due regard for protection of the rivers in the course of performing duties under their own legislation;
- provide for the establishment of partnership agreements for collaborative arrangements between State and local government and the community;
- provide for a river protection strategy to guide development of management programs and performance and management standards;
- vest the riverbed in the Trust to enable it to manage the waterways of the riverpark for ecological and community benefits;
- streamline controls on waterway and riverside development;
- coordinate management of activities in the catchment where these affect the health of the Swan and Canning rivers; and
- revise penalties to bring them in line with current policies.

The closing date for comment by key groups on the draft Bill was 29 April 2005, although several groups requested extensions to the end of May 2005. Since May, the Trust has been analysing more than 50 submissions to prepare a legislative proposal and timetable for consideration by the Minister for the Environment. A public comment period on the draft legislation will occur in July 2005. It is intended that the Minister for the Environment will introduce the Bill in the 2005 spring session of Parliament.

Feedback obtained so far on the principles contained in the draft Bill was generally positive and encouraging. However, questions were raised about how these principles, including River Protection Notices, might operate in a range of situations.

Work also progressed to define the boundaries and management arrangements for the establishment of the proposed riverpark².

Riverplan

Riverplan was released in August 2004 as the primary mechanism to implement the objectives of the *Environmental Protection (Swan and Canning Rivers) Policy 1988*. The Trust is responsible for the implementation of *Riverplan* under an agreement with the Environmental Protection Authority.

Riverplan was designed to set out the process and tasks needed to protect the environmental values of the rivers. Funding for implementation was increased through the State Government's additional funding boost in January 2004. *Riverplan* provides an overarching, comprehensive framework to guide the activities of all sectors of the community whose actions have the potential to influence the health of the Swan and Canning rivers.

² See Figure 9, inside back cover for this map.

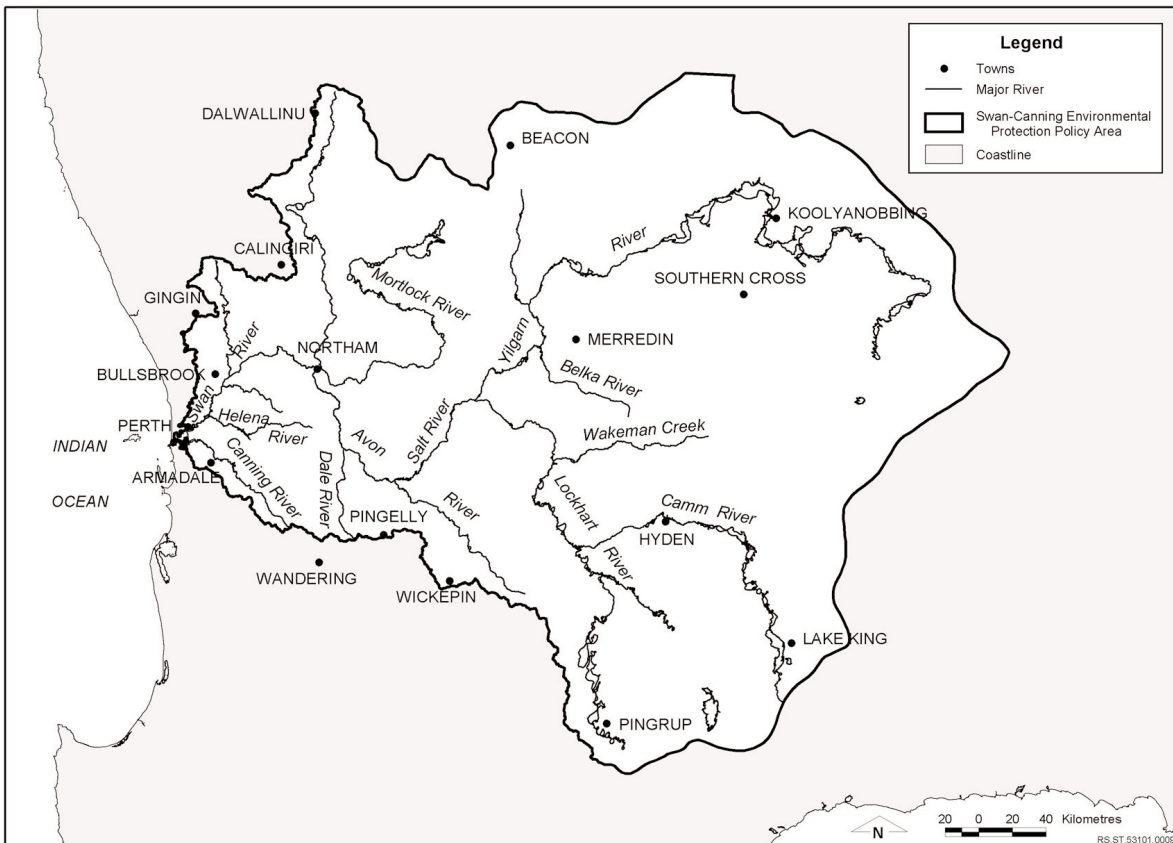


Figure 5. The Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill and Riverplan are designed to address environmental impacts throughout the Swan-Avon Catchment

Riverplan was developed in recognition of the need for a more coordinated approach to integrate the management efforts of all stakeholders in the catchment. Extensive public consultation was held during the draft phase of the strategy in the previous financial year. *Riverplan* is designed to be implemented through negotiation and agreement with agencies, organisations and individuals.

In its first year of implementing *Riverplan*, the Trust:

- initiated a pilot program with the Department of Environment and the City of South Perth to test methods of assessing what organisations are doing to protect the rivers;
- designed a database to store and access information gathered about the river management activities of other organisations; and
- completed a preliminary design of a process to assign and map key environmental values where they occur along the rivers.

The Trust will continue to roll out *Riverplan* in 2005-06 and engage the community in identifying important environmental values in their local area, to provide a meaningful tool for future planning and management of the rivers.

Information collected through *Riverplan* will become the starting point to identify gaps and future opportunities for action, and will feed into the proposed river protection strategy and the management plan for the new riverpark proposed under new legislation.

Protect and restore waterways and foreshores

The Trust's work related to the use and protection of the rivers and foreshores is conducted by the Waterways Management section.

Audit and enforcement

The Swan and Canning rivers are vulnerable to contamination from accidental and deliberate discharge of pollutants. To fulfil its statutory responsibility to protect the Management Area, the Trust maintains a rapid response capability to contain pollutants and, depending on the quantities and level of hazard, undertakes to clean up or help other agencies in accordance with its Pollution Response Plan. Trust inspectors are authorised under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* to investigate pollution incidents affecting the Management Area.

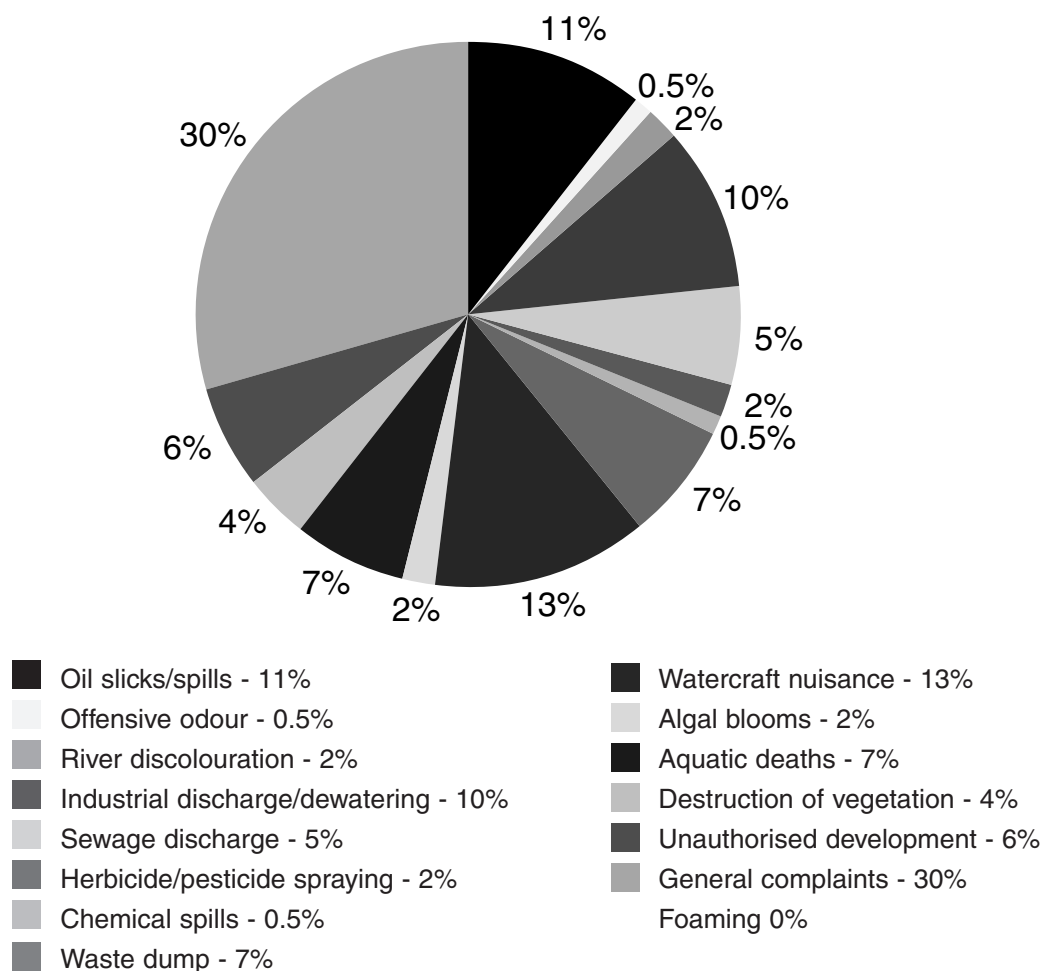


Figure 6. Reported complaints and incidents

Throughout the year, the Trust worked closely with the Environmental Enforcement Unit from the Department of Environment. Trust officers followed up 283 complaints, compared to 281 last year. There were 85 general complaints and 37 watercraft nuisance complaints. Sixty-four complaints were referred to other agencies.

In 2004-05, Trust officers attended 31 fuel or oil spill incidents. In all cases the spills were contained and removed quickly and efficiently, enabling the protection of the river environment.

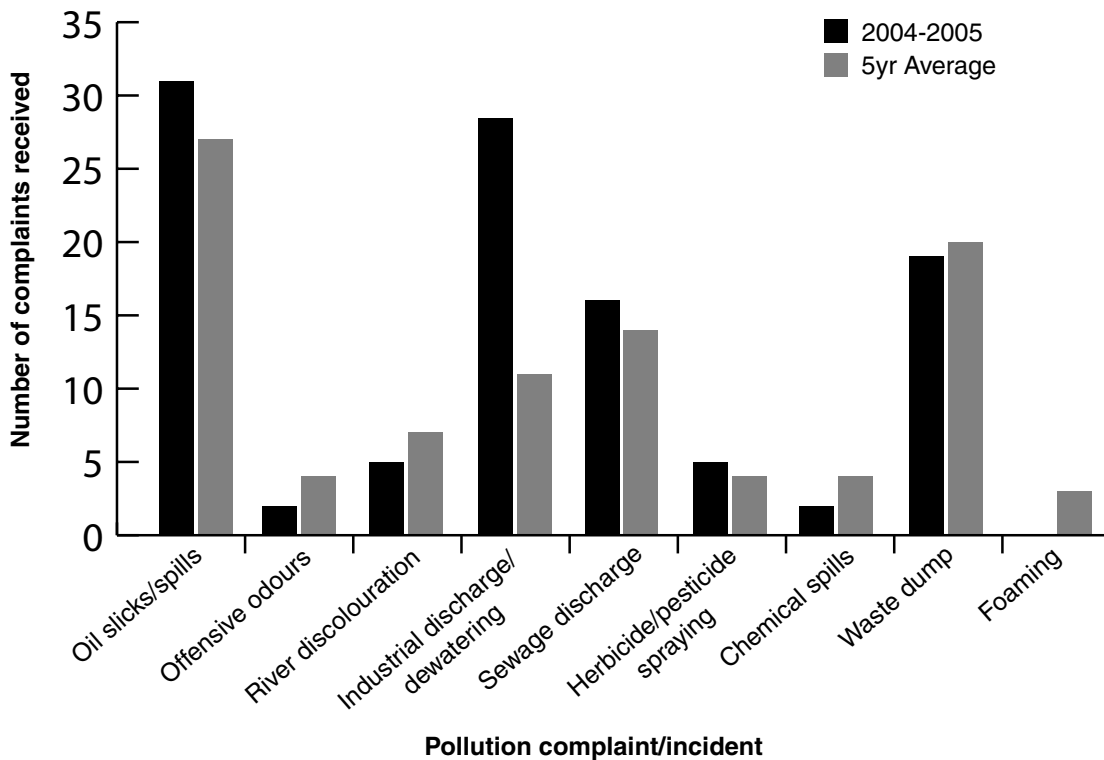


Figure 7. Pollution complaints and incidents by category compared to five-year average

There were several major river incidents this year that required action by the Waterways Management section.

Table 1. Major river incidents

Date	Location	Incident and estimated quantity	Cause	Environmental hazard assessment	Action
6 August	Swan River, Fremantle Traffic Bridge	Diesel spill - unknown volume, estimated to be several hundred litres	The source of the diesel was thought to be a nearby fuel supply system. However the final cause could not be determined due to historical hydrocarbon contamination on the foreshore reserve.	Diesel released into Swan River.	Investigation into the incident carried out by EEU with Trust officers' assistance. An ongoing clean up program of foreshore and groundwater is being conducted.

Date	Location	Incident and estimated quantity	Cause	Environmental hazard assessment	Action
16 October	Swan River, Caversham	Sewage spill estimated 2.5 million litres	External corrosion of section of submerged Water Corporation sewerage pipe causing premature ageing.	Untreated sewage discharged into Swan River.	Monitoring of site. Investigation conducted by the EEU with Trust officers' assistance. Accidental nature of incident prevented any charges being laid.
4 March	Swan River, Freshwater Bay	1 sunken boat, residual fuel	Vessel burnt and leaking fuel in Freshwater Bay.	Fuel and debris in water, contained via booms. Fuel in water burnt or evaporated. Fuel tank removed to minimise damage.	Removal and storage of 8.53 metre vessel Illawong.
20 April	Swan River, Coode Street, South Perth	Sewage spill estimated 250,000 litres	Contractors employed by the Water Corporation were carrying out upgrade works on a section of sewer.	Untreated sewage discharged into Swan River.	Monitoring of site. Investigation is currently being carried out by the EEU with Trust officers' assistance.
22 May	Swan River, McCallum Park, Victoria Park	Sewage spill estimated 300,000 litres	Still under investigation. Believed to be broken sewerage pipe, caused sewage to back up and flow into stormwater drain that fed into the Swan River.	Untreated sewage discharged into Swan River.	Monitoring of site. Investigation is currently being carried out by the EEU with Trust officers' assistance.

Pollution Response

The Swan River Trust has a Pollution Response Plan setting out the internal organisation of resources and operations to ensure minimum impact to the Swan and Canning rivers in the event of a pollution incident. The plan makes the Trust's resources available to large operations in State emergency response plans, and relays callers' messages to the Trust after hours emergency mobile telephone and pager.

The Trust worked with the departments of Environment, Health, Fisheries, and Conservation and Land Management, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Rottnest Island Authority and Environmental Protection Authority to plan and implement the new strategy for Management of Sewage Discharge from Vessels into the Marine Environment.

Compliance

Trust officers monitor, and where necessary act, to ensure compliance with provisions of specific laws, regulations and conditions of development approvals. The Trust has enforcement responsibilities under the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* and Regulations 1989 and by delegation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Development approvals generally have conditions that relate to activities the Trust needs to ensure are satisfactorily performed to protect river health and public amenity. Regular river inspection and enforcement activities ensured that these responsibilities were met as part of the Trust's overall responsibility for protection of the Management Area this year.

Legal actions

A Perth ferry company employee was prosecuted under Section 49(3) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for causing pollution. The case related to the release of an estimated 300 to 600 litres of diesel into the Swan River at Barrack Street Jetty on 17 September 2003. The man pleaded guilty in the Court of Petty Sessions on 9 February 2005 and was fined \$2500 plus costs. Further action is now being taken by the Trust to recover money spent in the response and clean up.

The Water Corporation and its contracted service provider Swan Water Services Pty Ltd appeared in the Court of Petty Sessions in June 2005 concerning alleged sewage spills on 29 May, 10 July and 14 November 2003 from the Bridge Street Pump Station in Guildford. The matter is listed for a hearing in 2006.

No charges were laid against the Water Corporation regarding a spill of an estimated 2.5 million litres of untreated sewage into the Swan River at Caversham on 16 October 2004, due to the accidental and unforeseeable nature of the incident. It was determined that an underground pipe was subject to external corrosion causing premature ageing.

Investigations are still being conducted regarding spills of untreated sewage into the Swan River next to Coode Street in South Perth on 24 April 2005, and McCallum Park in Victoria Park on 22 May 2005.

Maintaining riverbanks and foreshores

Tree vandalism is a major concern for the Trust. Trees remove nitrogen and phosphorus from the soil before it reaches the rivers and they help address erosion. People trying to access the foreshore for fishing, boating and water sports often damage trees and vegetation that animals use for habitat in the Management Area through carelessness. The Trust works to change these behaviours through environmental education initiatives.

Deliberate vandalism via poisoning, pruning or removal of trees to 'improve' aesthetic views damages animal habitat and foreshore health. The Trust's regulations protect all foreshore vegetation. Trust officers investigate complaints relating to illegal removal or damaging of trees and vegetation. During regular river inspections they take note of vegetation, including

photographic records of vegetation at high risk of vandalism. The Foreshore Condition Assessment team maps the vegetation in the Management Area.

The community places a high priority on ensuring the Swan and Canning rivers are well maintained and kept free of rubbish, debris and pollution. Each year the Trust maintains 45 river beaches, removes debris, completes foreshore protection works and responds to pollution incidents along 358 kilometres of foreshores on the Swan, Canning, Helena and Southern rivers. This year Trust officers were only able to complete core riverbank and foreshore maintenance due to additional logistical support required for environmental sampling and fish kill events.

Most rubbish, debris and pollution is the result of irresponsible human behaviour. Litter and debris accumulated on shorelines is a potential hazard to public safety and reduces shoreline amenity. Debris around pilings and bridge supports increases the risk of damage being caused during high river flows. Decaying weed and fish discarded by anglers produce offensive odours. Logs and objects in the waterway are a hazard to navigation or may be a source of pollutants.

Table 2. Summary of material removed from waterways and foreshores

Material collected	Units	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05
Domestic rubbish	Tonne	85	46	56	77	22	55.5	20.1
White goods	Each	7	6	10	3	8	5	1
Vehicles salvaged from river	Each	4	1	2	0	0	1	2
Tyres	Each	70	60	69	46	47	34	16
Drums assorted	Each	23	14	38	31	7	18	1
Display signs	Each	8	6	22	22	8	12	1
Syringes	Each	118	232	169	144	96	53	18
Derelict and abandoned boats	Each	1	1	3	7	0	9	3
Shopping trolleys	Each	92	81	64	92	51	45	69
Dead fish left by anglers	Tonne	10	7	5	4	4.5	2.2	5.8
Dead birds	Each	120	123	158	83	41	9	14
Dead animals	Each	6	4	11	7	3	0	1
Logs and timber from fallen trees	Tonne	150	109	101	121	53	85	34
Rotting weed removed from foreshores	Tonne	350	197	390	529	101	85	85
Sand renourishment of public beaches	Tonne	533	492	1 712	1 075	993	558	865
Rock renourishment to stop erosion	Tonne	109	38	414	74	11.5	430	2

Refurbishment, construction and repair works are required to minimise damage from storms, river flows, tides and the consequences of human activity, as well as to protect shoreline structures and amenities.

Beach cleaning and the removal of debris from waterways and foreshores is essential to maintaining enjoyment of the river. However, the Trust is unable to resource regular maintenance programs for this very large area, and attention is directed to priority areas. Trust officers regularly maintained 33 public beaches or foreshores and 146 kilometres of the total shoreline in 2004-05. The remaining 12 beaches were visited periodically with maintenance undertaken according to the resources available and the scale of the problem.

Trust officers also worked with local governments to identify and complete beach replenishment. Each year in spring, the Trust works to replenish eroded river beaches and level major beaches to remove gullies caused by stormwater discharge from the many drains and run-off. This year, 865 tonnes of beach sand was recycled from accumulation sites to restore eroded beaches.

Canning River maintenance

A summer weir is created on the Canning River by inserting stop boards. The Kent Street Weir allows residents with riparian rights to continue access to freshwater and protects the freshwater vegetation that has developed upstream. The weir also maintains a constant water level over summer providing a valuable waterbird refuge and a recreation facility for canoeing. Public access to the footbridge over the weir was stopped in January when a hole in the weir abutment was identified. Trust officers, on behalf of weir owner the Department of Environment, organised repairs to the abutment. They also removed and installed the stop boards and fittings as required.

Trust officers worked with the community, local and State government to provide new facilities to access the waterway and control erosion. These projects included the provision of two fishing platforms on the Canning River through the *Riverbank* Program, and the construction of a replacement finger jetty at Bull Creek.

Officers successfully identified and eradicated weeds in the fringes of the Canning River and its drainage system. During 2004-05, one outbreak of the noxious aquatic weed *Hydrocotyle* and two outbreaks of Parrot Feather occurred in the Trust's Management Area. The plants were sprayed before the infestations could spread and monitoring of these areas was continued throughout the year to enable early detection of any re-establishment.

Ron Courtney Island

The Trust is responsible for the management of Ron Courtney Island, located in the Swan River opposite Garvey Park in Redcliffe. Maintenance was carried out four times during the year, mowing to clear the open areas of weeds and removing undergrowth from around trees and reeds. Trust officers relocated hollow logs to the island to provide wildlife nesting opportunities. An ongoing program was also carried out to revegetate the island to replace plants lost to poor weather conditions and continuing vandalism.

Environmental management

The Swan River Trust implements a range of Natural Resource Management programs and projects that underpin its landcare ethic and address issues related to the health of the catchments and waterways. This work was significantly boosted by the State Government's \$15.55 million announcement in January 2004.

Swan-Canning Cleanup Program

The Trust established its flagship environmental management Swan-Canning Cleanup Program in 1994 to investigate nutrients entering and remaining in the river system. The \$17.5 million five-year Cleanup Program Action Plan was launched in 1999 to implement projects designed to address issues identified during the investigation phase, including the contribution of nutrients from urban areas in summer and rural areas in winter.



The Cleanup Program objectives are to:

- understand mechanisms that trigger algal blooms and control their growth;
- identify nutrient sources and ways to minimise these inputs;
- reduce frequency of occurrence of algal blooms;
- help maintain water quality now and in the future;
- help change land-uses, planning and development to reduce nutrient inputs; and
- inform and involve the community in the process.

These objectives are addressed through four Action Areas.

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.
4. Monitor river health, fill critical gaps in knowledge and report progress to the community.

The Trust continued to implement more than 20 projects in the Cleanup Program Action Plan this year. An evaluation earmarked to take place after five years of the Action Plan was undertaken to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of the overall program addressing action areas and individual projects. The evaluation identified key recommendations that the Trust will use to develop and establish future goals and objectives to be incorporated into the strategic direction of the next phase of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.

Evaluation

Oceanica Consulting in association with Market Equity was awarded a \$255,000 contract to undertake the evaluation. The evaluation process consisted of four stages:

- develop methodology;
- data collection, gathering and initial interpretation;
- evaluation forum with an external Expert Reference Panel; and
- final evaluation report.

The evaluation included interviews, group meetings and information gathering with Cleanup Program and Trust officers, Cleanup Program Taskforce members and selected stakeholders. Broad-scale general community and targeted surveys of Cleanup Program community development activities such as Heavenly Hectares, Property Planning, Great Gardens, Corporate Care Days and the Swan River Action Kit were conducted. An Evaluation Forum attended by a local, national and an international Expert Reference Panel was held in Perth from 6-8 December 2004, and included a full-day field trip of the Swan-Canning River System.

Preliminary feedback commended the Cleanup Program achievements, but notes the opportunity to address a number of key areas typical of many large-scale multi-disciplinary programs. The Final Evaluation Report will be received by the Swan River Trust at its July 2005 meeting. In 2005-06, the Trust will consult with key partners and the community on the Cleanup Program evaluation findings. A strategic plan and associated business plan will be developed throughout the next year, to form the basis of the new Cleanup Program Action Plan.

Priority Catchment Funding

Sub-regional Natural Resource Management groups underwent a comprehensive sub-regional planning process to develop plans that identify the outcomes to be delivered in return for Cleanup Program Priority Catchment Funding and Federal Government Natural Heritage Trust funding. These sub-regional NRM plans will form the basis of future Priority Catchment Funding Partnership Agreements with sub-regional NRM groups.

The Cleanup Program provided financial support for the employment of approximately seven officers to work with the four sub-regional NRM groups operating in the Swan-Canning catchments. These officers work in the Swan Region NRM Strategy and support the Integrated Water and Sustainable Production Regional delivery programs. Key areas include:

- nutrient reduction initiatives;
- implementation of waterway restoration projects; and
- assisting in the development and implementation of industry environmental awareness programs for small- to medium-sized businesses.

Partnership Agreements were established with the four sub-regions based on delivery of agreed outcomes from December 2004 to June 2005.

In 2005-06, a shared process for allocation and reporting on Cleanup Program Priority Catchment and NHT funding will be trialled. This will enable sub-regional groups to streamline their reporting processes, allow a more efficient use of resources and better delivery of environmental outcomes. The shift to Partnership Agreements based on sub-regional NRM plans will enable the Cleanup Program to better gauge the impact of the nutrient reduction activities in the Swan-Canning Catchment.

Swan Alcoa Landcare Program

The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program is the Cleanup Program's key delivery mechanism for community-led environmental restoration projects. SALP funding is available to community groups and local governments working in partnership with the community to undertake environmental restoration. This year, the Trust contributed \$350,000 and Alcoa World Alumina contributed \$200,000, enabling 44 community groups to implement approximately 100 projects in 2005.

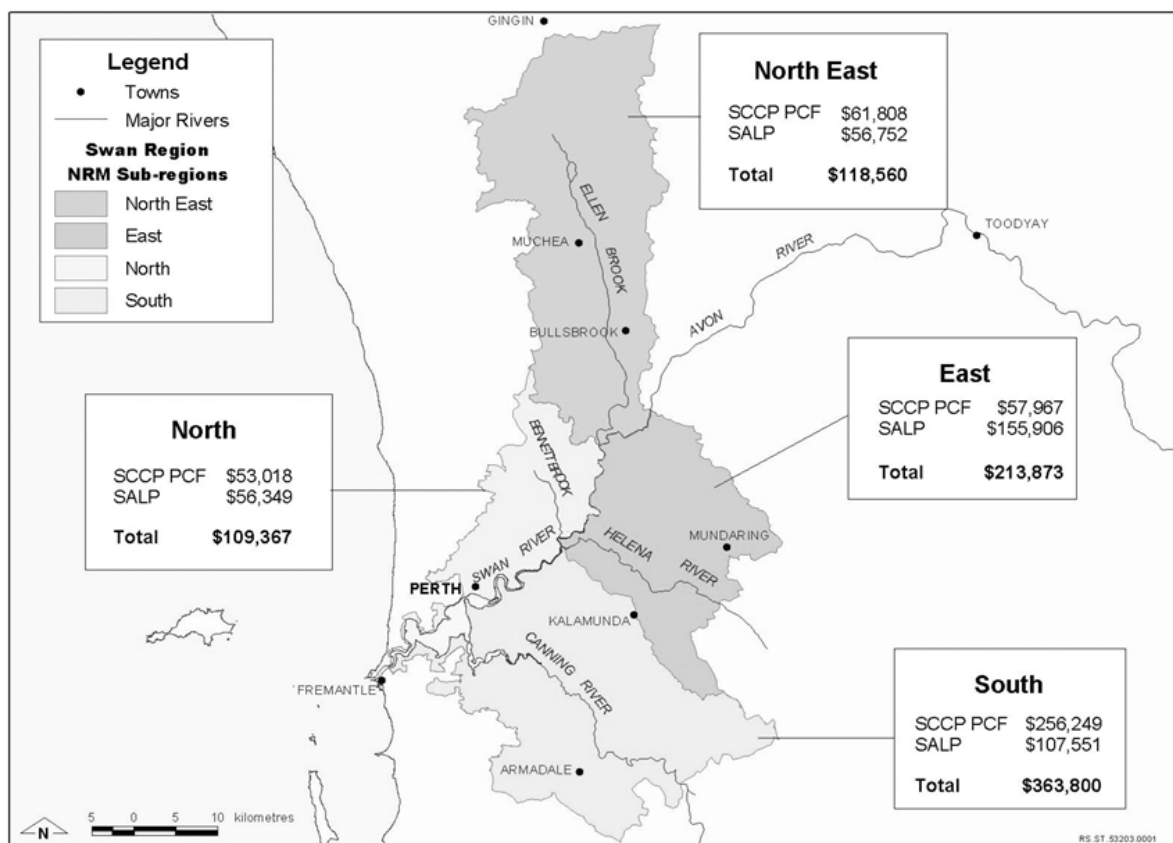


Figure 8. Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Priority Catchment Funding (SCCP PCF) and Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) funding in the Swan-Canning Catchment. SALP funding includes GST

The Swan Catchment Council administers SALP on behalf of the Trust and Alcoa. The Trust's contribution supports implementation of water related projects in the Swan-Canning Catchment such as native revegetation and fencing livestock from accessing waterways. During its seven years of implementation, SALP has enabled more than 500 projects valued at \$2.65 million to be implemented.

Coordination of the program was undertaken by a SALP Steering Committee, which included representatives from the Trust, Council and Alcoa. Community-based Sub-Regional Assessment Panels were formed to provide guidance on local priorities and help rank projects to develop the list of projects recommended for funding. Initial requests for 2005 funding totalled \$980,000, with partner contributions to these projects of \$1.94 million. Successful applicants received SALP cheques at a presentation ceremony at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club on 2 February 2005, which coincided with the launch of the 2006 SALP funding round.

Applications for the 2006 funding round were opened earlier than previous years to provide community groups with more time to prepare projects and avoid a clash with the busy winter planting season. Applications closed in May and initial requests totalled \$833,000 with partner contributions of \$1.8 million.

A reporting process was incorporated in the SALP Program in 2005 to help gauge its overall effectiveness. Assessment of these reports will take place in the future. The Trust revised SALP Funding Agreement with the Swan Catchment Council to guide implementation of the program into the future.

Indigenous Landcare Traineeship Program

As part of the State Government's \$15.55 million funding boost announced in January 2004 to protect the Swan and Canning rivers, the Trust began developing a new program to increase its support to community groups by providing Indigenous Landcare Traineeships in the Swan-Canning Catchment. It is anticipated that the benefits of this program will:

- provide the community with greater capacity to undertake on-ground restoration works in the catchments;
- help to create the critical linkages needed between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for protection and restoration of the Swan and Canning rivers; and
- increase the long-term employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Natural Resource Management.

In 2004-05, a Steering Committee was formed with representatives from the key partners including the Trust, Swan Catchment Council, Aboriginal Lands Trust, Peedac Pty Ltd,³ Department of Education and Training, and the Department of Indigenous Affairs. A draft Memorandum of Understanding was developed and the Trust approved establishment of the traineeships at its June 2005 meeting. In-principle contributions to the program were sourced and it is intended that this program will start in 2006.

Community development

This year, Cleanup Program community development initiatives were implemented through the Trust's first Strategic Communications Plan. Targeted initiatives used community based social marketing principles to engage the community in sustainable behaviour change in activities that contribute to protecting the rivers, foreshores and catchments.

Broadcast of the Trust's weekly Algae Activity Report continued on television, the Trust's website and was extended to *The West Australian* newspaper in February 2005. A Healthy Rivers television advertising campaign was run from September 2004 to January 2005. The Trust's support for the Gardening WA television show provided four segments featuring environmentally friendly gardening information and promotion of the Cleanup Program. Editorial content on Postcards WA included river friendly fishing and boating advice and an historic tour of the Swan River featured Indigenous sites commentary presented by a Senior Elder.

A continuous flow of Trust and Cleanup Program community information was distributed throughout the year in response to community requests as well as through participation at public activities and catchment group activities. The Cleanup Program Catchment Nutrient Reports were included on the Trust's new website when it went live in June 2005. A poster celebrating 10 years of Cleanup Program achievements was distributed with the RiverView newsletter autumn edition to more than 3000 stakeholders.

Trust officers promoted the Cleanup Program at a wide range of public events throughout the Swan-Canning Catchment. More than 200 people attended the annual Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Community Forum held at WA On Show in the Perth Entertainment Exhibition Centre in August 2004. The annual Cleanup Program Rivercare Day for the Catchments, Corridors and Coasts environmental education seminar was conducted at The University of Western Australia

³ Peedac Pty Ltd is an Indigenous-owned not-for-profit company operating the Community Development Employment Project in Perth, funded by the Commonwealth's Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. The company provides work for unemployed Indigenous people in community managed activities that assist the individual in acquiring skills which benefit the community, develop business enterprises and/or lead to unsubsidised employment.

and Royal Perth Yacht Club in January 2005. The children's interactive Drain Game was used at six events.

Trust officers conducted 14 Corporate Care Days with 215 corporate volunteers planting 20,000 native trees and sedges. A program brochure was printed in August 2004 and reprinted in May 2005.

Extensive market research was conducted as part of the Cleanup Program evaluation. A generic community survey and five program targeted surveys, including Corporate Care Days and Great Gardens workshops, were conducted by external consultants in 2004. Results showed a high community awareness of the Cleanup Program with overall high satisfaction of programs.

Twenty program contributions were made to the Environmental Education Advisory Committee's Environmental Education Programs Audit, with 30 per cent of those funded by the State Government receiving support from the Swan River Trust or Swan-Canning Cleanup Program. The Swan Catchment Centre contributed to the Sustainable Schools Initiative in WA.

Additional evaluation and benchmarking of community development programs focused on community based social marketing principles will take place next year, in line with a more integrated management structure for the delivery of community development and environmental education programs across the Swan-Canning and Swan-Avon catchments.

- ***Heavenly Hectares, Property Planning and field walks***

Implementing environmental best practices on small agricultural properties reduces the amount of nutrients entering the Swan-Canning River System. More than 1000 people attended 20 free Heavenly Hectares seminars, 18 Property Planning workshops and eight topic-specific skill development field walks in the shires of Chittering, Mundaring, Kalamunda, Canning and Gosnells and cities of Swan and Armadale. Eighty per cent of Heavenly Hectares participants were new to the Cleanup Program this year. Holistic training was provided on environmental sustainable land management principles and practices including pasture management, weed control, tree planting, fencing techniques, bush management, soil erosion, chemical use and animal husbandry.

The project raised awareness through Heavenly Hectares, followed by knowledge development at Property Planning, and skills development at field walks leading to the adoption of appropriate strategies and access to support services. More than 60 per cent of Heavenly Hectares participants indicated they had increased ability to adopt best practice strategies as a result of attending a seminar, and this increased as participants attended the second and third sections of the project. Since the initiative was started in 1999, more than 20 per cent of the projected catchment population has been reached, managing more than 30,000 hectares.

- ***Great Gardens***

Free Great Gardens workshops were supported throughout the Swan-Canning Catchment as part of the Trust's urban garden strategy, which benefited from the State Government's funding boost in January 2004. The spring 2004 series engaged 1500 participants at 18 workshops, and a further 1130 participants attended the 14 autumn 2005 series. Since the first Great Gardens workshops in spring 2003, more than 7130 people have learned how to reduce nutrient and water leakage from their urban properties, identified as a major contributor of harmful nutrients to the river system, especially during summer.

The workshops promote sustainable gardening technologies and foster partnerships in the community. They have been directly responsible for increased marketing to help keep our rivers healthy and for the Cleanup Program. In 2004-05, Great Gardens workshops were held in 16 local government municipalities, involving 22 industry contributors and 17 community conservation groups and programs. The Trust conducted a public tender process and Landcare Solutions was appointed to provide two seasonal series of workshops per year, however funding needs to be sourced for the workshops to continue next year.

- ***Phosphorus Action Group***

The Phosphorus Action Group is supported through the Cleanup Program Priority Catchment Funding and Community Development projects. This support enabled the group to expand the distribution of river and environmental information to a wider community base. The Trust and the Cleanup Program were represented at 40 primary and secondary schools reaching 2700 students, 61 public events and displays, and nine presentations. Participation provided community education on sustainable behaviours that everyone could apply in their own homes, backyards and places of work to help keep our rivers healthy. The group used Cleanup Program funding to purchase a trailer to transport equipment and display material.

A new Grow Local Plant brochure series was completed and distributed to complement the popular Fertilise Wise brochure series. Nursery and garden industry environmental best management practice information sheets were developed and distributed throughout WA. Newsletters were sent to schools south of the Swan River and a new Clean Drains River Gains stormwater campaign was launched. A school planting program was established in June 2005, resulting in 8000 plants being planted by students at rehabilitation sites or on their school grounds. A community and local government survey was conducted to promote behaviour change towards nutrient use.

- ***Swan Catchment Centre***

Cleanup Program officers based at the Swan Catchment Centre in Midland coordinated Natural Resource Management support for community groups, and coordinated and delivered community education programs in the Swan Region. Strategic support was provided to sub-regional groups as they moved to the new sub-regional structure to comply with the Swan Region NRM Strategy. Training was provided for Cleanup Program and Natural Heritage Trust officers throughout the region.

Seven learning circles were delivered as part of the Swan River Action Kit, which was updated during the year. Twenty-eight presentations were given to community, gardening and service groups. The Cleanup Program and Natural Heritage Trust funded the Skills for Nature Conservation training program, delivered through the Swan Catchment Centre with project partners Greening Australia⁴ and Ecoplan.⁵

Workshops provided through the centre's community education and training program focused on capacity building in NRM issues such as acid sulfate soils, groundwater, cross-cultural awareness, and river restoration. A review of the Swan River Community Action Program was started and recommendations will be developed in 2005-06. Work started on developing a strategic and operational plan for the Swan Catchment Centre's Regional Education Unit.

⁴ Greening Australia (WA) is part of a national federation committed to working on-ground and strategically to tackle environmental issues, and provide vegetation management and environmental education.

⁵ Ecoplan is a Department of Conservation and Land Management program.

- ***Swan Region Ribbons of Blue***

The Cleanup Program supported the Swan Region Ribbons of Blue program to deliver environmental education to 170 community groups and schools to raise awareness and understanding, develop skills, and promote behaviour change through water quality monitoring. Ribbons of Blue coordinators addressed water quality issues including the need to reduce nutrients in local waterways, wetlands, groundwater and stormwater.

Education was delivered through water quality monitoring, displays, community workshops, educator professional development, newsletters, and environmental art competitions. Highlights this year included the National Macro-invertebrate Snapshot Event in September 2004 and schools Saltwatch Bus Tour through the upper Swan and lower Avon catchments in June 2005. Local collaborative action projects included involvement in the Dog Swamp Improvement Plan and Canning Vale College Living Stream project.

This year, the project underwent a shift in strategic direction due to stakeholder needs, the Swan Region Natural Resource Management Strategy and the establishment of the Integrated Water Management Regional Delivery Program supported by the sub-regional groups. Skills training, equipment use and servicing, data management and monitoring program design is now provided by the Integrated Water Management Regional Delivery Program working closely with the Department of Environment's Aquatic Science Branch. Ribbons of Blue will continue to meet Cleanup Program objectives by providing educational opportunities for schools and the community.

Working with local governments

A strong network of Natural Resource Management operators has been established in the Swan Region during the past four years through the Cleanup Program's Local Government Natural Resource Policy Development Project. The project is delivered through the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council and operates throughout 13 local governments in the Swan-Canning Catchment with partners including the Trust, Department of Environment, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, West Australian Local Government Association, Swan Catchment Council and NRM sub-regions. This year the project continued to develop best management practice policies and guidelines to help local government in sustainable NRM and inform State Government policy through areas such as the Stormwater Management Manual development.

Cleanup Program evaluation indicated the Local Government NRM Manual had increased awareness of NRM issues and that the manual was used by local government and other agency officers. The manual was updated to more accurately reflect the current context, new developments and initiatives, as well as to incorporate the Landscaping with Local Plants Policy and Guidelines. Drafts were completed for:

- Foreshore Management Policy and Guidelines;
- Waste Management Guidelines; and
- Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

Discussion about NRM issues was encouraged between local governments, with forums held on the Draft Water Resources State Planning Policy and the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill. A Project Reference Group was established in May 2005 and recommended development of an engagement strategy to identify ways to increase local government and staff

commitment to implementing sustainable NRM. The challenge is to move from providing best management practice information to local governments to engage and implement sustainable NRM through capacity building programs and joint projects.

Industrial land use

Healthy land is needed for healthy rivers. During the year, the Department of Environment's Water Source Protection Branch helped provide guidance documents that encouraged land users to conduct their activities without contributing to environmental harm. Officers provided advice to the Cleanup Program on the impacts of land use, environmentally acceptable waste management and disposal, and potential impacts of contaminants on water bodies by:

- launching, reviewing and updating the internet-based Environmental Management and Cleaner Production Directory for Small and Medium Businesses;
- defining typical nutrient loadings for a range of land uses; and
- reviewing the Local Government NRM Manual.

Staffing and restructure changes resulted in little implementation of the Swan-Canning Industry Project this year, although some progress was made on the Green Stamp dry cleaners section. It is anticipated this project will be back on track in 2005-06.

Canning River and tributaries

Development of environmental water provisions to improve Canning, Southern and Wungong river flows, water quality, habitat diversity and reduce the frequency of algal blooms continued in 2004-05. Eight temporary gauging stations were installed below the drinking water supply dams in September 2004 in line with a recommendation in the *Caring for the Canning Management Plan 2002*.

Data was collected throughout the year to model flows in order to determine the ecological water requirements of the river to be considered when developing the provisions. Community and stakeholder awareness was raised via a bus trip, newsletters and local shows. Landholder values were sought in June through a survey of economic and social values of people living in the Birrega Drain area. The Birrega Drain intercepts the Wungong River, which is a tributary of the Canning River, and results in an inter-catchment transfer of water, reducing the amount of flow in the Wungong River. Results from the survey will be incorporated into an issues paper next year. Chlorine concentrations and effects were also investigated and a report was drafted, and key stakeholders met to discuss the future of the Kent Street Weir.

The Cleanup Program, Department of Environment and Natural Heritage Trust fund the environmental water provisions project. It addresses the Cleanup Program objectives as well as the Swan Regional NRM Strategy target to develop environmental water provisions for 50 per cent of priority water resource assets by 2009, and the Council of Australian Governments' commitment to develop such provisions for regulated river systems. The project was managed by a coordinator with assistance from the Canning River Environmental Flows Technical Working Group and a community based Steering Committee.

Problems with the Kent Street Weir southern abutment impacted on the project resources early in 2005, but repair works were completed in June. Next year, data will be modelled to help determine flows required to meet ecological river system objectives.

Nutrient intervention technologies

The other three Cleanup Program projects designed to modify river conditions to reduce algal blooms in the Canning River – Oxygenation, Sediment Remediation and Mills Street Main Drain Phoslock™ dosing, funded by the Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program – were combined to form Nutrient Intervention Technologies this year. Control of the project remained the responsibility of the Department of Environment Aquatic Science Branch. The project:

- provided support to the Canning River Environmental Flows Technical Working Group, including placement of two dissolved oxygen loggers in the Canning River at Gosnells;
- operated oxygenation plants on the Canning River while the Kent Street Weir boards were in place from October 2004 to May 2005, and monitored the weir pool;
- conducted field work for trials with macrophytes in the Kent Street Weir Pool and aquarium trials from November 2004 to April 2005;
- provided support to the Brookdale Technical Working Group; and
- sampled for (and found) residual Phoslock™ in the Kent Street Weir Pool.

The Cleanup Program's environmental monitoring and reporting progress project is outlined in the Collect water information section of this report on page 20.

Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program

The Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program implements on-ground works throughout the Swan-Canning Drainage System to improve water quality before it is delivered to the Swan and Canning rivers. Habitat and aesthetic values are often improved in the process. The program was established as part of the Cleanup Program last year with a one-off State Government allocation of \$750,000. This was boosted to \$4 million over four years as part of the January 2004 funding announcement. Staff from the Swan River Trust and Department of Environment's Aquatic Science Branch and Swan-Goldfields Agricultural Region support the program.

Initial DNIP efforts focused on the Canning Plain Catchment, particularly upstream of the Kent Street Weir. Works were undertaken in partnership with local government authorities, the drainage service provider and NRM groups. Over the past two years, the main project has been the construction of the Liege Street Wetland in Cannington. This year, project partners the Trust, City of Canning, the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare, the Two Rivers Catchment Group, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Water Corporation, endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding for the long-term management of the wetland. Stage one including earthworks and planting of the wetland was completed this year and the second phase of planting is now being undertaken. The Premier, Minister for the Environment and City of Canning Mayor joined project partners and community members to celebrate the 50,000th tree being planted in November 2004. Extensive monitoring of the wetland to evaluate its effectiveness was started. The monitoring includes sampling and analysis of surface water, groundwater, sediment, macro-invertebrates, macrophytes, periphyton and flows.

This year, the program funded dosing of the Mills Street Main Drain with five tonnes of the phosphorus-binding clay substance Phoslock™ from December 2004 to April 2005. It was the second year this technology was used in drains flowing into the Canning River instead of in the river. Funding was provided to review potential nutrient intervention technologies.

Results from a stakeholder workshop helped prioritise sites for drainage improvement works in the Canning Plain Catchment. Restoration designs were completed for compensating basins at high priority sites at Anvil Way in Welshpool and Bickley Road in Beckenham. Earthworks and revegetation activities are planned to start at these sites in spring 2005.

Program funding was allocated for:

- restoration of the Wilson and Tom Bateman wetlands;
- Claise Brook Catchment Group to negotiate drainage improvement works in the Mounts Bay, Claise Brook and Central Business District drains;
- Town of Vincent for restoration of Smiths Lake in Claise Brook Catchment in consultation with the Claise Brook Catchment Group;
- Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group for fencing and revegetation works in the Ellen Brook Catchment; and
- Two Rivers Catchment Group for its Woodlupine Living Stream project in the Yule Brook Catchment.

The program funded snapshot sampling of drainage water and sediment throughout the Two Rivers Catchment, with the aim to further develop understanding of nutrient and contaminant hot spots. The program continued to provide funding for monitoring of groundwater throughout the Mills Street Catchment, including installation and monitoring of additional shallow bores close to the Wilson Wetland.

The program continued to support the development of the Department of Environment's Stormwater Management Manual by participating on the Working Group, various sub-teams and funding development of some chapters of the manual.

Foreshore Protection and Rehabilitation Program

The Foreshore Protection and Rehabilitation Program includes the *Riverbank* Program and Foreshore Assessment Project. The *Riverbank* Program provides funds to local and State Government agencies to complete foreshore restoration and protection works. The Foreshore Assessment Project supports the Swan Region NRM Strategy and provides a strategic planning component to ensure *Riverbank* and other Trust resources are effectively targeted to priority areas.

Riverbank Program

Since January 2002, the Trust, through its *Riverbank* Program, has worked with local and State Government agencies in its Management Area to initiate foreshore restoration and protection projects. Projects are based on partnership arrangements and seek to involve community participation. In 2004-05, the budget for the *Riverbank* Program was increased from \$125,000 per year to \$1 million per year for four years.

Funding was available for a wide range of activities in the Trust's Management Area that addressed:

- protection, enhancement and management of fringing indigenous vegetation and habitat to enhance the ecosystem structure and function of the foreshore; and
- protection and enhancement of riverbanks to mitigate erosion which threatens the environmental and recreational, aesthetic or cultural values of the foreshore.

Projects were considered that sought to provide remedial solutions to threatening processes or degraded areas or trial innovative approaches to sustainable foreshore management.

A strong response to the program from local governments and other eligible land managers resulted in 27 projects totalling more than \$600,000. The Minister for the Environment announced the first round of projects in December 2004 on the Canning River foreshore in Shelley, where one of two new fishing platforms funded by the *Riverbank* Program in partnership with the City of Canning and the local community was officially opened. The platforms were funded in 2003-04 and are part of a trial to protect foreshore vegetation in an area of high recreational fishing. The second round of projects was approved in this financial year and announced by the Minister in July 2005.

The development of the Tranby Restoration Project in partnership with the City of Bayswater is a priority project for the *Riverbank* Program. This year, Syrinx Environmental was appointed to develop a Tranby Foreshore Restoration Plan, and a Project Management Group was established. Pending community consultation, Council endorsement, Trust development approval and Ministerial endorsement, it is anticipated that stage one site works will commence in late 2006 with joint Council and Trust support.

Foreshore rehabilitation was initiated by the Trust in the Canning River Regional Park, near the Greenfield Street Bridge. Urgent action was required to control weeds and provide habitat for local fauna after an extensive fire in early 2005. The Trust worked in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Canning River Regional Park Volunteers and South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare to undertake extensive weed control works and plant 4000 local native sedges. Additional work will take place next year.

The Trust has strengthened partnerships with local governments and other State Government agencies through the program, and increased their participation in foreshore restoration. Local government's participation and contribution is expected to increase in future years as the program is able to build in works planning and annual budgets.

The *Riverbank* program will enable the Trust to trial and improve best management techniques for foreshore restoration works and erosion control and refine techniques to suit conditions in the Swan and Canning rivers. The Trust will continue to develop new projects for foreshore protection activities and emergency works in priority areas as identified by the Foreshore Assessment Project.

Table 3. Riverbank Projects

Riverbank project applicants and locations	Approximate extent of project	Funding (excluding GST) \$
Town of Mosman Park The Coombe	60m riverwall and revetment repairs and aesthetic enhancement	10,164
Department of Environment Kent Street Weir, Wilson	12m ² revegetation and 5m ² weir abutment repairs	88,000
City of Canning Prisoners Point, Shelley	140m ² river sand replacement, coir logs installation, erosion control matting and native vegetation	6,065
Western Australian Planning Commission Canning River, Beckenham	700m protection and rehabilitation of riparian vegetation, and creation of a foreshore management plan	36,670
City of Belmont Goodwood Parade boat ramp stage one	120m rock revetment and revegetation designs	7,895
Town of Vincent Banks Reserve stage one	100m foreshore Acid Sulfate Soil/contaminated soil investigation	58,907
Town of Claremont Freshwater Bay foreshore	300m foreshore kikuyu weed control, revegetation and enhancement	10,672
Swan River Trust Canning River Regional Park Near Greenfield Street Bridge, Ferndale	200m foreshore weed control and revegetation after fire	16,530
Department of Conservation and Land Management Canning River Regional Park, Cannington	450m riverbank stabilisation and habitat enhancement	11,000
City of Melville Canning River foreshore, Mount Pleasant	350m foreshore rock revetment construction and revegetation	91,530
City of Subiaco JH Abrahams Reserve, Crawley	200m river wall and footpath repair, erosion control of drain outlet	35,555
City of Bayswater Hinds Reserve and Riverside Gardens, Bayswater	650m foreshore weed control and revegetation along Swan River foreshore	68,005
Town of East Fremantle Riverside Road carpark, East Fremantle	60m riverwall reconstruction, revegetation and path construction	36,000
Bicton Environmental Action Group in partnership with City of Melville Blackwall Reach, Bicton	1000m sedge planting and weed control	6,273
Canning River Residents Environmental Protection Association in partnership with City of Canning Beatrice Avenue foreshore, Shelley	100m ² habitat enhancement around popular waterbird resting site	755
Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group in partnership with City of Gosnells Jacqueline Drive foreshore, Thornlie	8890m ² rehabilitation of riparian zone	4,936

Riverbank project applicants and locations	Approximate extent of project	Funding (excluding GST) \$
Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group in partnership with City of Armadale Agostino Road, Kelmscott	3030m ² rehabilitation of a degraded section of foreshore along the Canning River	3,323
Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group in partnership with City of Gosnells Corriedale Place, Thornlie	3760m ² weed control and revegetation around a permanent spring and surrounding foreshore	2,961
Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group in partnership with City of Armadale Fancote Park, Kelmscott	2760m ² stabilisation of riverbanks to rehabilitate a degraded waterway	6,469
Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group in partnership with City of Gosnells Huntingdale foreshore, Huntingdale	3030m ² rehabilitation and revegetation of a degraded section of the Southern River	3,155
Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group in partnership with City of Gosnells John Oakey Davis Park, Gosnells	6150m ² rehabilitation of riparian vegetation	7,104
Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group in partnership with City of Armadale Kelmscott Primary School, Kelmscott	1750m ² creation of fish and frog breeding habitat	1,875
Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group in partnership with City of Armadale Roley Pools, Roleystone	2500m ² rehabilitation of the Roley Pools foreshore	3,338
Armadale-Gosnells Landcare Group in partnership with City of Gosnells Royal Street foreshore, Thornlie	4560m ² rehabilitation of riparian zone	3,218
Friends of Attadale Foreshore Inc in partnership with Department of Conservation and Land Management Burke Drive foreshore, Attadale	600m rehabilitation of important migratory bird habitat at Attadale foreshore	4,773
City of Canning Wilson Park next to Kent Street Weir, Wilson	150m erosion control and revegetation	52,800
City of Gosnells Pioneer Park, Gosnells	12,000m ² installation of boardwalk and revegetation along the Canning River	34,900
	Sub total	612,873
Project approved for 2004-05 funding from 2003-04 carryover		
City of Bayswater Tranby Foreshore Stage One	600m restoration plan development	25,000
	Sub total	25,000
Total		637,873

Foreshore Assessment Project

The Foreshore Assessment Project provides a thorough knowledge of the physical and ecological condition of foreshores in the Trust's Management Area. This enables the Trust to achieve its strategic objectives including *Riverbank* funding allocation and prioritisation, implementation of *Riverplan*, and will contribute to the Swan Region Strategy for NRM objectives. The Foreshore Assessment Project is a partnership with the Swan Catchment Council, which administers Natural Heritage Trust funding for the project. The project aims to enhance the ecological, cultural and landscape values of the foreshores through strategic management. This includes development of decision support tools to enable appropriate planning and development, target resources to priority areas or issues and to contribute to the development of best foreshore management practice.

This year, Trust officers developed and finalised physical and ecological assessment methodology that is scientifically rigorous and relevant to the Swan-Canning landscape. The project was based on a Pressure-State-Response Model and addresses the state of the foreshores in the Trust's Management Area and the pressure of human activities. A range of methodologies were used, including:

- literature reviews of historical information and past research;
- consultation with land managers such as State and local government agencies, and community groups active in the Management Area;
- desktop assessments of existing physical and ecological data, including spatial data on current land use; and
- field assessments for the Management Area based on a range of spatial scales, capturing layers of information relating to physical hydrodynamic processes and ecological attributes.

Information from the riparian zone throughout the Trust's Management Area and private property next to the river was geographically referenced and collected at a range of spatial scales to enable local and regional assessment. Officers completed data collection for physical assessment of the Management Area to Perth, including Melville and Perth waters. This included assessment of hydrodynamic estuarine processes, vulnerability of the shoreline to erosion, and state of infrastructure. Vegetation assessment was piloted and started in the Fremantle area, collecting information on the structure and condition of vegetation, including presence of invasive weed species and current management input.

Next year it is planned physical and ecological assessment will be completed for the Trust's Management Area. The information collected will define land use management, social and biophysical assets and threatening processes. This will inform appropriate management responses based on a sound understanding of foreshore condition.

Research and collaboration with Murdoch University was undertaken through the support of an Honours project conducted by a Trust officer and a graduate work placement with the Trust.

A Swan River Trust Regional Herbarium was established in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Land Management's WA Herbarium. The Trust herbarium contains more than 300 specimens collected from the Trust's Management Area.

Acid Sulfate Soils

The Trust is concerned about the prevalence of acid sulfate soils in parts of the Swan-Canning Catchment. These are naturally occurring soils that contain iron sulfide minerals that generate acid when exposed to oxygen. The soils are benign in their natural wet state, but if they are drained or excavated and the soil is exposed to air, the sulfide minerals react with oxygen from the air to form sulfuric acid. The Trust's Environmental Management section continued to work with the Department of Environment, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, City of Bayswater and Alinta Network Services to project manage acid sulfate soils at Baigup Wetland Reserve. Work on a management plan will continue next year.

Development proposals received by the Trust that are in potential or known acid sulfate soil locations are required to conduct tests before the Trust will consider the application and establish an acid soils management plan if acid sulfate soils were found.

Communications

The communications section keeps stakeholders informed of the issues facing the Swan and Canning rivers. It increases community understanding, and raises community awareness through the provision of environmental education and opportunities for community involvement in activities that lead to sustained behaviour change for the protection of the rivers.

The section conducts annual market research and delivers strategic communications planning services across the Trust. It implements Swan-Canning Cleanup Program community development initiatives and stakeholder communications through the implementation of the Trust's annual Strategic Communications Plan. This included the delivery of communications across issues management, strategic relations, corporate identity, stakeholder communications, community development, corporate culture and evaluation framework.

The communications section dealt with media, updated stakeholders and supported other sections of the Trust during major river incidents such as algal blooms, fish kill events and sewage spills. Stakeholder management included Trust hearings about development applicants, local government interaction through site tours and briefings held on complex issues.

The Trust extended its influence this year through participation at public events throughout the Swan-Canning Catchment, strengthening relationships and enhancing the Trust's credibility in the wider community. Events included manning a new corporate display in the sustainability section of the five-day WA on Show exhibition attended by 188,000 people, supporting free workshops as part of the landcare experience at the Perth Royal Agricultural Society Show, and hosting a site during Cleanup Australia Day on the banks of the Swan River in Melville. The Trust's public profile and key program messages were reinforced through a streamlined sponsorship program, including the Autumn River Festival in April, and through attendance at State conferences for the National Environmental Law Association, Waste and Recycle, and Nursery and Gardening Industry Association.

The Trust held four Ministerial events this year:

- Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Annual Community Forum, launch of the final *Riverplan* document and 10th birthday celebrations, August 2004;
- Liege Street Wetland Community Open Day attended by the Minister and Premier, November 2004;
- *Riverbank* Program funding announcement and project opening, December 2004; and
- launch of the Scum Book field guide, April 2005.

The Trust released 48 media statements⁶ this year and gained extensive media coverage on a wide range of issues including the health of the rivers, foreshores and catchments, development, major river incidents and community development opportunities. Three editions of the Trust's newsletter *RiverView* were distributed to more than 3000 stakeholders, and the popular Swan and Canning Rivers Boating Guide was reprinted in partnership with the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. More than 250 requests for publications and Trust information were processed, and the newly designed website went live in June 2005.

The Trust contributed communications planning and implementation to the new Strategy for Management of Sewage Discharge from Vessels into the Marine Environment in October 2004. It worked with the departments of Conservation and Land Management, Environment, Fisheries and Health, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Rottnest Island Authority and Environmental Protection Authority.

No agency promotions, publications, information campaigns, speaking engagements, major contracts or advertising were conducted by the Trust during the Government Caretaker Conventions.

⁶ See Appendix.

Reporting Requirements

The Water and Rivers Commission provides the Trust with staff, facilities and corporate services under arrangements provided 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 2004-05.

Conflict of interest

The 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 be disclosed, if known. Where a person possesses an interest, 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 13 items.

Freedom of information

Under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, there were three requests this year. All requests cost \$30 and were about the sewage spill at Caversham in October 2004. A request received in October from a company was withdrawn, edited access was provided to a media organisation in December, and the third request from a company received in June was under consideration with a decision pending at the end of the financial year.

Record-keeping

The Department of Environment provides record-keeping services for the Trust. The department developed a record-keeping practices program for staff, and a record-keeping practices module was incorporated into the department's induction system. A comprehensive package of in-house material was developed to help staff in the use of the department's records management system and augment existing training programs.

The Trust will implement staff training next year, as part of record-keeping changes when the Department of Environment moves to a new location and the Trust takes on part of its own record-keeping practices. A draft record-keeping plan for the Trust has been submitted to the State Records Office.

Advertising and marketing

Expenditure incurred by the Trust in 2004-05 in relation to Section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*.

Table 4. Advertising and marketing expenditure

Class of expenditure	Supplier	Expenditure \$
Electronic advertising agencies	Media Decisions	24,197.27
	Garden Gurus	20,400.00
Print advertising agency	Marketforce	7,235.37
Advertising production agency	Crimson Sky	2,850.00
Market research agencies	Research Solutions	6,800.00
Total		61,482.64

Public comment

The Trust encouraged public discussion on a wide range of issues throughout the year via extensive media coverage as well as advertising. It sought public opinion on six development applications and one regulation policy prior to assessment. This is separate to the consultation process for the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill noted in the Management Plans section of this report.

Table 5. Public comments received for development and regulation applications advertised in newspapers

Development	Letters	Emails via website	Petition/signatures	Total
Ascot Inn Redevelopment	72	10		82
Mends Street Jetty	58	42	1682	1782
Rocky Bay Access Steps				0
Point Fraser Redevelopment	1			1
Garvey Park Redevelopment				0
Royal Perth Yacht Club		3		3
Spectator and Entertainment Events	24	3		27
Total public comments received	155	58	1682	1895

Corporate Governance

Trust compliance, remuneration and attendance

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

Remuneration for the Trust includes an annual fee of \$26,800 for the chairman, and sitting fees for members of \$300 for half-day meetings and \$450 for full-day meetings.

There were 17 Trust meetings during 2004-05.

Table 6. Trust meeting attendance

Member	Number of Trust meetings attended	Maximum possible number of meetings
Dr Jane Chambers	13	13
Mr Cleve Flottmann	1	1
Mr Neil Foley	16	17
Mr Jim Freemantle	16	17
Dr Bruce Hamilton	4	5
Cr Pat Hart	17	17
Mr Steve Jenkins	11	16
Mr Charlie Welker	17	17
Col Rod Willox	15	17

Dr Bruce Hamilton was granted a leave of absence from 2 July 2004 to 21 January 2005.

Dr Jane Chambers was appointed a temporary member by Cabinet on 28 June 2005. Her first meeting was 6 September 2005. Mr Steve Jenkins replaced Mr Cleve Flottmann as the Department for Planning and Infrastructure representative from 7 July 2004.

On 31 January 2005, the Minister for the Environment approved the establishment of the Development and Regulation Committee to review reports and make recommendations prior to consideration by the full Trust. The Minister also approved renaming the Steering Committee for the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program as the Park and *Riverplan* Committee, and the renaming the Finance Committee as the Finance and Audit Committee to reflect the additional audit functions of the Committee.

Table 7. Development and Regulation Committee attendance

Member	Number of Development and Regulation Committee meetings attended	Maximum possible number of Development and Regulation Committee meetings attended
Mr Neil Foley	5	5
Cr Pat Hart	5	5
Mr Charlie Welker	5	5
Col Rod Willox	4	5

Table 8. Park and Riverplan Committee attendance
(formerly Swan-Canning Cleanup Program Steering Committee)

Member	Number of Park and Riverplan Committee meetings attended	Maximum possible number of Park and Riverplan Committee meetings attended
Mr Charlie Welker	4	4
Mr Jim Freemantle	4	4
Dr Jane Chambers	4	4
Cr Pat Hart	4	4
Dr Bruce Hamilton	1	2

Table 9. Finance and Audit Committee attendance (formerly Finance Committee)

Member	Number of Finance and Audit Committee meetings attended	Maximum possible number of Finance and Audit Committee meetings attended
Mr Charlie Welker	4	4
Col Rod Willox	4	4
Mr Jim Freemantle	3	4

Sustainability

The Trust complies with the State Government's Energy Smart Policy through a commitment by the Department of Environment. Information about energy consumption including waste paper recycling is available in the Department of Environment and Water and Rivers Commission Annual Reports 2004-05. The Trust supports the Department of Environment's internal greening the workplace initiatives TravelSmart and Eco-Office, and is represented on the Eco-Office Committee.

The Trust supported the Department of Environment's draft Sustainability Action Plan 2005-07 submitted in December 2004. This was in line with the Government's Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies and the Resource Guide for Implementation. The draft action

plan emphasises the fundamental sustainability character of the legislation administered by the department. It supports the department's vision for a healthy environment and sustainable use of water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The department and Trust's work is principally about protection and management of the State's environment and natural resources for the long-term benefit of the community.

The Trust supported the Swan Region NRM Strategy accredited this year.

Strategic plan

The Trust's Strategic Plan 1999-2000 remained relevant and continued to be applied in 2004-05. A new Strategic Plan is being developed in 2005-06.

Internal audit

The Trust relies on the internal audit of the Department of Environment and 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's assets are valued at \$1,946,428. The Trust complied with Treasurer's Instructions, carried out a stocktake, undertook capital asset planning and asset revaluation at market value, and complied with relevant accounting standards to ensure effective management of assets.

Risk management

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

Performance monitoring and reporting

Trust officers provide written monthly reports on activities and financial statements to the Trust and its committees. 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 Section 66 (1) of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* the 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

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. They are regularly reminded of its application. The code is comprehensive and covers a wide range of issues. These include corporate and individual responsibilities, confidentiality and security, occupational safety and health, conflict arising in the course of employment, equal opportunity, dealing with discrimination, paid and unpaid activities, industrial and political participation, corruption and discipline.

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. There were no Ministerial directions this year.

Industrial agreements

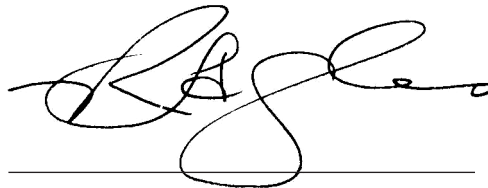
Trust officers are provided by the Water and Rivers Commission and are subject to industrial agreements negotiated with the Commission. Executive remuneration is paid in accordance with public service conditions, and reflect the Water and Rivers Commission industrial agreements.

Workers' compensation statistics

As Trust officers are provided by the Water and Rivers Commission, workers' compensation statistics are included in the Water and Rivers Commission Annual Report 2004-05.



Charlie Welker
CHAIRMAN



Rod Hughes
GENERAL MANAGER

Service Measures

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

Provision of research and information for estuary and river restoration and management.

Table 10. Water information

	2003-2004 Actual	2004-2005 Target	2004-2005 Actual	Note
Quantity				
Number of R&D projects	3	3	3	
Area of waterway and catchment monitored km ²	1701	1701	1701	
Quality %				
Extent to which the monitoring network covers the waterway and catchment	80	80	80	
Reliability of monitoring information	95	95	95	
Per cent of project milestones met	95	95	95	
Level of community satisfaction with water cleanliness	54	54	53	
Timeliness				
Per cent waterway and catchment monitoring reports completed on time	95	95	95	
Projects completed on time	3	3	3	

Service 2: Regulate riverside development

Assess applications for development, planning schemes and policy.

Table 11. Development, planning scheme and policy applications

	2003-2004 Actual	2004-2005 Target	2004-2005 Actual	Note
Quantity				
Management area subject to development control policy and advice (km ²)	69	69	69	
Number of development applications assessed	212	N/A	223	
Quality %				
Ministerial acceptance of recommendations and conditions on development	99	95	91	(a)
Level of community satisfaction with land developments along the shoreline reflecting community expectations as a whole	73	73	73	
Timeliness				
Average number of days to process planning and development applications	66	80	72	(b)

Note

- (a) The increased levels of community involvement generated by posting Trust reports on the website before Ministerial determination resulted in an increase in Ministerial modification of conditions.
- (b) The introduction of advertising Trust recommendations on the website before Ministerial assessment resulted in an increased average time required to deal with applications by the Trust and Minister. The average time taken for development approvals includes the Ministerial decision making and consultation processes.

Service 3: Management plans

Preparation of management programs, often jointly with local government, for the management of the waterways and the management area. Includes catchment management plans.

Table 12. Preparation of management plans

	2003-2004 Actual	2004-2005 Target	2004-2005 Actual	Note
Quantity				
Production of management plans and strategies	1	3	3	
Quality %				
Stakeholder acceptance of management plans and strategies	66	70	72	
Level of community satisfaction with availability of public access to rivers and provision of sufficient facilities for community use	71	70	69	
Timeliness				
Plans prepared within timeframe	1	3	3	

Service 4: Protection of waterways and foreshores

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

Table 13. Waterway and foreshore quality and maintenance

	2003-2004 Actual	2004-2005 Target	2004-2005 Actual	Note
Quantity				
Length of foreshore subject to maintenance and restoration (km)	146	146	146	
Management area subject to waterway and foreshore protection (km ²)	69	69	69	
Area of the waterway and catchment impacting on water quality management (km ²)	2126	2126	2126	
Quality %				
Length of foreshore scheduled for maintenance and restoration as per cent of total foreshore	41	41	41	
Level of public satisfaction with the condition of the foreshores	64	65	60	
Per cent of sub-catchments within phosphorus input target	93	93	93	
Per cent of sub-catchments within nitrogen input target	100	100	100	
Timeliness				
Per cent of achievement of scheduled maintenance and restoration program completed on time %	90	80	80	(a)
Mean time taken to resolve complaints (days)	0.82	1.5	0.64	(b)
Per cent of water quality improvement projects achieving milestones on time %	93	93	91	

Notes

(a) The reduced achievement of scheduled maintenance and restoration was a result of reallocation of operational resources in response to algal blooms and fish kill events.

(b) The reduced mean time to resolve complaints was a result of additional resources.



AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

SWAN RIVER TRUST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

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 30 June 2005.

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.

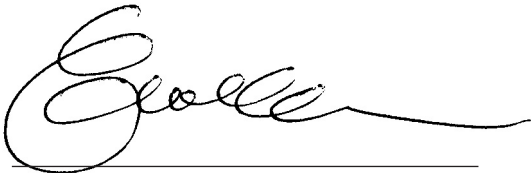
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D D R Pearson'.

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
17 October 2005

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 2005.



Charlie Welker
CHAIRMAN
12 August 2005



Rod Willox
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
12 August 2005

Key Effectiveness Indicator 1

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

The Effectiveness Indicators are:

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

Excess N and P entering the Swan-Canning River System have contributed to nuisance and toxic algal blooms. Controlling nutrients entering the system from the catchment is essential to decrease the frequency of algal blooms and prevent further deterioration in estuarine water quality.

The Swan-Canning Catchment targets

In recognition of the long timeframes required for catchment management to affect nutrient levels in tributaries, short- and long-term targets were developed.

Table 14. Swan-Canning Cleanup Program nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) targets for tributaries of the Swan-Canning Estuary

Target	Total N concentration m/gL	Total P Concentration m/gL
Short term	2.0	0.2
Long term	1.0	0.1

Monitoring the Swan-Canning Catchment

The 15 Swan-Canning tributaries are sampled fortnightly between June and November – many tributaries cease to flow after November and only commence to flow with June rainfall. Reporting against the 2005 Key Effectiveness Indicators uses data collected up to and including November 2004. The data of about 30 samples from the three previous years is used to test compliance.


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

Performance 2005: Swan-Canning Catchment targets

Key to interpreting the Catchment Performance Indicator results in Tables 15 and 16.

 Tributary is being assessed against the short-term target

 Tributary has met the short-term target and is being assessed against the long-term target

 Tributary has met the short- and long-term targets and is being monitored to ensure that it continues to meet the long-term target

The number in brackets in the following tables is derived statistically. It is the maximum number of high samples permitted to occur if the target is to be met. The number outside the bracket is the actual number of samples from the tributary that had a higher concentration of N or P than the target levels shown in Table 14. If the number outside the bracket is lower than, or equal to, the number inside the bracket, the target has been achieved.

Table 15. Compliance of monitored tributaries discharging into the Swan-Canning Estuary with short- and long-term nitrogen targets

Tributary	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Ellen Brook	(12) 18	(12) 17	(12) 11	(12) 30	(11) 30
Mills Street Main Drain	(12) 13	(12) 12	(12) 28	(12) 25	(12) 22
Bannister Creek	(12) 10	(12) 30	(12) 29	(12) 7	(12) 27
Bayswater Main Drain	(12) 30	(12) 27	(12) 24	(12) 21	(11) 21
Southern River	(12) 26	(12) 23	(12) 22	(12) 22	(12) 26
Bickley Brook	(12) 25	(12) 21	(12) 17	(12) 18	(12) 20
Bennett Brook	(12) 22	(12) 21	(12) 22	(12) 23	(12) 27
Yule Brook	(12) 16	(12) 18	(12) 14	(12) 15	(12) 12
Blackadder Creek	(12) 16	(12) 14	(12) 12	(21) 13	(21) 15
Canning River	(12) 15	(12) 12	(21) 6	(21) 7	(21) 6
Helena River	(11) 13	(11) 14	(10) 10	(19) 10	(19) 6
South Belmont Main Drain	(21) 5	(21) 5	(21) 4	(21) 6	(21) 4
Avon River	(21) 14	(21) 10	(21) 4	(21) 4	(21) 5
Susannah Brook	(19) 10	(18) 9	(18) 5	(19) 3	(19) 4
Jane Brook	(19) 8	(19) 7	(20) 6	(21) 7	(21) 8
Short-term target met (%)	87	93	100	100	100
Long-term target met (%)	27	33	47	47	53

Table 16. Compliance of monitored tributaries discharging into the Swan-Canning Estuary with short- and long-term phosphorus targets

Tributary	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Ellen Brook	(12) 30	(12) 30	(12) 28	(12) 29	(11) 29
Mills Street Main Drain	(12) 11	(12) 29	(12) 26	(12) 27	(12) 27
Southern River	(12) 25	(12) 27	(12) 29	(12) 30	(12) 32
South Belmont Main Drain	(12) 17	(12) 19	(12) 17	(12) 15	(12) 15
Bannister Creek	(12) 19	(12) 17	(12) 12	(21) 7	(21) 2
Yule Brook	(21) 7	(21) 11	(21) 11	(21) 6	(21) 3
Bayswater Main Drain	(21) 12	(22) 10	(21) 7	(21) 3	(21) 2
Bickley Brook	(21) 6	(21) 6	(21) 7	(21) 7	(21) 5
Blackadder Creek	(21) 2	(21) 2	(21) 3	(21) 2	(21) 5
Jane Brook	(19) 2	(19) 2	(20) 1	(21) 0	(21) 0
Avon River	(21) 0	(21) 0	(21) 1	(21) 1	(21) 2
Bennett Brook	(21) 0	(21) 0	(21) 1	(21) 1	(21) 2
Canning River	(21) 0	(21) 0	(21) 1	(21) 2	(21) 2
Helena River	(20) 0	(20) 0	(19) 0	(19) 0	(19) 0
Susannah Brook	(19) 0	(18) 0	(18) 0	(19) 0	(19) 0
Short-term target met (%)	93	93	93	93	93
Long-term target met (%)	67	67	73	73	73

Catchment Results 2001 - 2005

Total nitrogen concentration

In 2001, 87 per cent of the tributaries achieved their short-term target. That number increased to 100 per cent for the first time in 2003 and has been maintained. The number of tributaries passing the long-term target has almost doubled since 2001, from 27 per cent to 53 per cent in 2005.

Total phosphorus concentration

In 2001, 93 per cent of tributaries met the short-term target and this achievement continued to date. Ellen Brook is the only tributary where P concentrations remain higher than the short-term target. In 2001, 67 per cent of tributaries met the long-term P target, which increased to 73 per cent in 2003 and has since been maintained.

Summary

The Nitrogen and Phosphorus concentrations in the Swan-Canning tributaries are low to moderate and have fallen over the 2001 to 2005 reporting period. These results are encouraging, however it is possible that the results reflect climate change and drier winters because nutrients entering the Swan-Canning tributaries from the catchments tend to be relatively low during periods of low rainfall.

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. The 2005 data of 29 of 32 samples having Phosphorus concentrations greater than 0.2 mg/L, indicates that it is unlikely Ellen Brook will meet its short-term target soon.

The Swan-Canning Estuary targets

Key performance indicators are chlorophyll-*a* and dissolved oxygen concentrations in the top metre of water. The targets for the middle and upper basins represent a first management objective for chlorophyll-*a* and dissolved oxygen. Once these targets are met, new targets will be set in a series of benchmarks until quality in the basins is acceptable.

*Table 17. Cleanup Program chlorophyll-*a* and dissolved oxygen targets for the Swan-Canning Estuary*

Estuary Basin	Chl- <i>a</i> Target (µg/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-Canning Estuary

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

Performance 2005: Swan-Canning Estuary targets

Key to interpreting the Estuary Performance Indicator results in Tables 18 and 19.

 Target not met

Target met

Table 18. Chl-a concentration in the basins of the Swan-Canning Estuary compared to the targets

Basin	2002	2003	2004	2005
Upper Swan	(2) 18	(2) 25	(3) 17	(3) 10
Middle Swan	(2) 18	(2) 18	(3) 13	(3) 13
Lower Swan-Canning	(9) 4	(10) 3	(10) 2	(10) 4
Middle Canning	Not assessed	(3) 8	(3) 6	(3) 6

Table 19. DO saturation in the basins of the Swan-Canning Estuary compared to the targets

Basin	2002	2003	2004	2005
Upper Swan	(0) 20	(0) 33	(1) 16	(1) 12
Middle Swan	(0) 11	(0) 7	(1) 6	(1) 6
Lower Swan-Canning	(5) 2	(6) 4	(6) 4	(6) 5
Middle Canning	Not assessed	(1) 5	(1) 5	(1) 8

Results 2002-05

Chlorophyll-a concentration

The lower basin of the Swan-Canning Estuary has met the Cleanup Program chl-a target in all four years. Neither the middle nor upper basin of the Swan Estuary, nor the middle basin of the Canning Estuary have met their target.

Oxygen saturation

The lower basin of the Swan-Canning Estuary again met its DO target in 2005. The upper and middle Swan and the middle Canning again failed to meet their DO targets in 2005.

For the last decade the upper Swan River has gone through extended periods of low DO known as bottom water hypoxia, and no DO known as periodic anoxia due primarily to the breakdown of organic matter by bacteria. This year was the first time there was a loss of oxygen all the way from the bottom to the surface, which possibly indicates a new state for the river.

The water quality in the lower estuary basin is generally consistently good. Targets were developed for the lower basin of the Swan-Canning Estuary that would be met, unless water quality changed for the worse. Water quality in the middle basins of the Swan-Canning Estuary and the upper basin of the Swan Estuary is currently unacceptable. These basins are expected to fail their targets until there is an improvement in water quality. To date, the compliance scheme, the data and the targets are generally performing as expected.

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 as yet unknown period between achieving the Cleanup Program's catchment targets and seeing the desired change in the estuary.

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 consistent with the Trust's desired outcome. This data reflects the per cent 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 propose development either in the Trust's Management Area or that may affect it. 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, forwards a notice to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure regarding how those applications should be determined.

Table 20. Per cent of recommendations made by the Swan River Trust accepted by the Minister for the Environment

Year	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
% Accepted	99	100	99	100	99	91
% Modified	0	0	1	0	1	9
% Rejected	1	0	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 May 2005, the Trust commissioned a research company to undertake a random 10-minute telephone survey of 400 people aged 18 years or over living in the Swan-Canning Catchment. There was a response rate of 22.9 per cent. Age and gender quotas were used to match metropolitan averages to represent the catchment of residents of interest. There was no need to weight data. The Office of the Auditor General approved the key performance indicator modifications prior to administration. Last year 200 people living within one kilometre of the rivers and 200 people living in metropolitan Perth were surveyed. This year, questions were included to identify the public's understanding of the significant threats facing the rivers.

The aim of the survey was to assess the community's awareness of the Trust, its role, perceptions of the state of the rivers and satisfaction with their management. The research addressed six issues among the general public living in the Swan-Canning Catchment:

- familiarity with and understanding of the Trust;
- awareness of a number of programs operated by the Trust;
- perceptions of the state of the rivers and foreshore;
- overall satisfaction with the management of the foreshore;
- identification of areas requiring improvement; and
- indicative comparisons of the Trust's performance to previous studies.

Ninety-one per cent of survey respondents were aware of the Trust, although 65 per cent did not know much about it. The Trust was perceived to be performing reasonably, with 55 per cent of residents somewhat to very satisfied with the Trust's management of the Swan and Canning rivers and surrounding areas. The survey was conducted when the health of the river was in the media as a result of sewage spills, algal blooms and fish kill events. Other topical issues included the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill and public access to the rivers.

Almost 90 per cent of respondents were "satisfied" that pedestrian walkways and cycleways were safe to use and 87 per cent believed there were appropriate navigation aids on the waterways. More than 78 per cent were "satisfied" with the range of food and dining outlets along the shoreline and 85 per cent were "happy" that access to the shoreline reflected the community's needs. The health of the riverbed and minimisation of weed and algal blooms were the greatest concern, with over 50 per cent "satisfied" with how they were managed. One in three were "concerned" about the maintenance of vegetation along the river and riverbank erosion.

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

Table 21. Level of community satisfaction

Survey year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Level of satisfaction %	71	75	69	63	74

Note: Comparisons with previous data is indicative only because a new benchmark was set this year by administering improved market research sampling techniques.

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

Table 22. Community satisfaction of sufficient facilities

Survey year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Level of satisfaction %	68	72	67	62	70

Note: Comparisons with previous data is indicative only because a new benchmark was set this year by administering improved market research sampling techniques.

Measure: Total number of pollution complaints and incidents.

Table 23. Pollution complaints and incidents

Year	Number of complaints and incidents
2000-01	99
2001-02	72
2002-03	90
2003-04	104
2004-05	105
5-year average	94

The Trust works towards the sustainable use of the river system while retaining the balance between conservation and development that reflects community values. This is a key management goal. 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. This year the Trust received a similar number of pollution complaints to last year.

Industrial discharge and dewatering complaints increased to 27, significantly higher than the three complaints last year or the average of 11. This increase was due to the large number of construction works carried out in the central business district, in particular the Perth to Mandurah railway. Notably, only one chemical spill complaint was received, and there were no foaming complaints. A breakdown of pollution complaints 2004-05 is featured in Figure 7.

Key Efficiency Indicators

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

Provision of research and information for estuary and river restoration and management.

Cost \$				Note
Average cost of R&D project	122,580	121,124	97,938	(a)
Cost of waterway monitoring and reporting per km ² of catchment and waterway	441	576	481	(b)

Note

- (a) The reduced average cost of the research and development projects – Canning macrophytes study, continued application of Phoslock™ in the Mills Street Main Drain, and modelling – resulted from the increased allocation of resources in response to algal blooms and fish kill events.
- (b) The increased average cost of waterway monitoring and reporting was a result of increased operational resources.

Service 2: Regulate riverside development

Assess applications for development, planning schemes and policy.

Cost \$				Note
Cost of development control policy and advice per km ² of management area	6615	11,203	9246	(a)

Note

- (a) The Trust received a number of applications during the year that were of a complex or contentious nature and required significantly more resources to assess than average applications.

Service 3: Management plans

Preparation of management programs, often jointly with local government, for the management of the waterways and the management area. Includes catchment management plans.

Cost \$				Note
Average cost of production of management plan or strategy	150,473	84,333	177,667	(a)

Note

(a) The increased average cost was a result of increased staff resources allocated to progress *Riverplan* and the Draft Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill.

Service 4: Protection of waterways and foreshores

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

Cost \$				Note
Cost of maintenance and restoration per km of foreshore	4826	6474	10,731	(a)
Cost of waterway and foreshore protection per km ² of management area	2858	4741	3123	(b)
Cost of water quality improvement projects per km ² of waterway and catchment	2160	1678	1901	(c)

Note

- (a) The increased cost of maintenance and restoration was a result of increased funding for the *Riverbank* Program.
- (b) Increased cost of waterway foreshore and protection was a result of increased operational requirements.
- (c) The decreased cost allocated to water quality improvement projects was a result of increased funding for the Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program.



AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

SWAN RIVER TRUST FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

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 30 June 2005 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
17 October 2005

Financial Statements

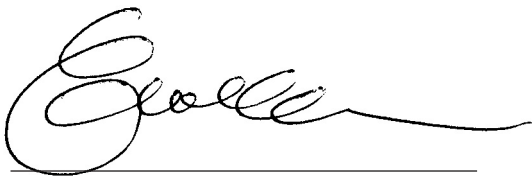
Certification of financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2005

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 2005 and the financial position as at 30 June 2005.

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
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER
12 August 2005



Charlie Welker
CHAIRMAN
12 August 2005



Rod Willox
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
12 August 2005

SWAN RIVER TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for the year ended 30 June 2005

	Note	2004-05 \$	2003-04 \$
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employee expenses	2	2,303,275	1,678,048
Supplies and services	3	3,523,924	3,575,233
Depreciation expense	4	82,266	69,546
Borrowing costs expense	5	10,036	10,730
Grants and subsidies	6	2,159,860	1,710,473
Capital user charge	7	139,440	96,815
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed of	9	14,075	7,546
Total cost of services		8,232,876	7,148,391
Revenues from ordinary activities			
<i>Revenue from operating activities</i>			
Grants and contributions	8	74,601	176,428
<i>Revenue from non-operating activities</i>			
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	9	9,545	-
Other revenues from ordinary activities	10	42,565	95,924
Total revenues from ordinary activities		126,711	272,352
NET COST OF SERVICES		8,106,165	6,876,039
REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriations	11	8,358,000	7,208,000
Resources received free of charge		1,160	1,571
Total revenues from State Government		8,359,160	7,209,571
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with WA State Government as owner		252,995	333,532

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 2005

	Note	2004-05 \$	2003-04 \$
Current Assets			
Cash assets	21(a)	879,601	596,355
Restricted cash assets	12	10,000	10,000
Receivables	13	127,921	153,341
Amounts receivable for services	14	100,000	100,000
Other assets	15	8,567	434
Total Current Assets		1,126,089	860,130
Non-Current Assets			
Amounts receivable for services	14	179,000	118,000
Property, plant and equipment	16	641,339	659,558
Total Non-Current Assets		820,339	777,558
Total Assets		1,946,428	1,637,688
Current Liabilities			
Payables	17	100,144	79,902
Interest-bearing liabilities	18	56,770	59,545
Other liabilities	19	10,000	10,000
Total Current Liabilities		166,914	149,447
Non-Current Liabilities			
Interest-bearing liabilities	18	86,940	92,662
Total Non-Current Liabilities		86,940	92,662
Total Liabilities		253,854	242,109
NET ASSETS		1,692,574	1,395,579
Equity			
Contributed equity	20	92,000	84,000
Reserves		58,000	22,000
Accumulated surplus		1,542,574	1,289,579
TOTAL EQUITY		1,692,574	1,395,579

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 2005

	Note	2004-05 Inflows (Outflows) \$	2003-04 Inflows (Outflows) \$
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriations		8,197,000	7,047,000
Capital contributions		8,000	8,000
Holding account drawdowns		100,000	135,000
Net cash provided by State Government		8,305,000	7,190,000
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee costs		(2,321,924)	(1,661,866)
Supplies and services		(3,513,793)	(3,576,180)
Grants and subsidies		(2,138,332)	(1,710,473)
Borrowing costs		(9,997)	(10,710)
Capital user charge		(139,440)	(94,982)
GST payments on purchases		(327,361)	(648,593)
Receipts			
Other receipts		52,901	100,429
Grants and contributions		74,601	176,428
GST receipts on sales		10,295	33,736
GST receipts from taxation authority		332,370	576,007
Net cash used in operating activities	21(c)	(7,980,680)	(6,816,204)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		9,545	-
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(42,122)	(152,963)
Net cash used in investing activities		(32,577)	(152,963)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of borrowings		(8,497)	(8,311)
Net cash used in financing activities		(8,497)	(8,311)
Net increase in cash held		283,246	212,522
Cash assets at the beginning of the financial year		606,355	393,833
CASH ASSETS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	21(a)	889,601	606,355

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SWAN RIVER TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

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) Service Appropriations

Service 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 (owner) 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.

(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
---------------------	-----------

(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.

(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 Figures

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 dollars.

	2004-05 \$	2003-04 \$
2 EMPLOYEE EXPENSES		
Salaries	1,995,202	1,424,765
Other related expenses ^(a)	308,073	253,283
	<u>2,303,275</u>	<u>1,678,048</u>
^(a) These employee expenses include superannuation, payroll tax, workers' compensation premiums and other employment on-costs associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability.		
3 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES		
Communications	26,135	27,691
Consultants and contractors	697,123	758,099
Consumables	65,506	104,833
Lease rental payments	81,519	67,677
Repairs and maintenance	199,120	53,758
Services contracted to other state departments	2,320,108	2,179,990
Other staff costs	57,715	55,353
Other	76,698	327,832
	<u>3,523,924</u>	<u>3,575,233</u>
4 DEPRECIATION EXPENSE		
Plant, machinery and equipment	82,266	69,546
5 BORROWING COSTS EXPENSE		
Interest paid	10,036	10,730
6 GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES		
Expenses incurred for the year	2,159,860	1,710,473
7 CAPITAL USER CHARGE	139,440	96,815
A capital user charge rate of 8% has been set by the Government for 2004-05 and represents the opportunity cost of capital invested in the net assets of the Trust used in the provision of services. 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.		
8 GRANTS and CONTRIBUTIONS		
Office of Water Regulation	-	96,000
Swan Catchment Council	74,601	80,428
	<u>74,601</u>	<u>176,428</u>
9 NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
<u>Loss on Disposal of Non-current Assets</u>		
Plant and equipment	(4,530)	(7,546)
Net loss	<u>(4,530)</u>	<u>(7,546)</u>

	2004-05 \$	2003-04 \$
10 OTHER REVENUES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
Sundry revenue	42,565	95,924
11 REVENUES FROM GOVERNMENT		
Appropriation revenue received during the year:		
Service appropriations ^(a)	8,358,000	7,208,000
	<u>8,358,000</u>	<u>7,208,000</u>
Resources received free of charge ^(b)		
Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Department of Land Information	-	30
State Solicitor's Office	1,160	1,541
	<u>1,160</u>	<u>1,571</u>

^(a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the full cost of services 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.

12 RESTRICTED CASH ASSETS

Current		
Developer Bonds	10,000	10,000

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

13 RECEIVABLES

Trade debtors	-	10,336
GST receivable	127,921	143,005
	<u>127,921</u>	<u>153,341</u>

14 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR SERVICES

Current	100,000	100,000
Non-current	179,000	118,000
	<u>279,000</u>	<u>218,000</u>

This asset represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

	2004-05 \$	2003-04 \$
15 OTHER ASSETS		
Prepayments	8,567	434
16 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment at cost	718,285	693,075
Accumulated depreciation	(346,946)	(267,517)
	371,339	425,558
Freehold land at fair value ^(a)	270,000	234,000
	270,000	234,000
	641,339	659,558

^(a) The revaluation of freehold land was performed during the year ended 30 June 2005 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.

2005	Plant and Equipment \$	Freehold Land \$	Total \$
Carrying amount at start of year	425,558	234,000	659,558
Additions	42,123	-	42,123
Disposals	(14,076)	-	(14,076)
Transfers in/(out)-	-	-	
Revaluation	-	36,000	36,000
Depreciation	(82,266)	-	(82,266)
Carrying amount at end of year	371,339	270,000	641,339

17 PAYABLES

Trade payables	68,555	4,923
Accrued expenses	31,589	74,979
	100,144	79,902

18 INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

Current		
Borrowings from WA Treasury Corporation	56,770	59,545
Non-current		
Borrowings from WA Treasury Corporation	86,940	92,662
	143,710	152,207

	2004-05 \$	2003-04 \$
19 OTHER LIABILITIES		
Developer bond	10,000	10,000
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
20 EQUITY		
Contributed equity		
Opening balance	84,000	76,000
Capital contributions ^(a)	8,000	8,000
Closing balance	<u>92,000</u>	<u>84,000</u>
Reserves		
Asset Revaluation Reserve ^(b)		
Opening balance	22,000	-
Net revaluation increments:		
Land	36,000	22,000
Closing balance	<u>58,000</u>	<u>22,000</u>

^(a) Capital Contributions have been designated as contributions by owners and are credited directly to equity in the Statement of Financial Position.

^(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	1,289,579	956,047
Change in net assets	252,995	333,532
Closing balance	<u>1,542,574</u>	<u>1,289,579</u>
Total equity	<u>1,692,574</u>	<u>1,395,579</u>

21 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	879,601	596,355
Restricted cash assets (refer to note 12)	10,000	10,000
	<u>889,601</u>	<u>606,355</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.

	2004-05 \$	2003-04 \$
(c) Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows used in operating activities.		
Net cost of services	(8,106,165)	(6,876,039)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation expense	82,266	69,546
Resources received free of charge	1,160	1,571
Net loss on sale of non-current assets	4,530	7,546
(Increase)/decrease in assets:		
Receivables	10,336	14,505
Other assets	(8,133)	20
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:		
Payables	20,242	4,783
Other liabilities	-	(10)
Net GST receipts/(payments)	15,304	(38,850)
Change in GST in receivables/payables	(220)	724
Net cash used in operating activities	(7,980,680)	(6,816,204)

22 COMMITMENTS OF EXPENDITURE

The Trust has no commitments of expenditure at 30 June 2005.

23 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The Trust has no contingent liabilities and contingent assets at 30 June 2005.

24 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE

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

25 EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS

(i) Significant variations between estimates and actual results for the financial year

Details and reasons for significant variations between estimates and actual results are detailed below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% and \$200,000.

		2004-05	2003-04
		\$	\$

Cost of Services	Note	2005	2005	Variance	Variance
		Estimate	Actual		
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
(1) Collect water information to support state planning, agencies and community	(a)	1,332	1,111	(221)	(17)
(2) Regulate riverside development		773	638	(135)	(17)
(3) Management plans	(b)	253	533	280	111
(4) Protection of waterways and foreshores	(c)	4,097	5,824	1,727	42
		<u>6,455</u>	<u>8,106</u>	<u>1,651</u>	

Explanation of Variances

(a) Collect water information to support state planning, agencies and community

The variance was a result of reduction in overhead costs and increased focus on protection of waterway and foreshore activities.

(b) Management Plans

The variance was a result of increases in Swan Canning Riverpark planning, *Riverplan* implementation, and drafting the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill.

(c) Protection of waterways and foreshores

The variance was a result of increased Drain Nutrient Intervention Program to \$1 million and *Riverbank* Program to \$1 million per year, and increased Swan Alcoa Landcare Program by \$100,000, and additional Great Gardens workshops.

(ii) Significant variations between actual revenues and expenditures for the financial year and revenues and expenditures for the immediately preceding financial year

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

Explanation of Variances

Cost of Services	Note	2005	2004	Variance	Variance
		Actual	Actual		
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
(1) Collect water information to support state planning, agencies and community		1,111	1,042	69	(7)
(2) Regulate riverside development	(d)	638	423	215	(51)
(3) Management plans	(e)	533	138	395	286
(4) Protection of waterways and foreshores		5,824	5,274	550	10
		<u>8,106</u>	<u>6,877</u>	<u>1,229</u>	

	2004-05	2003-04
	\$	\$

(d) **Regulate riverside development**

The variance was a result of substantial short-term savings in 2003-04. Expenditure against this output increased in 2004-05 to closer align with estimates.

(e) **Management plans**

The variance was a result of increases in Swan Canning Riverpark planning, *Riverplan* implementation, and drafting the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill.

26 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Interest Rate Risk Exposure

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

	Fixed interest rate maturities						Total
	Weighted average effective interest rate	Variable Interest Rate	Less than 1 Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years	Non-Interest Bearing	
	%	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000
2005							
Financial assets							
Cash assets		-	-	-	-	880	880
Restricted cash assets		-	-	-	-	10	10
Receivables		-	-	-	-	128	128
		-	-	-	-	1,018	1,018
Financial liabilities							
Payables		-	-	-	-	100	100
WATC/Bank Loans	6.42	-	57	66	21	-	144
		-	57	66	21	100	244
2004							
Financial assets		-	-	-	-	759	759
Financial liabilities	6.65	-	59	69	24	80	232

(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.

	2004-05 \$	2003-04 \$
The following is an analysis of amounts owing within the categories of government and private sector:		
Western Australian Government agencies	-	10,336
Commonwealth Government - ATO (GST)	127,921	143,005
Total	127,921	153,341

(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.

27 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:

\$	2005	2004
0 - 10,000	3	4
10,001 - 20,000	1	1
20,001 - 30,000	1	-

The total remuneration of the members of the Accountable Authority is:

58,751	30,934
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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:

\$	2005	2004
30,001 - 40,000	-	1
60,001 - 70,000	-	1
110,001 - 120,000	1	-

The total remuneration of senior officers is:

115,682	97,686
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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.

	2004-05 \$	2003-04 \$
28 REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR		
Remuneration to the Auditor General for the financial year is as follows:		
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	14,850	13,750
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.		
30 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
Write Offs		
Unrecoverable amounts written-off by the Minister	-	1,760
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 IMPACT OF ADOPTING AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO (AIFRS)		
The impact of adopting AIFRS including the key differences in accounting policies		
Reconciliation of total equity as presented under previous AGAAP to that under AIFRS:		
	30 June 2005	1 July 2004
Total equity under previous AGAAP	1,692,574	1,395,579
Adjustments to accumulated surplus/(deficiency)	-	-
Total equity under AIFRS	<u>1,692,574</u>	<u>1,395,579</u>
The adjustments are explained as follows:		
Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) for the period as presented under previous AGAAP to that under AIFRS:		
		30 June 2005
Surplus/(deficit) for the period under previous AGAAP		252,995
Adjustments to surplus/(deficit):		-
Surplus/(deficit) for the period under AIFRS		<u>252,995</u>

Appendix

Media statements

2004

July	1	<i>Karlodinium micrum</i> to blame for recent fish kills
	2	Algae responsible for death of 32,000 fish in Swan River
August	6	Response to diesel oil spill at Fremantle traffic bridge
	24	Town of Vincent bike path gets tick from Swan River Trust
September	2	New health warning issued on estuary shellfish
	14	Testing show mussel toxins low, algal species still high
	16	Greater measures to protect rivers
	21	Environmental management resources just a click away
October	17	Major sewage spill worries for river health
	19	Swan River health monitored daily at sewage spill site
	19	Major Swan River sewage spill - Caversham
	20	Extended section of Swan River closed in Caversham
	21	Swan River closed for weekend at Caversham
	28	Public to have say on Garvey Park redevelopment
November	12	Public to have say on access to Rocky Bay
	14	Burswood ferry jetty recommended for refusal
	25	Pontoon jetties step closer to replacing derelict jetties in Matilda Bay
December	5	First projects to benefit from \$1 million to protect the Swan and Canning rivers
	13	Vulnerable birds nesting on Point Walter Spit
	14	General Manager appointed to Swan River Trust
	17	Have your say on the future of a South Perth landmark
	22	Rossmoyne Jetty rebuilt
	30	Australia Day Skyworks approved under new guidelines

2005

January	18	Public opinion sought on Perth foreshore development
	24	Care for the rivers on Australia Day
February	4	Algae Activity Report now in print
	22	Public feedback sought on Ascot Inn redevelopment
	24	Swan River Trust clean up with community
	28	Go ahead recommended for Garvey Park

March	9	No go for Huntingdale telecommunications tower
	16	High density algae bloom detected in the upper Swan River
	18	Upper Swan River high density algae bloom update
	22	Upper Swan River <i>Karlodinium micrum</i> algae bloom update
	25	Upper Swan River <i>Karlodinium micrum</i> algae bloom update
	28	Long-term strategies to help river health
	31	Low oxygen levels found in the Canning River
April	1	What has happened in the Swan River this autumn?
	11	Swan River Trust continues monitoring of Swan and Canning rivers
	13	Minor fish kill detected at Bayswater and Maylands
	15	Fish kill update
	19	Swan River health update
	20	Corporate volunteers dig in for river health
	20	Sewage spill on Swan River being investigated
	21	Red tide identified in the Canning River
May	20	Red tide and <i>Karlodinium</i> bloom detected in Canning River
June	3	<i>Karlodinium</i> algal bloom in Canning River
	20	Upgrade recommended for North Fremantle
	28	Have your say about the future of Royal Perth Yacht Club

Publication feedback

The Swan River Trust welcomes feedback to help improve the quality and effectiveness of publications. A publications feedback form is available on the Swan River Trust website at www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au or by contacting (08) 9278 0900.

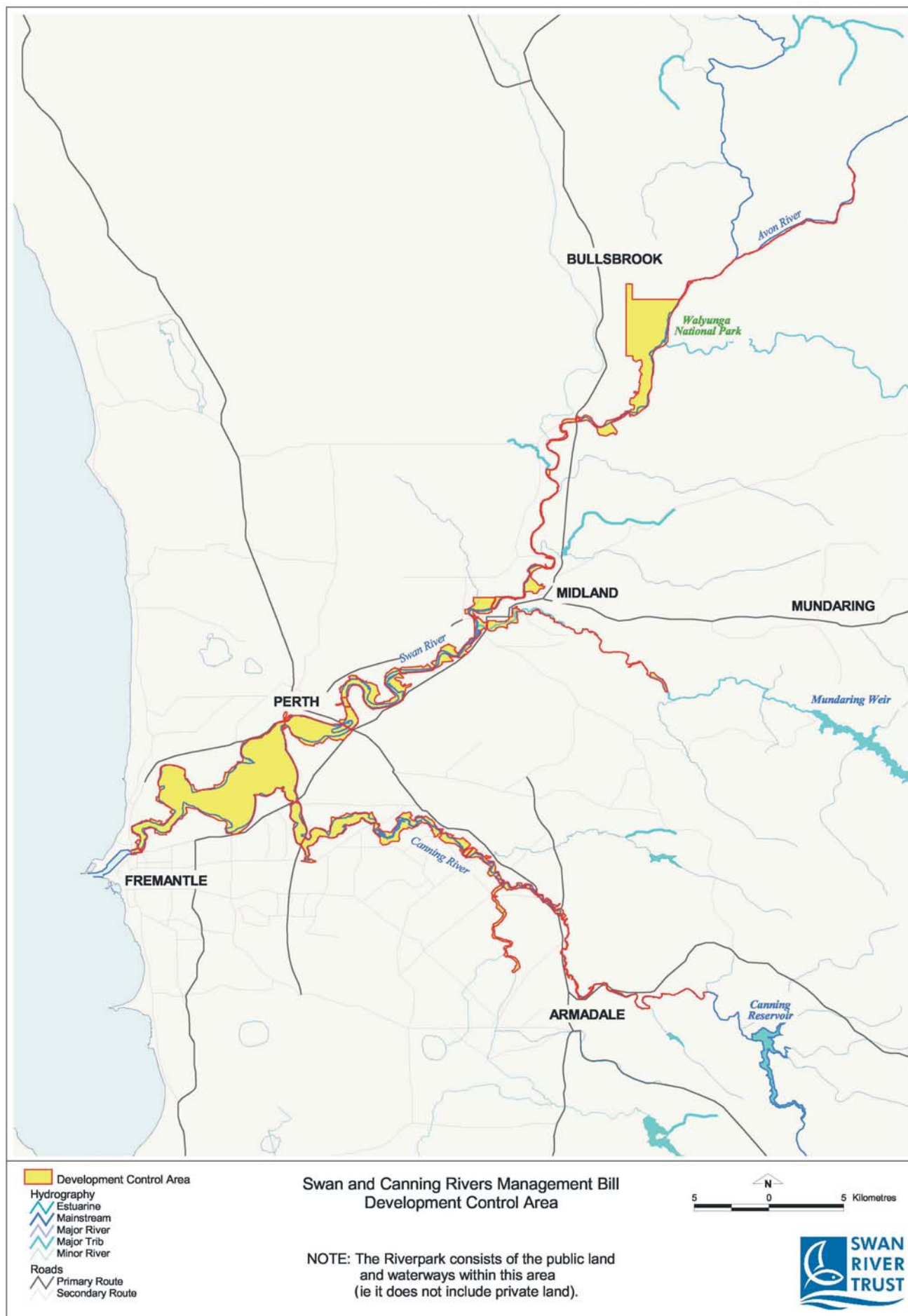


Figure 9. Swan River Trust Management Area and proposed Development Control Area



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