



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



# ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

To the Hon Albert Jacob MLA  
Minister for Environment

In accordance with section 28G of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, I submit for presentation to Parliament the Annual Report of the Swan River Trust for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.



Hamish Beck  
Chairman

September 2016



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# SWAN RIVER TRUST

The Swan River Trust is an advisory body created by the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (the Act). The Swan River Trust provides independent, high level strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and the Director General of Parks and Wildlife on matters affecting the rivers.

Under the Act, the Swan River Trust is vested with the care, control, and management of the Swan Canning River Reserve – the waterway – with various responsibilities including developing policies, and preparing and reporting on strategic documents relating to the Riverpark, which includes public lands adjoining the river.

The Trust's other key role is overseeing the development and implementation of a Swan Canning River Protection Strategy to ensure coordinated management efforts across government to help protect the Riverpark.

The Swan River Trust is supported by the Department of Parks and Wildlife which has significant operational and management responsibilities within the Swan Canning Riverpark and Development Control Area as outlined under the Act.

## OUR PURPOSE

To work with others to protect the Swan Canning Riverpark and enhance its ecological and community benefits and amenity.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is a healthy river for all, forever, which is resilient to climate change, population and development pressures and is enjoyed, shared and nurtured.

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

The ecological health of the Swan Canning river system is protected and enhanced. The long-term community benefit of the Swan Canning river system is protected and enhanced.

## HOW WE FUNCTION

The Trust operates in accordance with State Government goals. Its work delivers on the Social and Environmental Responsibility goal – ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the state.

The Trust operates under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (the Act) to provide advice and perform functions in respect of the Swan and Canning Rivers and associated lands.

The Trust is primarily focused on providing advice on strategic direction and on development proposals in or affecting the Swan Canning Development Control Area.

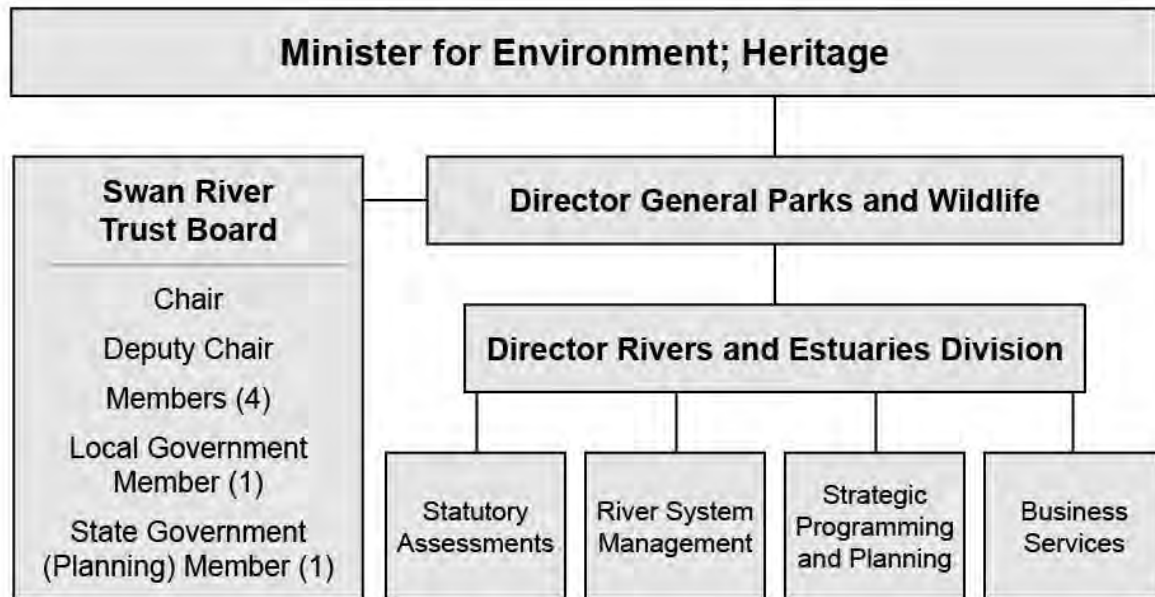
The Department of Parks and Wildlife provides financial, technical, and staff resources to the Trust to undertake its functions.

**The Trust has the following functions under Section 23 of the Act:**

- Develop policies for the protection and enhancement of the Development Control Area (DCA), the Swan Canning Riverpark and the Riverpark shoreline;
- Establish targets for ecological and community benefits and amenity of the Riverpark and mechanisms for achieving those;
- Prepare and deal with strategic documents;
- Advise the CEO of Parks and Wildlife on matters relating to development;
- Advise the CEO of Parks and Wildlife on promoting the activities of other bodies having functions in the catchment affecting the Riverpark;
- Report to the Minister for Environment on the state of the DCA and development on and adjoining the DCA;
- Provide advice to planning authorities so that proper provision can be made in planning schemes for the reservation of land etc;
- Provide advice and promote public education on any matter within its functions; and
- Any other functions as described in the Act or other laws.

Under section 11 of the Act the care, control and management of the River Reserve – that is the waterways of the Swan and Canning rivers – is placed with the Trust for the purposes of Section 23 of the Act. The day to day management of the River Reserve is undertaken on behalf of the Trust by Parks and Wildlife.

**Swan River Trust advisory role**



## CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW



From 1 July 2015, amendments to the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* came into effect transferring staff and various operational functions of the Trust to the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Functions relating to land-use development approvals, strategic planning and environmental management are now undertaken by the Rivers and Estuaries Division with park management functions and communications integrating into other Parks and Wildlife divisions. The Rivers and Estuaries Division provides executive support to the Trust in performing its functions.

The Board's new advisory role has been enacted from this amendment to the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*. Members have been conscious of their responsibilities to provide considered advice to the Director General of Parks and Wildlife and to the Minister for Environment on a range of development proposals affecting the Swan Canning Development Control Area.

Against the backdrop of unprecedented riverfront development projects and associated commercial operations, the Board has been engaged in a diverse range of business this year, including considering some of the largest developments in 100 years.

Elizabeth Quay, Barrack Square, Waterbank Apartments near the Causeway, Belmont Race Course redevelopment, on-river accommodation in East Fremantle, a high speed ferry service, seaplane trials and floating helicopter pads were some of the proposals and issues the Trust considered this year.

The Trust encourages a progressive and economically viable Swan Canning Riverpark and in doing so is also mindful of its responsibility to help protect the ecosystem health, amenity and public access of the Riverpark.

It was particularly satisfying to see the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy, released by the Minister for Environment on 20 October 2015.

The Strategy provides a coordinated whole-of-government plan to guide investment, maintain river health and ensure accessibility for the community to enjoy in the long term.

Implementation of the Strategy has started with Parks and Wildlife chairing a Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Advisory Group to oversee the ongoing implementation and reporting to the Swan River Trust. Twelve Government organisations and 20 local governments are partnering with the Trust and Parks and Wildlife to help deliver the Strategy.

The Trust also responded to recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General and published the inaugural River Protection Strategy Community Update 2015 that highlighted the key achievements and challenges for the Riverpark. This publication distils technical information into user friendly language and infographics to help the Perth community access the key results and complexities of the Trust's river management activities.

During the past year, the Board has worked with the department to conduct a thorough review of its planning policies used to assess development and provide guidance for stakeholders including the public, developers and other Government authorities.

The revised policy suite was prepared in consultation with the Trust Board and will be released for use early in 2016-17. The Trust's previous 32 policies have been consolidated into 10 departmental policy statements and two corporate guidelines will remain. These policies have been formally endorsed by the Trust. I particularly acknowledge the departmental staff for their work in progressing this important initiative.

I take this time to thank departing members Ms Shelley Taylor-Smith and Councillor Robert Hawes for their valuable contributions over the past two years and welcome the planning and agricultural experience of our new Western Australian Local Government Association representative Councillor Darryl Trease JP.

The Board offers its continuing appreciation for the direct support provided by the Department for Parks and Wildlife, State Government agencies, local government and the Perth community who help support the management and protection of the Swan Canning Riverpark.



**Hamish Beck**  
Chairman

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Swan River Trust undertakes its functions in accordance with the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*. Under the Act, the Trust is the vesting authority for the River reserve and has functions under section 23 in relation to the River reserve, the Riverpark, and the DCA.

### ***River reserve***

The River reserve contains the waterways of the Swan and Canning, Helena and Southern Rivers.

### ***Swan Canning Riverpark***

The Swan Canning Riverpark consists of the land and waterways of the Swan, Canning, Helena and Southern rivers and public foreshore reserves surrounding them. It is a focal feature of Perth's landscape, prized for its natural values, its recreational opportunities, and its cultural and social importance.

Parks and Wildlife is responsible for planning and managing the waterways and conservation reserves of the Riverpark. The Department has joint responsibility for the Riverpark's shoreline in conjunction with other foreshore land managers, including local government authorities and several State Government agencies in which the land is vested.

### ***Development Control Area***

The DCA includes the waterways of the Swan and Canning rivers and the adjoining parks and recreation reserves (extending upstream from the Fremantle Traffic Bridge to Moondyne Brook on the Avon River, to the Lower Diversion Dam on the Helena River, along the Southern River to the Allen Road crossing and the Canning River to its confluence with Stinton Creek). In some cases, the DCA includes private property. Electronic copies of the DCA maps are available via the Parks and Wildlife website.

### ***Swan Canning Catchment***

The Swan Canning Catchment covers 2,090 km<sup>2</sup> of the total catchment area in the Swan Avon system. The Swan Avon Catchment is approximately 126,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Surface water and ground water flow into the Riverpark from tributaries and drains across the Swan Canning Catchment. The land and water management of the surrounding and outer catchments directly influences the water quality in the Swan and Canning rivers.

A catchment to coast approach is employed to manage the health of the Riverpark. The work undertaken by many organisations extends beyond the immediate boundaries of the Riverpark and into the broader catchment. Natural resource management groups and local governments play a particularly important role when undertaking these broader catchment restoration activities, which support the ecosystem health of the Riverpark.



### ***Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006 - Amendments***

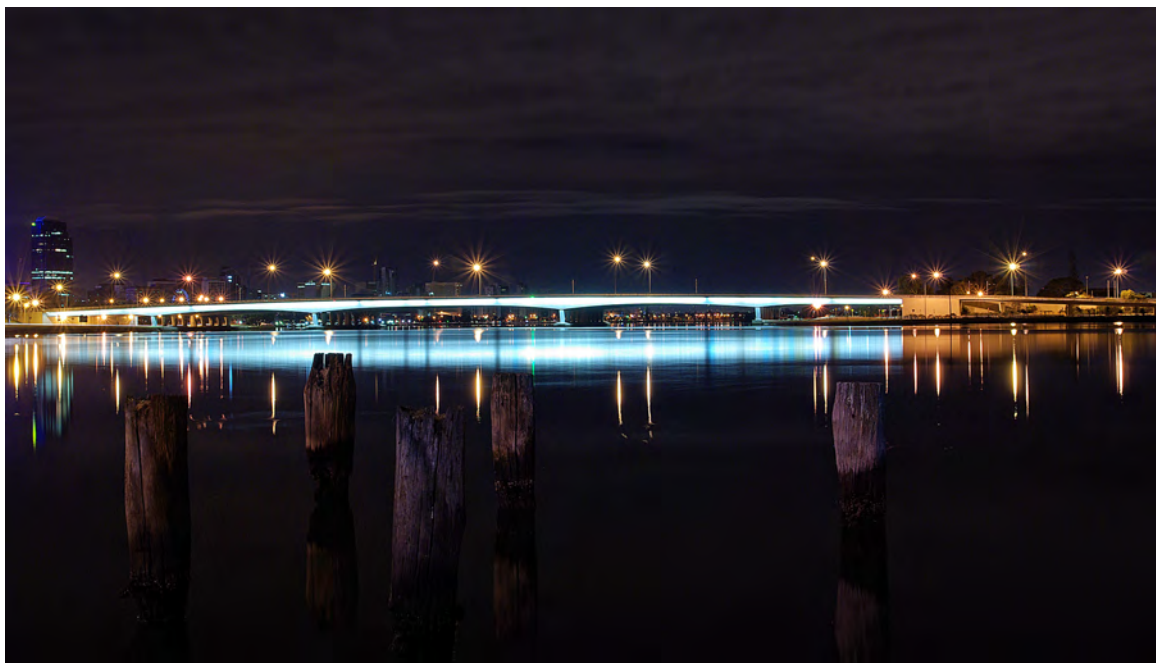
From 1 July 2015, amendments to the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* came into effect which transferred the staff and various operational functions of the Trust to the Department of Parks and Wildlife. This transition had significant structural and functional implications for the Trust. The Trust previously had decision-making roles on policies, development approvals, operational activities and financial management. The amendments have largely moved these functions from the Trust to the CEO of the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

### ***Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007 – Amendments to the Swan Canning Development Control Area and River Reserve***

Subsequent amendments to implement the changes under the Act were also made to the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007, the Litter Regulations 1981, and the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002. These amendments were published in the Government Gazette on 19 June 2015 and came into effect from 1 July 2015.

In 2015, the Trust agreed to the excision of a portion of the river reserve and its transferral to the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority. This change to the river reserve supports the development of Elizabeth Quay and assists in removing overlapping land use planning approvals within the site to streamline development processes.

The transfer of this parcel of river reserve was completed by regulation amendments to the Schedules 1 – 3 in line with the requirements of the Act. The regulation changes were published in the Government Gazette on 4 March 2016.



**The Narrows Bridge comes to life at night. Photo: Robert Davis**

## SWAN RIVER TRUST MEMBERSHIP

The Swan River Trust members are appointed under the provisions of the Act, and are to be persons who, in the opinion of the Minister for Environment, have knowledge and experience which is relevant to the functions of the Trust.

The legislation provides for the appointment of eight members, with one member appointed on the nomination of the Western Australian Local Government Association and one member appointed on the nomination of the department assisting in the administration of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. The Minister directly appoints the remaining six members including one as the Chair and one as the Deputy Chair.

Membership of the board comprises persons who between them have knowledge and experience in the fields of conservation, natural resource management, recreation, tourism, planning, development, matters of interest to the rural community and matters of interest to the Noongar community.

The duties of the Chairman, Deputy and members are on a part time basis. Members are appointed for terms not exceeding three years, and are eligible for reappointment.

### Appointed members of the Swan River Trust Board

#### MR HAMISH BECK (CHAIRMAN)



Mr Beck is Managing Director of Beck Advisory, a property development advisory and asset management business. He was formerly a Board Member of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Chairperson of the Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation, Chairperson of the Property Education Foundation, Division Councillor of the Property Council of Australia, Chairperson of the Curtin University Property Studies Advisory Committee, Member of the University of Western Australia Urban and Regional Planning Advisory Committee, Member for the Rottnest Island Marine Advisory Committee and Rear Commodore of Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club. Mr Beck was appointed to the Trust Board in June 2011 and as Chairman in June 2014 for a term of three years

#### MS BARBARA WATROBA (DEPUTY CHAIR)



Ms Watroba is a Senior Associate in the Litigation and Regulatory team at DLA Piper Australia, working mainly in construction related litigation matters. She has a LLB Honours degree (Macquarie University), MA Women's Studies (Deakin University) and Bachelor of Environmental Design (UWA). Ms Watroba was appointed to the Trust Board in February 2012 and as Deputy Chairperson in June 2014 and recently was reappointed in 2015 for another three year term.

## MR DAVID SAUNDERS



Mr Saunders is the Executive Director Regional Planning and Strategy at the Department of Planning. He holds a Bachelor in Applied Science (Environmental Management). Mr Saunders brings experience in protected area management in Commonwealth, State and local government along with strategic and statutory planning experience. Mr Saunders was appointed to the Trust Board in April 2015 for a three year term.

## MS SHELLEY TAYLOR-SMITH (until June 2016)



Ms Taylor-Smith is director and founder of Champion Mindset Consulting. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from the University of Arkansas, USA and works as a motivational keynote speaker, performance and swim coach, workshop facilitator and author. Following a distinguished international sporting career in marathon swimming (achieving seven-times Women's World No.1 Marathon Swimming Champion 1988-1995); Shelley serves as a committee member and advisor for a number of bodies including Burswood Park Board, FINA Fédération Internationale de Natation, Swimming Australia Limited and Swimming WA. She is ambassador of the Esther Foundation, a women's community and leadership program in Perth. Shelley was appointed to the Trust Board in June 2011 and reappointed in 2014 before resigning in June 2016.

## MS VICKI RASMUSSEN



Ms Rasmussen has spent 20 years working in the not for-profit sector in Western Australia, New South Wales and South Australia with some of the nation's largest and most respected charities. Regarded as one of Western Australia's most experienced and successful strategic and big gift fundraisers, she is the Managing Consultant for Xponential Philanthropy. She is a Fellow of the Fundraising Institute of Australia and the immediate past State Chair. She also is accredited as a Certified Fund Raising Executive. Ms Rasmussen was appointed to the Trust Board in June 2014.

## MS VANESSA DAVIES



Ms Davies is an Aboriginal woman who has traditional links to the Wongai and Noongar people in Western Australia. She has comprehensive executive management experience in government relations, justice, employment, training and education, health, community and Indigenous relations. In 2000, Ms Davies completed a postgraduate Masters Degree in Management and Leadership at Curtin University. Ms Davies was appointed to the Trust Board in December 2009 and reappointed in 2015 for another three years.

### **CR ROBERT HAWES (until March 2016)**



Cr Hawes from the Shire of Chittering was the Western Australian Local Government Association nominee. He is also the President of the Shire and Chairman of Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group. He serves as a committee member and community representative on a number of bodies including the Avon Midland West Australian Local Government Authority Zone, Avon Regional Organisation of Councils, a member of Wannamal Lake Catchment Group, Chittering Valley Land Conservation District Committee and Main Roads Northlink Steering Committee. Cr Hawes was appointed to the Trust Board in June 2014 and departed this role in March 2016.

### **MR JEFFREY STONE**



Mr Stone has more than 30 years of experience as an educator and brings strong leadership skills and a commitment to learning. He holds a Bachelor of Education and a Diploma in Teaching (WACAE, Nedlands Campus). He has worked in a range of educational contexts with a focus on engagement with the wider community, promotion of school culture and the development of staff. Mr Stone was appointed to the Trust Board in June 2014.

### **Cr DARRYL TREASE JP**



Cr Darryl Trease is the Western Australian Local Government Association nominee. He is a councillor at the City of Swan, Swan Valley/Gidgegannup ward. He has been a Justice of the Peace since 2008. He serves as a committee member and community representative on a number of bodies including the Swan Valley Planning Committee (Deputy Chair) – Department of Planning, East Metro Joint Development Assessment Panel and Agricultural Producers Committee – Department of Agriculture and Food. Cr Trease was appointed to the Trust Board in February 2016 for a three year term.



## **GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

The Trust operates in accordance with Schedule 6 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, and Parks and Wildlife Code of Conduct (February 2014).

## **DELEGATIONS**

No changes to the Swan River Trust Board delegations were made during 2015-16.

## **PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Parks and Wildlife's Rivers and Estuaries Division officers provide written monthly reports on activities to the Trust Board. Annual performance is reported in the Trust Annual Report and the Department of Parks and Wildlife Annual Report to Parliament and the Minister for Environment.

## **MEETING NOTICE AND ATTENDANCE**

The Director General of Parks and Wildlife, or his representative, is entitled to attend any meeting of the Trust and take part in the consideration and discussion of any matter before a meeting, but cannot vote on any matter (section 22A of the Act).

Under section 22 of the Act, the Trust chairman is required to invite a representative of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) or the relevant local government to attend a meeting of the Trust if a matter to be considered at that meeting is relevant to the MRA or the local government.

When a representative of the MRA or local government attends a meeting for this purpose, they have all the functions of a Trust member in considering the particular matter.

Where it was considered appropriate, the Trust also invites persons with an interest in matters to attend meetings including proponents of development applications, representatives of peak bodies with an interest in the Swan Canning Riverpark and resource management.



**Bells Rapids liquid gold at the Upper Swan River. Photo: Dougal Topping**

## SWAN RIVER TRUST MEETINGS

Formal meetings of the Swan River Trust were held on 11 occasions during 2015-16. The dates of these meetings were:

**Table 1: Swan River Trust meetings for the 2015-16 financial year**

SWAN RIVER TRUST 2015-16 MEETINGS AND DATES	
21 July 2015	9 February 2016
11 August 2015	8 March 2016
8 September 2015	5 April 2016
13 October 2015	10 May 2016
10 November 2015	14 June 2016
8 December 2015	

**Table 2: Member attendance at the 11 Swan River Trust meetings in 2015-16**

MEMBER	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Hamish Beck	10
Barbara Watroba	11
Shelley Taylor-Smith (resigned)	6
Vanessa Davies	9
Vicki Rasmussen	9
Jeffrey Stone	9
David Saunders	10
Robert Hawes (resigned)	5 (from 7 meetings)
Darryl Trease (new member)	3 (from 4 meetings)

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Trust has procedures for identifying, preventing and resolving conflicts of interest, as outlined in the Parks and Wildlife Code of Conduct (February 2014). Trust Board members are required to declare conflicts of interest. This year one Trust member declared a conflict of interest over one item.

## DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Under Section 34 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, the Environment Minister 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. This year there were no Ministerial directives.



**Riverpark life. Photo: Reanne Archer**



**Matilda Bay is a popular Riverpark destination for community events and picnicking. Photo: Mark Thornley**



## **STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS**

### **SWAN CANNING RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY**

Part 4 of the *Act* outlines the responsibilities of the Trust and the Department in relation to the preparation of strategic documents. The Trust is responsible for the preparation, through the agency of the CEO, of a River Protection Strategy for submission to the Minister for Environment for approval.

The *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy* was finalised in 2015 and released by the Minister for Environment on 20 October 2015. The Strategy provides a coordinated whole of government plan to guide investment, maintain river health and ensure accessibility for the community to enjoy the Riverpark in the long term.

The strategy better co-ordinates work between the government agencies involved in managing the rivers with the aim of improving benefits to the community and ensuring the rivers continue to be attractive and desirable places.

This improved integration between agencies will lead to more efficient use of the State Government's substantial investment in the management of our rivers to help achieve better outcomes for river health, community use and enjoyment.

Implementation of the Strategy has commenced with Parks and Wildlife chairing a River Protection Strategy Advisory Group to oversee ongoing implementation and reporting to the Swan River Trust. Twelve government organisations and 20 local governments are partnering with the Trust and Parks and Wildlife to help deliver the Strategy.

The Trust will report each year on the implementation of the Strategy in its Annual Report. A biennial report will also be provided to the Minister for Environment on the operation and effectiveness of the Strategy.

### **SWAN CANNING RIVERPARK MOORING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

On 8 September 2015, a notice was placed in the Government Gazette as per the requirements of the *Act*, regarding the approval and publication of the *Swan Canning Riverpark Mooring Management Program*.

This was the first formal management program approved under the *Act* and was developed in agreement with the Department of Transport to provide a framework for the managing and regulating moorings in the Riverpark.

The Management Program formalises and streamlines previous arrangements and provides certainty for mooring licensees, as well agencies, regarding approvals required for swing moorings in the Riverpark. This strategic approach to moorings management means that individual placement of moorings does not have to be assessed under the *Act*.



## **STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS CONTINUED...**

The Program's objectives are:

- To promote and facilitate coordinated management of swing moorings within the Riverpark;
- To ensure that management of swing moorings is aligned with the protection of ecological and community benefit and amenity values of the Riverpark; and
- To set parameters on the management of swing moorings within the Riverpark.

The Mooring Management Program was approved by the Minister for Environment and will be in effect for five years.



**The Mooring Management Program has ensured the co-ordinated management and regulation of swing moorings in the Riverpark. Photo: Liana Leisk**

## **RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY COMMUNITY UPDATE 2015**

The River Protection Strategy Community Update 2015 formed part of the Trust's response to an Office of Auditor General recommendation to provide more transparent reporting on the Swan and Canning rivers to the general public. The publication is designed to inform the public how the Department of Parks and Wildlife and its partners are tracking with managing our rivers and the complex web of ecological pressures impacting the waterways.

It is hoped this document will build a shared understanding of the key issues and achievements during 2014-15 for the Swan and Canning rivers. This was the Trust's first Community Update and appropriate consideration was given to translate technical river management information into a meaningful public reporting template. The Trust's next Community Update is scheduled to be published by 30 December 2016.

# ACHIEVEMENTS 2014-15

## How are we tracking?

**99% Visitor Satisfaction**  
a strong endorsement of the Riverpark's management and amenity.



**40 tonnes**  
of sediment and rubbish, 1.3 tonnes of nitrogen and 200kg of phosphorus will be removed from the Swan River each year now the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary wetland has been completed.



**70,000**  
native plants installed at Ellen Brook nutrient stripping wetland. Expected to remove 270kg of phosphorus and 330kg of nitrogen from the Ellen Brook each year.




**25 fishing line disposal units collected...**

- 8788m of fishing line
- 1743 hooks and sinkers
- 1508 bait bags




Wharf St Wetland prevented **45%** of phosphorus and **65%** of nitrogen flowing through the wetland from entering the Canning River.



**\$2million**  
distributed by the Riverbank Grants scheme for 29 priority foreshore projects including erosion control, revegetation, weed control and riverwall repair.




**over 415**  
statutory planning assessments were completed – a 23% increase on the previous 12 months.




**\$545,000**  
provided to sub-regional Natural Resource Management groups to reduce the amount of nutrients entering the Riverpark.



**2.5million**  
juvenile Western School Prawns released since 2012.




**4341kg**  
of general rubbish was removed from the Riverpark.



**\$305,000**  
distributed to Natural Resource Management Groups to deliver 25 restoration projects through the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.



Fish Community Index and seagrass monitoring projects developed to help monitor estuarine health.



**890** trained Dolphin Watch volunteers monitoring Riverpark dolphins.



**93%**  
of water quality thresholds met in the oxygenation zones. New oxygenation plant commissioned on the Canning River.



### Ecological Management Zones

- Upper Swan Estuary
- Middle Swan Estuary
- Lower Swan Canning Estuary
- Canning Estuary
- Oxygenation Zone





# 2015 Community Update for the Swan Canning Riverpark

WATER QUALITY CATCHMENT TARGETS		
Catchment	Total Nitrogen	Total Phosphorus
Avon River	✓	✓
Bayswater Brook	✓	✓
Bannister Creek	✓	✓
Bennett Brook	✓	✓
Bickley Brook	✓	✓
Blackadder Creek	✓	✓
Canning River	✓	✓
Ellen Brook	✗	✗
Helena River	✓	✓
Jane Brook	✓	✓
Mills Street Main Drain	✓	✓
South Belmont Main Drain	✓	✓

WATER QUALITY CATCHMENT TARGETS		
Catchment	Total Nitrogen	Total Phosphorus
Southern River	✓	✓
Susannah Brook	✓	✓
Yule Brook	✓	✓

WATER QUALITY ESTUARY TARGETS		
Ecological Management Zone	Water Quality Result	Description
Lower Swan Canning Estuary	✓	Based on targets for chlorophyll-a and dissolved oxygen concentrations at the surface
Middle Swan Estuary	✗	
Upper Swan Estuary	✗	
Canning Estuary	✗	

✓ met all targets     
 ✓ met 50% of targets     
 ✗ did not meet targets

## MONITORING AND REPORTING ON WATER QUALITY

### Oxygen Conditions

OXYGENATION ZONE	2mg/L THRESHOLD	4mg/L THRESHOLD
Swan River	99% of measurements met threshold	94% of measurements met threshold
Canning River	97% of measurements met threshold	93% of measurements met threshold

#### Oxygenation Zone Thresholds:

**2mg/L** – Below this threshold sensitive aquatic species are likely to exhibit signs of acute stress.

**4mg/L** – Below this threshold aquatic species are likely to exhibit modified behaviour. Above this level is considered acceptable for ecological function.

### Harmful Algal Bloom Incidents

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT ZONE	NOTIFICATIONS	DESCRIPTION
Upper Swan Estuary	0	
Middle Swan Estuary	1	<i>Dinophysis acuminata</i> – 3 weeks – potential to cause shellfish poisoning
Lower Swan Canning Estuary		
Canning Estuary	2	<i>Dinophysis acuminata</i> – 2 weeks – potential to cause shellfish poisoning <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i> – 1 week – potential to cause fish deaths

### BIODIVERSITY

#### Fish Community Index\*

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT ZONE	SHALLOW NEARSHORE WATERS	DEEPER OFFSHORE WATERS
Lower Swan Canning Estuary	B	B
Middle Swan Estuary	B	B
Upper Swan Estuary	B	B
Canning Estuary	B	D
Overall	Good	Fair to good

Condition grades are shown as an A-E scale where A= very good B=good C=fair D=poor and E=very poor.

\* Data combines results for summer and autumn sampling 2014 (Hallett & Tweedley 2014)

## **STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS**

### **Statutory assessments**

In its statutory assessment role under the *Act* and Regulations, Parks and Wildlife assesses and determines, or provides advice to the Minister for Environment on development proposals within the Swan Canning Development Control Area (DCA). In performing its assessment function under Part 5 of the Act, the department must seek advice from the Swan River Trust and include that advice in its report to the Minister.

During 2015-16, the Trust considered and provided advice to the Director General on 10 development applications in accordance with Part 5 of the Act. Two of these applications were for the construction of stormwater conveyance swales within the Parks and Recreation reserve, for adjacent residential subdivisions in Phillip Street, Maddington.

The Department of Water gained approval for the major refurbishment of the Kent Street Weir over the Canning River in Wilson. A proposal by the City of South Perth for the revitalisation of the Millers Pool Foreshore area near the Narrows Bridge in South Perth was also assessed and approved.

Other recommendations by the Trust, and subsequent approvals by the Minister for Environment, included the extension of the Scotch College Boatshed in Peppermint Grove, repairs and extensions to the WA Rowing Club's boat deck and the continued use of an existing timber jetty and floating pontoon adjacent to a property in North Road, Bassendean.

Departmental officers also provide advice under delegated authority of the Trust to the Western Australian Planning Commission and local governments in accordance with the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), regarding development proposals that abut, or affect, the DCA.

During 2015-16, departmental officers assessed and provided advice on 124 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the MRS.

### **Major proposals considered**

#### **Elizabeth Quay**

The Trust considered water quality data supplied by the contractors of the Elizabeth Quay project and provided ongoing strategic advice on environmental mitigation for the Elizabeth Quay inlet build and final opening.

#### **Barrack Square**

The Trust also considered a request to vary an approval in accordance with Section 84 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* relating to the construction of an 18-storey hotel at Barrack Square, Perth. The change was to allow for additional piles to support the development as well as minor design improvements. The Minister for Environment supported the Trust's recommendation and therefore authorised the variations and concurrently granted a 12-month extension.

#### **Perth Major Stadium**

The Trust's ongoing advisory role on the Perth Major Stadium continued to contribute to the implementation of water sensitive urban design opportunities throughout the precinct and ensured sound management of impacts arising from the construction of the pedestrian bridge across the Swan River.



## **Policy review**

Following the amalgamation of the Trust and Parks and Wildlife, the Statutory Assessments Branch commenced a thorough review of the Trust's suite of policies. This resource is used to assess development, and provide guidance for stakeholders including public, developers and other government authorities. The Trust was closely involved in the preparation of the revised policy suite which was released in June 2016. The Trust's previous 32 policies have been consolidated into 10 departmental policy statements and two corporate guidelines.

To simplify arrangements, the number of policies has been reduced and the detail of each new policy aims to be clear and concise, use consistent language and remove duplication. The policies aim to ensure that approved developments maintain and enhance the ecological health, community benefits and amenity of the Swan Canning river system.

Wherever possible, the policies have been updated to reflect current best practice, refer to relevant technical guidelines and address evolving development control issues affecting the DCA. The Trust has formally adopted the policies which will help ensure a sound basis for the Trust's advice.

## **RESOURCES**

### **FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **Financial and Work Schedule 2015 -16**

In the 2015-16 financial year, the Department of Parks and Wildlife:

1. Met the agreed expenses of the Trust as detailed in Table 3 from consolidated revenue;
2. Provided assistance, support, advice and services including any necessary portion of staff time to fulfil the functions of the:
  - a. executive officer - support in preparing agenda papers and Trust correspondence,
  - b. policy officer – primarily supporting the River Protection Strategy (RPS) implementation, policy development, and Trust advice to the Department of Parks and Wildlife and other external parties.

Funding for the operation of the Swan River Trust is allocated by Parks and Wildlife annually after receipt of a proposed financial schedule from the Trust.

In the financial schedule for the 2015-16 period Parks and Wildlife allocated \$109,196 to the Rivers and Estuaries Division for Trust board member sitting fees, as well as administration and support of the Trust.

In 2015-16, the Trust undertook the following activities:

- Finalised the RPS for submission to the Minister for approval to release;
- Published the RPS Community Update 2015 to improve public reporting;
- Established an agreed policy framework in coordination with the Department and a clear understanding of the distribution and effect of policies between the Trust and the Department;
- Issued advice to the CEO on Part 5 development approvals as per the Act;
- Developed a framework and process for reporting on the state of the DCA as per the Act;
- Attended to any other matters that were required from time to time including advice to planning authorities on strategic matters including the reservation of land, protection and public use of land and waters and protection of habitat.

**Table 3 – Financial support for the Swan River Trust<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Board sitting fees</b>	\$93,046 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Travel costs including parking/travel allowances/vehicle hire for trips/event</b>	\$4,500
<b>Communications and IT support including IPAD purchase/support/maintenance</b>	\$3,650
<b>Catering</b>	\$1,000
<b>Advertising – Board vacancies</b>	\$5,000
<b>Board events</b>	\$2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$109,196

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<sup>1</sup> Does not include any portion of staff time from Parks and Wildlife's Rivers and Estuaries Division that may have been directed towards supporting the Trust Board.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 44% overhead costs.



GOVERNMENT OF  
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