



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 2017





*Each year the Swan Canning
Riverpark attracts more resident
pairs of Eastern Ospreys.
Photo – Matt Kleczkowski*

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

To the **Hon Stephen Dawson MLC**
Minister for Environment; Disability Services

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 2016 to 30 June 2017.



Hamish Beck
Chairman

August 2017



Perth CBD beach sunset. Photo - Nathan Eaton

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Above: Water quality is core to the Swan River Trust's river management activities. Photo - Matt Kleczkowski. Front cover: Family foreshore fun. Photo - Megan Lewis

SWAN RIVER TRUST

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

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.

Over the past year, the Swan River Trust has continued to be supported by Parks and Wildlife given its significant operational and management responsibilities within the Swan Canning Riverpark and Development Control Area as outlined under the Act. This support will continue through the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions that will bring together the functions and staff of Parks and Wildlife, the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and the Zoological Parks Authority.

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 and long term community benefits of the Swan Canning river system are protected and enhanced.

HOW WE FUNCTION

The Trust operates under the SCRM Act to provide advice and perform functions in respect of the Swan and Canning Rivers and associated lands.

Since 1 July 2015 the Trust has been primarily focused on providing advice and strategic direction regarding development proposals in or affecting the Swan Canning Development Control Area.

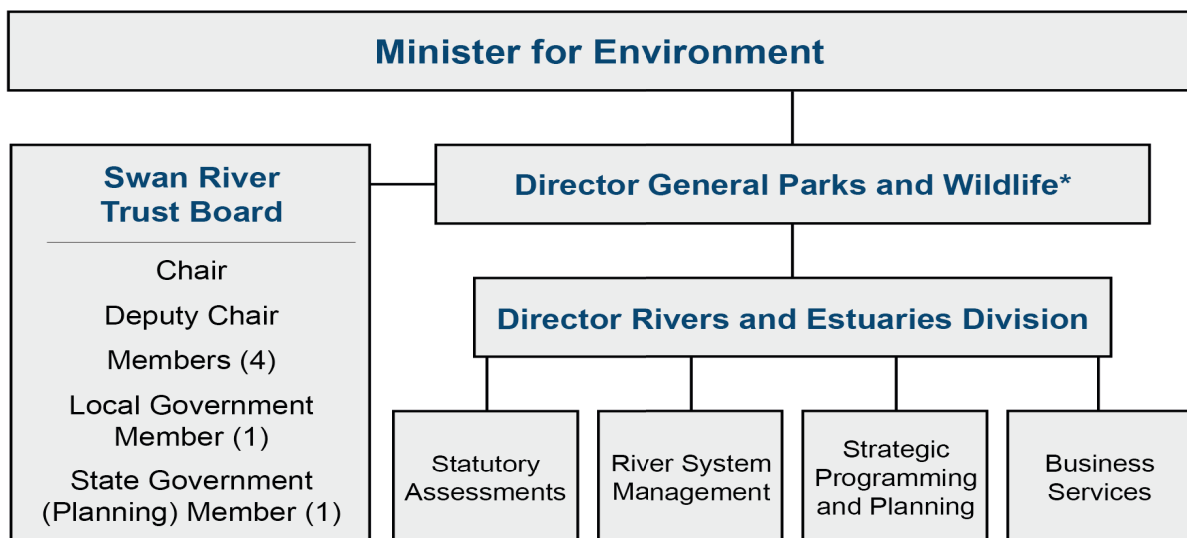
Parks and Wildlife has provided financial, technical, and staff resources to the Trust to undertake its functions and this will continue through the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

The Trust has the following functions under Section 23 of the SCRM 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 Riverpark planning and management 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 arrangements during 2016-17



** On 1 July 2017 the Department of Parks and Wildlife became part of the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.*

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW



This year the Swan River Trust Board (the Trust) has been engaged in a diverse range of business.

Consistent with its role under the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act, the Trust has continued to provide strategic advice to the Director General of the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Minister for Environment on a range of complex development proposals affecting the Swan Canning Development Control Area.

A vast variety of proposals have been brought before the Trust for consideration this year including Elizabeth Quay, Barrack Square, Waterbank Apartments, the redevelopment of Belmont Race Course, on-river accommodation in East Fremantle, high speed ferry trials, floating entertainment barges, seaplane trials and floating helicopter pads.

The Trust encourages a progressive and economically viable Swan Canning Riverpark and in doing so is mindful of its responsibility to help protect the ecosystem of the river as well as maintaining amenities and public access to the Riverpark.

It was particularly satisfying to see the completion of the Trust's first Swan Canning River Protection Strategy's (SCRPS) Progress Report (the executive summary is provided in this annual report). The SCRPS Progress Report provides an overview of the combined management actions of over 12 State Government organisations and 20 local government agencies who help strengthen the management and protection of the Swan Canning Riverpark

The Trust also published the 2016 River Protection Strategy Community Update which highlighted the key achievements and challenges for the Riverpark. This publication distils technical information into user friendly language and infographics to inform the Perth community of the key results of the Trust's river management activities.

During the past year, the Board has worked with the Department of Parks and Wildlife to review and finalise its planning policies. These policies are used to assess development and provide guidance for stakeholders including the general public, developers and other government authorities.

The policy suite was finalised in consultation with the Trust and released for use in early in 2017. The Trust's previous 32 policies have now been consolidated into 10 departmental policy statements and two corporate guidelines. These policies have been formally endorsed by the Trust.

Heavy and widespread rainfall in the Avon Catchment during February 2017 resulted in unusually high and unseasonal flows entering the Swan Canning Riverpark.

A Flood Response Incident Management Team was established from February to May 2017 to help coordinate the Parks and Wildlife's response to these flood events and any potentially related incidents such as algal bloom or fish death.

During this time areas of the Riverpark experienced elevated levels of waterborne bacteria and low dissolved oxygen conditions which affected wide areas of the lower Swan and Canning rivers. Weekly public updates were posted on Parks and Wildlife's Notifications and Alerts webpage to ensure public safety was maintained.

During this time Riverpark officers removed floating navigation hazards and seaweed from popular recreation areas where appropriate. River management actions were assessed in conjunction with local riverfront councils. I particularly acknowledge Parks and Wildlife's staff for their hard work in delivering these critical flood response services.

The 2016-17 year once again saw many changes for the Trust as we prepared to work with the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). We are pleased that Parks and Wildlife embraced the Swan Canning Riverpark as a major community asset and destination and we look forward to the Riverpark being consolidated alongside DBCA's other statutory authority attractions such as Kings Park, Perth Zoo and Rottnest Island.

The Board appreciates the direct support provided by Parks and Wildlife, state government agencies, local government and the Perth community who help protect our precious Riverpark.



Hamish R Beck
Chairman

GENERAL INFORMATION

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Swan River Trust undertakes its functions in accordance with the SCRM Act. Under the SCRM 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 Swan Canning Development Control Area (DCA).

River reserve

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

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.

Throughout 2016-17 the Department of Parks and Wildlife was responsible for planning and managing the waterways and conservation reserves of the Riverpark. These responsibilities will now be undertaken by the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. 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 Department's website.

Swan Canning Catchment

The Swan Canning Catchment covers 2,090 km² of the total catchment area in the Swan Avon system. The Swan Avon Catchment is approximately 126,000 km². 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.

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 Rottneest 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 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.

MR PETER KING

Mr King is Director, Port Development with the Pilbara Ports Authority. He has held senior positions in other State Government agencies, including the Department of State Development and the Department of Agriculture, with several overseas postings in the Middle East. Mr King has more than 35 years' experience across government and the private sector encompassing large project management, state approvals processes and land use planning. Mr King has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of WA. Mr King was appointed to the Trust Board in October 2016 for a three year term.

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.

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 (City of Swan) 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 2016-17.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

Parks and Wildlife officers provide written monthly reports on key activities and financial statements to the Trust. Annual performance is reported in the Trust's 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 the Department of Parks and Wildlife or his or her 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.



*Carnaby cockatoos are one of 100 bird species that frequent the Swan Canning Riverpark.
Photo - Keith Lightbody*



*Cycling on the Riverpark’s foreshore paths is a popular and scenic way to commute to work.
Photo – Stewart Allen*

SWAN RIVER TRUST MEETINGS

Member attendance at the 10 Swan River Trust meetings in 2016-17 (July 2016 cancelled – due to lack of quorum) were:

Meeting notices and attendance

Table 1. Swan River Trust meetings for the 2016-17 financial year

Board Member	Meetings Attended
Hamish Beck	10
Barbara Watroba	8
Vanessa Davies	7
Vicki Rasmussen	9
Peter King – Commenced November 2016	6 (out of 7 meetings)
Darryl Trease	5
Jeff Stone	8
David Saunders	8

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 three Trust members declared a conflict of interest over three items.

Declarations of Interest

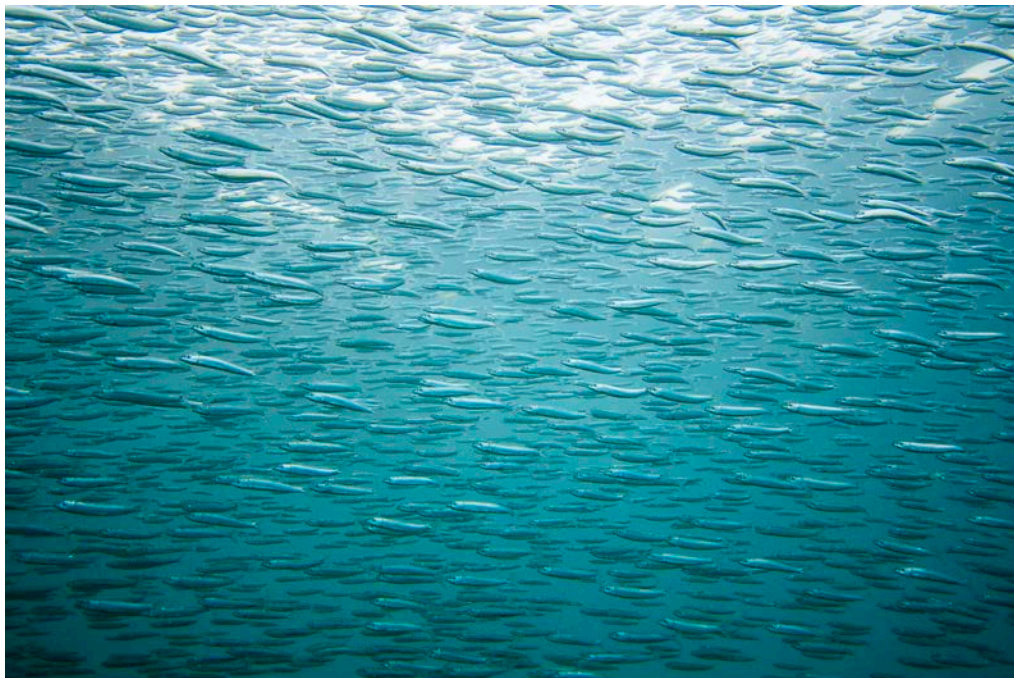
October 2016 – Vicki Rasmussen – All Abilities Play Centre

June 2017 – Hamish Beck - Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club

June 2017 – Barbara Watroba - City of Melville - Wave Park

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Under section 34 of the SCRM Act 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.



Schooling baitfish in the Swan River's lower reaches. Photo - Matt Kleczkowski

STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

SWAN CANNING RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY

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

The *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy* (SCRPS) was released on 20 November 2015. The SCRPS 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.

The Trust will report each year on the implementation of the SCRPS in its Annual Report. A biennial Swan Canning River Protection Strategy report will also be provided to the Minister for Environment to help monitor the Strategy's operations and effectiveness.



Foreshore planting in the Milyu marine reserve. Photo - Mark Thornley

Swan Canning River Protection Strategy

Progress Report

Executive Summary

The Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (SCRPS) was released in November 2015 and heralded a new approach to bringing together a range of government organisations to clearly identify how agencies are working, both individually and collaboratively, to produce positive outcomes for the rivers. This is the first Progress Report by the Swan River Trust based on the implementation of the SCRPS Strategic Management Program. The development of this report has been supported by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

From November 2015 to May 2016, the Department of Parks and Wildlife worked with partner agencies to establish the operations of the SCRPS Advisory Group, and begin the development of agreed reporting frameworks to ensure that each partner clearly understood their agreed responsibilities and proposed reporting timeframes. With the first SCRPS Advisory Group meeting in May 2016, the implementation of the SCRPS was considered to formally commence, even though the various projects and tasks listed by agencies represents ongoing core business being undertaken prior to those dates. As a result, this report covers the period from May 2016 to May 2017.

Agencies have provided short status reports on each project or task undertaken in support of RPS actions and contributed to additional highlight stories on examples of collaboration with other public sector organisations, the community, industry or research organisations.

The extended report with the additional highlight stories will be available on the Swan River Trust website at swanrivertrust.dbca.wa.gov.au. A condensed version is presented here for the purposes of the Swan River Trust Annual Report.

The actions within the SCRPS Strategic Management Program are structured around eight objectives. Based on the information provided by partner agencies, the status of these objectives within the reporting period is as follows:

Objective 1: Increase management coordination and collaboration between organisations with Riverpark responsibilities

Overall implementation is pleasing with the formal structures and agreements to support the implementation of the SCRPS now in place. Additional engagement and interaction between agencies to support activity beyond the actions listed in the SCRPS would be welcomed.

Objective 2: Improve water quality and manage environmental flow

This is a substantial objective, containing four separate strategies and 14 actions. Water quality improvement in rivers is only achieved through consistent and long-term activity in the catchment to reduce point and non-point source contributions and improving the condition of drains and tributaries to 'strip' contaminants out before they reach the rivers. The Department of Parks and Wildlife, Department of Water, Department of Environment Regulation and local governments are all working in diverse areas to reach these outcomes.

Objective 3: Ensure management decisions are based on appropriate knowledge

Objective three has four actions, focusing on various monitoring programs across water quality and ecological health. These programs allow the tracking of progress against targets and the effectiveness of management strategies for the river systems. Some minor delays have occurred in this objective due to a shift in resourcing while responding to critical incidents such as the Swan Avon flood event in February 2017.

Objective 4: Protect, manage and enhance biodiversity

This is the largest objective with five strategies and 14 actions. Implementation is progressing well, with only minor delays in one project investigating riparian condition and links to hydro-climatological change.

Objective 5: Maintain and improve sense of place with the Riverpark

This objective focuses on improving community understanding and engagement and shows solid progress in providing opportunities for people to engage with information, interpretation and educational opportunities focusing on culture and natural heritage. The Riverpark Trail project has been a successful collaboration in supporting this objective.

Objective 6: Provide access and a safe environment for Riverpark users

This objective has four strategies and 13 actions that focus on safe access and use of facilities both on water and land, as well as continuing to improve the communities' ability to access public lands adjoining the rivers. There have been minor delays in strategic projects supporting improved public access and foreshore development, however these will be progressed in 2017-18. A project to finalise dinghy management around the foreshores is almost complete, with only two local governments remaining to finalise the implementation of dinghy management systems. Ongoing works continue with local governments and other agencies. This includes Department of Transport and Main Roads, as they work to improve Riverpark facilities including cycle paths, marine facilities, toilets and lookouts.

Objective 7: Improve public knowledge and understanding of the Riverpark

There are five actions under this objective, with good progress being made in all areas. One collaboration of note is the substantial and long-term commitment of the Trust and the Department of Parks and Wildlife to an important community partnership with Alcoa and Perth NRM in providing funding for conservation activities by local groups

Objective 8: Improve the way we do business

There are four strategies and 11 actions supporting this objective covering external investment, statutory approvals processes, legislation and support businesses. Minor delays were experienced with several strategic land use planning initiatives during the reporting period, including precinct planning, but these will be programmed in 2017-18 as work continues on three actions to support appropriate and responsible development in the

Riverpark. A review of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* and Regulations will be undertaken in 2017-18 to assess their effectiveness.

Understanding this Report

This report should be read in conjunction with the SCRPS. A 'traffic light' approach has been developed to provide an easy visual reference to the status of each action listed in the SCRPS. The status of each action is displayed in a pie chart. Each pie chart is divided into segments depending on how many activities (projects or tasks) have been identified for each action. This provides a visual display of how the concurrent activities are tracking within the associated action. Most actions only have one or two activities attached, whilst others may have up to ten. Some activities may be relatively minor.

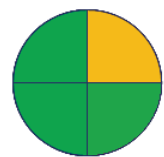
The classification is provided below:







1	Green (on track): Activity is on track to address action.
2	Amber (at risk): Activity undertaken is experiencing minor delays or is at risk of not addressing action. Attention required.
3	Red (significant delay): Activity is experiencing significant delays and is unlikely to address action in the near future. Immediate review required.

Each lead agency has reviewed and reported on the status of the projects or tasks they are delivering in support of their SCRPS actions. As a result, each segment of the pie chart receives a colour depending upon the status of the relevant activity.







For example, in the below action, the Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) has four identified activities that are delivering against the action. One activity is slightly delayed and therefore amber, while the other three are on track and are green.

Monitor and report on the extent and severity of algal blooms and other events affecting water quality



Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17															
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs	Heritage Council	Dop	Transport	Doh	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC
1. Increase management coordination and collaboration between organisations with Riverpark responsibilities	Establish a RPS Advisory Group (P)		●															
	Establish collaborative agreements between management organisations (P)		●	●														
	Biennial and five-yearly reports to be delivered to the Minister for Environment, partners and the community (P)		●															
2. Improve water quality and manage environmental flow	Identify the levels and sources of nutrients, organic material and sediment entering the Swan and Canning rivers (P)		●		●													
	Develop and implement Swan Canning and local Water Quality Improvement Plans to achieve nutrient load reduction targets (P)		●															
	Prescribe and apply intervention techniques to either trap nutrients, organic material and																	●








Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17															
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs	Heritage Council	DOP	Transport	Doh	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC
	sediments in drains and tributaries, or to achieve source control of these contaminants																	
	Improve management of fertiliser use to reduce nutrient loss from urban and rural land in the Swan Canning catchment (P)	●																
	Implement actions arising from the urban water drainage partnerships addressing strategic issues in the Swan Canning catchment	●																
	Improve planning schemes and policies to achieve a net decrease in nutrient inputs from future land development	●																
	Regulate and manage pollution from contaminated sites, prescribed premises and other commercial activities with the potential to cause pollution (P)	●																
	Maintain inventory database of confirmed contaminated sites in	●																



Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17															
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs	Heritage Council	DOP	Transport	Doh	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC
	the catchment, monitor appropriate remediation for sites and use the clean-up notice provisions of the Contaminates Sites Act as required.																	
	Maintain an inventory of sources of pollution incidents							●										
	Undertake action to address identified sources of pollution		●															
	Increase dissolved oxygen levels in the Swan and Canning rivers where required (P)		●		●													
	Investigate approaches to moderate and reduce the prevalence of algal blooms (P)		●		●													
	Adapt the use of oxygenation and other innovative technologies to manage future water quality issues as climate change science is updated		●		●													







Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17															
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs Council	Heritage Council	DOP	Transport	DoH	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC
	Investigate, plan and manage environmental flows to the Swan and Canning rivers		●		●													
3. Ensure management decisions are based on appropriate knowledge	Undertake river and catchment-based water quality monitoring program to measure compliance against management targets (P)		●		●													
	Establish a program to monitor non-nutrient contaminants entering, and in, the river system (P)		●															
	Monitor and report on the extent and severity of algal blooms and other events affecting water quality		●		●													
	Develop suite of ecological health indicators to support reporting		●		●													
	Manage aquatic resources in the Swan Canning River system using a risk based management framework (P)																●	






Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17																
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs Council	Heritage Council	DOP	Transport	Doh	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC	
4. Protect, manage and enhance biodiversity	Protect and monitor the stock status of priority species in the Swan Canning river system according to risk (P)																		
	Investigate fish re-stocking where appropriate																		
	Involve recreational fishers and commercial tour operators with monitoring fish stocks																		
	Promote responsible fishing behaviour (e.g. abiding by catch limits, protecting shoreline vegetation, using fishing platforms provided and using rubbish bins for unwanted tackle, bait packaging and other refuse)																		
	Provide protection for riparian and/or aquatic vegetation (P)																		
	Provide guidance on best management practices for shore stabilisation (P)																		

Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17																	
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs Council	Heritage Council	Dop	Transport	Doh	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC		
	Manage riparian and/or aquatic weeds																			
	Coordinate the management of declared plant species																			
	Where resources allow, investigate and map the extent of occurrence of feral fish and invasive species, and mitigate impacts by directing efforts into the early control of invasive species																			
	Administer legislation to manage the Riverpark including the use of vessels and facilitate safe community use (P)																			
	Maintain an incident response capability to ensure public safety and environment protection																			
	Investigate threats to ecosystem integrity and their processes																			

Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17															
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs	Heritage Council	DOP	Transport	DoH	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC
	Improve understanding of the biophysical environment of the Riverpark		●															
5. Maintain and improve sense of place with the Riverpark	Assess, recognise and protect sites with a high level of cultural heritage significance (P)			●							●							
	Develop interpretive and educational opportunities incorporating the cultural resources of the area			●														
	Provide publicly accessible information and maps detailing important cultural and natural sites and structures in the Riverpark			●														
	Work with relevant Noongar groups to manage the Riverpark (P)s			●														
	Promote public use and enjoyment of the Riverpark (P)		●															
	Maintain and improve the level of safe public access to and along foreshore areas in the Riverpark (P)		●															●

Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17															
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs	Heritage Council	DOP	Transport	DoH	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC
6. Provide access and a safe environment for Riverpark visitors	Improve access to public/courtesy moorings and short-stay pens		●															
	Implement a rational management system for dinghy storage on foreshore areas				●													
	Facilitate safe use of vessels on waterways – maintain navigation aids in the Swan and Canning rivers to facilitate safe passage through the navigation channels (P)												●					
	Coordinate primary contact water quality monitoring at popular swimming locations and report conditions to the community (P)														●			
	Develop a Shared Asset Management System to link funding/assets/damage to enable forecasting and prioritising of foreshore improvement works		●															

Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17															
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs	Heritage Council	Dop	Transport	DoH	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC
	Implement works to stabilise the riverbank where valuable infrastructure or recreational amenity is threatened by erosion (P)		●										●					
	Implement Aquatic Use Review and Management Framework for the Riverpark (P)		●										●					
	Improve quality of existing public facilities and infrastructure		●				●						●					
	Establish a Swan Canning Riverpark Trails project including walking, cycling and kayaking trails		●															
	Improve walking and cycle ways including the implementation of the Recreational Shared Path Network along the rivers as set out in the Western Australian Bicycle Network Plan												●		●			
	Support community events (e.g. Skyworks, Autumn River Festival and Blessing of the																	●

Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17															
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs Council	Heritage Council	Dop	Transport	Doh	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC
	Rivers) and tourism opportunities on the river foreshore (P)																	
7. Improve public knowledge and understanding of the Riverpark	Promote opportunities for community groups and individuals to be involved in on-ground conservation activities (P)		●															
	Facilitate opportunities for local community groups, agencies, educational institutions and volunteers to be involved in research, behavioural change and sustainable living programs/projects		●															
	Support local environmental groups to source additional funding (P)		●															
	Promote active and healthy lifestyles that encourage the use of the Riverpark																	●
	Promote Riverpark identity through the media and major public and corporate events occurring in the Riverpark		●															

Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17																			
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs	Heritage Council	Dop	Transport	DoH	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC				
8. Improve the way we do business	Identify nodes for developing appropriate commercial opportunities in the Riverpark (P)		●																			
	Ensure all commercial operators in the Riverpark meet high standards through licensing (P)		●																			
	Ensure River Reserve leases are managed in line with policy to best practice standards (P)		●																			
	Provide clear guidance consistent with SPP 2.10 to developers of land adjacent to the foreshore (P)		●																		●	
	Apply water sensitive urban design principles and other existing policies and guidelines																				●	
	Continue to collaborate on the development of precinct plans to support riverside development		●																			

Objective	Action	Project/ Task Status	Lead Agency in 2016-17															
			Parks & Wildlife	Swan River Trust	Dow	Local Govt	DER	Fisheries	FLM	DAFWA	Aboriginal Affairs	Heritage Council	DOP	Transport	Doh	MRA	Sport & Recreation	WAPC
	Review regulations and legislation to improve efficiency of the statutory assessment process (P)		●															
	Support implementation of Aboriginal Heritage Protocol to obtain Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 approvals for conservation works in the Riverpark		●															
	Monitor and enforce compliance with development approvals		●												●			
	Develop mechanisms for attracting private sector financial support for conservation and community projects through corporate partnering and establishing a Swan Canning Rivers Foundation		●															
	Investigate opportunities to diversify and increase investment in the Riverpark		●															

Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Case Studies

The Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (SCRPS) recognises and supports partners working together across government, industry and community to achieve great outcomes for the river system. Some examples of collaborative projects are featured below representing the diversity of activity coordinated through the SCRPS.

Riverpark Trails Project

Department of Parks and Wildlife, local river front governments, Noongar Advisory Panel. Parks and Wildlife has implemented sections of the Riverpark Trail Project across the Swan Canning Riverpark. To date, Parks and Wildlife has completed four interpretation nodes; at Brentwood, Heathcote, Point Walter and Bicton Baths (all within the City of Melville), as part of the Riverpark trail project. Parks and Wildlife is now developing an additional two nodes which are due to be completed in 2017-18. These include Adenia Park (City of Canning) and John Tonkin Park (Town of East Fremantle).

The interpretation facilities, known as River Journeys, are designed to share the cultural and natural values of the river foreshore. Made up of wooden structures, seating, interpretive signage and pathway linkages, and enhanced by digital experiences available via smartphone and online, the facilities are the result of years of hard work by Parks and Wildlife working with the City of Melville.

A series of virtual trails have been developed, linking the sites together. These can be accessed on the Geotourist or Trails WA apps, as well as on the Explore Parks website. Visitors are able to walk or ride these trails and use their smartphone to access detailed maps, read trail descriptions and learn about points of interest.

The interpretation makes use of visual, audio and artistic elements to allow visitors to engage with the content in a variety of ways. The trails also include recordings of Whadjuk Noongar elders telling stories about the importance of the sites, which will help visitors to connect emotionally with the storyteller. The project also incorporates artwork by Noongar artist Charmaine Cole, signage written in Noongar and English languages, engravings, seating and wheelchair-accessible pathways.

This project forms part of a greater plan to connect sites across the whole Riverpark, an area of 72 square kilometres, with more interpretation facilities and trails. The *marli riverpark Interpretation Plan* has identified 19 nodes across the Swan Canning Riverpark, with an additional six (nodes identified by the Noongar Advisory Panel, which gives a total of 25 nodes. However, Parks and Wildlife does not exclude developing additional nodes at other key recreational sites along the Swan Canning Riverpark where land managers are re-developing sites. This does though depend on interest from foreshore land managers, funding and resource availability and whether it fits with the outcome to be achieved.



The Bicton Baths interpretation facility. Photo - Ben Ansell

Matilda Bay Aquatic Use Review

Department of Transport, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Rowing WA, Yachting WA, various river users and stakeholder groups

The Department of Transport is responsible for marine safety including the establishment of boating speed limits and gazettal of areas in the river for specific uses. Aquatic use reviews are undertaken to ensure the safe, equitable and sustainable use of waterways. In 2016, Department of Transport undertook an Aquatic Use Review for the Matilda Bay area of the Swan Canning Riverpark. Matilda Bay is a popular spot with several aquatic clubs and a yacht club being located within it. There is a mix of natural shorelines and river walls around this area designed to protect critical infrastructure.

Key stakeholders consulted included Parks and Wildlife, Rowing WA, Yachting WA, various clubs using Matilda Bay, commercial ferry operators, Recfishwest, the Boating Industry Association of WA and Boating Western Australia. The general public were also provided an opportunity to comment, with 360 responses being submitted through an online survey.

The major outcome of the review was the implementation of an 8 knot speed limit in all the waters of Matilda Bay for vessels over 10m in length. The wash and wake created by these larger vessels travelling at greater than 8 knots had a significant detrimental impact on the stability and safety of other vessels and were causing damage to nearby marine facilities. Reducing the speed of these larger boats creates a safer environment for all boat users in the area and helps protect local facilities.

The changes were included in the latest *Boating Guide to the Swan Canning Riverpark* in March 2017.



Matilda Bay is popular with a variety of Riverpark user groups. Photo - Mark Thornley

Supporting Unique Commercial Operations

Parks and Wildlife, Department of Transport and local government

Parks and Wildlife regulates commercial operators on the Swan Canning Riverpark to ensure that they contribute to community benefit and the long-term community use and enjoyment of the river system without adversely affecting ecological health and amenity.

Well designed and managed commercial facilities and operations can add to the enjoyment of the Riverpark and enrich visitor experiences.

Parks and Wildlife considers a range of safety, ecological and community benefit issues when reviewing applications. Parks and Wildlife is open to new and innovative forms of commercial businesses and has worked with commercial operators to ensure these businesses meet the needs of the community. Recent examples include:

- *Seaplanes*: The return of commercial seaplane operations on the Swan River, with two operators approved during a two-year trial. This will allow Parks and Wildlife to monitor and review issues such as noise and compatibility with other river users including ferries.
- *Mr Shippy*: This operator has taken the innovative approach of the traditional ice cream van, a much-loved feature of suburban summers, and put it on the river. *Mr Shippy* has been operating since January 2016, supplying a range of ice cream treats, coffee and soft drinks to foreshore visitors and boats in the Riverpark.
- *Westcoast Hydrobikes*: Approval was granted to conduct guided tours and hiring of 'hydrobikes' on the Swan River, based on the South Perth foreshore. It is anticipated this activity will begin in time for the 2017-18 summer period.



Mr Shippy has taken the traditional ice cream van concept and moved it to the river. Photo - The West Australian Newspaper

River Protection Strategy Community Update 2016

The River Protection Strategy Community Update 2016 is part of the Trust's initiative 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 ecological pressures impacting the waterways.

It is hoped this document will build a shared understanding of the key issues and achievements during 2016 for the Swan and Canning rivers. This was the Trust's second 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 2017.

Swan Canning Riverpark Community Update 2016 Highlights

- **\$3 million** Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary was completed and **170,000** native plants were installed.
- **\$2 million** in Riverbank funding was distributed to **24** priority foreshore projects across **14** riverfront councils.
- **350 audits of 250** light industrial premises completed under the 2015-17 Light Industry Program.
- **\$576,000** provided to sub regional natural resource management groups to significantly reduce nutrients entering the Riverpark.
- **\$390,000** distributed to **24** natural resource management groups to deliver **41** on-ground river restoration projects through the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.
- **85%** of water quality thresholds met in the oxygenation zones. New oxygenation compound built at Caversham on the Swan River.
- **\$80,000** funding allocated to **16** behaviour change workshops attended by **2962** people. These events helped Perth residents adopt Riverwise behaviours.
- **Four** key interpretation nodes built under the *River Journeys* project at Bicton Baths, Point Walter, Heathcote and Brentwood to improve the Riverpark's public amenity.
- **2478** River Guardians members participated in Riverwise training, volunteering or event opportunities.
- **45** fishing line bins collected over **15km** of fishing line and **2000** bait bags in the Riverpark during the year.

2016 community update for the Swan Canning Riverpark

Water quality catchment targets			Water quality catchment targets		
Catchment	Total nitrogen	Total phosphorus	Catchment	Total nitrogen	Total phosphorus
Avon River	✓	✓	Southern River	⊗	⊗
Bayswater Brook	⊗	✓	Susannah Brook	✓	✓
Bannister Creek	⊗	✓	Yule Brook	✓	✓
Bennett Brook	⊗	✓	Water quality estuary targets		
Bickley Brook	⊗	✓	Ecological management zone	Water quality result	Description
Blackadder Creek	✓	✓	Lower Swan Canning estuary	⊗	Based on targets for chlorophyll-a and dissolved oxygen concentrations at the surface
Canning River	✓	✓	Middle Swan estuary	⊗	
Ellen Brook	⊗	⊗	Upper Swan estuary	⊗	
Helena River	✓	✓	Canning estuary	⊗	
Jane Brook	✓	✓			
Mills Street Main Drain	⊗	✓			
South Belmont Main Drain	✓	✓			

✓ 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
Upper Swan estuary	94.5% of measurements met threshold	82.5% of measurements met threshold
Lower Canning River	97.1% of measurements met threshold	94.2% 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.

Potentially harmful algal bloom incidents		
Ecological management zone	Notifications	Description
Lower Swan Canning estuary	2	<i>Dinophysis acuminata</i> – six weeks
Middle Swan estuary		<i>Alexandrium</i> sp. – nine weeks
Upper Swan estuary	1	Cyanobacteria – 11 weeks
Canning estuary	4	<i>Dinophysis acuminata</i> – one week <i>Alexandrium</i> sp. – three weeks
Lower Canning River	1	Cyanobacteria – two weeks

Biodiversity		
Fish Community Index*		
Ecological management zone	Shallow nearshore waters	Deeper offshore waters
Lower Swan Canning estuary	B	C
Middle Swan estuary	C	C/D
Upper Swan estuary	A	B
Canning estuary	B	C
Overall	Good	Fair

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 2016 (Hallett 2016)

STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS

Statutory assessments

In its statutory assessment role under the SCRM Act, the Department of 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 2016-17, the Trust considered and provided advice to the Director General on 12 development applications in accordance with Part 5 of the Act. Highlights included a new public jetty at Perth Stadium, two floating helipad proposals on Perth Water and the development of an all-abilities play space in Dalkeith. The Trust also provided advice on two proposals for floating barge event venues on Perth Water. Three café redevelopments were also considered and recommended for approval; two in East Fremantle, and one in Mount Pleasant.

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 2016-17, departmental officers assessed and provided advice on 146 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the MRS. This represents a substantial increase of 18 per cent compared to the previous year.

Policy Review

During the year a wholesale review of agency policies was completed. The policies are 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 and was released in a staged manner over 2016-17. The Trust's previous 32 policies have been consolidated into 10 co-endorsed Department and Trust policy statements.

Review of Conditions

A review of all conditions applied to the various statutory planning approvals issued and the recommendations provided to other stakeholders has commenced. Due consideration is being given to ensure the conditions used are consistent, understood, useful and enforceable to aid the effective management of development activity within the DCA.

Precinct Planning

The Perth Water Precinct Plan project was reinitiated in 2017 in conjunction with the City of Perth, City of South Perth, Department of Planning, Department of Transport, Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority, Tourism Western Australia and the Town of Victoria Park.

These authorities will develop a strategic vision and guide for the future use and management of Perth Water, the adjacent Parks and Recreation foreshore reserve and the development interface. The Trust will provide input and guidance at key milestones.

The aim of the Precinct Plan is to purposefully guide future improvement of the area in a more strategic and proactive manner for the wider benefit of all visitors. In 2016-17, the Belmont Foreshore Precinct Plan was finalised and forwarded to the WAPC for final endorsement in accordance with State Planning Policy 2.10.

Compliance and Audit

The total number of statutory planning compliance actions taken for the Riverpark during 2016-17 was 202. The percentage of works in full compliance was 53 per cent. Most of the non-compliant situations were satisfactorily resolved as a result of the Department of Parks and Wildlife's efforts. As per previous years, increasing effort is being made in relation to voluntary compliance and reporting to ensure sound environmental outcomes are being achieved for the rivers.

Major proposals considered

Aviation on the Swan River

A commercial seaplane trial on Perth Water concluded in mid-2017. Two operators had approval to operate during the trial period. The Department of Parks and Wildlife, in consultation with key stakeholders including the Swan River Trust, will now assist in determining whether this use is an appropriate long-term use of the river.

Two proposals for floating helipads on Perth Water were approved by the then Minister for Environment in 2016. The proponents recently engaged in a 'request for proposal' process to determine which proponent may enter into a River Reserve lease to enable construction and operation of a commercial helipad facility. Neither proponent was able to submit a proposal consistent with its planning approval so the Department and Trust are considering available options.

Floating Entertainment Barge Proposals

The Department of Parks and Wildlife received two applications for floating entertainment barges on Perth Water from Barge Co Pty Ltd and Old Salt Pty Ltd. The Department has assessed the applications in consultation with the Trust and other key stakeholders.

Perth Stadium, Pedestrian Bridge and Jetty Construction

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. Detailed site investigations and ongoing management indicate that the environmental risks from constructing the pedestrian bridge across the Swan River are challenging but to date have been appropriately managed.

Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority Key Projects – Elizabeth Quay and Waterbank

The Trust was a key advisory stakeholder to the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority regarding potential impacts on the river. The key issues related to potential environmental impacts during construction, associated with dewatering at Elizabeth Quay and the construction of the public realm and swimming beach at Waterbank.



Above: The Trust has been busy with large riverfront development projects such as the Burswood Stadium. **Below:** Watersports are enjoyed at a variety of key Riverpark destinations. Photo - Chelsea Bates



RESOURCES

Funding and Administrative Arrangements

Financial and Work Schedule 2016/17

In the 2016/17 financial year, the Department of Parks and Wildlife:

1. Met the agreed expenses of the Trust as detailed in Table 2 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 2016-17 period Parks and Wildlife allocated \$71,150 to the Statutory Planning Branch for member sitting fees, as well as administration and support of the Trust.

In 2016-17, the Trust undertook the following activities:

1. Completed a full review of statutory planning policies agreed by the Trust and the Department to help improve application processing times;
2. Issued advice to the CEO on Part 5 development approvals as per the Act;
3. Developed a framework and process for reporting on the implementation of the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy as per the Act;
4. Published the Swan Canning Riverpark River Protection Strategy Community Update 2016 to improve public reporting;
5. Developed a framework and process for reporting on the state of the DCA as per the Act;
6. Attended to any other matters that were required from time to time including providing 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 2. Department of Parks and Wildlife Financial Support for the Swan River Trust

Category	Amount
Board sitting fees	\$55,000 ¹
Travel costs including parking/travel allowances/vehicle hire for trips/event	\$4,500
Communications and IT support including IPAD purchase/support/maintenance	\$3,700
Catering	\$750
Advertising – Board vacancies	\$5,000
Board events	\$2,200
TOTAL	\$71,150

¹ Includes 45% overhead costs



Above: Boating is extremely popular in the Riverpark and a multitude of yacht clubs keep the Trust busy with development and licensing applications. Photo - Rod Ware. **Back cover:** Recreational fishing for blue manna crabs is an integral part of river culture and enjoyed a bumper season during 2016-17. Photo - Matt Kleczkowski





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