



SWAN RIVER TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



City drone vista.
Photo: Tom Proudfoot

Front cover: Osprey dinner. Photo: Melissa Zappelli
Brentwood main drain planting. Photo: Mark Thornley
Elizabeth Quay. Photo: Dennis Wat

Letter to the Minister for Environment

To the Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson

Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Commerce

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 2020 to 30 June 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hamish Beck', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hamish Beck

Chairman

August 2021



*Red Wrasse in the Swan River lower reaches.
Photo: Matt Kleczkowski.*

Contents

Swan River Trust overview	6
Swan River Trust arrangements during 2020-21	7
Funding and administrative arrangements	7
Chairman’s report	8
General information	9
Legislative context.....	9
Swan River Trust membership.....	10
Swan River Trust meetings	13
Meeting notices and attendance	13
Governance matters	13
Delegations	13
Performance monitoring and reporting	13
Strategic documents	14
Swan Canning River Protection Strategy	14
Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan.....	14
Statutory assessments	15
Strategic activities	15
Major proposals considered.....	16

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Swan River Trust overview

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

Under the SCRM Act, the 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 Swan Canning Riverpark (Riverpark), which includes public lands adjoining the Swan and Canning rivers.

The Trust's other key role is overseeing the development and implementation of the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (SCRPS) to ensure coordinated management efforts across government to help protect the Riverpark. Over the past year, the Trust has continued to be supported by DBCA given its significant operational and management responsibilities within the Riverpark and Development Control Area (DCA) as outlined under the SCRM Act.

Our purpose

To work with others to protect the 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.

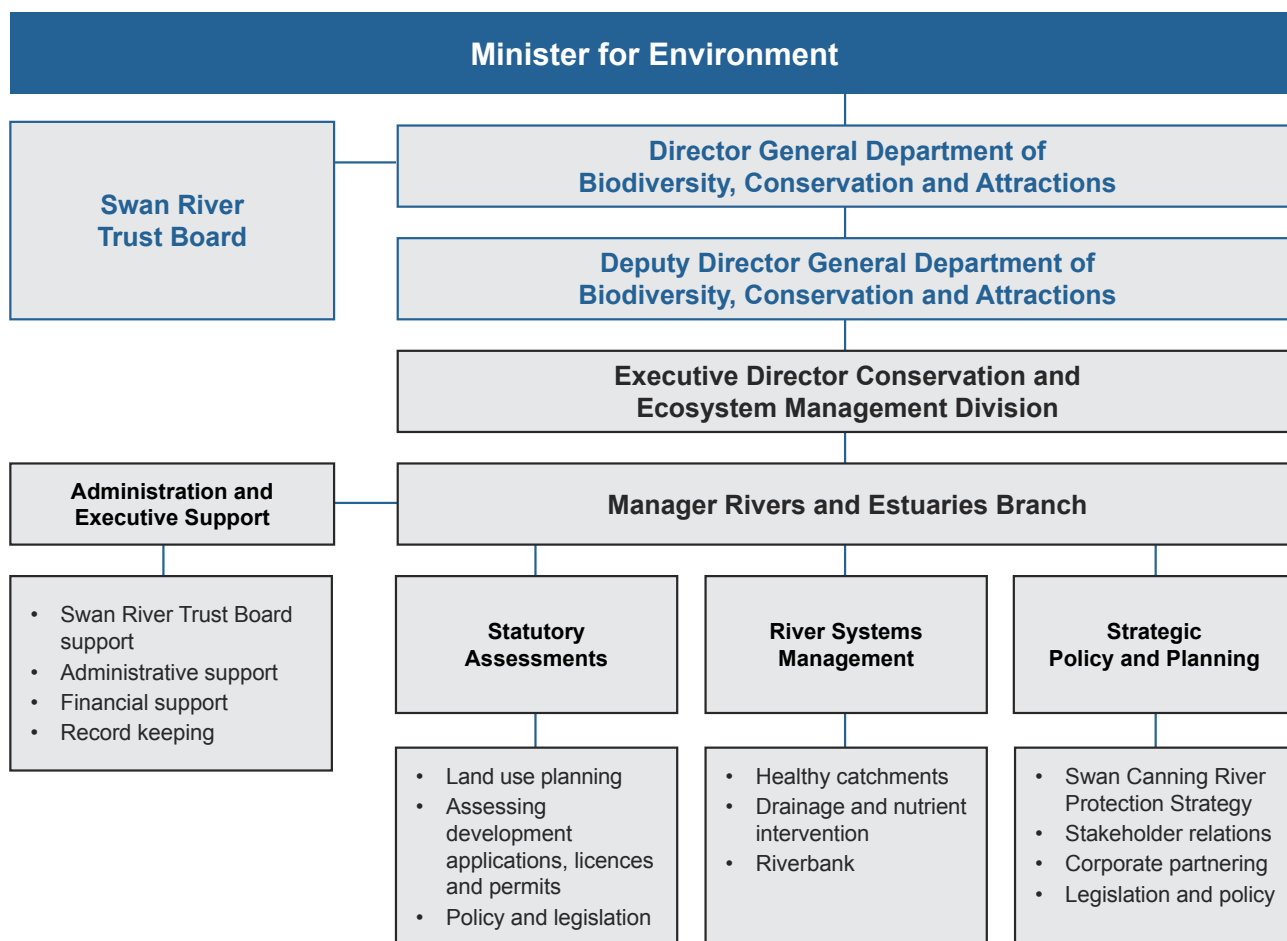
How we function

The Trust operates under the SCRM Act to provide advice and perform functions in respect of the Swan and Canning rivers and associated lands. A primary focus for the Trust is to provide advice and strategic direction regarding development proposals in or affecting the Swan Canning DCA.

DBCA has provided financial, technical and staff resources to the Trust throughout the year to enable the Trust to undertake its functions. The Trust has the following functions under section 23 of the SCRM Act:

- Develop policies for the protection and enhancement of the DCA, the Riverpark and the Riverpark shoreline.
- Establish targets for ecological and community benefits and amenity of the Riverpark and mechanisms for achieving those.
- Prepare and implement strategic Riverpark planning and management documents.
- Advise the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DBCA on matters relating to development.
- Advise the CEO of DBCA 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 protection and future use of river foreshores, protection and public use of land and water and protection of wildlife.
- Provide advice and promote public education on any matter within its functions.
- Any other functions as described in the SCRM Act or other laws.
- Under section 11 of the SCRM 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. The day-to-day management of the River reserve is undertaken by DBCA on behalf of the Trust.

Swan River Trust arrangements during 2020-21



Funding and administrative arrangements

Table 1. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions financial support for the Swan River Trust 2020-21.

Category	Amount
Board sitting fees	\$41,582
Travel costs including parking/travel allowances costs, vehicle hire for trips/events	\$801
Catering	\$381
TOTAL	\$42,764

Chairman's report

The Trust continues to engage in a diverse range of planning, environmental, cultural and recreational river management issues.

The Trust supported and facilitated a variety of tourism initiatives throughout the year including a bridge climb and zip-line at the Matagarup pedestrian bridge.

The Trust worked with DBCA to remove duplication from licensing and permit approval procedures and streamline mapping tools to provide clarity and certainty for tourism operators. The commercial activities content on the Trust and DBCA websites was improved and linked to the ApprovalsWA website to assist commercial activity applicants.

Trust members continued to provide timely strategic advice to the Director General of DBCA and the Minister for Environment on a range of complex development proposals affecting the Swan Canning DCA.

The Board played an advisory role regarding potential impacts on the river from major riverside projects, including the redevelopment of Precinct D of the Belmont Park Racecourse and a high-density development within the Canning Bridge Activity Centre. The Trust also undertook an advisory role on the Tawarri Hot Springs wellness/spa facility proposed for the Dalkeith foreshore.

The Trust is supporting DBCA in the construction assessment of five bridge crossings over the Swan and Helena rivers. These include, in order of progress, the duplication of Redcliffe Bridge between Ascot and Bayswater as part of the Tonkin Gap project, Swan River Crossings (Fremantle Traffic Bridge replacement and the construction of a new railway bridge in Fremantle), Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge (connecting Victoria Park's foreshore with Heirisson Island and the Perth CBD), Lloyd Street Bridge in Midland and the Roe Highway Bridge duplication.

These projects are within the Swan Canning DCA and the Trust/DBCA has been engaged during the design development and construction phases of these projects to provide planning and environmental advice to the relevant approval authority to ensure that the Swan and Helena rivers are protected.

During 2020-21, the Trust considered and provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on 11 development applications in accordance with Part 5 of the SCRMA Act.



There were a high number and broad range of developments proposed within the public foreshore reserves and river this year. Highlights included new and expanded cafés, small bars and restaurants, a variety of new rowing club infrastructure, commercial/public jetty upgrades, new boat storage facilities and refurbishments at various yacht clubs, creation of a nature playground and a foreshore masterplan project for the Alfred Cove/Melville bird sanctuary.

This year the Trust supported DBCA in granting a five-year licence to conduct commercial seaplane flights from Perth Water. This followed a commercial seaplanes trial and competitive Expressions of Interest process and was considered strategically as part of the *Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan*, following extensive consultation with the community, industry and key government agencies.

The Board also conducted site visits to the East Perth Power Station redevelopment, Sunset Heritage Precinct, the proposed Tawarri Hot Springs spa facility site on the Dalkeith foreshore and the Old Swan Brewery in Crawley so members could be briefed on the relevant development issues for each of the sites.

The Trust worked with DBCA to develop a comprehensive and proactive education campaign on the risks associated with the *Alexandrium* algal bloom in the Swan and Canning rivers. This included creating online content, multi-lingual brochures and a video, preparing media articles and fact sheets and delivering detailed briefings for relevant stakeholders.

This year DBCA officers assessed and provided advice on 184 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the Metropolitan Region Scheme. There were 23 tourism operator licences approved on the Swan and Canning rivers.

Eleven aquatic activities, including water sport lessons and equipment hire, were also approved. A further nine commercial operators were approved to use the foreshore, primarily for pop-up food and beverage outlets.

The *Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan* was endorsed by the Trust during 2020-21. The new plan will help respond to Perth Water's increasing visitor numbers and a growing interest for tourism and commercial ventures.

The Trust commenced the five-year review and recommendations for the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (SCRPS). The review tracks how the SCRPS is performing against its five year key performance indicators and has involved extensive consultation with our partner government agencies over the 68 management actions agreed by 17 State Government agencies and 20 riverside local governments.

Briefings and feedback workshops were held with key sub-regional natural resource management groups which deliver valuable catchment restoration and native animal habitat creation projects in the broader catchment. The SCRPS Five-Year Review publication and its associated recommendations are expected to be finalised in 2021-22.

I would like to thank Dr Joanna Pearce for her continued support as Deputy Chair, my fellow Board members for their commitment to the year's business and DBCA's staff who brief the Trust on complex development and river management issues.

The Trust appreciates the support provided by DBCA, State Government agencies, local government, natural resource management groups and the Perth community who help protect our Riverpark. We look forward to working with all our key partners during 2021-22.

Hamish R Beck
Chairman

General information

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Trust undertakes its functions in accordance with the SCRM Act. Under the SCRM Act, the Trust is the vesting authority for the River reserve. It has functions in relation to the River reserve, the Riverpark, the DCA and the broader catchment area.

River reserve

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

Swan Canning Riverpark

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

Throughout 2020-21, DBCA was responsible for planning and managing the waterways and conservation reserves of the Riverpark. DBCA 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.

Swan Canning Catchment

The Swan Canning Catchment covers 2090km² of the total catchment area in the Swan Avon system. The Swan Avon Catchment is approximately 126,000km². Surface water and ground water flow into the Riverpark from tributaries and drains across the Swan Canning Catchment.

SWAN RIVER TRUST MEMBERSHIP

The Trust members are appointed under the provisions of the SCRM 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 Chair, Deputy Chair 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 (CHAIR)

Mr Beck is committed to sustainability and effective environmental management working collaboratively with community groups and proponents to responsibly manage the Swan and Canning River system. This passion drives him to coordinate and undertake annual tree planting/revegetation projects. Mr Beck is a committed outdoor enthusiast having completed multiple Avon River Descents via paddle ski and a substantial bush hiking regime throughout remote Western Australia. Mr Beck is an independent Non-Executive Director of ASX listed Primewest Group (one of Australia's leading private Real Estate Funds Management firms, managing in excess of \$5 billion of property assets). He is also Deputy Chairperson of the Rottnest Island Authority, member of the Central Perth Planning Committee, Deputy Chairperson of the Historic Heart of Perth Committee, member of the Western Australian Maritime Museum Advisory Committee and member of the Cockburn Sound Management Council. In addition, he is an advisor to various institutional and private groups with diverse interests and objectives. Mr Beck is the Managing Director of Beck Advisory, an independent property funds management firm providing specialist strategic property advice and asset management to a variety of large private and public companies and not-for-profit institutions. Mr Beck joined the Trust board in 2011 and was re appointed Chairman until 15 July 2022.



DR JOANNA PEARCE (DEPUTY CHAIR)

Dr Pearce is currently a lecturer in Tourism and Hospitality Management at Edith Cowan University. Her experience and skills include social research with a focus on nature-based tourism, providing policy for the National Parks Advisory Committee in Victoria and preparing technical reports for government departments and industry on natural resource management issues. She has held various teaching roles at Murdoch and Notre Dame universities and has a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (Hons) and a Doctorate of Philosophy. Dr Pearce joined the Trust Board in 2017 and was reappointed as Deputy Chair until 15 September 2022.



MR PETER KING

Mr King is Director Port Planning with the Pilbara Ports Authority. He has held senior positions in other State Government agencies, including the former Department of State Development and the former Department of Agriculture. Mr King has more than 39 years experience across government and the private sector in the areas of soil and land survey, natural resource management and land use planning. He is very experienced in Western Australia's statutory approvals processes and facilitating development of major resource projects and port infrastructure in the Pilbara. Mr King has also had overseas postings in several countries in the Middle East and the Sub Continent. Mr King has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of Western Australia. Mr King was appointed to the Trust Board in October 2016 and was reappointed until 24 October 2022.



MS VANESSA MARTIN

Ms Martin is an Aboriginal woman who has traditional links to the Wongi 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 Martin completed a postgraduate Masters Degree in Management and Leadership at Curtin University. Ms Martin has served on the Trust Board since December 2009 and was reappointed until 20 December 2022.



MS MARENÉE PROVOST

Ms Provost commenced her career as a primary school teacher in Victoria. Upon moving to Western Australia in 1986 she joined the public service with the then Department for Community Development where she subsequently worked for 21 years culminating in the roles of Director for Capacity Building; and Director Accommodation Services. In these roles Ms Provost had considerable experience working alongside Aboriginal communities across the State. She transitioned into the disability sector as General Manager Community Services and subsequently Executive Director Hillroyd Project at Ability Centre. Ms Provost recently retired from Ability Centre after 10 years' service. Ms Provost was appointed to the Trust Board in September 2018 and was reappointed until 15 September 2022.



CR SARA SABERI

Cr Saberi is a City of Canning councillor and is currently employed as a local government Environmental Health Officer. Cr Saberi has held various positions as a volunteer with environmental organisations and has been an active member of landcare groups. Cr Saberi holds a Bachelor of Science in Environment and a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health. She was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018 and was reappointed until 15 July 2022.



MS JACQUIE STONE

Ms Stone is the Director, Policy for the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. Ms Stone has over 25 years experience as an urban planner and has worked in Victoria and throughout Western Australia for both local and State Government. She has diverse experience in policy development, as well as strategic and statutory planning in senior management roles. She was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018 and was reappointed until 15 July 2022.



MS JO WILKIE

Ms Wilkie is the Principal at Jo Wilkie Consulting, working in organisational development, strategic development and cross-sector partnerships between government, community and corporate bodies. Ms Wilkie worked in the community sector for 20 years and was appointed to six Ministerial advisory committees and taskforces during that time. For over 18 years, Ms Wilkie worked at Lotterywest as a Grants Manager with primary responsibility for the portfolio of Big Ideas (State-wide Initiatives). She was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018 and was reappointed until 15 July 2022.



The Trust Board received briefings on the development issues associated with the East Perth Power Station, Sunset Heritage Precinct and Old Swan Brewery sites. Photos: Mark Thornley

Swan River Trust meetings

Member attendance at the 10 Swan River Trust meetings held in 2020-21 is outlined below:

MEETING NOTICES AND ATTENDANCE

Table 2. Swan River Trust meetings for the 2020-21 financial year

Board Member	Meetings Attended
Mr Hamish Beck	10
Ms Vanessa Martin	10
Mr Peter King	8
Dr Joanna Pearce	10
Ms Marenée Provost	10
Cr Sara Saberi	10
Ms Jacquie Stone	8
Ms Jo Wilkie	10

The Director General of DBCA, 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 SCRM Act).

Under section 22 of the SCRM Act, the Trust's Chair is required to invite a representative of DevelopmentWA or the relevant local government to attend a meeting of the Trust if a matter to be considered at that meeting is relevant to DevelopmentWA or the local government. When a representative of DevelopmentWA 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 is considered appropriate, the Trust also invites persons with an interest in matters to attend meetings including proponents of development applications and representatives of peak bodies with an interest in the Riverpark and resource management.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

The Trust operates in accordance with Schedule 6 of the SCRM Act, *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, and DBCA's *Code of Conduct*.

DELEGATIONS

The Trust delegations were updated during the year to replace reference of the Department of Parks and Wildlife with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions or DBCA, and to accurately reflect the new DBCA structure (e.g. replace reference of the Rivers and Estuaries Division with the Conservation and Ecosystem Management Division and Rivers and Estuaries Branch). The Trust requested the delegations be considered again, following a review of policy in 2021-22.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

DBCA's officers provide written monthly reports on key activities to the Trust. Annual performance is reported in the Trust's Annual Report and DBCA's Annual Report to Parliament and the Minister for Environment.

Strategic documents

SWAN CANNING RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY

Part 4 of the SCR Act outlines the responsibilities of the Trust and DBCA to prepare strategic documents for approval by the Minister for Environment. The SCRPS was released in September 2015. It 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 SCRPS better coordinates 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 cooperation between agencies is leading 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.

DBCA reviews and reports on the SCRPS implementation under a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework. This framework ensures that the SCRPS is adaptive to reflect new information; undergoes continuous development and improvement; and provides results that are measured and clearly communicated to all necessary stakeholders.

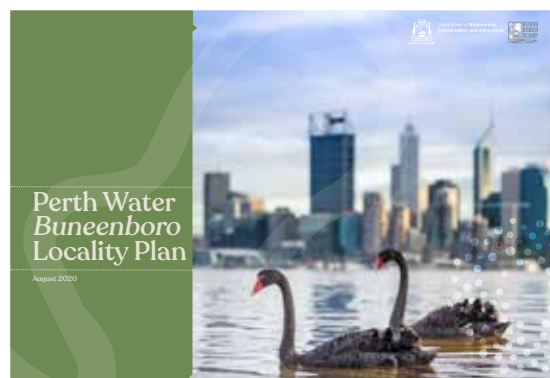
DBCA conducts an annual review of the status of the SCRPS Strategic Management Program, with assistance from all the partner agencies and organisations involved in managing the Riverpark. This provides the information necessary to prepare progress reports, biennial reports and a five-yearly review of the SCRPS to the Minister for Environment, partners and the community.

This year the Trust commenced the five-year review of the SCRPS as required under the SCR Act and by the Minister for Environment. To date, this review has included extensive stakeholder consultation with DBCA's government partner agencies, community natural resource management groups, local government, Aboriginal organisations and the Trust to help determine the SCRPS operations and effectiveness against its five-year performance indicators.

The draft *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Five-Year Review* publication will make recommendations regarding a new strategy and is expected to be completed in 2021-22.

Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan

The *Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan* was developed in collaboration with seven other State agencies and local governments. The plan will help guide future improvement and development of Perth Water, its foreshores and abutting private development interface, in a more strategic and proactive manner for the wider benefit of all visitors. Extensive public consultation, including with the Aboriginal community, has been undertaken during development of the plan. The plan was adopted by the Trust during the year and is anticipated to be publicly released in 2021.



Statutory assessments

In its statutory assessment role under the SCRM Act, DBCA assesses and determines, or provides advice to the Minister for Environment on, development proposals within the Swan Canning DCA. In performing its assessment function under Part 5 of the SRCM Act, DBCA must seek advice from the Trust and include that advice in its report to the Minister.

During 2020-21, the Trust considered and provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on 11 development applications in accordance with Part 5 of the SCRM Act. There were a high number and broad range of developments proposed within the public foreshore reserves and river this year.

Highlights included new and expanded cafés, small bars and restaurants, a variety of new rowing club infrastructure, commercial/public jetty upgrades, new boat storage facilities and refurbishments at various yacht clubs and creation of a nature playground.

DBCA staff 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 planning proposals that abut, or affect, the DCA.

During 2020-21, DBCA's Rivers and Estuaries Branch officers assessed and provided advice on 184 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the MRS.



Swan River Rowing Club,
Apex Reserve, Mount Pleasant.
Photo: Advantesting Civil Engineering

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

State Planning Policy 2.10: Swan-Canning River System

DBCA is working closely with DPLH on a review of State Planning Policy 2.10: Swan-Canning River System, State Planning Policy 2.9: Water Resources, and State Planning Policy 2.1: Peel-Harvey Coastal Plain Catchment and associated guidelines. The State Planning policies are integral to enable consistent and integrated planning and decision-making in relation to the river and for ensuring that activities, land use and development maintain and enhance the health, amenity and landscape values of the rivers, including recreational and scenic values.

Water-sensitive cities program

The department continued to support the New WATER Ways program and Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. DBCA continued to support the implementation of a water-sensitive Perth through membership of the Water Sensitive Transition Network and delivering actions from the *Implementation Plan for a Water Sensitive Greater Perth*.

The department contributed to a UWA/Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub project entitled *Reconstructing an understanding of Noongar knowledge for the Swan Canning catchment – implications for land-use and water planning in Perth*.

Swan and Canning rivers management legislation

Under the Streamline WA regulatory reforms, legislation changes are being drafted to improve assessment processes across the Swan Canning Riverpark. It is intended that the duplication will be removed from licensing and permit approval procedures and mapping processes will be streamlined to provide clarity and certainty for tourism operators.

MAJOR PROPOSALS CONSIDERED

Seaplanes on the Swan River

A five-year licence has been granted for an operator to conduct commercial seaplane flights from Perth Water subject to appropriate conditions. The use of Perth Water for commercial seaplanes was trialed and a competitive Expressions of Interest process undertaken. The ongoing and long-term use of Perth Water by commercial seaplanes was considered strategically as part of the *Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan*, following extensive consultation with the community, industry and key government agencies.

Matagarup Bridge

Use of Matagarup Bridge for tourism initiatives, including a bridge climb and zip-line, has been supported and facilitated by the Trust. The bridge was excised from the River reserve, which enabled the bridge tenure to be transferred to Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) for ongoing management and operation of the zip-line subject to a variety of environmental and amenity conditions.



Matagarup Bridge climb/zip-line.
Photo: Main Roads WA.

Riverside projects

Via DBCA, the Trust has an advisory role regarding potential impacts on the river from major riverside projects. DBCA works closely with proponents to protect and enhance the landscape, amenity and ecology of the river, as well as protect and enhance the community's use and enjoyment of the waterway and its foreshores. During 2020-21, the Trust provided advice on the redevelopment of Precinct D of the Belmont Park Racecourse and high-density development within the Canning Bridge Activity Centre.

State Development Assessment

In response to COVID-19, the *Planning and Development Act 2005* (as amended by the *Planning and Development Amendment Act 2020*), introduced a new Part 17 that grants the Western Australian Planning Commission temporary decision-making powers to determine proposals over \$20 million in metropolitan Perth, including those that would be subject to a Part 5 approval under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*. The Trust has undertaken an advisory role in several developments being assessed through this alternate planning process, including the Tawarri Hot Springs wellness/spa facility on the Dalkeith foreshore.

Tonkin Gap

The Tonkin Gap Project proposes to upgrade Tonkin Highway between Collier Road, Bayswater and Dunreath Drive, Redcliffe and will connect with the recently completed Northlink WA (north of Tonkin Highway) and Gateway WA (south of Tonkin Highway) projects to provide a north-south transport link for freight and commuter access within Western Australia. DBCA has issued a permit to MRWA and the Tonkin Gap Alliance (TGA) to expand Redcliffe Bridge over the Swan River.

These works will consist of installing a new western bridge and undercroft (for pedestrian and cyclist access) and upgrading the existing Redcliffe Bridge to accommodate additional vehicle lanes. Construction works for the bridge commenced on 18 January 2021. The bridge and associated works are expected to be completed in 2023.

TGA has prepared management plans to ensure that adequate controls are in place to address environmental risks during construction works and is required to conduct regular water quality monitoring at the project site for the duration of the works. DBCA has attended regular site inspections with the TGA team and MRWA which have committed to undertaking foreshore enhancement and activation works as part of the Tonkin Gap project.



*Tonkin Highway over Swan River, Redcliffe.
Photo: Main Roads WA.*



*In-river bridge construction
works for the new Tonkin
Highway Bridge.
Photo: Markus Nordstrom.*

Swan River Crossings

DBCA has been involved in discussions with MRWA regarding the Swan River Crossings, which proposes to replace the existing Fremantle Traffic bridge and to build an additional rail bridge (dedicated to passenger rail). The Fremantle Bridges Alliance team (on behalf of MRWA) has proposed four bridge alignment options and is currently seeking community feedback.

Once the bridge alignment has been finalised, the alliance team will develop the bridge designs in the second half of 2021. Construction works for the bridge are planned to commence in 2022. DBCA has issued a permit for MRWA to conduct geotechnical and scientific investigations for the proposed Fremantle Bridges, and these investigations are currently underway.

Causeway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge

DBCA has been in discussion with MRWA regarding the concept designs for the proposed Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge. The proposed bridge is intended to connect Victoria Park to the Perth CBD, with landings at Point Fraser Reserve, Heirisson Island and McCallum Park. It is understood that an alliance contract will be awarded later this year, with construction works to commence in 2022. DBCA has issued a permit to MRWA to conduct geotechnical and scientific investigations for the proposed bridge.



Greater Eastern Highway Bypass

Two new interchanges are proposed along Great Eastern Highway to improve congestion and commuter safety for traffic across the Hazelmere and Forrestfield industrial and freight distribution centres. As part of the Great Eastern Highway Bypass Interchanges project, two new bridges are proposed over the Helena River. The first bridge will be for the Lloyd Street extension, which is intended to directly link Midland with the industrial areas of Hazelmere.

The second bridge is for the Roe Highway upgrade between Talbot Road and Clayton Street, where a duplication of the Roe Highway bridge is required over the Helena River. These future bridges will be located within the Helena River floodplain, which is also a conservation category wetland. The Greater Connect Alliance team is currently progressing the Lloyd Street bridge design with construction works planned for commencement in late 2021 or early 2022.

The design development and construction of the Roe Highway bridge duplication is anticipated to commence in 2022. On behalf of the Trust, DBCA will continue to liaise with MRWA and the Greater Connect Alliance to ensure that the ecological values of the Helena River and its floodplain are considered and protected during the design and construction of the two bridges.



*Kitesurfing, windsurfing and paddle boarding are extremely popular along the Melville Beach foreshore in Applecross.
Photo: Matt Kleczkowski*



*Black Swans enjoying the Perth Water shallows.
Photo: Tom Proudfoot.*

Swan River Trust

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