



SWAN RIVER TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Letter to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action

To the Hon Reece Whitby

Minister for Environment; Climate Action

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 2021 to 30 June 2022.



Hamish Beck

Chair

August 2022

Contents

Swan River Trust overview	4
Swan River Trust arrangements during 2021-22	5
Funding and administrative arrangements	5
Chair’s report	6
General information	8
Legislative context.....	8
Swan River Trust membership	9
Appointed members of the Swan River Trust Board ...	9
Swan River Trust meetings	12
Meeting notices and attendance	12
Governance matters	13
Delegations	13
Performance monitoring and reporting	13
Strategic documents	14
Swan Canning River Protection Strategy	14
Swan Canning river system locality policy and plans	14
Statutory assessments	15
Strategic activities	16
Major proposals considered.....	18

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Swan River Trust overview

The Trust is an advisory body created by the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (the 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 the department's significant operational and management responsibilities within the Riverpark and Swan Canning 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

A healthy river for all. To be enjoyed and shared, now and in the future.

Desired outcomes

The ecological health, amenity, sense of place and community benefits of the Swan Canning river system are protected and enhanced.

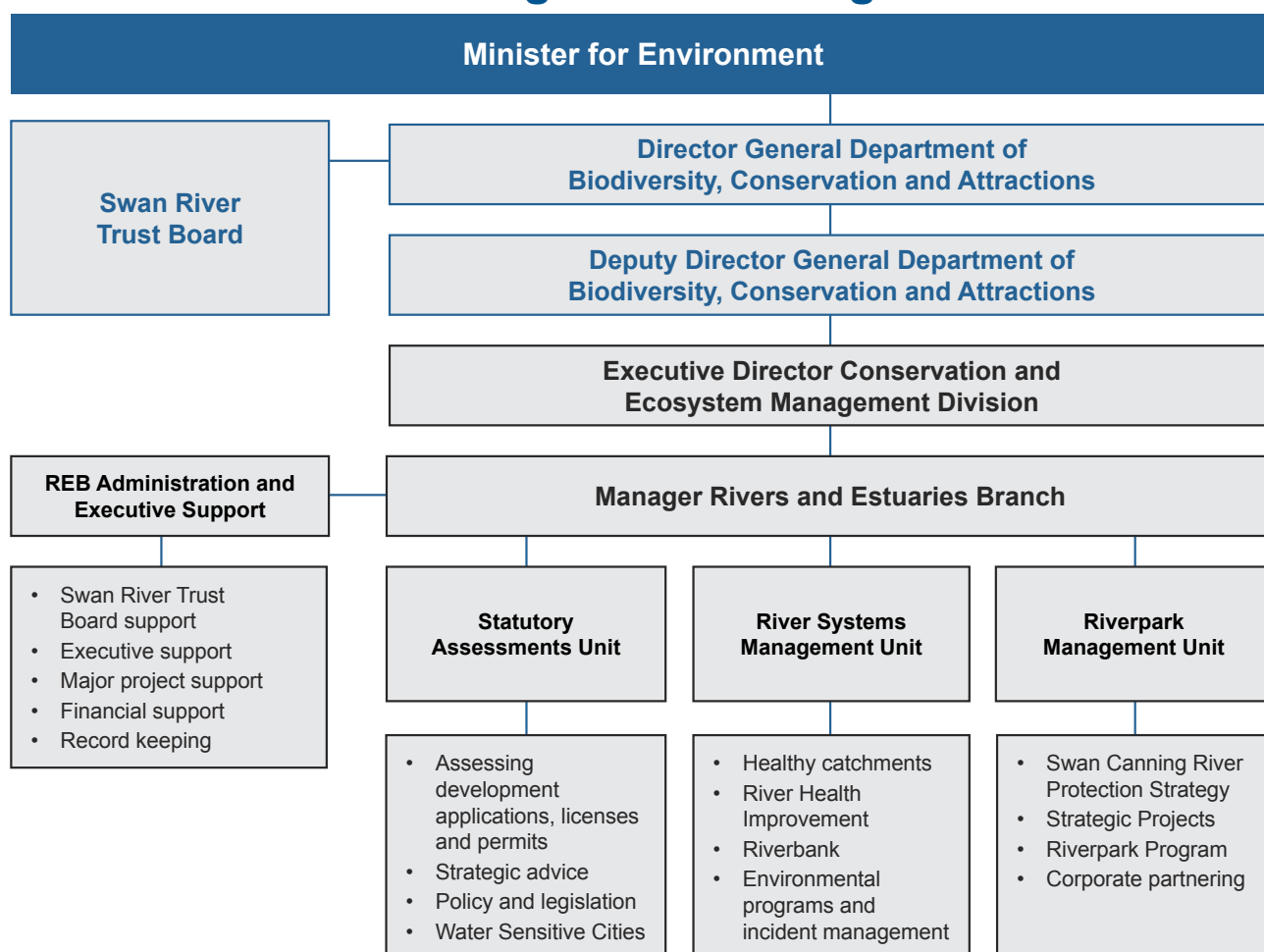
How we function

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 and around 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 2021-22



Funding and administrative arrangements

Table 1. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions financial support for the Swan River Trust 2021-22.

Category	Amount
Board sitting fees	\$37,759.00
TOTAL	\$37,759.00

Operational Agreement between the Trust and DBCA 2021/22 – 2023/24

Under the SCRMA Act, the CEO of the department is required to provide the Trust with any assistance, staff and facilities of the department the Trust may reasonably require to carry out its functions. There is a current Operational Agreement (the Agreement) between the Trust and DBCA, that is valid for three years, from July 2021 – June 2024.

The Agreement details the agreed service arrangements and information about the relationship between the Trust and DBCA. In June 2022, Schedule 1 of the operational agreement between the Trust and DBCA was updated to reflect the anticipated financial support for the 2022/23 financial year. The agreement does not include DBCA staff time that will be directed towards supporting the Trust.



Chair's report

The Trust supported and facilitated a variety of tourism initiatives throughout the year including a seaplane boarding pontoon, Tawarri Hot Springs wellness spa facility proposal and the Nedlands Bath House redevelopment proposal.

Members continued to provide independent and 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 Trust continued to support DBCA in the assessment of the construction of several significant bridge crossings over the Swan and Helena rivers. This year these included the duplication of Redcliffe Bridge between Ascot and Bayswater as part of the Tonkin Gap project, Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge (connecting Victoria Park's foreshore with Heirisson Island and the Perth CBD) and Lloyd Street Bridge in Midland.

These projects are within the Swan Canning DCA and the Trust/DBCA has been engaged during the design development and construction phase 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 2021-22, the Trust provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on eight development applications including a Section 84 and Section 85 in accordance with Part 5 of the SCRM Act.



There were a broad range of developments proposed within the public foreshore reserves and river this year. Highlights included new boat ramps, a seaplane pontoon, jetty change of use, introducing shellfish restoration reefs, installing solar panels, installing gas pressure reduction systems and a tavern change of use.



*Community Rivercare Grants group at work.
Photo: Karen McLean*

This year the Trust worked with DBCA to prepare 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.

The SCRPS Five Year Review publication and its associated recommendations are expected to be finalised early in the 2022-23 financial year.

The Trust and DBCA continued to deliver proactive education on the risks associated with *Alexandrium* algal blooms in the Swan and Canning rivers. This included online content, multi lingual brochures, preparing fact sheets, updates and detailed briefings for a variety of key stakeholders.

This year DBCA officers assessed and provided advice on 113 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the Metropolitan Region Scheme. There were 43 tourism operator licences approved on the Swan and Canning rivers.

A new draft locality planning corporate policy and nine locality plans for the Swan Canning river system were released for public comment. The documents will provide specific locality-based guidance for development. The previously endorsed Perth Water *Buneenboro* Locality Plan and associated action plan are also being implemented.

After 11 years this will be my last term as Trust Chair and I wish to thank my fellow Board members including Deputy Chair Dr. Joanna Pearce who will also be retiring during 2022, for their continued support and valuable contributions.

The Trust and DBCA's statutory assessments unit have evolved into a complementary team that prides itself on its consultative and progressive approach to riverfront development.

This has been evidenced by the Trust's careful handling of major riverfront developments such as Elizabeth Quay, the recent Matagarup Bridge project, the development of the Perth Water *Buneenboro* Locality Plan and the two rounds of public consultation held for the shellfish restoration reefs proposal this year.

The Trust also intends to respond to the recent Public Sector Service Priority Review by conducting a communications audit of the Board's public interface during the next year.

The Trust looks forward to working with all our valued stakeholders during 2022-23.

Hamish R Beck
Chair

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 2021-22 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.



*Sea kayak gathering at Deep Water Point on the Canning River.
Drone photo: Gary Williams.*

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 has strong interests and commitment to sustainable and effective environmental management by collaboration, benefitting both community interest and protection of Western Australia's unique flora and fauna. This passion drives him to coordinate and undertake the annual tree planting / revegetation with landcare groups. Mr Beck is a committed outdoor enthusiast, undertaking regular scuba dives, has completed multiple Avon Descents and a substantial hiking and camping regime throughout remote Western Australia. Hamish is the current Chairperson of the Rottne Island Authority, Member of the Capital City Planning Committee, Deputy Chairperson of the Historic Heart of Perth Committee, Board Member of the Western Australian Maritime Museum Advisory Committee and recently retired Member of the Cockburn Sound Management Council. Hamish was also 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). 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 was appointed to the Trust in 2011 and was reappointed Chairman in 2020 for a two year term 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 Board in 2017 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term until 15 September 2022.



MR PETER KING

Mr King has held senior positions in several State Government agencies, including the former Department of Agriculture, the former Department of State Development and the Pilbara Ports Authority. Mr King has more than 40 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 a number of 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 in 2019 for a three year term until 24 October 2022.



MS VANESSA MARTIN

Ms Martin is a Noongar woman from the South Coast of Western Australia. She began her career as a qualified secondary teacher, and in 2000 Vanessa completed a Masters Degree in Management and Leadership, Curtin University, Graduate School of Business. In 2018, Ms Martin completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. This GAICD professional qualification complements her Board and senior executive experience. Ms Martin has comprehensive experience working at senior levels in the private, government and not for profit sectors including roles in diversity and inclusion, employment, training and education, health, justice, community and Indigenous relations. She also has a comprehensive national network of community stakeholders, groups and organisations, Government Ministers, Director Generals and senior managers, CEOs and senior officers/managers in commonwealth, state, local governments, and private industry who she has supported and helped implement collaborative ways of working together to achieve successful outcomes. Ms Martin has served on the Trust Board since December 2009 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term until 20 December 2022.



MS MARENÉE PROVOST

Ms Provost commenced her career as a primary school teacher in Victoria. In 1986 she joined the state public service in Western Australia with the then Department for Community Development/Child Protection. Ms Provost subsequently worked in this field for 21 years, culminating in the roles of Director for Capacity Building and Director Accommodation Services. In these roles she acquired significant knowledge and experience in working alongside Aboriginal communities across the State. Marenée later transitioned into the disability sector where she achieved the position of General Manager Community Services and ultimately Executive Director at Ability WA, from which she has now retired after 10 years service. Ms Provost was appointed to the Trust Board in September 2018 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term until 15 September 2022.



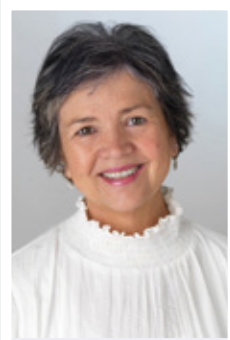
CR SARA SABERI

Cr Saberi is a City of Canning councillor and 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 Environmental Management and a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health and has been employed as an Environmental Health Officer since 2018. She was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term 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 28 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 in 2019 for a three year term 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 the Senior Grants Manager with portfolio responsibility for Big Ideas (State-Wide Initiatives), Health and Medical Research, State Universities, Community Radio and Television, Community Legal Centres and Homelessness. She is currently on the Boards of the Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science and the Perth Cabaret Festival She was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term until 15 July 2022.

Swan River Trust meetings

Member attendance at the 10 Swan River Trust meetings held in 2021-22 is outlined below:

MEETING NOTICES AND ATTENDANCE

Please see below attendance for SRT board members this financial year

Table 2. Swan River Trust meetings for the 2021-22 financial year

Board Member	Meetings Attended
Hamish Beck	10
Vanessa Martin	9
Joanna Pearce	9
Peter King	10
Marenée Provost	9
Sara Saberi	10
Jacquie Stone	9
Jo Wilkie	8

Table 3. Swan River Trust members conflict of interest declarations.

Month	Member's name	Item No
Jul-21	Joanna Pearce	4.3 (Riverbank funding)
	Sara Saberi	4.3 (Riverbank funding)
Aug-21	None declared	
Sep-21	Jacquie Stone	5.1 (SPP 2.9 Planning for Water)
Oct-21	Jacquie Stone	5.1 (SPP 2.9 Planning for Water)
Nov-21	Joanna Pearce	5.4 (TNC habitat restoration)
	Sara Khabbaz-Saberi	4.1 (Locality policy)
Feb-22	None declared	
Mar-22	Joanna Pearce	4.2 (TNC Reef Restoration)
	Peter King	4.2 (TNC Reef Restoration)
	Hamish Beck	4.2 (TNC Reef Restoration)
Apr-22	Hamish Beck	(TNC Reef Restoration)
May-22	None declared	
Jun-22	None declared	

Standing declaration from the Chair as a member of the Royal Freshwater Yacht Club

Standing declaration from Jacquie Stone in regard to SPP2.9

During the year, Trust members also attended community tree planting days and events such as The Nature Conservancy's community and stakeholder workshop, which led to the development of its Conservation Action Plan for the Swan-Canning estuary.

The Director General of DBCA, or their 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. This year, local governments that attended Trust meetings included the City of Melville and the City of South Perth.

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.

This year, the Trust invited numerous stakeholders to meet to discuss river management matters, including the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL), Perth NRM and the Department of Transport. Proponents of development, including Main Roads WA, The Nature Conservancy and Tawarri Hot Springs also attended Trust meetings to present their proposals, which assisted the Trust in its considerations.

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. In July 2021, the Trust developed, and made publicly available, a Board Charter. The Charter outlines the role, composition and processes relating to the key governance activities of the Trust in accordance with the SCRM Act.

In early 2022, the Trust met with representatives appointed by the Public Sector Commission, to discuss its Agency Capability Review program. The program helps departments and the broader public sector review their capabilities to drive continuous improvement and high performance in order to deliver better services to Western Australians both now and into the future.

DELEGATIONS

The Trust delegations did not change throughout this financial year. However the Trust requested the delegations be considered again, following the completion of the policy review.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service 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.



*Water quality monitoring at a nutrient stripping wetland.
Photo: DBCA.*

Strategic documents

SWAN CANNING RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY

Part 4 of the SCRM Act outlines the responsibilities of the Trust and DBCA to prepare strategic documents for approval by the Minister for Environment. The SCRPS was released on 20 November 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 enhanced 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.

The Trust reports each year on the SCRPS implementation in its Annual Report. 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.

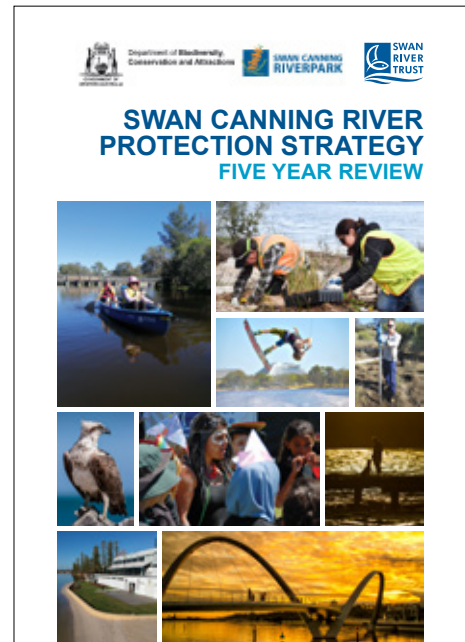
DBCA conducts an annual review of the status of the SCRPS Strategic Management Program, with assistance from partner agencies and organisations involved in managing the Riverpark. This provides the information necessary to prepare progress reports, biennial reports and a five-yearly review of the SCRPS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

This year the Trust finalised the draft Five Year Review of the SCRPS as directed under the SCRM Act and by the Minister for Environment. This review included extensive stakeholder consultation with DBCA's government partner agencies, community natural resource management groups, local government and the Trust to help determine the SCRPS operations and effectiveness against its five-year key performance indicators.

The draft Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Five Year Review publication includes an extensive list of recommendations and is expected to be completed in early in 2022-23.

SWAN CANNING RIVER SYSTEM LOCALITY POLICY AND PLANS

A new draft policy Planning for Localities along the Swan Canning development control area and nine associated locality plans were released for public comment. The policy and locality plans aim to provide specific locality-based guidance for development (including use of the land and water) around the DCA and complement the existing suite of Swan Canning river system policies that apply more broadly. Once finalised, the nine locality plans in addition to the already endorsed Perth Water *Buneenboro* Locality Plan will cover the entire DCA. The policy and plans are intended to be co-endorsed DBCA-Trust documents.





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 2021-22, the Trust provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on eight development applications including a Section 84 and Section 85 in accordance with Part 5 of the SCRM Act.

There were a broad range of developments proposed within the public foreshore reserves and river this year. Highlights included new boat ramps, a seaplane pontoon, jetty upgrades, introducing shellfish restoration reefs, installing solar panels, installing gas pressure reduction systems and a tavern change of use. There were also significant infrastructure upgrades including footpath construction, foreshore vegetation and foreshore stabilisation works.

Responding to the need for long term planning around the river has resulted in the preparation of the Attadale Alfred Cove Foreshore Master Plan. Substantial additional master planning exercises are also underway for Ashfield Flats and the Nedlands foreshore.

DBCA has commenced engagement with Riverpark yacht clubs to embark on long term planning for their lease areas. Key considerations will include ensuring improved public access to foreshores within and around yacht club facilities, environmental compliance and improved amenity outcomes for the community.

DBCA 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 2021-22, DBCA's Rivers and Estuaries Branch assessed and provided advice on 113 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the MRS.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Trust, along with DBCA senior managers, hosted the Minister for Environment and staff on a boat tour to visit priority Riverpark development sites on 4 May 2022. Some of the sites visited included the East Perth Power Station, Claisebrook Cove, Elizabeth Quay, Nedlands Baths, Tawarri Hot Springs and The Nature Conservancy's project sites.

The Minister for Environment also attended the Trust's June 2022 Board meeting to engage with members and visit the Kent Street Weir. The Minister discussed DBCA's approach to improving water quality to protect the river system, including the Swan Canning oxygenation program and the operation of the weir and fishway.

The Trust also met with a variety of key stakeholder groups through the year, including SERCUL and Perth NRM, to discuss priority and emerging issues for the Swan Canning Riverpark.



The Minister for Environment Hon. Reece Whitby and Hamish Beck inspect some priority Riverpark sites.

Water Sensitive Cities program

The department continued to support the New WAter Ways water sensitive urban design capacity building program. Support was continued for the implementation of a water sensitive Perth and Peel through membership of the Water Sensitive Transition Network and delivering actions from the new Vision and Transition Strategy for a Water Sensitive Greater Perth - Implementation Plan (2022-2024).

The department became a joint partner with DWER in the new national Water Sensitive Cities Australia (WSCA) research-to-practice mainstreaming program. This included establishing national and WA WSCA projects.

The department became a partner in the development and implementation of the Waterwise Perth and Peel plan being developed and led by the Minister for Water and DWER. The department continued to contribute to the UWA/Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub project: Noongar water knowledge in the Djarlgarro Beelihar catchment – implications for land-use and water planning.

Draft State Planning Policy (SPP) 2.9: Planning for Water and Planning for Water Guidelines (Guidelines)

The Minister for Planning released Draft SPP 2.9 and Guidelines for a three month public comment period on 10 August 2021. The Trust was briefed on the Draft SPP 2.9 and Guidelines at its September meeting, and following receipt of DBCA's advice on the Draft SPP 2.9 and Guidelines at its October meeting, endorsed the content of the advice provided by DBCA. The Trust considered it is important that the finalised SPP 2.9 and Guidelines continue to provide for consistent and integrated planning and decision-making in relation to the river system. This will ensure that the health, amenity and landscape values of the rivers, including recreational and scenic values, are maintained and enhanced.

Updates of Corporate Policy No. 5 – Fraud and Corruption Prevention; Corporate Policy No. 56 – Risk Management; and DBCA Fraud and Corruption Prevention Plan 2020/2021

Early in 2021/22, Corporate Policy No. 5 – Fraud and Corruption Prevention, Corporate Policy No. 56 – Risk Management and DBCA's Fraud and Corruption Prevention Plan 2020/2021 were updated to reflect best practice. At its August 2022 meeting, the Trust reviewed the policies and plan, and resolved to co-endorse them along with DBCA and the statutory authority boards.



Naming of the new Black Swan Habitat project in South Perth

The Black Swan Habitat (formerly Waterbird Habitat) project, on the South Perth Foreshore was completed in early 2021/22. The project protects the foreshore reserve, improves habitat for native waterbirds and protects the riverbank from erosion.

Works included construction of bund/access track out to the waterbird refuge island and earthworks to construct headlands and the composite natural shoreline edge. Revegetation of the island was then carried out, along with 11,000 native plants installed on the parkland area. The newly created habitat provides a retreat for bird roosting and birdwatching.

The City of South Perth's Aboriginal Reference Group considered several naming options and selected "Djirda Miya" which means "Home of the Birds", as the island's preferred and recommended name.

As the island is located in the River reserve, the Trust was required to consider the naming at its November 2021 meeting, where it resolved to endorse the Black Swan Habitat project name of "Djirda Miya". DBCA then worked on the Trust's behalf to facilitate the naming processes with the City of South Perth.

Swan and Canning rivers management legislation

Under the Streamline WA regulatory reforms, amendments to the SCRM Act and Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007 are being progressed. Duplication will be removed from licencing and permit approval procedures and mapping amendment processes will be streamlined.

MAJOR PROPOSALS CONSIDERED

Tonkin Bridge duplication

In May 2022, the Tonkin Bridge duplication bridge launch was completed and the bridge now spans from Belmont to Bayswater. With the support of the Trust, DBCA is engaging with the Tonkin Gap Alliance during the remainder of construction to continue to mitigate potential environmental impacts. In addition, the department is providing advice during design development for the post-construction and re-activation of the site and associated foreshores.

Lloyd Street Bridge

Following assessment by DBCA, the Trust provided planning and environmental advice to the DPLH for the Lloyd Street Bridge project. Development approval from the WAPC was granted in late 2021 and construction is planned to commence late 2022 subject to terms of the approval.

Based on the advice of the Trust, DBCA has continued to work with the Greater Connect Alliance and advice has included the revegetation of the proposed earth filled embankments as well as two nearby sites for restoration, totalling 4.1ha. Particular attention has been given to the removal of weeds and revegetation of the riparian zone with native sedges.

Causeway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge

This project involves a six-metre wide shared path linking Victoria Park foreshore, Heirisson Island and Perth's CBD at Point Fraser.

In April 2022, it was announced that a contract was awarded to the Causeway Link Alliance (CLA), comprising Civmec Construction and Engineering Pty Ltd, Seymour Whyte Constructions Pty Ltd, WSP Australia Pty Ltd and Main Roads, to design and construct this iconic project. CLA has presented revised concept designs to DBCA and plans to formally present the designs to the Trust when 15% of the designs are developed.

CLA advises that it is creating an innovative design that reflects and embeds Whadjuk Noongar culture, recognising the significance of Aboriginal heritage at Heirisson Island and the Swan River, whilst providing an improved path user experience that attracts the local community and visitors.

Geotechnical and scientific investigations for the proposed bridge are ongoing and the outcomes of these investigations will inform the environmental management during construction.

Burswood Peninsula

The Belmont Park Racecourse site, on the Burswood Peninsula within the Town of Victoria Park, is a significant riverside development site which includes large portions of land within the Swan Canning Development Control Area. On behalf of the Trust, the department is currently assisting DPLH and the City of Belmont with the planning and design around Precinct A. Imperatives for the design have included maximising the retention of threatened ecological communities (samphire wetland) and rehabilitation of the foreshore for improved environmental and recreational outcomes.



*Tonkin Bridge drone photo
Photo: Leuan Hook*

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 SCRM Act. The Trust has undertaken an advisory role in several developments being assessed through this alternate planning process.

Nedlands Baths redevelopment

The department commenced preliminary discussions relating to the redevelopment of JoJo's/Nedlands Baths. In July 2021, given its role as manager of the River reserve on which the redevelopment is proposed, the Trust provided landowner consent for Sevens Group Pty Ltd to enter the formal 17A pre-lodgement process for the proposed redevelopment.

While a development application has not yet been received, key priorities have been addressed during the pre-lodgement phase, such as ensuring that the development supports community needs and aspirations for this iconic river site. In cooperation with the State Design Review Panel, the department has reinforced design considerations such as community access, engagement with traditional owners, foreshore rehabilitation and design appropriate to its setting.

Tawarri Hot Springs

The redevelopment of the former Tawarri site on the Nedlands foreshore in Dalkeith was determined to be a state-significant development and was assessed under Part 17. As the facility will be a prominent visible feature from the river and foreshore, a key consideration in the assessment was to ensure that through improvements to the design the visual impact is minimised and the development provides for an improved interface with the foreshore and public realm.

In February 2022, the Trust considered DBCA's assessment of the proposed Tawarri Hot Springs wellness/spa facility and restaurant/café and provided advice to the Western Australian Planning Commission.



Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge artists impression.
Courtesy Main Roads WA



*A Swan River goby fish shelters in a new home. Photo Matt Kleczkowski.
Cover: Black Swan grooming itself at Point Walter. Photo: Christine Chester*

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