



A new approach

Following the positive results of last year's evaluation of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program the Swan River Trust developed this new Action Plan working closely with partners and the community.

A series of key stakeholder involvement events played an important role in developing the second stage of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program. Hundreds of community members attended the first Cleanup Program Community Expo at the Autumn River Festival in April. A series of Focus Group workshops and meetings were held with partners to develop recommendations for the Action Plan.

Trust Chairman
Charlie Welker

Leading scientists from around the world attended a River Science Workshop to review the science underpinning the management of the Swan Canning river system. A Community Forum followed the two-day workshop. Regular newsletters provided partners with information throughout the new Action Plan's development.

The draft Plan builds on our learnings from the Cleanup Program. It presents a new approach with more focused programs that fit with the Trust's new legislation. This will help coordinate river management activities between the community, local and State government.

Six action areas will be introduced across a range of programs to produce water quality outcomes for short, medium and long-term timeframes.

The priority will be on those catchments that contribute the greatest input of nutrients or other contaminants to the system in particular, the Ellen Brook, Mills Street Main Drain, and Southern River catchments.

The Trust thanks all partners and the community for their help with this important work. The future of the rivers is everyone's responsibility and we look forward to working together to keep our rivers healthy.

Have your say

The Swan River Trust would like to know what you think about the draft Action Plan. Please contact the Trust for further details.

Phone: (08) 9278 0900

Email: info@swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au

Website: www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au/healthyrivers

Closing date for submissions 31 March 2007



Project partners



Swan River Trust

Level 1, 20 Terrace Road
East Perth, Western Australia 6004

PO Box 6740
East Perth, Western Australia 6892

Phone (08) 9278 0900

Fax (08) 9325 7149

Email
info@swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au

Website
www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au

After hours number: 0419 192 845

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Healthy Rivers

From the Minister

The health of the Swan and Canning rivers is extremely important to the Western Australian community. Unfortunately, due to years of unhealthy practices, the health of the river catchment is suffering and this manifests itself through algal blooms, low oxygen levels and fish kills. The Carpenter Government is working on a number of fronts to address these problems.

In the past year, I have announced a number of initiatives to improve the health of our waterways, including:

- new legislation – the *Swan Canning Rivers Management Act* September 2006;
- an additional levy on gaming machine revenue at the Burswood Casino, which will see \$15 million go to the Swan and Canning rivers over the next five years;
- plans for a phase-out of river-harming phosphorus fertilisers on the Swan Coastal Plain;
- the trial of a submersible unit at Guildford to oxygenate a section of the upper Swan River;
- the launch of the Draft Healthy Rivers Action Plan; and
- \$1.4 million in additional funding to expand the Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program in the Ellen Brook Catchment.

The Healthy Rivers Action Plan outlines the way forward for the next five years and integrates the activities of all groups and individuals working with and around the rivers. I encourage you to read the Plan and provide comment so we can work together to keep our rivers healthy.

Mark McGowan, MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT; RACING AND GAMING;
PEEL AND THE SOUTH WEST



Swan-Canning Cleanup Program achievements 2005-06

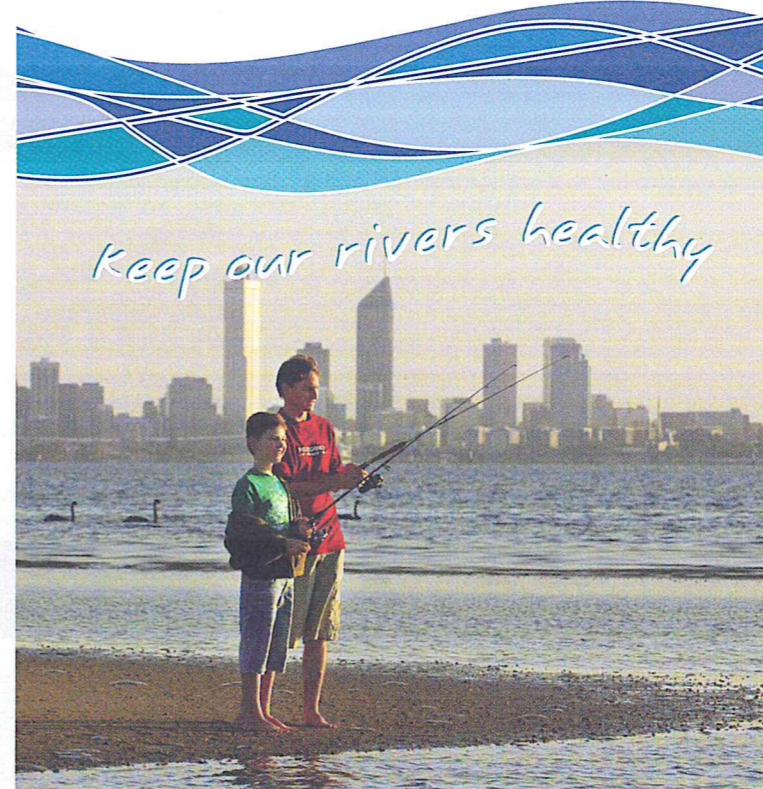


- Committed \$4.49 million for four years for the long-term oxygenation of the Swan and Canning rivers. Trials began at Guildford in November.
- Worked with local government on issues including nutrients, irrigation and foreshore management. Published the Foreshore Management Guidelines.
- Established the Scientific Systems Inquiry Group (SSIG) to determine the value of using decision support systems, including catchment and estuarine computer models, in managing the Swan and Canning rivers.
- Provided \$425,000 to Sub-regional groups to support delivery of catchment management outcomes and work with the community on water and industry-related issues.
- Began assessment of non-nutrient contaminants – heavy metals, pesticides and herbicides – delivered to and present in the rivers.
- The Great Gardens Program won a 2005 WA Environment Award for Promoting Behaviour Change and was a finalist in the 2006 Banksia Awards.
- Contributed \$350,000 to 41 community environmental groups for 100 onground projects through the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.
- Demonstrated improved water quality and the reduction of nutrients through extensive monitoring of the award winning Liege Street Wetland in Cannington.
- More than 800 people attended 14 Heavenly Hectares seminars, nine Property Planning workshops and seven field days.
- Monitored water samples and reported environmental information to the community weekly through the Algae Activity Report.

Healthy Rivers Program

The second phase of the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program, the Healthy Rivers Program has been developed by the Swan River Trust to protect the environmental health and community benefit of the Swan and Canning rivers by improving water quality.

The Draft Healthy Rivers Action Plan was released in early December 2006 and is open for public comment until March 2007. The new action plan focuses on eight key programs to drive a more integrated approach for future river management.



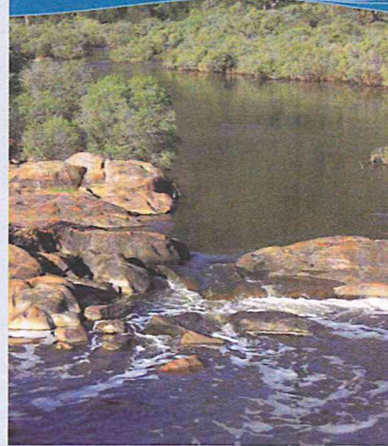
Healthy Catchments



A 30 per cent reduction in nutrient inputs to priority catchments by 2015, through setting nutrient reduction targets for the eight priority catchments and focusing action on improving land management practices. Tackling the main source of the nutrient problem by implementing a Government initiative to phase out water-soluble phosphate fertilisers in sensitive catchments, and improve fertiliser practices in rural and urban communities.

New initiative
\$2 million to fund community groups for onground works in the eight highest polluting waterways.

Coordination



Provide an integrated response to improving water quality.

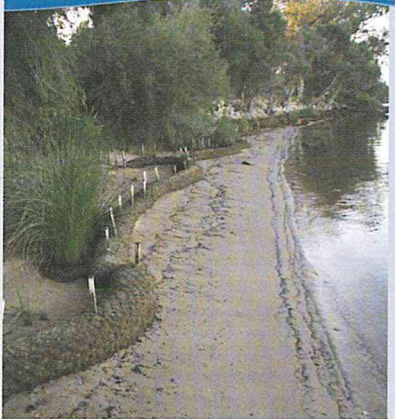
River Guardians



Actively engage the Perth community in 'hands-on' activities that protect and restore the Swan Canning foreshores and waterways.

New initiative
\$250,000 to establish a River Guardians pilot program for the Perth community.

Riverbank



Work in partnership with local government to assess, stabilise and restore foreshore areas along the Swan and Canning rivers. To protect and rehabilitate an area equivalent to ten per cent of the Swan Canning foreshore each year.

Healthy Rivers Program

The Healthy Rivers Program is designed to protect the environmental health and community benefit of the Swan and Canning rivers by improving water quality. This will be achieved by:

- reducing nutrients and other contaminants;
- minimising sediment loads entering the rivers;
- increasing oxygen levels in the rivers; and
- protecting and rehabilitating the foreshores.

During the next five years the eight programs detailed on this page will be implemented. These include a \$3 million package of new initiatives.

www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au/healthyrivers

Drainage Nutrient Intervention



Undertake onground works to remove nutrients from drains and tributaries before water is discharged into the Swan and Canning rivers. The focus is on nutrient-rich urban drains and the rural drains of the Ellen Brook Catchment.

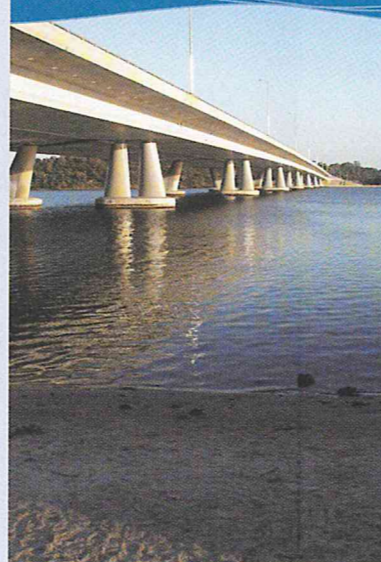
River Health



Maintain and improve the ecological health of the Swan and Canning rivers by increasing oxygen levels through long-term, large-scale oxygenation; re-establishing river flow regimes; and trialing new intervention techniques. A special focus will be on fish and crustacean populations that have declined in recent years, such as the Western School Prawn, Perth Herring and Cobbler. The Trust will work with key stakeholders to better understand and sustain these species.

New initiative
\$150,000 to work with the Department of Fisheries and partners to identify the key factors affecting fish and crustacean populations.

Land Use Planning



A net decrease in nutrient inputs from future land developments by improving planning schemes and policies, applying Water Sensitive Urban Design principles and using environmental offsets to reduce the overall pressures of urban growth.

River Science



Develop and implement a five-year research and innovation program to provide sound technical information for managing the Swan Canning river system. Establish a Technical Advisory Panel to advise the Trust on the impacts of climate change on the river system and develop adaptation strategies.

New initiative
\$700,000 to establish partnerships with universities and research institutions to develop a new research and innovation program.