



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018





*Walyunga Pool.
Photo by Elliott Keeney.*

*Front cover image of dolphin silhouette by
Matt Kleczkowski.*

Letter to the Minister for Environment

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 2017 to 30 June 2018.



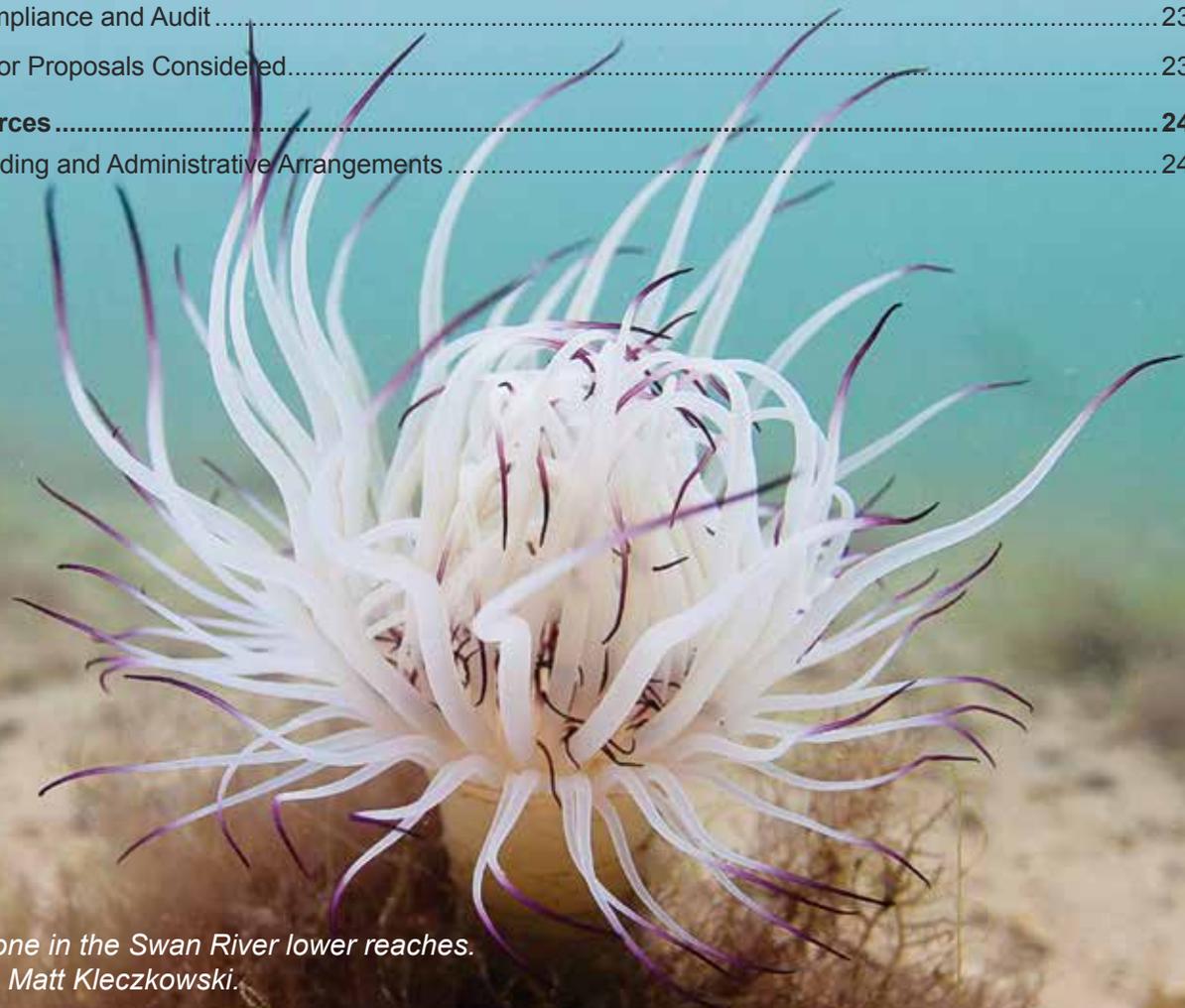
Hamish Beck

Chairman

August 2018

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

Swan River Trust

The Swan River Trust (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 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 (the Strategy) 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 Swan Canning Riverpark and Development Control Area as outlined under the SCRM Act.

This support will continue through DBCA, which brings together the functions and staff of the Parks and Wildlife Service, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and 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. DBCA has provided financial, technical, and staff resources to the Trust to undertake its functions.

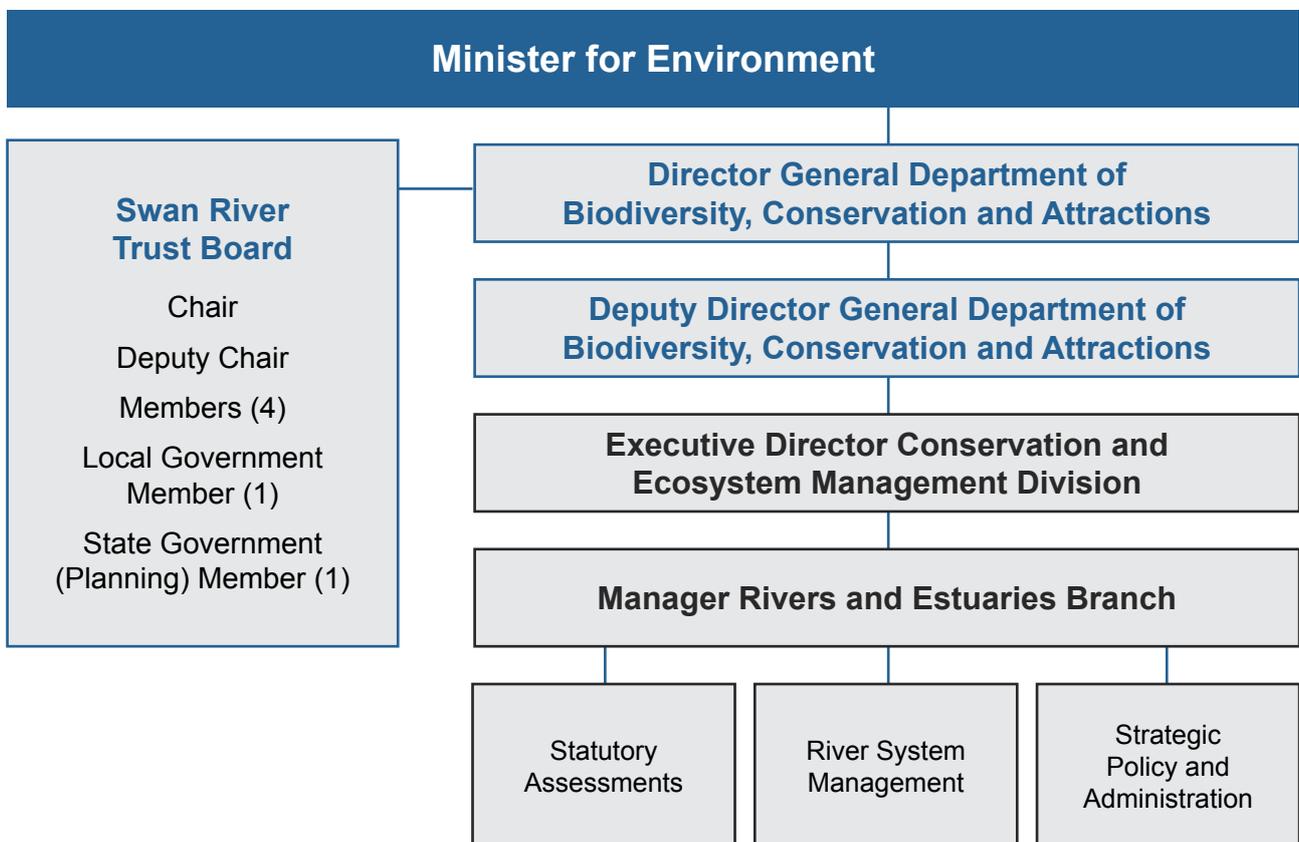
The Trust has the following functions under section 23 of the SCRM Act:

- Develop policies for the protection and enhancement of the 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 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; and
- 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 on behalf of the Trust by DBCA.

Swan River Trust Arrangements during 2017-18



Chairman's Review

This year the Swan River Trust has been engaged in a diverse range of business. Consistent with its role under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, the Trust has continued to provide strategic advice to the Director General of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the Minister for Environment on a range of complex development proposals affecting the Swan Canning Development Control Area (DCA).

The Trust played an on-going role in the assessment and approval of the works associated with the Matagarup Pedestrian Bridge, Optus Stadium and Burswood Jetty. Through DBCA, the Trust also has a key advisory role regarding potential impacts on the river from major Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority projects, including Elizabeth Quay, Waterbank and the Wungong and Midland redevelopment precincts.

During 2017-18, the Trust considered and provided advice to the DBCA Director General on six development applications in accordance with Part 5 of the SCRM Act. Highlights included replacement of the Point Walter and Deepwater Point boat ramps, and additions to a foreshore café in Fremantle. The Trust also provided advice on proposals for new jetties at Point Fraser and the WA Water Police facility, and an over-water café redevelopment in Mosman Park.

This year DBCA officers assessed and provided advice on 147 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the Metropolitan Region Scheme. There were 103 tourism operator licenses approved on the Swan and Canning rivers and 11 leases at yacht clubs and marinas were audited for compliance with environmental management systems.

Stakeholder consultation also began for the Perth Water Precinct Plan. Perth Water is one of the city's greatest community assets and is utilised by a wide variety of recreational, community and business user groups. The new Precinct Plan will help respond to Perth Water's increasing visitor numbers and a growing interest for tourism and commercial ventures.

This initial consultation is seeking input on issues such as foreshore protection, cultural recognition, access improvements, tourism opportunities and commercial hospitality ventures. The resulting Plan will establish a framework for the area based on landscape characteristics, community aspirations and environmental and cultural values.

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

It was particularly satisfying to see the completion of the Trust's Swan Canning River Protection Strategy's Biennial Report (the executive summary is provided in this annual report). The Biennial Report is the first status update on how the Strategy is tracking against its five-year key performance indicators.

The Report shows that 100% of the 33 priority river management actions have been initiated and the overall ecosystem health of the rivers is meeting the specified benchmark. The report also indicated an 86.8% overall satisfaction from Riverpark visitors and provides an overview of the combined management actions of 12 State Government organisations and 20 local governments that underpin the management and protection of the Riverpark.



During the year, several Trust Board members' terms expired, and I would like to personally thank Barbara Watroba for her service as Deputy Chair and members Vicki Rasmussen, Darryl Trease, David Saunders and Jeffrey Stone for their valuable service over the years. I wish them every success as they transition into other significant roles.

I would also like to welcome new members Dr Susan Harwood and Dr Joanna Pearce who joined the Trust in August 2017 and I look forward to working with all our stakeholders during 2018-19.

The Trust appreciates the support provided by DBCA, State government agencies, local government and the Perth community who help protect our Riverpark.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hamish R Beck', with a long, sweeping underline.

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. 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 River, Helena River and Southern River 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 significant feature of Perth's landscape, prized for its natural values, its recreational opportunities, and its cultural and social importance.

Throughout 2017-18 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 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 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 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 is currently a Board Member of the Rottnest Island Authority. He was formerly a Board Member of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Chairperson of the Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation, Chairperson of the Property Education Foundation, Division Councillor of the Property Council of Australia, Chairperson of the Curtin University Property Studies Advisory Committee, Member of the University of Western Australia Urban and Regional Planning Advisory Committee, Member for the Rottnest Island Marine Advisory Committee and Rear Commodore of Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club. Mr Beck was appointed to the Trust Board in June 2011 and has served as Chairman since June 2014. Mr Beck was re-appointed for a one year term in June 2018.



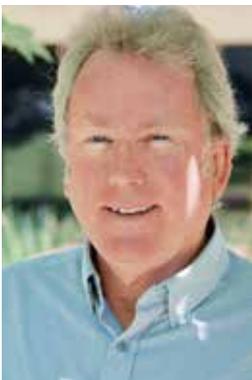
MS BARBARA WATROBA (DEPUTY CHAIR)

Ms Watroba is a Manager, Quasi Judicial Services, Magistrates Court, Perth. Prior to that she was 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 since June 2014. She resigned in February 2018.



MR DAVID SAUNDERS

Mr Saunders is the Assistant Director General at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. He holds a Bachelor in Applied Science (Environmental Management). Mr Saunders brings extensive experience in protected area management in Commonwealth, State and Local Government levels along with strategic and statutory planning experience. Mr Saunders was appointed to the Trust Board in April 2015 for a three year term. His term expired in April 2018.



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 and completed her term in September 2017.



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 has served on the Trust Board since December 2009 and was reappointed in 2018 for a one year term.



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 and completed his term in September 2017.



Cr DARRYL TREASE JP

Cr Darryl Trease (City of Swan) was the Western Australian Local Government Association nominee. He was 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 served on the Trust Board since February 2016 and completed his term in November 2017.



Dr SUSAN HARWOOD

Dr Harwood operates her own consultancy business Susan Harwood and Associates and is a gender, disability and social inclusion specialist. She has worked with a variety of Australian and international stakeholders to develop effective responses to disability, social inclusion and gender issues throughout the workplace, community and government. Dr Harwood is a respected researcher having authored numerous publications on organisational change and gender equality. She has high level skills in leadership, team work, facilitation, conflict resolution, negotiation, mediation and project management. Dr Harwood is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and was appointed to the Trust Board in August 2017 for a one year term.



Dr JOANNA PEARCE

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 was appointed to the Trust Board in August 2017 for a one year term and reappointed for another year in 2018.

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 DBCA's *Code of Conduct*.

DELEGATIONS

Minor revisions were made to the Trust's delegations to reflect the recent Machinery of Government changes to government departments and the new organisational structure of DBCA.

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 Parks and Wildlife Service Annual Report to Parliament and the Minister for Environment.

MEETING NOTICE AND ATTENDANCE

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 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 is 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.



*Narrows Bridge moment.
Photo: Jaxon Jade.*

SWAN RIVER TRUST MEETINGS

Member attendance at the 11 Swan River Trust meetings held in 2017-18 is outlined below:

Meeting notices and attendance

Table 1. Swan River Trust meetings for the 2017-18 financial year

Board Member	Meetings Attended
Hamish Beck	10
Barbara Watroba – departed February 2018	4
Vanessa Davies	9
Dr Joanna Pearce – commenced August 2017	7
Peter King	10
Cr Darryl Trease – departed November 2017	4
Dr Susan Harwood – commenced August 2017	7
Vicki Rasmussen – departed September 2017	3
Jeffrey Stone – departed September 2017	3
David Saunders – departed April 2018	7

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Trust has procedures for identifying, preventing and resolving conflicts of interest, as outlined in DBCA's *Code of Conduct*.

The Trust's members are required to declare conflicts of interest. This year three members declared a conflict of interest over four items.

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 directions.

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 Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (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 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 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 implementation of the SCRPS in its Annual Report. This year a Report, reviewing the four key performance indicators specified within the Strategy, was prepared for the Minister for Environment to help monitor the Strategy's operations and effectiveness.

SWAN CANNING RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY BIENNIAL REPORT 2018

Executive Summary

Introduction

The *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy* was released by the Swan River Trust in 2015 with support from the former Department of Parks and Wildlife, now the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). An Addendum publication to the Strategy has since been developed to reflect the significant agency restructures that occurred as a result of Machinery of Government changes on 1 July 2017.

DBCA reviews and reports on the Strategy's implementation under a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework. This framework ensures that the Strategy 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 Strategy's Strategic Management Program, with assistance from all the 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 Strategy to the Minister for Environment, partners and the community. The Strategy is updated if necessary through the five-yearly review process.

The Swan River Trust is responsible for reporting to the Minister and partner organisations involved in the management of the Riverpark are required to collect and provide data for these reports. This information is then reported to the Trust on the partner agencies' progress in implementing the agreed projects in the Strategic Management Program. The partner agencies are also invited to provide feedback on the operation and effectiveness of the Strategy. Progress Reports are produced in alternate years, when a Biennial Report is not required.

This Biennial Report incorporates the Riverpark’s ecological, community benefit and amenity measures, reflecting the broad management focus of Riverpark managers and the legislative requirements of the SCRM Act. Under this legislation, the Trust is required to monitor and report to the Minister for Environment on the following performance indicators detailed within the Strategy:

1. All priority actions listed in the Strategy are undertaken within five years
2. 75% of monitored ecosystem health data meets respective targets required for a healthy functioning ecosystem
3. The wider Perth community is actively involved with Riverpark management and participation rates are increasing
4. The average level of visitor satisfaction with their visit to the Riverpark facilities is 85% or higher.

These performance indicators provide five-year targets that reflect the desired state of the Riverpark, as determined by community values. This Biennial report is the first detailed status update on these indicators since the implementation of the Strategy.

Measuring success: Key Performance Indicators

The performance indicators specified in the Strategic Management Program (SMP) were developed with input from various Riverpark stakeholders to provide a multi-faceted measure of the Strategy’s success. The Strategy has been reviewed against these four indicators to provide a quantitative assessment of the operation and effectiveness of its first two years of operation.

This quantitative review indicates that all four performance indicators specified in the SMP are being met (Table 1).

Table 1. 2018 status of the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy’s five-year performance indicators

Performance Indicator	Status
1. All priority actions listed in the Strategy are undertaken within five years.	✓
2. 75% of monitored ecosystem health data meets respective targets required for a healthy functioning ecosystem.	✓
3. The wider Perth community is actively involved with Riverpark management and participation rates are increasing.	✓
4. The average level of visitor satisfaction with their visit to the Riverpark facilities is 85% or higher.	✓

1. All priority actions listed in the Strategy are undertaken within five years

The Strategy contains 33 Priority Actions to be undertaken within five years. Many of these actions are ongoing responsibilities for the respective lead partner agencies, where the intent is for these actions to be continued on an ongoing basis rather than being completed and closed out. Therefore, the term ‘undertaken’ includes a status of “commenced” or “completed” for finite projects and “in progress” for activities of an ongoing nature. The status of these Priority Actions is detailed in Table 2.

Consultation with lead agencies has determined that all priority actions listed within the Strategy have been undertaken within the first two years of implementation. This positive result reflects the effort, commitment and coordination of multiple government agencies and organisations in support of the Strategy and its objectives.

Table 2. Priority Actions defined in the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy

Priority Action	Action Type	Status
1.1 Establish a RPS Advisory Group	Project	Completed
1.2 Establish collaborative agreements between management organisations	Project	Completed
1.3 Biennial and five-yearly reports to be delivered to the Minister, partners and the community	Ongoing	In progress
2.1 Identify the levels and sources of nutrients, organic material and sediment entering the Swan and Canning rivers	Ongoing	In progress
2.2 Develop and implement Swan Canning and local Water Quality Improvement Plans to achieve nutrient load reduction targets	Ongoing	In progress
2.4 Improve management of fertiliser use to reduce nutrient loss from urban and rural land in the Swan Canning catchment	Ongoing	In progress
3.1 Regulate and manage pollution from contaminated sites, prescribed premises and other commercial activities with the potential to cause pollution	Ongoing	In progress
4.1 Increase dissolved oxygen levels in the Swan and Canning rivers where required	Ongoing	In progress
4.2 Investigate approaches to moderate and reduce the prevalence of algal blooms	Ongoing	In progress
6.1 Undertake river and catchment-based water quality monitoring program to measure compliance against management targets	Ongoing	In progress
6.2 Establish a program to monitor non-nutrient contaminants entering, and in, the river system	Project	Commenced
7.1 Manage aquatic resources in the Swan Canning River system using a risk-based management framework	Ongoing	In progress
7.2 Protect and monitor the stock status of priority species in the Swan Canning river system according to risk	Ongoing	In progress
8.1 Provide protection for riparian and/or aquatic vegetation	Ongoing	In progress
8.2 Provide guidance on best management practices for shore stabilisation	Ongoing	In progress
10.1 Administer legislation to manage the Riverpark including the use of vessels and facilitate safe community use	Ongoing	In progress
12.1 Assess, recognise and protect sites with a high level of cultural heritage significance	Ongoing	In progress
12.4 Work with relevant Noongar groups to manage the Riverpark	Ongoing	In progress
13.1 Promote public use and enjoyment of the Riverpark	Ongoing	In progress
13.2 Maintain and improve the level of safe public access to and along foreshore areas in the Riverpark	Ongoing	In progress

Priority Action	Action Type	Status
13.5 Facilitate safe use of vessels on waterways – maintain navigation aids in the Swan and Canning rivers to facilitate safe passage through the navigation channels	Ongoing	In progress
13.6 Coordinate primary contact water quality monitoring at popular swimming locations and report conditions to the community	Ongoing	In progress
13.8 Implement works to stabilise the riverbank where valuable infrastructure or recreational amenity is threatened by erosion	Ongoing	In progress
14.1 Implement Aquatic Use Review and Management Framework for the Riverpark	Ongoing	In progress
15.2 Establish a Swan Canning Riverpark Trail project including walking, cycling and kayaking trails	Project	Completed
16.1 Support community events (e.g. Skyworks, Autumn River Festival and Blessing of the Rivers) and tourism opportunities on the river foreshore	Ongoing	In progress
17.1 Promote opportunities for community groups and individuals to be involved in on-ground conservation activities	Ongoing	In progress
17.3 Support local environmental groups to source additional funding	Ongoing	In progress
18.1 Identify nodes for developing appropriate commercial opportunities in the Riverpark	Project	Commenced
18.2 Ensure all commercial operators in the Riverpark meet high standards through licensing	Ongoing	In progress
18.3 Ensure River Reserve leases are managed in line with policy to best practice standards	Ongoing	In progress
19.1 Provide clear guidance consistent with SPP 2.10 to developers of land adjacent to the foreshore	Ongoing	In progress
20.1 Review regulations and legislation to improve efficiency of the statutory assessment process	Ongoing	In progress
% undertaken:		100.0

2. 75% of monitored ecosystem health data meets respective targets required for a healthy functioning ecosystem

Ecosystem health is assessed through nutrient concentrations, biophysical and chemical conditions, dissolved oxygen levels and ecological indicators. These indicators are based on existing monitoring programs, however new monitoring programs may be implemented in the future and be incorporated into outcomes for this performance indicator.

Overall, the Swan Canning Riverpark has achieved an ecosystem health score of 122 out of a maximum possible score of 160. Therefore, 76.3% of monitored ecosystem health data meets the respective targets required for a healthy functioning ecosystem.

Ellen Brook remains the largest contributor of nutrients to the river system from the Swan Coastal Plain catchments and is therefore a priority for water quality improvement. Through DBCA, the Trust continues to work with the community, natural resource management groups, local governments and other stakeholders to address these long-term nutrient issues through targeted projects and programs that focus on improving water quality and environmental conditions in the catchment.

3. The wider Perth community is actively involved with Riverpark management and participation rates are increasing

The geographical extent of managing the Riverpark extends far beyond the immediate Swan Canning Riverpark and up into the greater Swan Canning catchment and sub-catchment regions. The wider Perth community is actively involved with Riverpark management through participation in various events, volunteer organisations and promotions. These include:

- River Guardians
- Dolphin Watch
- River Rangers
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Swan Alcoa Landcare Program
- Tree planting days
- SwanFish
- The use of sustainable fishing practices, i.e. fishing line bins
- Responsible boating and speed limits

In order to determine whether participation rates are increasing, several key parameters will be used and compared in each biennial review. These parameters represent various Riverpark management activities being undertaken by the community. Community membership of volunteer programs includes River Guardians members and active Dolphin Watch contributors. Total volunteer hours in Riverpark-related activities and events has been determined through River Guardians events, tree planting days and community participation in the Dolphin Watch program. As this is the first of these reviews, this will form a baseline for future comparison and reporting. The key parameters to be used to indicate participation rates are detailed in Table 3.

Table 3. Key parameters for monitoring participation rates of the wider Perth community in Riverpark management

Key Parameter	1 Jan 2016 – 31 Dec 2017
Community membership of Volunteer Programs (e.g. River Guardians, Dolphin Watch) – Total number of members	3373 community members
Community participation in Riverpark related activities and events – Total Volunteer Hours	6015 hours

4. Visitor satisfaction with their visit to the Riverpark facilities is 85% or higher

DBCA undertakes a Visitor Satisfaction Survey for the Swan Canning Riverpark. This survey collects, collates and analyses information from Riverpark users, identifying:

- visitor satisfaction levels with the Riverpark and its facilities;
- recreational usage patterns; and
- suggestions for improvements.

The target figure was set at the overall satisfaction level (95%). The variance between the target and actual for 2017-18 is due to the target having been based on overall satisfaction and not the average satisfaction. The latter takes into consideration both satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

The average visitor satisfaction level is determined by asking respondents to rate their overall satisfaction with their visit to the Riverpark, from “totally dissatisfied” to “very satisfied”. This is measured on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “totally dissatisfied” (0%) and 5 being “very satisfied” (100%). In order to determine the average level of visitor satisfaction as a percentage, the mean value of all responses to this question is determined, then divided by five and multiplied by 100%.

The most recent visitor satisfaction survey was conducted through *Yardstick* in 2017, with 242 responses received for the survey question on overall satisfaction. These responses had a mean of 4.34 out of a possible score of five. This provides an average satisfaction level of 86.8%, which meets the Strategy’s five-year target of 85% or higher (Table 4).

Table 4. Overall level of visitor satisfaction with their visit to the Riverpark facilities in 2017

Rating	Simplified % Satisfaction Level	Target Overall % Satisfaction Level	Actual Average % Satisfaction Level
5 – Very Satisfied	100%	95%	86.8%
4 – Satisfied	75%		
3 – Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	50%		
2 – Dissatisfied	25%		
1 – Totally Dissatisfied	0%		

Operation and Effectiveness

The performance of the Strategy has been monitored since its implementation in late 2015 through Progress Reporting, Advisory Group meetings, correspondence with stakeholders, and now the biennial review of the Strategy's five-year performance indicators. Overall, feedback has been positive, reflecting on successful collaboration and improvements in efficiency that have been achieved.

The first SCRPS Progress Report was released in 2017, detailing various activities and projects that have been supported following the commencement of the Strategy. Advisory Group meetings have been conducted on an annual basis and have been well attended. Participants have been engaged and open in discussions, which has provided valuable insights into the challenges and issues faced by various agencies and organisations. This increased awareness of operational and organisational functions has improved cross-agency communication, support and project planning, and increased efficiency in project execution.

This review against the Strategy's five-year performance indicators shows positive steps are being taken in achieving its four main outcomes – better coordination, a healthy river ecosystem, improving community engagement and enjoyment, and better management. Improvements in collaborative management and community benefit have become evident, and the overall ecosystem health of the rivers is meeting the specified benchmark. Ecological performance indicators may experience some lag (up to 20 years) before they are able to provide an accurate reflection of the river management changes implemented under the Strategy. Therefore, ecosystem health will require a much longer timeframe to achieve measurable and indicative results.

The Swan River Trust, DBCA and the Strategy's partner organisations have committed to providing continued support for the Strategy and its objectives, despite some of these key agencies having undergone significant organisational change throughout the past 12 months. This steadfast commitment reflects the strong alignment with the shared values of the Swan Canning Riverpark demonstrated by the leadership teams, Advisory Group nominees and supporting officers within and between these organisations.

Conclusion

The overall level of involvement, support and ongoing commitment to the Strategy by partner organisations to date has been very positive. The Strategy has provided a mechanism for various agencies and organisations with differing operational priorities to work together in support of the shared vision of "A healthy river for all, to be enjoyed and shared, now and in the future".

This first biennial review of the operation and effectiveness of the Strategy and its implementation is already showing strong indications of its success. Measurable improvements are emerging, as partner organisations undertake effective, ongoing management interventions. Engagement and support will continue to be provided through the Strategy, in order to build on these successes and drive further improvements and achievements.

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 Development Control Area (DCA). In performing its assessment function under Part 5 of the SCRM Act, DBCA must seek advice from the Trust and include that advice in its report to the Minister.

During 2017-18, the Trust considered and provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on six development applications in accordance with Part 5 of the SCRM Act. Highlights included replacement of the Point Walter and Deepwater Point boat ramps, and additions to a foreshore café in Fremantle. The Trust also provided advice on proposals for new jetties at Point Fraser and the WA Water Police facility, and an over-water café redevelopment in Mosman Park.

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 2017-18, departmental officers assessed and provided advice on 147 development or subdivision applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the MRS. This represents a slight increase over the previous year.

There are 103 tourism operator licenses approved on the Swan and Canning rivers – 51 charter operators using a total of 69 vessels, and approval of 11 different aquatic activities, such as water sport lessons and equipment hire. A further eight commercial operators were approved to use the foreshore, primarily for pop-up food and beverage outlets.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

- Stakeholder consultation and development of the Perth Water Precinct Plan commenced in collaboration with several other State agencies and local governments. The Plan will 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, will be undertaken during development of the Plan.
- DBCA is working closely with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage 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 Plain Catchment* to ensure that activities, land use and development maintain and enhance the health, amenity and landscape values of the rivers, including recreational and scenic values.
- The draft *Land and Waterways Use Plan for the Swan Canning Riverpark* was also developed and will undergo public consultation in 2018/19.
- The land use planning program works closely with a variety of urban development stakeholders to ensure that contaminant inputs to the river are reduced, stormwater and groundwater quantity flows to the river are maintained, and foreshore condition is improved. This year, the program provided advice on 28 strategic planning proposals likely to impact on the river system.
- DBCA continued to resource and support the New WAter Ways water sensitive urban development capacity building program (via Board membership, directing the work program and reviewing documents) and the national Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (via membership on the Western Regional Advisory Panel, influencing the work program and reviewing documents), and advocating for the implementation of a water sensitive Perth through membership of the multiple-stakeholder WA Water Sensitive Transition Network.

COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT

DBCA undertook statutory compliance actions on 84 different projects around the DCA during 2017-18. Most of the non-compliant situations were satisfactorily resolved as a result of DBCA's efforts.

During the year, 11 leases at yacht clubs and marinas were audited for compliance with environmental management systems. 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

The use of Perth Water for commercial seaplanes is being trialled. Two operators have approval to operate during the trial period. The ongoing and long-term use of Perth Water by commercial seaplanes is to be considered strategically as part of the Perth Water Precinct Plan, which will include extensive consultation with the community and key government agencies.

Two proposals for floating helipads on Perth Water were approved in 2016. A 'request for proposal' process is being undertaken to determine which proponent may enter into a River Reserve lease to enable construction and operation of the commercial helipad facility.

Matagarup Bridge, Perth Stadium and Jetty

DBCA has an on-going role in assessment and approval of the works associated with the Matagarup Pedestrian Bridge, Optus Stadium and Burswood Jetty. DBCA has been working closely with stakeholders to protect and enhance the ecological health, community benefits and amenity of the river and its foreshores. Removal of the temporary reclamation area used to construct the Matagarup Bridge will be closely managed and monitored.

Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority Key Projects

Via DBCA, the Trust has an advisory role regarding potential impacts on the river from major Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority projects, including Elizabeth Quay, Waterbank and the Wungong and Midland redevelopment precincts. DBCA works closely with MRA to achieve water quality and quantity management outcomes and improve amenity and foreshore condition.

Resources

Funding and Administrative Arrangements

Financial and Work Schedule 2017/18

In the 2017/18 financial year, DBCA:

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 implementation, policy development, and Trust advice to DBCA and other external parties.

Funding for the operation of the Trust is allocated by DBCA annually after receipt of a proposed financial schedule from the Trust.

In the financial schedule for the 2017-18 period, DBCA allocated \$71,150 for member sitting fees, as well as administration and support of the Trust.

In 2017-18, the Trust undertook the following activities:

1. Developed an online licensing and permits application portal to help improve application processing times and administration;
2. Issued advice to the CEO of DBCA on Part 5 development approvals as per the SCRM Act;
3. Coordinated government agency reporting on the implementation of the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy as per the Act;
4. Produced the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy First Year Progress Report and Biennial Report as required under the Act;
5. Produced the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Community Update 2017 to improve public reporting on management activities in the Riverpark;
6. Developed a framework and process for reporting on the state of the DCA as per the SCRM Act;
7. Began consultation on the Perth Water Precinct Plan with key stakeholders;
8. Developed a draft Land and Waterways Use Plan; and
9. 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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Financial Support for the Swan River Trust 2017-18

Category	Amount
Board sitting fees	\$55,000 ¹
Travel costs	\$4,500
Communications and IT support	\$3,700
Catering	\$750
Advertising – Board vacancies	\$5,000
Board events	\$2,200
TOTAL	\$71,150

¹ Includes 45% overhead costs



*Cooling Off.
Photo by Carol Seidel.*

*Back cover image of Kayaking
in the Canning River. Photo by
Rachel Hutton.*



GOVERNMENT OF
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