

## Key government achievements in relation to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Biodiversity Conservation Framework

The State Government has made significant commitments to meet community expectations about its role as steward for landscape-scale conservation through investing in transformative environmental projects. Recent examples are outlined below, including how these link to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (the department; DBCA) Biodiversity Conservation Framework. Information is current at 1 December 2025.

### Conservation reserves



Expand and effectively manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserve system to protect biodiversity, cultural and social values.

### *Plan for Our Parks*

In 2019, the State Government announced a plan to add five million hectares of new conservation areas, including national parks, marine parks and nature reserves, across Western Australia over five years, increasing the conservation estate by 20 per cent.

The total area of conservation estate committed for creation under Plan for Our Parks is approximately 6.6 million hectares, exceeding the program target, representing a 32 per cent increase in WA's conservation estate. Conserving these areas has afforded protection for significant biodiversity values across wetland, rangeland, forest and marine landscapes and seascapes, including 671 priority flora and fauna.

The initiative also had a significant economic impact particularly for regional communities, creating hundreds of jobs, including employment for many Aboriginal people on-Country. The initiative has facilitated a new era in working with Traditional Owners in land and sea management, with most of the reserves to be jointly vested and jointly managed with Traditional Owners, providing jobs and transformative training and career development opportunities for Aboriginal people in all areas of land management.

### *Forest Management Plan*

The *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033* came into effect on 1 January 2024 setting out the framework for managing more than 2.5 million hectares of native forest throughout WA's south-west. The plan supports the State Government's decision to end commercial-scale timber harvesting in native forests; commits to adding more than 400,000 hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo forests as nature reserves, national parks and conservation parks; provides for Traditional Owner involvement in forest management, consistent with the intent of the South West Native Title Settlement; and promotes healthy forests that are more resilient to climate change.

The State Government has invested \$67 million over four years to deliver an additional 65 new jobs throughout WA's south-west and metropolitan Perth; a new forest health monitoring program, fire research, and ecological thinning to improve forest health; support for working with Traditional Owners; and support to protect native wildlife from feral predators and managing weeds and plant diseases.

## Community engagement



Promote public and stakeholder awareness and understanding of biodiversity, the threats facing it and its conservation, including through involvement in conservation programs, to encourage stewardship and support for conservation initiatives.

### *Aboriginal Ranger Program*

The Western Australian Aboriginal Ranger Program commenced in 2017, helping Aboriginal organisations manage Country and protect the environment across the State, in partnership with the public and private sectors. At 30 June 2025, the State Government had invested \$103 million for jobs for Aboriginal rangers, training, community development as well as research, tourism and other expansion activities across a range of tenures mostly in regional and remote communities in WA.

An evaluation to understand the social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the program found that it is helping to empower Aboriginal people and families through employment and training on Country, allowing for connection to Country and culture. Positive impacts include increases in self-confidence, pride, gender equality and improved mental and physical health. There have also been reported improvements in training and education outcomes and better career prospects, as well as intergenerational knowledge transfer.

### *Community Rivercare Program and Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest Program*

The Community Rivercare Program was established in 2017-18 with \$4.9 million funding, to support community groups to improve habitat for native fauna, foreshore condition and water quality, and to prevent erosion along the Swan Canning waterways. To date, over \$2.8 million has been invested to fund 51 groups to deliver 104 on-ground projects.

Since 2021, the Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest Program has supported public land managers, with \$3 million funding to deliver urban forest restoration projects within the Swan Canning Riverpark and surrounds (including tributaries and drainage lines) in the Swan Canning catchment. This program will deliver approximately 41 hectares of weed control works and 27 hectares of revegetation with installation of more than 500,000 native plants.

In 2025, these programs were extended for a further two years as part of the Government's commitment to the *Continued Investment in the Swan and Canning Rivers*, which will see a further \$4 million invested in the Swan Canning for programs delivering significant outcomes in collaboration with public land managers, community-based natural resource management groups and riverside businesses and venues.

### *Swan River Cleanup*

The \$1 million Swan River Cleanup initiative will support targeted on-ground actions in the upper Swan River area. Guided by the River Protection Strategy for Derbal Yirragan Djarlgarro (Swan Canning river system) and associated implementation plan, works will focus on managing harmful algal blooms, planting fringing vegetation, foreshore works and improving water access points for small watercraft.

### Healthy Oceans Program

The \$10 million Healthy Oceans Program was announced in 2025, aiming to deliver benefits for ocean health, fish stocks and climate change resilience in Western Australia. The program will provide grants for seagrass and coral restoration trials and research into restoration approaches as the Western Australian coast continues to recover from the worst marine heatwave on record during 2024-25.

Species and  
ecological  
communities



Maintain viable, intact and healthy ecological communities and populations of species, especially those that are threatened, significant or iconic, while allowing the sustainable use of natural resources and facilitating nature-based tourism.

### Threatened Species Action Plan

The *Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032* maps a pathway to protect, manage and restore Australia's threatened species and important natural places. It has the objective of preventing new extinctions and identifies 110 priority species and 20 priority places for focused action.

The plan was developed by the Australian Government using feedback from stakeholders including experts, threatened species managers, Aboriginal people, conservation organisations, land managers, state and territory governments, and the wider Australian community. The Threatened Species Commissioner works with partners to implement the action plan, providing guidance to support the design and delivery of projects aligned to the identified actions.

Thirty priority species and three priority places listed in the action plan occur in WA.

Collaborative projects between the department and Australian Government include:

- Recovery actions for the critically endangered kyloring (western ground parrot; *Pezoporus wallicus flaviventris*), including a successful translocation to establish a new population to help safeguard the species. The monitoring, site management and capture of the birds was led by the department and included veterinary and animal husbandry support from Perth Zoo to ensure the welfare of the translocated birds. Staff from BirdLife Australia as well as skilled volunteers also assisted with the translocation, with the support of Friends of the Western Ground Parrot and South Coast Natural Resource Management. Recovery actions for this flagship species also benefit other threatened species, such as the western bristlebird (*Dasyornis longirostris*) and the noisy scrub-bird (*Atrichornis clamosus*).
- Collaborating with the Australian Seed Bank Partnership to deliver recovery actions for a range of critically endangered and endangered flora. This includes: a seed production project for tangled wattle (*Acacia volubilis*) encompassing research to ensure collections are genetically diverse and that the species is held in a variety of ex situ collection types including a seed production area, tissue culture and cryopreservation; translocation of narrow-leaf eremophila (*Eremophila subangustifolia*) and Foote's grevillea (*Grevillea calliantha*); and seed collection and banking for these species and giant andersonia (*Andersonia axilliflora*), small-flowered snottygobble (*Persoonia micranthera*) and Wongan eriostemon (*Eriostemon wonganensis*).

## Threatening processes



Reduce the impacts of key threatening processes, including altered hydrology, climate change and priority pest animals, weeds and diseases, on biodiversity, ecological processes and sustainable land uses.

### *Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy*

The *Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy 2023-2028* is the first of its kind to be implemented by a State Government in Australia. It provides a framework to guide private investment, as well as investigate new methods to ensure there is a consistent and coordinated approach, over five years, to conserving populations of threatened native species through effective, adaptive and humane actions.

The plan has been backed by a \$7.6 million investment by the State Government over four years to expand feral cat management. This includes an increase in aerial feral cat baiting through the Western Shield program; a State Natural Resource Management Grants Program to support Traditional Owners, community groups and rural property owners to manage cats; and feral cat monitoring and research, including use of newly available technology, such as the Felixer grooming trap, as well as aerial tracking, GPS collars and cameras. The strategy was developed by DBCA, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and a range of key stakeholders.

## Scientific research



Undertake scientific investigations that are effectively targeted to improve knowledge and integrate science knowledge into biodiversity conservation and management.

### *Forest Health Monitoring Program*

The Forest Health Monitoring Program Implementation Plan was released in 2024, with several key milestones being achieved. These include establishment of a network of fixed monitoring plots representing major forest types, capture of remotely piloted aircraft sensor data, collection of flying insect and soil samples for genetic analyses, and the commencement of plant composition and vegetation structure.

These achievements are the first steps in implementing a contemporary, integrated, and cost-effective framework for monitoring forest health in WA. This is a critical dependency for evaluating the effectiveness of the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033*, and for informing decision-making and reporting.

### *Fire science*

DBCA scientists engage with stakeholders from all sectors to design and deliver an ongoing program of fire science research with practical, locally-relevant implications. The State's first Collaborative Fire Research workshop was held in 2024, bringing together representatives from government agencies, research organisations, conservation organisations, and private industry. An initial subset of research questions identified are being addressed through new research collaboration agreements with universities. The knowledge generated through the department's

fire research and monitoring initiatives provides a foundation for sound decision-making, both within the department and by local governments, government agencies, and other land managers across the State.

The department also embraces and pioneers new technologies and analytical techniques to inform fire research and management. In recent years, the department has led the development of a systematic approach to assessing the outcomes of prescribed burns and bushfires using remote sensing and field surveys. The fire severity and improved fire history data arising from this research is now part of standard operating processes and being employed in communication and research projects.

### Data management



Effectively collect, store and manage information and data so they are available and used to improve biodiversity conservation and management.

### *Biodiversity Information Office*

The Biodiversity Information Office's (BIO) most significant achievement to date has been the build and launch of the Dandjoo platform in mid-2022. In addition to enabling data-sharing in Western Australia, the platform has been built with functionality that can support automated exchange of biodiversity data with the Australian Government to enable informed and timely decision-making at a national level. Dandjoo has seen ongoing expansion and enhancement during 2022-2024, including the implementation of an innovative, secure new approach to sharing threatened species data with approved users. By the end of 2024-25, the platform had ingested 3.36 million biodiversity records—a number that continues to grow.

Since its establishment, BIO has also developed and launched several supporting platforms. These include the agency's modernised data catalogue, which supports data sharing with the public, researchers, and other external users for the first time; and Nomos, WA's first all-species taxonomic database, which was developed in consultation with the Western Australian Museum and Western Australian Herbarium.