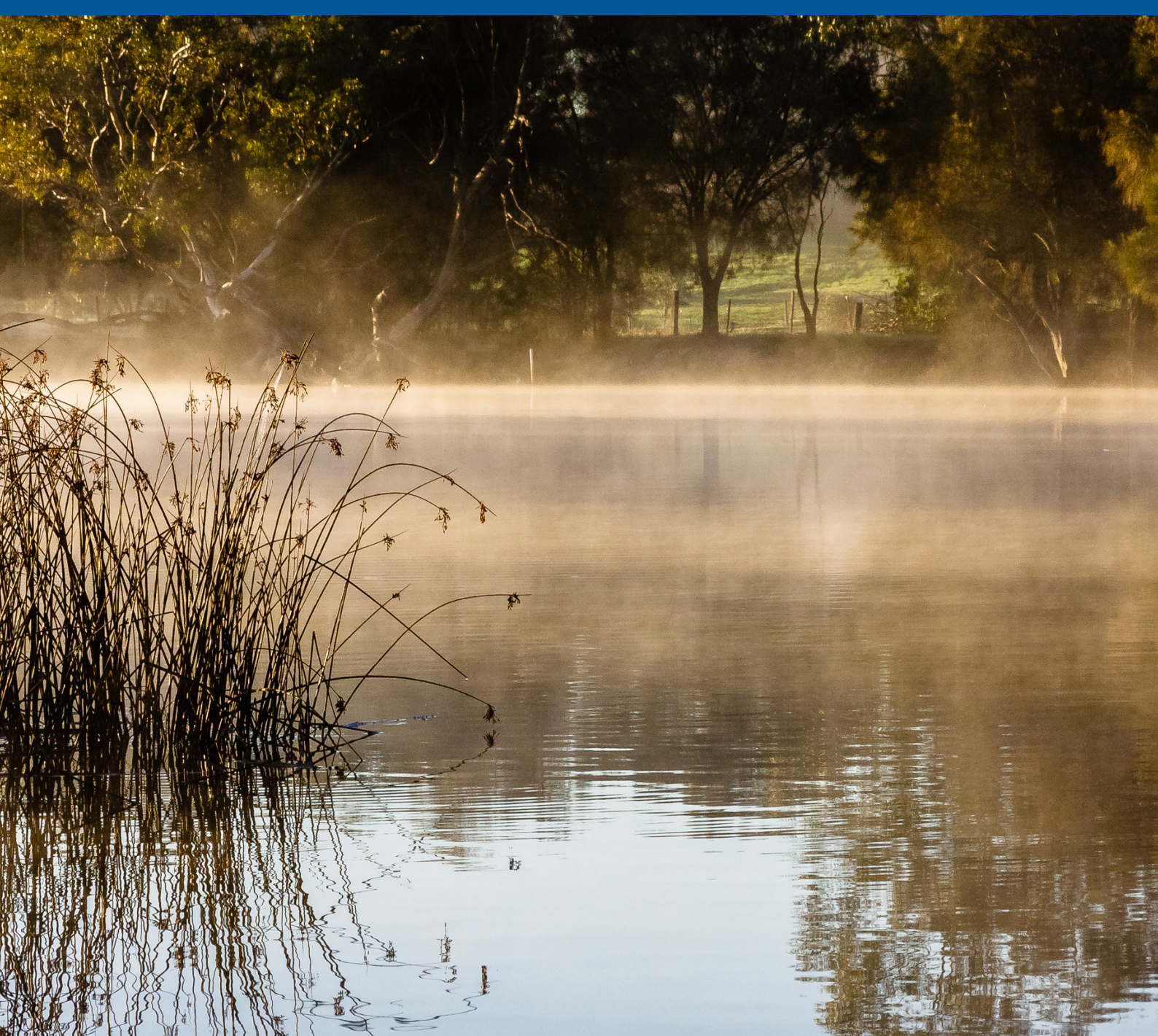




SWAN RIVER TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025

Swan River Trust Annual Report 2024–25

The Swan River Trust is an advisory body created by the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (SCRM Act).

The Trust provides high-level, strategic advice to the Minister for the Environment and the Director General of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) on matters affecting the Swan and Canning rivers.

The Trust acknowledges and respects the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the Derbal Yirragan (Swan) and Djarlgarro (Canning) rivers and pays its respects to Elders past and present. The Trust seeks to learn from their custodianship, culture and knowledge.

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Cover photos

Front Misty Guildford Morn. *Photo – Derek Judkins*

Back Wakeboarding. *Photo – Luke Baker*



Annual Report 2024–25

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Swan River Trust Overview

The Trust is an advisory body created by the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (SCRM Act).

The Trust provides high-level, strategic advice to the Minister for the 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 (RPS) 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

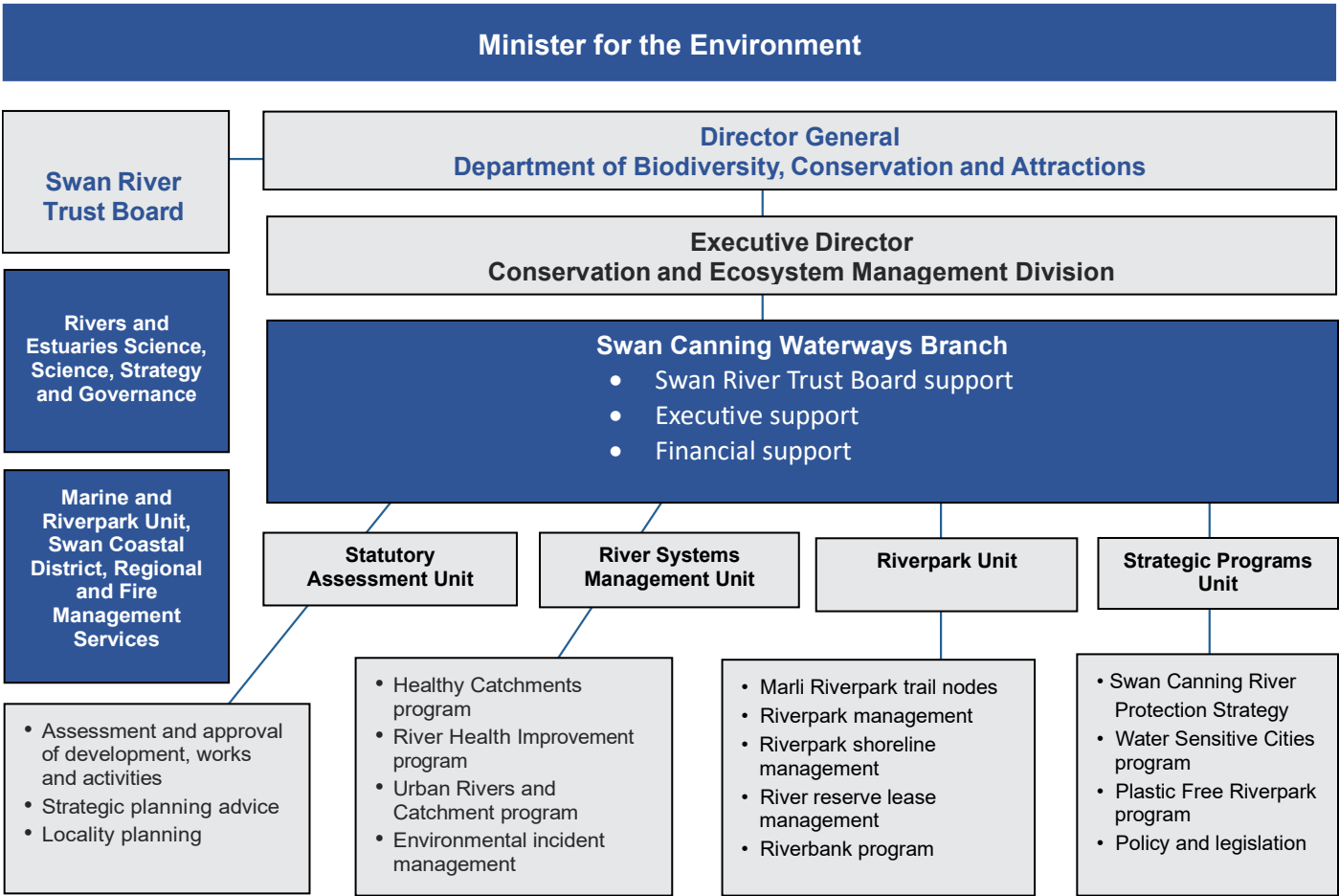
The Trust operates under the SCRM Act to provide advice and perform functions in respect of the Swan and Canning rivers and associated lands. A primary focus for the Trust is to provide advice and strategic direction regarding development proposals in and around the Swan Canning DCA.

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 the 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 2024-25



Operational Agreement between the Trust and DBCA 2024-25 – 2027-28

Under the SCRM 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. This year, a new three-year Operational Agreement (the Agreement) between the Trust and DBCA was established, from 2024-25 to 2027-28.

The Agreement details the agreed service arrangements and information about the relationship between the Trust and DBCA. Schedule 1 of the Agreement reflects the anticipated financial support for the upcoming financial year, and is updated annually. The Schedule does not include DBCA staff time that was directed towards supporting the Trust.

Funding and administrative arrangements

Table 1. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions financial support for the Swan River Trust 2024-2025

	Amount
Member allowances and sitting fees	\$46,269
Meeting costs	\$1,811
Professional services	\$2,180
Total	\$50,260



Vegetation around the Canning River. Photo – Rhiannon Bartley.

Chair's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present the Swan River Trust's Annual Report for 2024-25. This year has been one of significant progress and community engagement, and I am proud to share our achievements and future aspirations with you.

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Minister for the Environment, Hon Matthew Swinbourn BA LLB MLC. We look forward to your guidance and support in the coming years. I also wish to acknowledge and thank our previous Minister, Hon Reece Whitby MLA, for his dedication and leadership.

Our success this year would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our stakeholders involved in the development of the River Protection Strategy (RPS) for Derbal Yirragan Djarlgarro (Swan Canning river system). I would like to particularly acknowledge the considerable advice and involvement from the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation in developing the strategy and inspiring the artwork produced by Noongar artist Kaedisha Westberg.

Following extensive workshops with stakeholders the previous year, the draft RPS was developed, and was circulated amongst stakeholders at multiple stages of drafting, including a 60-day community consultation period, to ensure the RPS accurately reflected the needs and aspirations of our community and the management priorities of stakeholders over the next decade. We are committed to incorporating stakeholder feedback into the RPS, which is nearing release, and future RPS implementation plans and initiatives.

We have made significant strides working with local governments and non-government organisations to deliver the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program's Round One projects. These projects are funded by the Australian Government with the support of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and our partners and they focus on enhancing the quality and habitat value of our urban waterways to benefit local and threatened species. These efforts are crucial in ensuring that our rivers remain vibrant and sustainable for future generations.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who have generously given their time to various restoration projects through several different programs such as River Guardians, Dolphin Watch, Community Rivercare and Swan Alcoa Landcare. Your dedication and hard work are the backbone of our conservation and restoration efforts.

The incident response teams within DBCA have also shown remarkable resilience and dedication, especially during the long, hot summer and autumn period. Your hard work in monitoring and managing algal blooms, and responding to a variety of incidents, has been vital in maintaining and monitoring the health of our rivers.

One of the highlights of the year was the opening of the new Boorloo Bridge, creating a new connection between the Victoria Park foreshore and Perth's CBD at Point Fraser, via Heirisson Island. This fabulous event showcased the spirit of community participation and brought together people from all walks of life to celebrate this new landmark that provides new opportunities to enjoy the river.

Understanding the needs and issues facing our river based, sailing, rowing, boating and paddling clubs has been a key focus of the Board through 2025. We are grateful to the river-based clubs for their ongoing engagement and collaboration with us. Your input and partnership are essential in fostering a thriving river community.

I am thankful for the continued commitment, input and guidance from my fellow Board members and on behalf of the Board, I extend my thanks and appreciation to the DBCA team from Stuart Smith, Glen McLeod-Thorpe and their teams for their advice, efforts and support along with their ongoing commitment and passion for our Swan and Canning rivers.

Looking ahead, I am excited to continue to work with all our valued stakeholders. The Trust appreciate the community's interest in many of the activities and projects either underway, like the Swan River Crossings (Fremantle Traffic Bridge replacement) project, or proposed, like the expansion of ferry services, that intersect with our beautiful waterways.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our successes this year. Together, we will continue to protect, enhance and activate the rivers for the benefit of all.

David McFerran

Chair Swan River Trust Board

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 2024-25 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.

Swan Canning 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 groundwater flow into the Riverpark from tributaries and drains across the Swan Canning Catchment.

Swan River Trust membership

The Trust members are appointed under the provisions of the SCRM Act, and are to be persons who, in the opinion of the Minister for the 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 DAVID MCFERRAN
CHAIR



Mr David McFerran is currently a Director of McFerran Advisory, an independent property, planning and projects consultancy, providing project and development management services, planning and property advice to a range of government and private sector entities. He has previously held senior positions in several State Government agencies and departments and has significant experience in policy development along with providing advice to Ministers. As a former business manager at DevelopmentWA, he has extensive experience in land use planning, statutory and strategic planning, property development as well as stakeholder and community consultation. David was also Chair of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce and was previously a Director of Western Dairy. He has completed a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) degree with Honours from The University of Western Australia (1996) and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and Leadership WA's Signature Program (2013). David was appointed Chair of the Trust Board in May 2023.

MR PETER KING
DEPUTY CHAIR



Mr Peter King currently consults to the Western Australian resources industry on the development and approval of large State significant projects. He 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; as well as local resource companies and consultancies. Peter has also had overseas postings in the Middle East and Subcontinent. His areas of interest include agriculture, natural resource management, land use planning, project facilitation, infrastructure planning and development. He is very experienced in State approvals processes and facilitating development of major resource projects and port infrastructure in the Pilbara. Peter has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from The University of Western Australia. Peter was appointed to the Trust Board in October 2016, and appointed Deputy Chair in May 2023.

MS MARENÉE PROVOST 	Ms Marenée Provost has worked in a diverse range of positions, including 21 years with the former Department for Child Protection, 10 years in the disability sector in senior management and overseeing projects involving architectural design and extensive building development for people with severe disability. Marenée has significant expertise in managing community-based projects and working in partnership with others which has been fundamental to the successful outcomes achieved. These projects have been diverse in nature with many being based in rural and remote areas of Western Australia, ensuring particular emphasis has been placed on achieving positive outcomes for Indigenous people and their communities. Marenée was appointed to the Trust Board in September 2018.
MS SARA SABERI 	Ms Sara Saberi is an experienced board member with expertise in local government, as a former elected member and technical experience as a current officer. She is passionate about environmental matters and support for a number of local community and sporting groups. Sara has a range of qualifications including a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health. Sara was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018.
MS TRACY SHEA 	Ms Tracy Shea has held a range of policy, advisory and leadership roles across State government in environment, conservation, recreation and nature-based tourism during a career spanning 38 years, with the last 10 spent as an assistant director in parks and visitor services at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. After retiring from the department in 2018, Tracy has focused on running her consultancy business and her short-term accommodation property in Bridgetown. In recent years Tracy has also worked in the not-for-profit sector and currently works part-time for the Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco-Tourism Inc. (FACET). She also volunteers as a Park Ambassador for the WA Parks Foundation, as Secretary of Geoparks WA and as a judge in the annual WA Tourism Awards. Tracy was appointed to the Trust Board in May 2023.

MS JACQUIE STONE 	Ms Jacquie Stone is an urban planner with 30 years' experience, having worked in both the State and local government sectors. She is currently the Executive Director of Policy at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, where responsibilities include overseeing policies on water, wetlands, native vegetation, coastal, bushfire, climate change, public open, tourism and Crown land management. Jacquie was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018.
MR MICHAEL VOROS 	Mr Michael Voros is a Partner of Ashurst law firm. He is a leading lawyer for environment, climate change, planning and related issues. This includes that he acted for the WA State Government for all environment, planning and water matters for the construction of the new Perth Stadium. He enjoys experiencing Perth's beautiful rivers with his family. In particular he is a keen cyclist and loves the opportunity to cycle around our rivers. Michael is an Independent Director of WestCycle, the not-for-profit peak body for bike riding in Western Australia. Michael was appointed to the Trust Board in March 2024.
MS ROSEMARY WALLEY 	Ms Rosemary Walley is a Whadjuk Noongar woman with connections to other clans throughout the south-west of WA. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Aboriginal Community Management and Development, and a Masters of Philosophy (Health Sciences). As well as her research and studies, Ms Walley, as a part of Kambarang Services, works as a cultural awareness trainer and assists organisations in developing Reconciliation Action Plans. Ms Walley also worked as a Researcher at the Telethon Kids Research Institute. She also lectures in social work courses and delivers workshops and keynote addresses to various health conferences throughout Australia. Rosemary was appointed to the Trust Board in March 2024.

Swan River Trust Meetings

During 2024, the Swan River Trust resolved to move from a monthly to a six-weekly meeting cycle. This therefore meant there were nine meetings held during 2024-25, compared to 10 in 2023-24. Members' attendance at the nine meetings held during the year is outlined below.

Meeting notices and attendance

Please see below attendance for Trust Board members this financial year.

Table 2. Swan River Trust meetings for the 2024-25 financial year.

Board Member Attendance 2024-25	
David McFerran	9 of 9
Peter King	9 of 9
Marenée Provost	9 of 9
Sara Saberi	8 of 9
Jacquie Stone	9 of 9
Tracy Shea	8 of 9
Rosemary Walley	6 of 9
Michael Voros	9 of 9

Table 3. Swan River Trust members conflict of interest declarations

Month	Issue	Agenda Item No	Board decision
Jul-24	Development application – private boatshed and additional stairs – Lot 13 (14) Cliff Way Claremont. Mr Michael Voros advised that an extended family member works for a consultant acting on the application but was not involved with the application.	4.4	The declaration was noted and the Board advised that the declaration was adequate and Mr Voros could participate in consideration of the item.
Aug-24	NIL		
Sept-24	NIL		
Oct-24	NIL		
Nov-24	Ms Jacquie Stone noted that she had been liaising with Mr Greg Comiskey from DBCA regarding the Canning Waterways Restoration Plan	4.1	There were no objections by Trust members to Ms Stone's participation in the agenda item.
Feb-25	NIL		
Mar-25	NIL		
May-25	NIL		
June-25	Nil		

Standing Declaration: The Chair, Mr David McFerran on occasion works for Hesperia, a Western Australian property development company, and is the Chair of the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce. At the June 2025 meeting, the Chair advised that the Exmouth Gulf Taskforce concluded at the end of the 2024-25 financial year.

Standing Declaration: Ms Tracy Shea works for the Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco-tourism (FACET) as its Executive Officer, and volunteers with the WA Parks Foundation.

Standing Declaration: Mr Peter King is a member of the Burswood Park Board and a member of the Royal Perth Yacht Club.

Standing Declaration: Michael Voros works at Ashurst law firm, and is an Independent Director of WestCycle.

During the year, Trust members attended events such as the Healthy River Forum in Bicton in October 2024, the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program 2025 Funding Ceremony in December 2024 and the unveiling of the River Guardians educational signage installed at Dyoondalup (Point Walter) in February 2025.

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, the City of Nedlands and the City of Fremantle local governments accepted invitations to attend Trust meetings.

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 Nature Conservancy, the Department of Transport and the Public Transport Authority.

Governance matters

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

Throughout 2024-25, the Trust continued to implement the outcomes of the Swan River Trust: Communications and public interface review (June 2023) and the Board Effectiveness Review Report (July 2023). During 2025 the Trust further reviewed recommendations outlined in the above reports and the members resolved to implement actions to address the findings.

The Trust members endorsed the Swan River Risk Register in March 2025, including DBCA's review process in the Treatment Action Plan section and committed to a six-monthly review of the register.

Delegations

The Trust reviewed and updated its delegations to DBCA in February 2025 to reflect changes to the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS).

Performance monitoring and reporting

DBCA 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 the Environment.

Science updates and advice

DBCA's Rivers and Estuaries Science Program works to coordinate scientific effort and information needs for management of the Swan Canning river system. The program provides scientific advice and support to the Swan Canning Waterways Branch, in relation to waterway condition, management and incident response including, but not limited to, fish kills, algal blooms, sewerage overflows and dolphin deaths. Science information is underpinned by intensive water quality and biological monitoring and reporting on the estuary and its catchment, as well as focussed research effort that is consistent with the DBCA Science Strategy 2022-25.

Key research themes are:

- Understanding waterway function and biodiversity values;
- Understanding risks / threats to waterway health and values, and investigating ways to mitigate them;
- Understanding habitat and how to improve and protect it;
- Developing decision support tools and trialling new approaches and technologies for improved management.

Regular updates on routine monitoring and scientific investigations are provided to help inform management of the Riverpark and River reserve. In 2024-25, the Program supported the Trust by providing scientific input to the development of the River Protection Strategy, including the science underpinning the infographics. Program staff were also invited to attend meetings to specifically inform the Trust about the progress of harmful algal blooms, condition assessment of fish communities and bull-shark tracking.

Scientific advice to inform appropriate monitoring and mitigation measures for development approvals and commercial activities within the DCA was also provided, including major infrastructure projects.

Swan River Trust tour of the Canning waterways

In November 2024, the Trust visited key locations along the Canning waterways to better understand challenges in the catchment and observe progress on environmental projects, including those funded by the Australian Government under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) Round One. The tour began at Kent Street Weir, Wilson, showcasing the River Journeys Interpretation Node, Passive Integrated Tagging fish monitoring system, and master planning efforts followed by a visit to the Canning River Tidal Flats. The Trust was provided an overview of the oxygenation program and water quality monitoring strategies critical to managing algal blooms and hypoxia in the river system at the oxygenation site at Bacon Street, Wilson.

At Hester Park, discussions focused on future restoration planning and biodiversity management within the Kent Street Weir Pool. This was followed by a visit to the Canning Dam where its historical significance and role in Perth's Integrated Water Supply System was discussed. Further stops included Saddlers Retreat, Kelmscott and Harry Hunter Rehabilitation Centre, Martin, where drainage retrofitting and community-led revegetation efforts were showcased.

The tour concluded at Corfield Street, Gosnells where large-scale foreshore rehabilitation is planned, and one of a number of pools in the Canning waterways is being assessed for a sediment intervention project to enhance ecological connectivity and water quality. Collectively, these initiatives reflect strong inter-agency collaboration and commitment to restoring the health and resilience of the Canning waterways.



Swan River Trust Board Field to Kent Street Weir and Canning Dam 26 November 2024. Photos - DBCA

Strategic Documents

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 the Environment. The first River Protection Strategy (RPS) was released in 2015 and, following a review process, the Trust and DBCA, with the endorsement of the Minister for the Environment, are developing a new RPS.

The RPS provides a coordinated multi-stakeholder strategy to protect and enhance the ecological and community benefit and amenity of the DCA and the Riverpark. To do this, it is understood that action in the wider catchment is needed.

A key aim of the new RPS is to improve collaboration between stakeholders with responsibilities for the Swan Canning river system, by providing strategic direction for the next 10 years.

To develop the new RPS, the Trust and DBCA have undertaken significant external consultation with the community, Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation, State government agencies, natural resource management groups and the 24 local governments that intersect the Riverpark or have a significant portion of the wider catchment in their boundaries.

In late 2024, guided by stakeholder feedback and the review recommendations, the Trust and DBCA finalised the RPS for consideration by the Minister for the Environment.

In 2025-26, the Trust and DBCA look forward to finalising the new RPS and preparing a RPS Implementation Plan to guide on-ground delivery of the overarching 10 year strategy.

Statutory Assessments and Projects

In its statutory assessment role under the SCRM Act, DBCA assesses and determines, or provides advice to the Minister for the Environment on, development proposals within the Swan Canning 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 2024-25, the Trust provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on five development applications determined in accordance with Part 5 of the SCRM Act, including one request for variation of a development approval made pursuant to Section 84.

Significant developments were considered within the public foreshore reserves and river this year. Highlights included the expansion of the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle, the Wesley and Penrhos boatshed redevelopment at South Perth, Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club in Nedlands, and modifications to the East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club.

Further, long term planning around the river continued by the preparation of important foreshore reserve plans for the Nedlands foreshore as well as commencement of foreshore reserve planning projects in cooperation with the City of Bayswater at three sites: Hinds Reserve; Peninsula Farm and Bardon Park. In addition, implementation of the Ashfield Flats Master Plan is now underway.

DBCA also provided advice under delegated authority of the Trust to the Western Australian Planning Commission and local governments in accordance with the MRS, regarding planning proposals that abut, are partly contained within or affect, the DCA. During 2024-25, DBCA's Swan Canning Waterways Branch assessed, and provided advice, on 106 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the MRS.

In relation to development under the MRS, of particular note, ongoing negotiations surrounding the urban redevelopment of the Belmont Racecourse warranted significant attention. Advice was provided related to foreshore restoration, development setbacks, ensuring appropriate public access, and infrastructure provision within future Regional Open Space Reserves.

Table 4. Swan River Trust statutory assessment advice

Approval type	Number
Part 5 SCRM Act development applications	5
Section 84 SCRM Act requests for variation to development approvals	1
MRS development applications	159

Swan Canning Riverpark River Journeys Interpretation Node Program

With ongoing support from the Trust for DBCA's River Journeys Interpretation Node Program, the tenth and eleventh interpretation nodes were completed in 2024 at Warndoolier (Banks Reserve) in Mount Lawley and at Burswood Park. The new nodes provide recreational benefits for visitors to the Riverpark and share meaningful Aboriginal cultural stories and artwork provided by Whadjuk elders and artists, as well as showcase the ecological and socio-historic values of the bilya (river).

A small ceremony was held at Warndoolier on 23 October 2024 attended by DBCA, the City of Vincent and the family of Whadjuk elder May McGuire. The Burswood node was officially opened by Hon Hannah Beazley MLA at a launch event on 1 November 2024, attended by the Trust, the Director General of DBCA, President of the Burswood Park Board and the Mayor of the Town of Victoria Park.

DBCA continues to engage with river foreshore land managers in planning for future instalments of the River Journeys Interpretation Node Program at key locations in the Riverpark.



Opening ceremony for the Warndoolier interpretation node. Photo – DBCA.



Official launch event for the Burswood Park interpretation node. Photo – DBCA.

Major Proposals

Boorloo Bridge

Construction of the Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist bridges was completed in December 2024. Works were undertaken in accordance with approved environmental controls and without significant incident.

The Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist bridges was officially named the Boorloo Bridge in recognition of the Whadjuk Noongar culture and history which has been embedded in the bridge design. The bridge was opened on 22 December 2024 with a twilight event, fireworks and light show.



Boorloo Bridge feature lighting. Photo – Main Roads WA.

Swan River Crossings (Fremantle Traffic Bridge replacement)

The new bridge will replace the existing Fremantle Traffic Bridge at its current alignment and consists of an extradosed design that incorporates cantilevers and cable support. Construction commenced in late 2024 and has been undertaken in a staged manner, with the bridge closure set for 12 months across 2026. By April 2025, all in river-piling works were successfully completed without incident.

On behalf of the Trust, DBCA continues to provide on-going advice on the detailed design, including scour protection (with proposed modifications to support benthic habitat) and construction management of the project.

Ferry Service Expansion on the Swan River

The Public Transport Authority (PTA) and the Department of Transport have been engaging with DBCA on the planning and development of proposed Swan River ferry expansion project since mid-2024. PTA is progressing the first stage of the project, which includes two new ferry terminals at Applecross and Matilda Bay and the construction of five electric ferries, and will be lodging a development application in the coming months. These new ferry stops will complement the existing ferry route/stops between Elizabeth Quay and South Perth and the expansion is intended to be operational by late 2027. The Trust continues to receive regular briefings, and provide advice on the project, as required.



Swan River Trust

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dbca.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark/swan-river-trust

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