



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

Middle Derbal Yirragan (Swan) Action Plan

March 2026



Middle Derbal Yirragan (Swan) Locality



MIDDLE SWAN RESERVE

HELENA RIVER

GUILDFORD TOWN CENTRE

Introduction

The Middle Derbal Yirragan (Swan) Action Plan (the Action Plan) aims to support achievement of the locality-specific policy statements contained within the Middle Derbal Yirragan (Swan) Locality Plan. The actions should be delivered when planning and undertaking works in the locality, as opportunities present.

The Action Plan is a guidance document and can be updated as needed.



Photo: Caversham Oxygenation Plant - DBCA

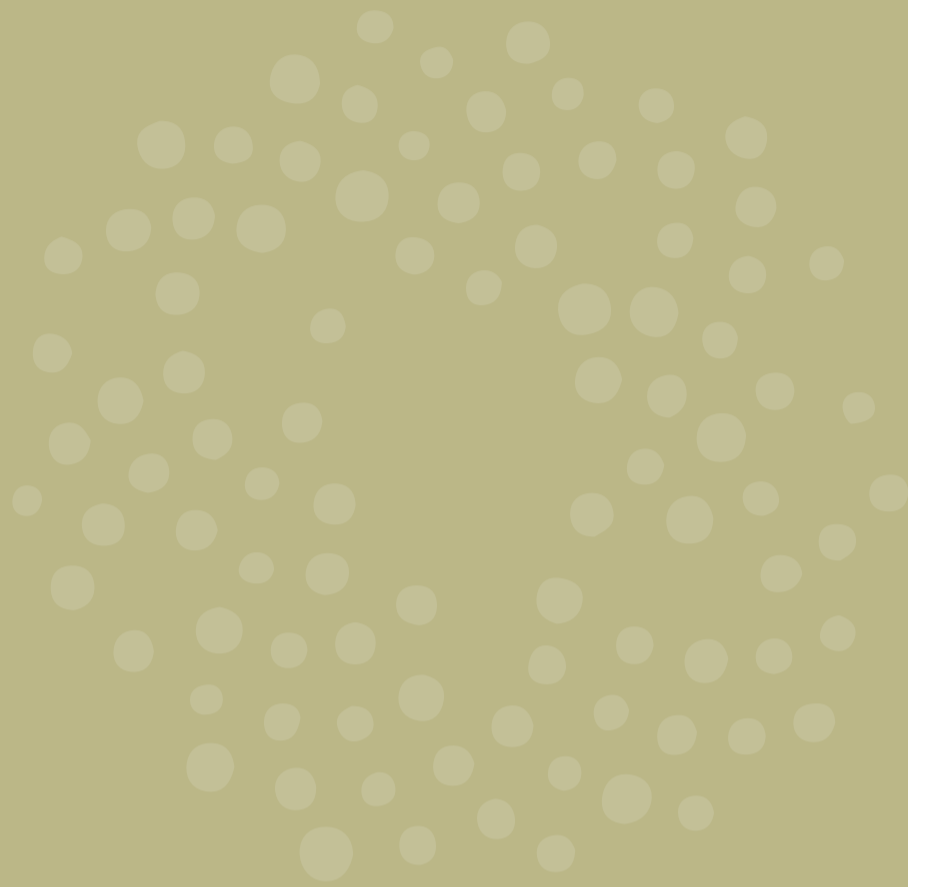
Action <i>Delivery is subject to funding and resources</i>	Timing (years) 0-2, 2-5, 5+, ongoing	Key agencies	Notes
MDY.1 Undertake infill sewer connection, preferencing lots within 100 metres of a waterway, including along River Street (Bassendean).	5+	WC, DBCA	Undertake strategically and as part of related proposals.
MDY.2 Undertake an assessment of and long-term planning for foreshore Regional Open Space reserve in this locality, particularly where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. there is currently no provision of Regional Open Space reserve; ii. the existing reserve is narrow and constrained; iii. the characteristics of the land or qualities of the area should be reflected; iv. it is currently difficult to provide public access, maintenance access or other public use, such as allowing access at the top of an embankment if other locations are not feasible; v. the natural functions of the river should be accommodated; vi. a buffer should be established between the adjoining land use and waterway, such as a buffer to playing fields, agriculture, horticulture or industrial activities, to minimise sediment, nutrient, pesticide, organic matter and other pollutant inputs; vii. the existing reserve does not allow establishment of a minimum 30-metre-wide vegetated riverbank corridor; viii. there is remnant vegetation or a Bush Forever area associated with the waterway; ix. there is a tributary that connects to the Derbal Yirragan (Swan River), such as Bennett Brook and Blackadder Creek; x. there are opportunities to create a natural landscape character between the Derbal Yirragan (Swan River) and suburban and rural land uses, such as at Caversham, Bassendean and Eden Hill, and between Reg Bond Park and Reid Highway bridge; and xi. there are freehold lots contained entirely within the FPM 1 in 100 (1%) annual exceedance probability floodway. 	5+	DBCA, SRT, LGs, WAPC	Consider as part of strategic planning.
MDY.3 Incorporate interpretation nodes to recognise cultural significance and heritage values at Helena River/Guildford/Success Hill, as identified in <i>Marli Riverpark: An Interpretation Plan for the Swan and Canning Riverpark</i> .	5+	DBCA, LGs	To form part of foreshore improvement works in these locations.
MDY.4 Investigate options for establishing a designated trail along the Derbal Yirragan (Swan River) foreshore, such as expanding the Swan Valley cycle trail or the Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails Project.	5+	DBCA, CoS, WAPC, DTMI, TWA	Consider as part of strategic planning.
MDY.5 Collaborate with local governments to determine the views and view corridors from select public vantage points to be protected and maintained. Locations to be considered include Woodbridge House and vineyards opposite and its rural landscape setting, Fish Market Reserve, Bennett Brook, Caversham foreshore and Viveash floodplain.	2-5	DBCA, LGs	
MDY.6 Investigate options for enhanced or additional public kayak/canoe launching facilities or beach river access points.	2-5	CoS, DBCA	

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MDY.7 Prioritise development and implementation of a program to establish a minimum 30-metre-wide revegetated riverbank corridor using local plant species to improve long-term environmental and amenity outcomes. The Derbal Yirragan (Swan River) is a major ecological linkage in the Swan Valley.	2-5	DBCA, CoS, WAPC	Consider as part of strategic planning or relevant proposals.
MDY.8 Work with landowners to improve land management practices that protect soil health and minimise nutrient and non-nutrient contaminant inputs into the river, with a particular focus on rural pursuits within the FPM 1 in 100 (1%) annual exceedance probability floodway.	5+	DBCA, CoS, DWER, DPIRD	
MDY.9 Increase the width of the riparian zone on the lower reaches of Bennett Brook and Blackadder Creek through staged weed removal and revegetation with a diverse mix of local plant species.	2-5	DBCA, CoS, WAPC	
MDY.10 Implement the recommendations of the <i>Tributary Foreshore Assessment: Bennett Brook</i> (DBCA, 2019), including the suggested revegetation species list.	5+	DBCA, CoS, DWER, WAPC	
MDY.11 Investigate the establishment of a foreshore Regional Park to support creation of a continuous foreshore connection and assist with advocacy for funding and coordination of activities by various land managers and community conservation groups.	5+	DBCA, LGs	
MDY.12 Continue to implement the Be Wake Aware education campaign to raise awareness of wake generated by a vessel and ways to minimise it.	Ongoing	DTMI, DBCA	
MDY.13 Undertake a foreshore risk assessment for the Riverpark to understand potential climate change impacts, such as inundation and erosion.	2-5	DBCA, DPLH, LGs, DTMI, DWER, DFES	Will inform management approaches. Existing projects include Swan Canning Riverpark Foreshore Risk Identification and Mapping Project.

CoS	City of Swan
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
DTMI	Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
SRT	Swan River Trust
ToB	Town of Bassendean
TWA	Tourism Western Australia
WAPC	Western Australian Planning Commission
WC	Water Corporation



Department of Biodiversity,
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Front page photo: *Woodbridge Riverside Park* - City of Swan