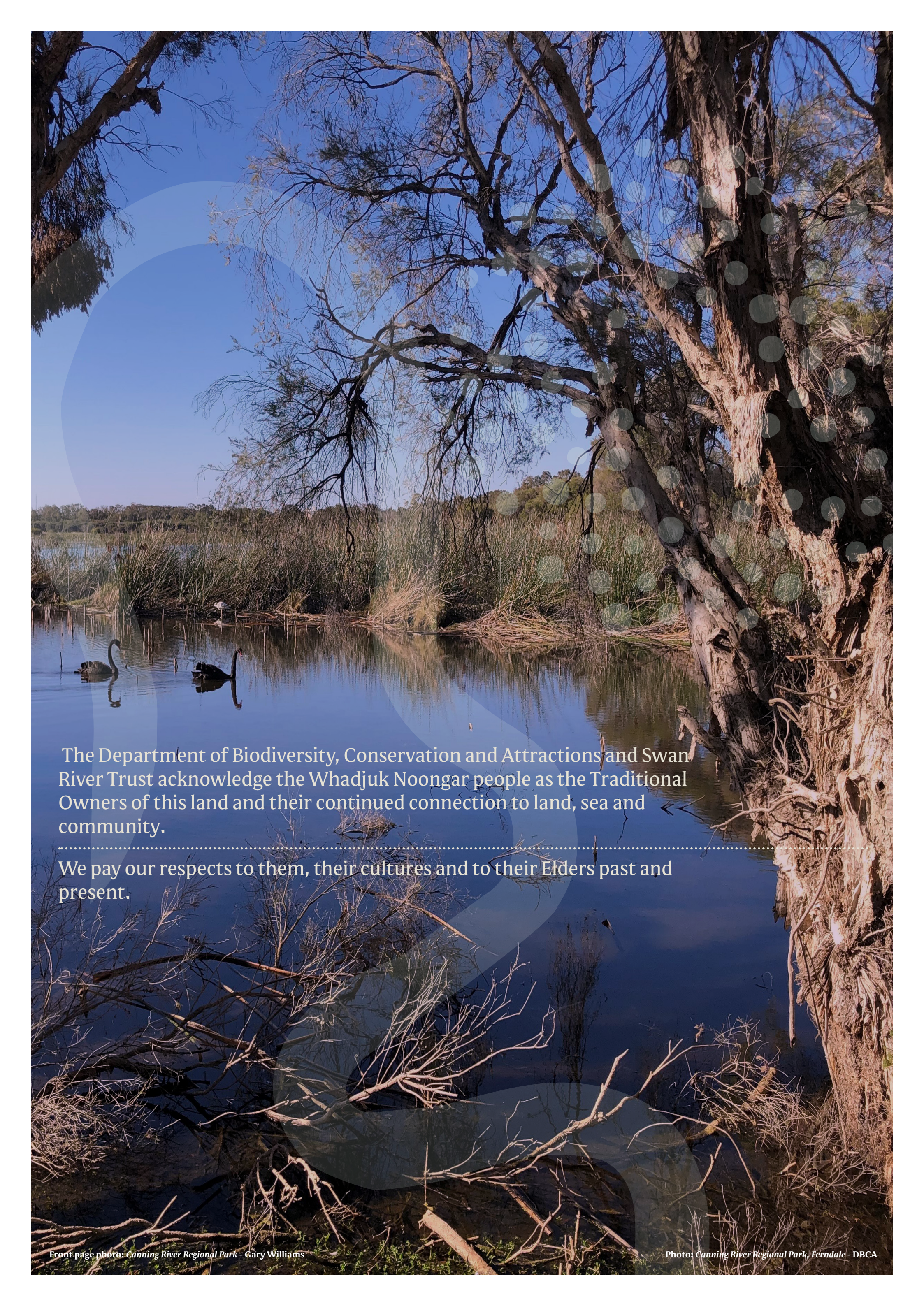




Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

Lower Djarlgarro (Canning) Locality Plan

March 2026

A scenic photograph of a riverbank. In the foreground, a large, gnarled tree trunk with exposed roots dominates the right side. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding vegetation. In the middle ground, a dense thicket of reeds and tall grasses lines the bank. Two black swans are swimming in the water, their reflections visible. The background shows a clear blue sky and a distant treeline.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Swan River Trust acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of this land and their continued connection to land, sea and community.

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We pay our respects to them, their cultures and to their Elders past and present.

Introduction



Photo: Salter Point to Aquinas Bay - DBCA

The Lower Djarlgarro (Canning) Locality Plan

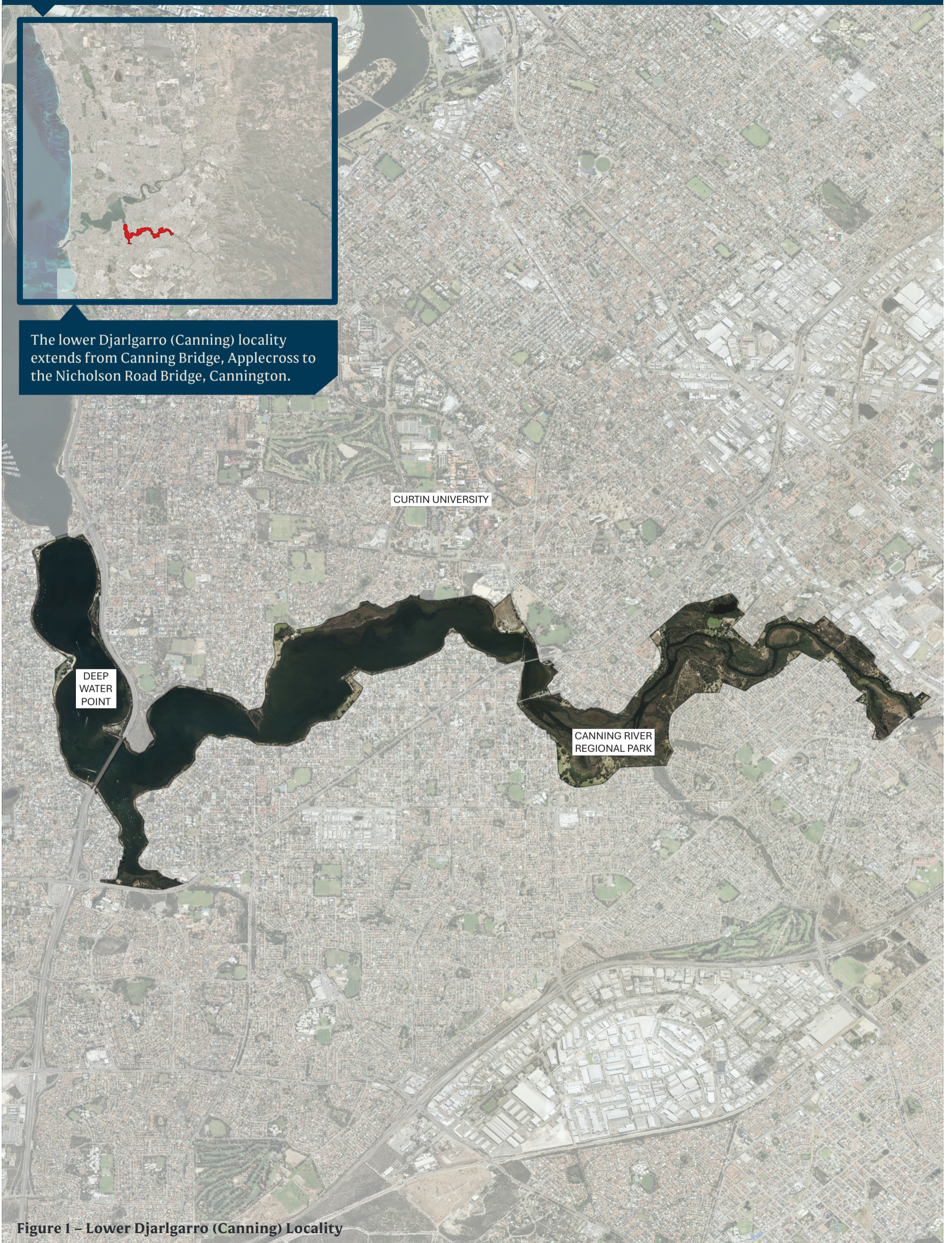
The Derbal Yirragan Djarlgarro (Swan Canning river system) is a complex and dynamic natural landscape. In addition to its fundamental ecological values and important floodplain function, it is valued for its landscape and scenic qualities, cultural and heritage significance, and focus for various recreation and tourism activities. While considering the river as this larger natural system, it is also acknowledged that its characteristics and identity change depending on the locality. To ensure the consideration and preservation of these unique attributes, locality plans have been developed for sections along the Swan Canning development control area (DCA).

The Lower Djarlgarro (Canning) Locality Plan (the Plan) contains locality-specific policy statements to ensure that land use, design and development approaches respond to the environmental, cultural, heritage and social values of the lower Djarlgarro (Canning) section of the river system. The Plan also brings together 'on' and 'off' water considerations to direct appropriate protection, restoration and activation of the river and its foreshores.

The Plan has been developed to achieve the objectives and principles of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (SCRM Act) and is policy developed and published pursuant to the SCRM Act to support consistent and integrated planning, decision-making and management outcomes in relation to the river system. It is to be read in conjunction with *Corporate Policy Statement No. 52: Planning for Localities along the Swan Canning Development Control Area*. The Plan is supported by a separate Lower Djarlgarro (Canning) Action Plan that aims to guide planning and works in the locality. The actions should be delivered when opportunities present.

The extent of the lower Djarlgarro (Canning) locality is identified in Figure 1 (next page) and includes land in the local governments of City of Canning, City of Melville, and City of South Perth. The policy statements apply to land within, abutting and affecting (including ecologically and visually) the DCA and includes public and private land.

Policy Area



The lower Djarlgarro (Canning) locality extends from Canning Bridge, Applecross to the Nicholson Road Bridge, Cannington.

CURTIN UNIVERSITY

DEEP WATER POINT

CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK

Figure 1 – Lower Djarlgarro (Canning) Locality

Landscape Description



Photo: Deep Water Point to Canning Bridge - Gary Williams

The Djarlgarro Beelieer (Canning River) landscape near its confluence with the Derbal Yirragan (Swan River) is dominated by the elevated landform of Mount Henry and the public infrastructure of the Kwinana Freeway and Canning and Mount Henry bridges. There is an almost continuous thin strip of natural foreshore vegetation along both sides of the Canning River between the Canning and Mount Henry bridges. The remnant natural landscape character elements of a narrow white sandy beach and line of riparian vegetation are dominated by the immediately adjoining medium-density suburban landscape character. On the western side near the Canning Bridge, high-rise apartments dominate the built landscape. Deep Water Point is a popular recreation node that is used extensively for rowing, water skiing and other aquatic activities.

Open parkland, suburban built and natural landscape characters are present between Mount Henry and Riverton Bridge. More natural landscape elements are present bordering this open stretch of the river. There is a continuous line of riparian vegetation, with several important areas of remnant vegetation present at the Mount Henry peninsula, Andrew Thompson Conservation Reserve, Salter Point, Clontarf Wetlands, Bateman and Yagan Parks (Bull Creek). The heritage listed Convict Fence is prominent in the centre of the river between Salter Point and Prisoner's Point. The landscape character beyond the immediate

foreshore transitions to open parkland and is dominated by a built suburban landscape with many large, two-storey houses. A road provides a distinct boundary between the suburban areas and the foreshore reserve for most of this locality.

The Canning River Regional Park, located upstream of Shelley Bridge, contains some of the best estuarine vegetation of the Swan Canning Catchment. The riparian area has a wide diversity of habitats, including braided river islands, billabongs, estuarine and freshwater riparian vegetation and modified forests. The dominant natural landscape character transitions to a parkland landscape character in areas of designated public access and includes recreation nodes such as the Kent Street Weir. Beyond the river foreshore, the surrounding urban medium-density residential area has a suburban built landscape character and the urban form is screened in some stretches of the river by the riparian vegetation. The Canning River Regional Park is a registered natural heritage place on the Register of the National Estate. The park is one of the few areas on the Swan and Canning rivers that retains the original diversity of riparian vegetation and provides an excellent representation of most of the estuarine and riverine habitats of the region. The wetlands of the park provide an important habitat for many species of waterbirds and are a habitat for migratory birds, including birds covered by the Japan Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA).

Locality-specific Policy Statements

The policy statements are locality-specific. They support achievement of the key principles and policies as outlined in *Corporate Policy 52 – Planning for Localities along the Swan Canning Development Control Area*.



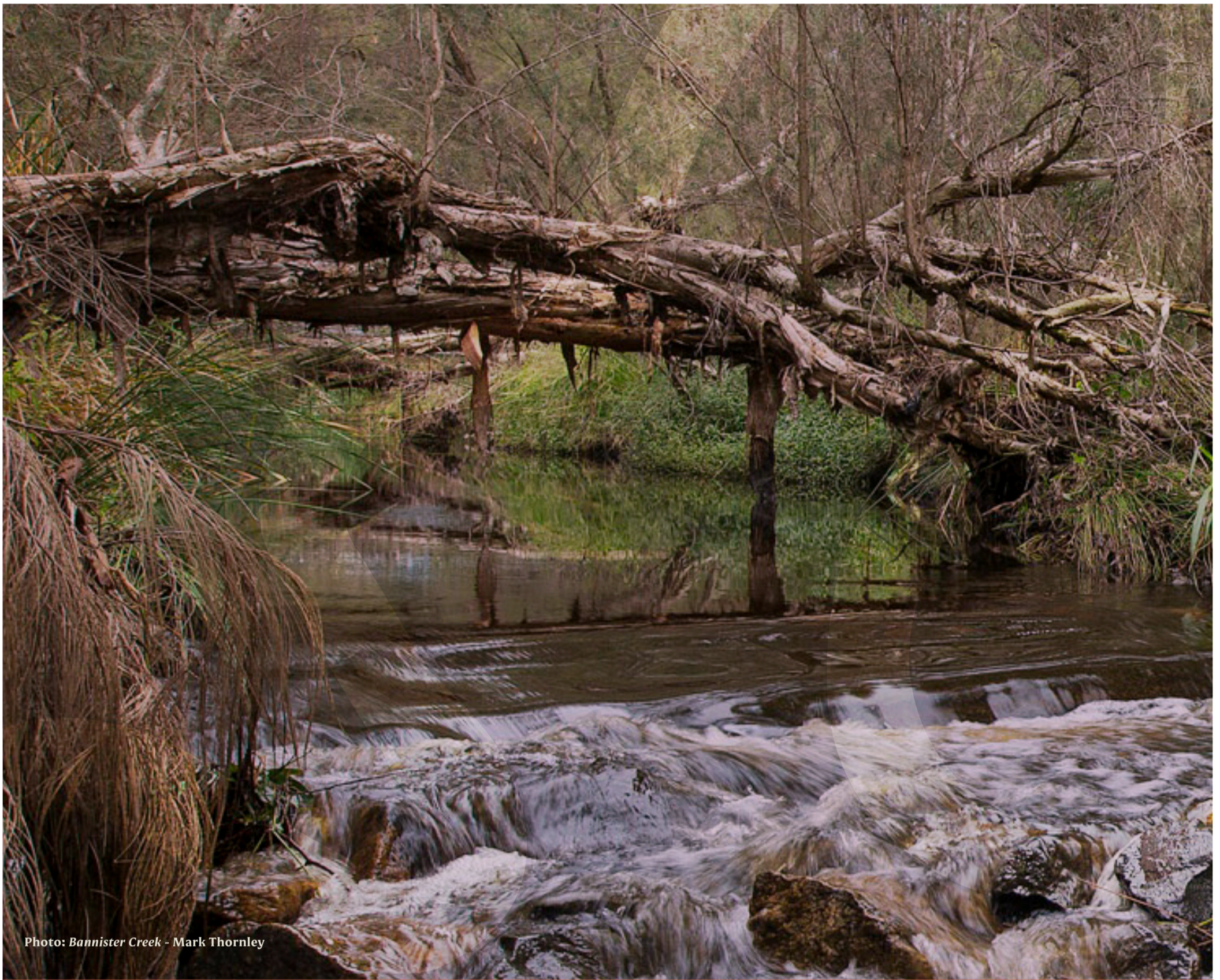


Photo: Bannister Creek - Mark Thornley

Protect and restore the river system

- 8.1 Enhance the Shelley Rossmoyne foreshore as an ecological corridor, linking the Canning River Regional Park and the Bull Creek bush reserves, through the regeneration of vegetation with local plant species to provide multi-storey habitat. Establish significant habitat areas for priority protection from competing uses at Beatrice Avenue (Shelley), Wadjup Point, Pleasant Place (Shelley) saltmarsh TEC, and Shelley Bridge Lagoon, and address future risks of erosion, sea/estuary level rise and increased temperatures.
- 8.2 Protect the vegetation, water forms and landforms in areas of natural conservation value, such as the Mount Henry Peninsula, Salter Point Lagoon, Andrew Thompson Conservation Reserve, Bateman/Yagan/Bull Creek parks and the Canning River Regional Park. Extend and enhance planting.
- 8.3 Maintain and increase opportunities for natural foreshore ecological and hydrological functions by using soft foreshore stabilisation approaches. Alternative approaches will be considered on a site-by-site basis where considered planning and technical justification is provided.
- 8.4 Link remnant wetland areas with plantings of local species and extend vegetation to include areas that are seasonally inundated. Extend sedgeland plantings to the mapped floodplain area.

- 8.5 Rehabilitate areas of degraded vegetation condition with local plant species and remove significant weeds, including at Bull Creek, and retain pockets of open grassland within Canning River Regional Park for foraging by raptors.

Protect and restore foreshore vegetation

- 8.6 Retain and enhance the natural river experience along the dual use paths by retaining and widening local riparian vegetation, particularly the trees that provide canopy over the pathways and provide a more natural landscape character experience.
- 8.7 Undertake succession planting along the foreshores.
- 8.8 Protect and restore riparian vegetation, particularly:
 - i. adjacent to the Kwinana Freeway (Como/Salter Point);
 - ii. in areas that support waterbirds;
 - iii. the distinct freshwater and estuarine vegetation communities present in this locality;
 - iv. within Yagan Park, adjacent to Bull Creek to support Carter's freshwater mussel habitat and limit sediment and contaminant input; and
 - v. between Riverton Bridge and Kent Street Weir to enhance the natural river experience.



Photo: Canning River Regional Park - DBCA

Establish and maintain foreshore reserves

- 8.9 Realign and narrow roads that are located within or abutting constrained sections of Regional Open Space reserve to optimise provision of foreshore space, slow down traffic and provide for active transport opportunities, such as along The Esplanade (Brentwood/Mount Pleasant) and sections of Riverton Drive W/N/E (Rossmoyne/Shelley/Riverton). Relocate roads outside of the Regional Open Space reserve, where possible.
- 8.10 Enhance the interface with and connection to the river, where possible, with shoreline treatments that improve environmental outcomes, improve community access and achieve high quality amenity outcomes. Erosion and deposition patterns and the sediment cell balance should be understood and uninterrupted, where possible. Avoid revetments and river walls, where possible.

Increase resilience to climate change

- 8.11 Ensure that buildings within the foreshore are appropriately set back to protect from flooding and other infrastructure within the reserve is set back or designed to accommodate some inundation to allow natural river foreshore flooding processes to occur.

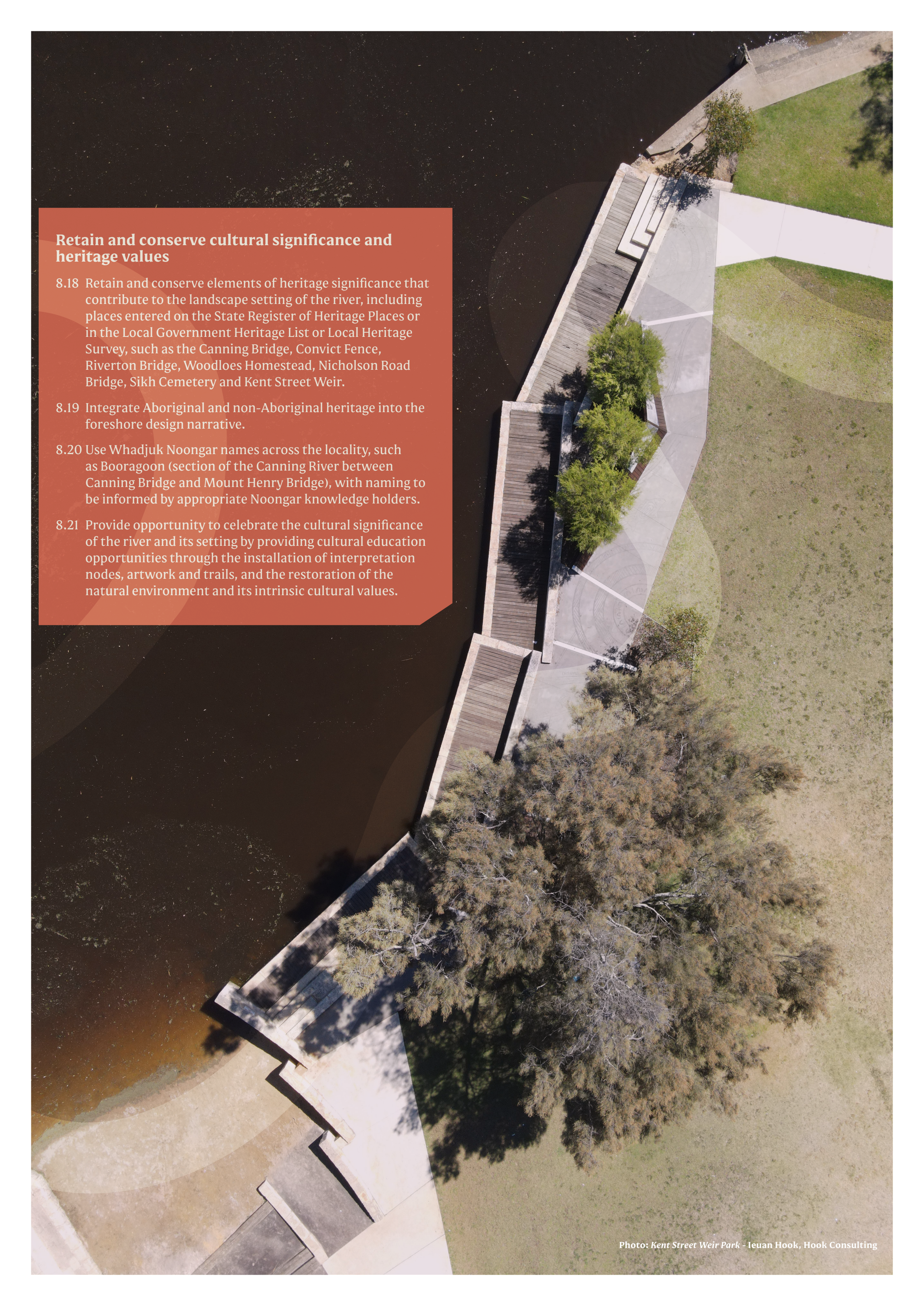
Implement water sensitive design

- 8.12 Improve the quality of stormwater entering the foreshore. Implement water sensitive urban design, with the aim of incorporating at-source stormwater systems and overland flow through vegetated systems within the development footprint and within the catchment, instead of using end-of-pipe stormwater systems within the foreshore reserve.

- 8.13 Retrofit stormwater/drainage pipes, trapezoidal drains and piped river outlets, where possible.
- 8.14 Demonstrate how groundwater levels and dewatering volumes and water quality treatment requirements will be met where excavation is proposed that may intersect groundwater, as part of the planning process.
- 8.15 Implement nutrient, pesticide and irrigation industry best practice for grassed areas in proximity to the river, particularly active playing surfaces and where depth to the groundwater is less than 1 metre, including Challenger Reserve and Centenary Park. Establish buffers of local vegetation between the waterway and active recreation areas. Locate new active recreation areas outside of the DCA.

Minimise dredging and channel disturbance

- 8.16 Ensure that sediment disturbance is appropriately managed, particularly in proximity to areas of historic contamination and areas of uncontrolled fill.
- 8.17 Not support reclamation of the river, except for beach renourishment.



Retain and conserve cultural significance and heritage values

- 8.18 Retain and conserve elements of heritage significance that contribute to the landscape setting of the river, including places entered on the State Register of Heritage Places or in the Local Government Heritage List or Local Heritage Survey, such as the Canning Bridge, Convict Fence, Riverton Bridge, Woodloes Homestead, Nicholson Road Bridge, Sikh Cemetery and Kent Street Weir.
- 8.19 Integrate Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage into the foreshore design narrative.
- 8.20 Use Whadjuk Noongar names across the locality, such as Booragoon (section of the Canning River between Canning Bridge and Mount Henry Bridge), with naming to be informed by appropriate Noongar knowledge holders.
- 8.21 Provide opportunity to celebrate the cultural significance of the river and its setting by providing cultural education opportunities through the installation of interpretation nodes, artwork and trails, and the restoration of the natural environment and its intrinsic cultural values.



Photo: Kent Street Weir Park - Tammy Rose

Maintain the rivers and their foreshores as a community asset

8.22 Ensure that the private-public interface for multi-storey development contributes positively to the river foreshore experience and has high amenity when viewed from the reserve.

Maintain a sense of place

8.23 Ensure that development and river use do not degrade the visual amenity and conservation values of the natural landscape, particularly within significant areas, such as the Canning River Regional Park.

8.24 Enhance connections to the river and foreshore, such as through wayfinding, from nearby community or activity centres. Particular attention should be given to improving connections between the Cannington commercial/retail centre, including the Wharf Street Basin area, and the river.

8.25 Use local vegetation species within the foreshore reserve and within public open space and road reserves that abut the foreshore reserve to connect and contribute to the river landscape's sense of place.

Secure public access to the rivers and their foreshores

8.26 Address gaps in the public access network around the foreshore:

- i. from Thomas Middleton Park to Spinaway Crescent (Brentwood);
- ii. from Woodloes Park to Masons Landing Park;
- iii. within the Castledare Miniature Railway Park; and

iv. via the extension of the roadside dual use path along Fairview Gardens (Waterford).

8.27 Account for the environmental values, terrain and landscape amenity of the foreshore reserve when providing public access. Universal access (wheelchair accessible) paths are to be provided where possible and appropriate, based on site conditions. Access paths may not be possible if construction would result in unacceptable ecological impacts due to fill requirements.

- i. The design is to respond to the site and local context.
- ii. A trail is preferred in some areas due to environmental sensitivities, such as between Bywater Park and Watts Road (Wilson); and
- iii. Access to the water may not always be ecologically appropriate or practical.

8.28 Encourage a public access link between Woodloes Homestead and the Canning River Regional Park.

8.29 Encourage the incorporation of a bicycle lane (or other appropriate facility) within road reserves adjacent to the foreshore, including as part of road pavement rehabilitation and resurfacing projects, where appropriate. Refer to *Planning and Designing for Active Transport in Western Australia: All Ages and Abilities Contextual Guidance* for recommendations on appropriate bicycle facilities based on road function.

8.30 Enhance the use of the river for kayaking and canoeing, where appropriate. Maintain and enhance public kayak/canoe launching facilities or beach river access points at recreational nodes.



Photo: Lo Quay River Cafe - Zoe Beeson

Establish linkages and ecological corridors

- 8.31 Convert existing trapezoidal drains into living streams, where possible, that create links to the foreshore.
- 8.32 Consider the strategic removal of turf areas and replacement with local plants to reduce water use and create ecological linkages. In the foreshore, design these areas to provide passive recreational opportunities and walk trails. Create buffers to turf areas by using paths and other infrastructure to remove turf ingress into local vegetation, where possible.

Complement the river landscape through sensitive design and built form

- 8.33 Ensure that the scale and density of new development adjacent to the foreshore blends harmoniously with the leafy, suburban character and predominantly natural features of the landscape.
- 8.34 Consider reduced setbacks to the Regional Open Space reserve in the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan area, where the required average setback can still be achieved, any ground floor spaces within the standard setback area are activated and publicly accessible, and a community benefit can be demonstrated.

- 8.35 Locate car parking within the foreshore reserves as far as possible from the river's edge, including relocating bays such as at Apex Reserve. Where the foreshore is constrained, parking (apart from ACROD bays) should be located outside of the foreshore reserve.
- 8.36 Locate vital infrastructure, such as sewer or water main pipelines, that is required to cross the river within tunnels or incorporate into existing crossing structures, such as bridges or pedestrian walkways, where possible. The infrastructure may be incorporated into a new low-impact pedestrian crossing, if appropriate.
- 8.37 Use limestone when rock material is used for foreshore works.



Photo: Mt Pleasant - Peter Howie

Activate the foreshores

- 8.38 Co-locate community clubs at established nodes. Ensure clubs using foreshore land incorporate safe public access, including by sufficiently setting back structures. Consolidate club facilities (with a preference for shared facilities) in preference to expanding multiple separate premises in the one node. Clubs are to demonstrate a community benefit.
- 8.39 Ensure that activation of the foreshore is temporary/pop-up, unless confined to an existing commercial node. Where appropriate, enhance the use of the foreshore for public events. Events should be of a scale appropriate to the available facilities, including parking, and amenity considerations. Encourage activation of the foreshore at Shelley Beach Park and Centenary Park.
- 8.40 Ensure that commercial development within the foreshore reserve has a community focus, is small-scale, occurs within established commercial nodes, enhances the natural character of the foreshore, and ideally delivers multiple benefits or services. The established commercial nodes in this locality are Deep Water Point, Fern Park and Kent Street Weir.
- 8.41 Applicants are to prepare an overarching context analysis to support proposed new or expanded commercial development that considers the broader foreshore and river uses to ensure a diversity of public facilities and experiences. Development is to be set back from the river's edge as much as possible. Over-water commercial development is not supported in this locality.
- 8.42 Consider a shared facility incorporating new river-related community uses, café and public toilets at Salter Point Sea Scouts and Curtin University Boat Club at Sandon Park. Development is to be set back from the river's edge as much as possible.
- 8.43 Locate lease areas within foreshore reserves an appropriate distance from the river, accounting for the site context, land use and development scale. This includes realigning and setting back the riverside boundary of an existing lease area as part of any redevelopment of the site.



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