



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



SWAN RIVER TRUST

BOARD CHARTER

Statement of intent

This Charter outlines the role, composition and processes relating to the key governance activities of the Swan River Trust Board in accordance with the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*.

Background

The [Swan River Trust](#) (the Trust), created under the [Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006](#) (the Act), is an advisory body to the Minister for Environment and the Director General of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The Trust provides independent, high level, strategic advice on the protection of the Swan and Canning rivers. The Trust works in collaboration with others to enhance the ecological and community benefits and amenity of the Swan Canning Riverpark (Riverpark).

The operations of the Trust are supported by DBCA and the agreed service arrangements are detailed in an operational agreement that is reviewed every three years. The Trust produces an [annual report](#) that details the management activities undertaken each year.

Role of the Board

A Board of management is created under Part 3 s.18 of the Act. The Board is the governing body of the Trust and performs the functions under the Act as defined in Part 3 Division 2. Under the 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 operational management of the river reserve is undertaken by DBCA on behalf of the Trust.

The Trust also oversees the development and implementation of the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (SCRPS) to ensure coordinated management efforts across government to protect the Riverpark.

Role of the Chair of the Board

The Chair provides leadership and ensures the effective operation and strategic focus of the Board. The Chair leads Board meetings and oversees the meeting agenda in consultation with DBCA. The Board Chair liaises with the Minister for Environment and the Chief Executive Officer of DBCA.

Role of the Minister for Environment

The Minister for Environment (Minister) is responsible to Parliament for the operation of all agencies, boards and committees within the Environment portfolio, including the Swan River Trust Board. The Minister has the responsibility under the Act to appoint six of the Board members directly and the other two members following nominations by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Western Australian Local Government Association. The Minister may appoint temporary members, remove a member or grant a leave of absence as provided in Schedule 6 of the Act.

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DBCA can attend Board meetings and may participate in the discussion and consideration of any matter but cannot vote on any matter. The CEO will brief the Board on relevant matters of importance, including Ministerial matters.

Structure and operation of the Board

The structure of the Board is provided in Part 3 s.19 of the Act. Board members are appointed under the provisions of the Act and have knowledge and experience relevant to the functions of the Trust. The Board brings together expertise in conservation, natural resource management, recreation, tourism, planning, development and matters of interest to rural and Noongar communities.

The Board comprises eight members, with one appointment from the recommendation of the Western Australian Local Government Association and one appointment from the recommendation of the CEO of the department administering the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. The remaining six members, including the Chair and the Deputy Chair, are directly appointed by the Minister for Environment. The duties of the Chair, Deputy Chair and members are part-time and Ministerially appointed members are paid an allowance or sitting fee on the recommendation of the Public Sector Commissioner. Members are appointed for terms not exceeding three years and are eligible for reappointment.

Schedule 6 of the Act details the constitution and proceedings of the Board including term of office, resignation and removal, meetings, quorum, resolutions and disclosure of interests.