



SWAN RIVER TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



*A contented pelican after a feed of fish in the Canning River.
Photo: Matt Kleczkowski*

*Front cover: Kitesurfing. Photo: Matt Kleczkowski; Blue Manna Crab. Photo: Matt Kleczkowski;
Water quality testing. Photo: DBCA staff*

Letter to the Minister for Environment

To the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs

In accordance with section 28G of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, I submit for presentation to Parliament the Annual Report of the Swan River Trust for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.



Hamish Beck
Chairman

August 2020



*Buried starfish near Bicton Baths in the Swan River.
Photo: Matt Kleczkowski*



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Swan River Trust overview

The Trust is an advisory body created by the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (the SCRM Act). The Trust provides independent, high-level, strategic advice to the Minister for 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* (SCRPS) 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 its significant operational and management responsibilities within the Riverpark and 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

Our vision is a healthy river for all, forever, which is resilient to climate change, population and development pressures and is enjoyed, shared and nurtured.

Desired outcomes

The ecological health and long-term community benefits of the Swan Canning river system are protected and enhanced.

How we function

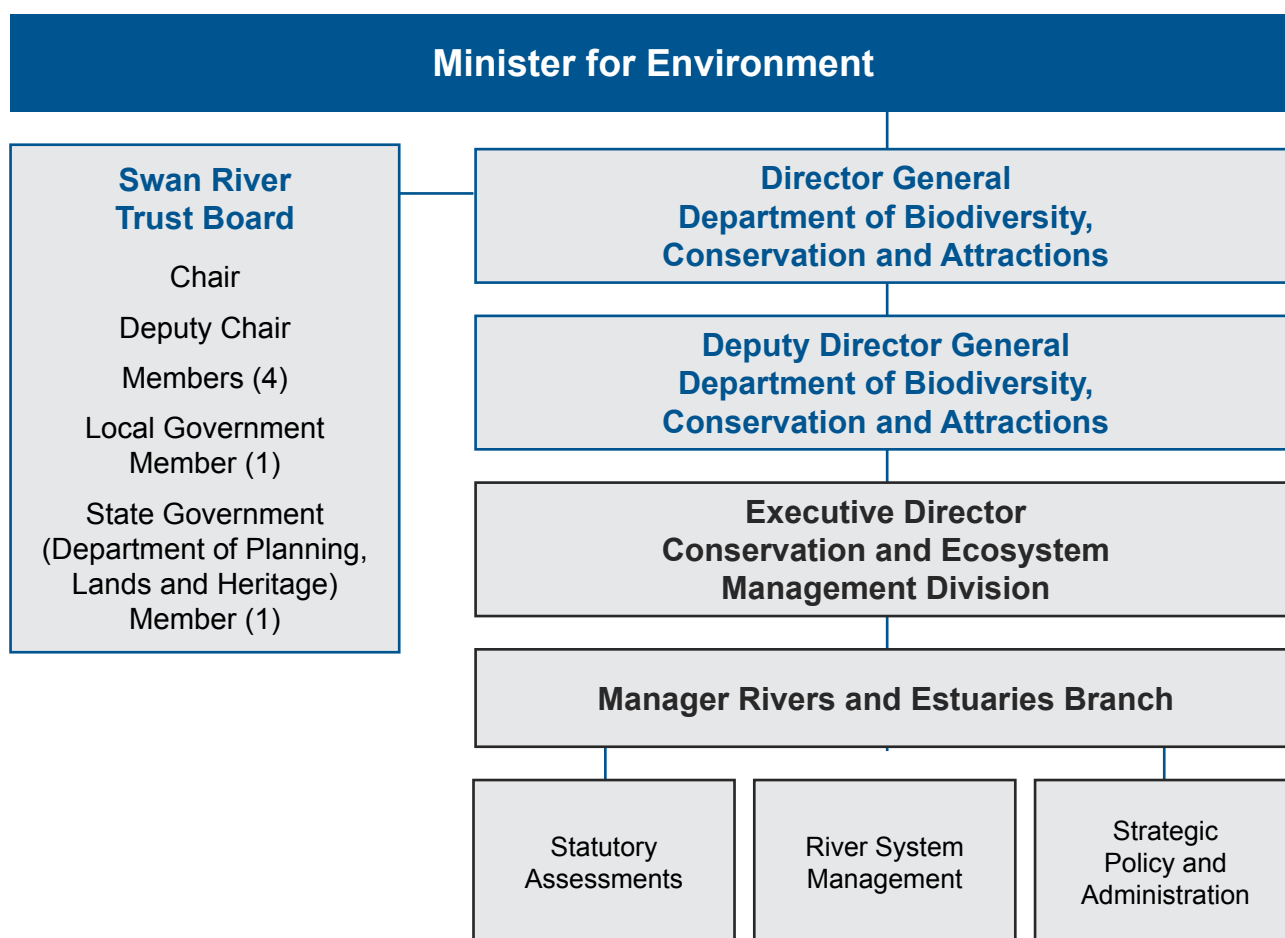
The Trust operates under the SCRM Act to provide advice and perform functions in respect of the Swan and Canning rivers and associated lands. Since 1 July 2015 the Trust has been primarily focused on providing advice and strategic direction regarding development proposals in or affecting the Swan Canning 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 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 2019-20



Funding and administrative arrangements

Table 1. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions financial support for the Swan River Trust 2019-20.

Category	Amount
Board sitting fees	\$34,666
Travel costs	\$0
Communications and IT support	\$0
Catering	\$195.08
Advertising – Board vacancies	\$0
Board events	\$0
TOTAL	\$34,861.08

Chairman's report

The Trust continues to engage in a diverse range of planning and river management issues. The Trust has continued to provide timely strategic advice to the Director General of DBCA and the Minister for Environment on a range of complex development proposals affecting the Swan Canning DCA.

The Trust facilitated the use of Matagarup Bridge for tourism initiatives, including a bridge climb and zip-line, and played an ongoing role in the assessment and approval of the works associated with Matagarup Bridge.

The Trust played an advisory role regarding potential impacts on the river from major riverside projects, including the redevelopment of Precinct D of the Belmont Park Racecourse and the high-density development within the Canning Bridge Activity Centre. The Board also advised on DevelopmentWA projects in Perth (Waterbank, East Perth and Elizabeth Quay), Midland and Wungong.

During 2019-20, the Trust considered and provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on 10 development applications in accordance with Part 5 of the SCRMS Act. There were a high number and broad range of developments proposed within the public foreshore reserves and river this year. Highlights included new and expanded cafes and small bars, new kayaking infrastructure, additions to commercial/public jetties, refurbishments at various yacht clubs, and expansion of community sports and school facilities.

The Trust co-ordinated an Expressions of Interest process for commercial seaplane operations on Perth Water. DBCA is now finalising the approvals with the successful proponent.

This year DBCA officers assessed and provided advice on 192 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the Metropolitan Region Scheme. There were 48 tourism operator licences approved on the Swan and Canning rivers.

Twenty aquatic activities, including watersport lessons and equipment hire, were also approved. A further two commercial operators were approved to use the foreshore, primarily for pop-up food and beverage outlets.

The draft *Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan* was finalised with the Perth Water Vision Group.



The new plan will help respond to Perth Water's increasing visitor numbers and a growing interest for tourism and commercial ventures. The plan is anticipated to be adopted later in 2020.

The Trust worked with DBCA officers to complete the *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Progress Report 2019*. The progress report tracks how the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (SCRPS) is performing against its five year key performance indicators and river management actions agreed by 12 state government agencies and 20 riverside local governments. A summary of the key data findings is provided in this report. Notably, 89% of the SCRPS's 68 management actions have either been completed or are on track to address the relevant action.

Looking forward the Trust has also prioritised proactive management action for ongoing Riverpark issues such as the *Alexandrium* algal bloom and a series of dolphin deaths during 2019 due to morbillivirus.

Work has now commenced on the Five Year Review of the SCRPS, and this publication and its associated recommendations are expected to be completed in 2020-21.

I would like to thank Dr Joanna Pearce for her continued support as Deputy Chair and DBCA's staff who regularly brief the Trust on complex development and environmental issues.

The Trust appreciates the support provided by DBCA, State Government agencies, local government and the Perth community who help protect our Riverpark. We look forward to working with all our key partner agencies and stakeholders during 2020-21.

Hamish R Beck
Chairman

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 2019-20 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.

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 ground water flow into the Riverpark from tributaries and drains across the Swan Canning Catchment. The land and water management of the surrounding and outer catchments directly influences the water quality in the Swan and Canning rivers.

A catchment to coast approach is employed to manage the health of the Riverpark. The work undertaken by many organisations extends beyond the immediate boundaries of the Riverpark and into the broader 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 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 HAMISH BECK (CHAIR)

Mr Beck has significant board experience as Independent Non-Executive Director of ASX Listed Primewest Group (managing in excess of \$4 billion of property assets), Deputy Chair of the Rottnest Island Authority, Member of the Central Perth Planning Committee, Board Member of the Western Australian Maritime Museum Committee, Board Member of the Cockburn Sound Management Council, and Deputy Chairman of the Historic Heart of Perth Committee. He is the Principal/ Managing Director of Beck Advisory, a development advisory and asset management business with over 25 years experience in commercial and industrial development, asset management and tourism. In these roles, he has made significant contributions to the long-term sustainability and conservation of land and waterways, with stakeholder engagement at all levels. He has strong ties to the Swan River through sailing and paddling, and a substantial commitment to environmental causes, supported by his tree-planting endeavours. He has competed in the Avon Descent on numerous occasions and appreciates the rich ecology of our river systems.



DR JOANNA PEARCE (DEPUTY CHAIR)

Dr Pearce is currently a lecturer in Tourism and Hospitality Management at Edith Cowan University. Her experience and skills include social research with a focus on nature-based tourism, providing policy for the National Parks Advisory Committee in Victoria and preparing technical reports for government departments and industry on natural resource management issues. She has held various teaching roles at Murdoch and Notre Dame universities and has a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (Hons) and a Doctorate of Philosophy. Dr Pearce was reappointed to the Trust Board in 2019 for a three year term until 15 September 2022.



MR PETER KING

Mr King is Director Port Planning with the Pilbara Ports Authority. He has held senior positions in other State Government agencies, including the former Department of State Development and the former Department of Agriculture. Mr King has more than 39 years' experience across government and the private sector in the areas of soil and land survey, natural resource management and land use planning; as well as being very experienced in Western Australia's statutory approvals processes and facilitating development of major resource projects and port infrastructure in the Pilbara. Mr King has also had overseas postings in several countries in the Middle East and the Sub Continent. Mr King has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of WA. Mr King was appointed to the Trust Board in October 2016 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term until 24 October 2022.



MS VANESSA DAVIES

Ms Davies is an Aboriginal woman who has traditional links to the Wongi and Noongar people in Western Australia. She has comprehensive executive management experience in government relations, justice, employment, training and education, health, community and Indigenous relations. In 2000, Ms Davies completed a postgraduate Masters Degree in Management and Leadership at Curtin University. Ms Davies has served on the Trust Board since December 2009 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term until 20 December 2022.



MS MARENÉE PROVOST

Ms Provost commenced her career as a primary school teacher in Victoria. Upon moving to WA in 1986 she joined the public service with the then Department for Community Development where she subsequently worked for 21 years culminating in the roles of Director for Capacity Building; and Director Accommodation Services. In these roles Marenée had considerable experience working alongside Aboriginal communities across the State. She transitioned into the disability sector as General Manager Community Services and subsequently Executive Director Hillroyd Project at Ability Centre. Marenée recently retired from Ability Centre after 10 years' service. Ms Provost was appointed to the Trust Board in September 2018 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term until 15 September 2022.



CR SARA SABERI

Cr Saberi is a City of Canning councillor, and is currently employed as an Environmental Health Officer with the City of Armadale. Cr Saberi has held various positions as a volunteer with environmental organisations and has been an active member of the landcare groups. Cr Saberi holds a Bachelor of Science in Environment and a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health. She was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term until 15 July 2022.



MS JACQUIE STONE

Ms Stone is the Director, Policy for the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. Ms Stone has over 25 years' experience as an urban planner and has worked in Victoria and throughout Western Australia. She has diverse experience in strategic and statutory planning in senior management roles. She was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three year term until 15 July 2022.



MS JO WILKIE

Ms Wilkie is the Principal at Jo Wilkie Consulting, working in organisational development, strategic development and cross-sector partnerships between government, community and corporate bodies. Ms Wilkie worked in the community sector for 20 years and was appointed to six Ministerial advisory committees and taskforces during that time. For over 18 years, Ms Wilkie worked at Lotterywest as a Grants Manager with primary responsibility for the portfolio of Big Ideas (State-wide Initiatives). She was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018 and was reappointed in 2019 for a three-year term until 15 July 2022.

Swan River Trust meetings

Member attendance at the 11 Swan River Trust meetings held in 2019-20 is outlined below:

MEETING NOTICES AND ATTENDANCE

Table 2. Swan River Trust meetings for the 2019-20 financial year

Board Member	Meetings Attended
Mr Hamish Beck	10
Ms Vanessa Davies	10
Mr Peter King	11
Dr Joanna Pearce	10
Ms Marenée Provost	10
Cr Sara Saberi	11
Ms Jacquie Stone	7
Ms Jo Wilkie	9

The Director General of DBCA, or his or her 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. 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.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

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

DELEGATIONS

There were no changes made to the Trust's delegations during the year.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service 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 Environment.

Strategic documents

SWAN CANNING RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY

Part 4 of the SCRPM Act outlines the responsibilities of the Trust and DBCA to prepare strategic documents for approval by the Minister for Environment.

The SCRPS was released on 20 November 2015. It provides a coordinated whole-of-government plan to guide investment, maintain river health and ensure accessibility for the community to enjoy the Riverpark in the long-term.

The SCRPS better coordinates work between the government agencies involved in managing the rivers with the aim of improving benefits to the community and ensuring the rivers continue to be attractive and desirable places.

This improved cooperation between agencies is leading to more efficient use of the State Government's substantial investment in the management of our rivers to help achieve better outcomes for river health, community use and enjoyment.

The Trust reports each year on the implementation of the SCRPS in its Annual Report. This year the *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Progress Report 2019* was prepared for the Minister for Environment to help monitor the SCRPS operations and effectiveness against its five-year performance indicators.

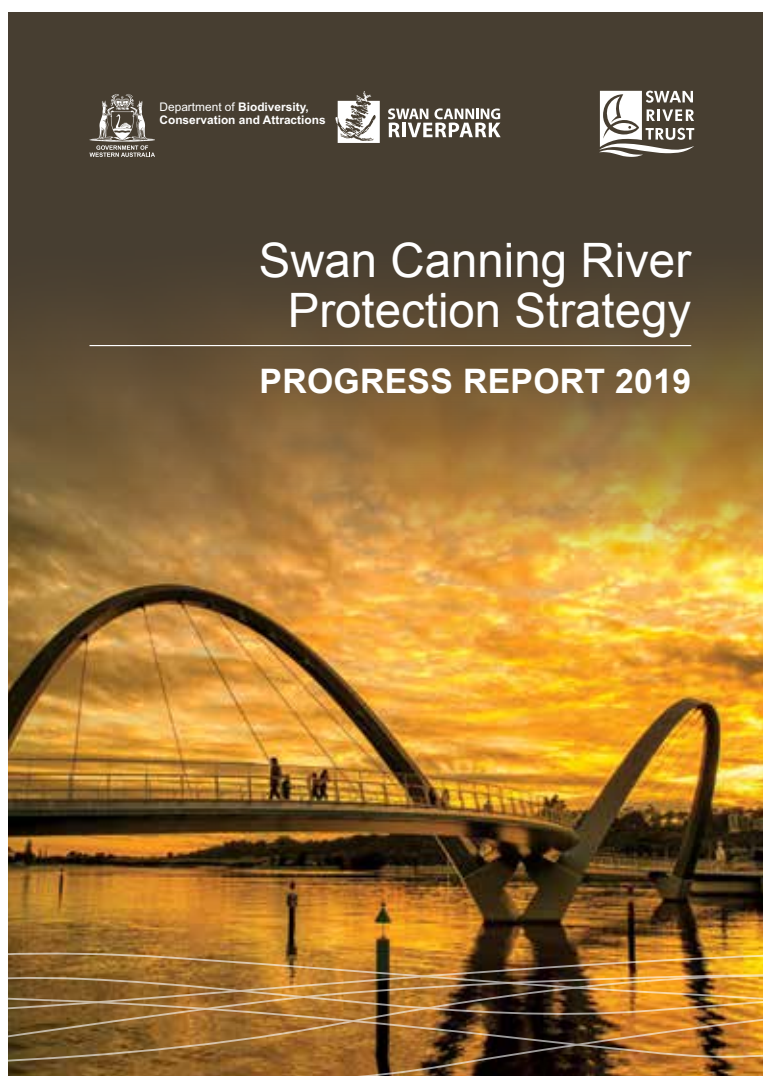
SWAN CANNING RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT 2019

Executive summary of full report

Introduction

The SCRPS was released by the Swan River Trust in 2015 with support from DBCA. DBCA reviews and reports on the SCRPS implementation under a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework. This framework ensures that the SCRPS is adaptive to reflect new information; undergoes continuous development and improvement; and provides results that are measured and clearly communicated to all necessary stakeholders.

DBCA conducts an annual review of the status of the SCRPS Strategic Management Program, with assistance from all the agencies and organisations involved in managing the Riverpark. This provides the information necessary to prepare progress reports, biennial reports and a five-yearly review of the SCRPS to the Minister for Environment, partners and the community. The SCRPS is updated if necessary through the five-yearly review process.



The Trust is responsible for reporting to the Minister for Environment and the partner organisations involved in the management of the Riverpark are required to collect and provide data for these reports. This information is then reported to the Trust on the partner agencies' progress in implementing the agreed projects in the Strategic Management Program. The partner agencies are also invited to provide feedback on the operation and effectiveness of the SCRPS. Progress reports are produced in alternate years, when a biennial report is not required.

The SCRPS progress report covers the period from July 2018 to December 2019. SCRPS partner agencies have provided short status reports on each project or task undertaken in support of the SCRPS river management actions and have contributed to project case studies which highlight collaborations with other public sector organisations, the community, industry or research organisations. Notably 89% of the SCRPS's 68 management actions have either been completed or are on track to be delivered on time. Just six of the actions have experienced any minor or significant delays.

The actions within the SCRPS Strategic Management Program are structured around eight objectives. Based on the information provided by partner agencies, the status of these objectives within the reporting period is as follows:

Objective 1: Increase management coordination and collaboration between organisations with Riverpark responsibilities

Overall implementation is pleasing with the formal structures and agreements to support the implementation of the SCRPS now consolidated. Additional engagement and interaction between agencies to support activities beyond the actions listed in the SCRPS would be welcomed.

Objective 2: Improve water quality and manage environmental flow

This is a substantial objective, containing four separate strategies and 14 actions. Water quality improvement in rivers is only achieved through consistent and long-term activity in the catchment to reduce point and non-point source contributions of nutrients. Improving the condition of drains and tributaries via catchment restoration and constructed wetland projects has also been a priority to help 'strip' contaminants and nutrients out before they reach the rivers. DBCA, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and local governments are all working in diverse areas to achieve these outcomes.

Objective 3: Ensure management decisions are based on appropriate knowledge

Objective three has four actions, focusing on various monitoring programs across water quality and ecological health. These programs allow the tracking of progress against long term and short term sub catchment targets and help measure the effectiveness of management strategies for the river system.

Objective 4: Protect, manage and enhance biodiversity

This is the largest objective with five strategies and 14 actions. Implementation of the Riverbank program's foreshore restoration and stabilisation projects and the sub regional catchment restoration programs are progressing well. One collaboration of note is the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) – a 21 year commitment to an important community partnership by DBCA, Alcoa and Perth NRM. This program provides funding for river restoration and conservation activities by local community groups. The State Government's Community Rivercare Grants program has also been welcomed by community groups seeking multi-year funding to deliver catchment restoration projects.

Objective 5: Maintain and improve sense of place with the Riverpark

This objective focuses on improving community understanding and engagement with the Riverpark and shows solid progress in providing opportunities for people to engage with information, interpretation and education opportunities focusing on culture and natural heritage. The River Journeys interpretation nodes have been a successful collaboration in supporting this objective with six interpretation nodes already developed, a seventh node being finalised at Kent St Weir and two other nodes in the planning phase.

Objective 6: Provide access and a safe environment for Riverpark users

This objective has four strategies and 13 actions that focus on safe access and use of facilities both on water and land, as well as continuing to improve the community's ability to access public lands adjoining the rivers. A project to conclude dinghy management around the foreshores is being finalised, with only two local governments remaining to complete the implementation of dinghy management systems.

A design to replace the jetty structure at Sandy Beach Reserve in Bassendean is underway, after its closure due to the jetty being found unsafe and unserviceable. Funding from the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme is being used to plan and design a replacement jetty.

Ongoing foreshore stabilisation works continue with foreshore land managers and other agencies to protect infrastructure and recreational amenity. This includes the Department of Transport (DoT), Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) as these agencies work to improve Riverpark facilities including public shared paths, cycle paths, marine facilities, toilets and lookouts.

Objective 7: Improve public knowledge and understanding of the Riverpark

There are five actions under this objective with good progress being made in all areas. DBCA's *River Guardians* program continued to provide *RiverWise* training, volunteering opportunities and presentations from scientific and behaviour change experts addressing key issues impacting our rivers. The *Dolphin Watch* citizen science research project continued to be delivered in Perth. The *RiverWise Gardens* behaviour change program also delivered education and home assessments to riverfront residents in priority nutrient suburbs. The *RiverWise Gardening Workshops* delivered by Josh Byrne also educated residents across the catchment.

Objective 8: Improve the way we do business

There are four strategies and 11 actions supporting this objective covering external investment, statutory approvals processes, legislation and support businesses. During the reporting period great progress was made on strategic land use planning initiatives, including development of the draft Perth Water Precinct Plan, updating guidelines and providing advice into the review of State Planning Policy 2.10: Swan-Canning river system.

These initiatives support appropriate and responsible development in the Riverpark and will provide clearer guidance to proponents and commercial operators seeking licences and permits in the Riverpark.

DBCA's revised staffing structure in the Swan Region also achieved increased management efficiencies for the Swan Estuary Marine Park.



Understanding this report

This report should be read in conjunction with the SCRPS. A traffic light approach has been developed to provide an easy visual reference to the status of each action listed in the SCRPS. The status of each action is displayed in a pie chart. Each pie chart is divided into segments depending on how many activities (projects or tasks) have been identified for each action. This provides a visual display of how the concurrent activities are tracking within the associated management action. Most actions only have one or two activities attached, whilst others may have up to ten. Some activities may be relatively minor. The classification is provided below:

1	Green (on track):	Activity is on track to address action.
2	Amber (at risk):	Activity undertaken is experiencing minor delays or is at risk of not addressing action. Attention required.
3	Red (significant delay):	Activity is experiencing significant delays and is unlikely to address action in the near future. Immediate review required.

The SCRPS Strategic Management Program contains 68 agreed river management actions (33 priority actions are indicated with a "P"). These priority actions are required to be undertaken within five years and are key performance indicators of the SCRPS.

Each lead agency has reviewed and reported on the status of the projects or tasks they are delivering in support of their SCRPS actions. As a result, each segment of the pie chart receives a colour depending upon the status of the relevant activity. For example, in the below action, DBCA has five identified activities that are delivering against the action. One activity is slightly delayed and therefore amber, while the other four are on track and are green.

Example only




11.1 Investigate threats to ecosystem integrity and processes



Reporting on Swan Canning River Protection Strategy actions







Objective 1: Increase management coordination and collaboration between organisations with Riverpark responsibilities

1. Implement and review the strategy





Action	Status	DBCA	Swan River Trust
1.1 Establish a SCRPS Advisory Group (P)		●	
1.2 Establish collaborative agreements between management organisations (P)		●	●
1.3 SCRPS progress, biennial and five-yearly reports are to be delivered to the Minister for Environment, partners and the community (P)		●	

Objective 2: Improve water quality and manage environmental flows




2. Reduce nutrients, organic material and sediment entering the Swan and Canning rivers

Action	Status	DBCA	DWER	Local Govt
2.1 Identify the levels and sources of nutrients, organic material and sediment entering the Swan and Canning rivers (P)		●	●	
2.2 Develop and implement Swan Canning and local Water Quality Improvement Plans to achieve nutrient load reduction targets (P)		●		
2.3 Prescribe and apply intervention techniques to either trap nutrients, organic material and sediments in drains and tributaries, or to achieve source control of these contaminants				●
2.4 Improve management of fertiliser use to reduce nutrient loss from urban and rural land in the Swan Canning catchment (P)		●		
2.5 Implement actions arising from the urban water drainage partnerships addressing strategic issues in the Swan Canning catchment		●	●	
2.6 Improve planning schemes and policies to achieve a net decrease in nutrient inputs from future land development				●


3. Reduce non-nutrient contaminants entering the Swan and Canning rivers

Action	Status	DWER	DBCA
3.1 Regulate and manage pollution from contaminated sites, prescribed premises and other commercial activities with the potential to cause pollution (P)		●	
3.2 Maintain inventory database of confirmed contaminated sites in the catchment, monitor appropriate remediation for sites and use the clean-up notice provisions of the Contaminated Sites Act as required		●	
3.3 Maintain an inventory of sources of pollution incidents		●	
3.4 Undertake action to address identified sources of pollution			●

4. Undertake intervention works and/or programs to improve or maintain water quality





Action	Status	DBCA	DWER
4.1 Increase dissolved oxygen levels in the Swan and Canning rivers where required (P)		●	●
4.2 Investigate approaches to moderate and reduce the prevalence of algal blooms (P)		●	●
4.3 Adapt the use of oxygenation and other innovative technologies to manage future water quality issues as climate change science is updated		●	●

5. Maintain or improve environmental flows to rivers

Action	Status	DBCA	DWER
5.1 Investigate, plan and manage environmental flows to the Swan and Canning rivers		●	●






Objective 3: Ensure management decisions are based on appropriate knowledge

6. Coordinate a water quality and ecological health monitoring and evaluation program



Action	Status	DBCA	DWER
6.1 Undertake river and catchment-based water quality monitoring program to measure compliance against management targets (P)		●	●
6.2 Establish a program to monitor non-nutrient contaminants entering, and in, the river system (P)		●	
6.3 Monitor and report on the extent and severity of algal blooms and other events affecting water quality		●	●
6.4 Develop a suite of ecological health indicators to support reporting		●	●

Objective 4: Protect, manage and enhance biodiversity




7. Manage fish communities to maintain diversity and abundance

Action	Status	DPIRD/ Fisheries
7.1 Manage aquatic resources in the Swan Canning river system using a risk based management framework (P)		●
7.2 Protect and monitor the stock status of priority species in the Swan Canning river system according to risk (P)		●
7.3 Investigate fish re-stocking where appropriate		●
7.4 Involve recreational fishers and commercial tour operators with monitoring fish stocks		●
7.5 Promote responsible fishing behaviour (e.g. abiding by catch limits, protecting shoreline vegetation, using fishing platforms provided and using fishing line bins for unwanted tackle, bait packaging and other refuse)		●



8. Protect and rehabilitate foreshore

Action	Status	DBCA
8.1 Provide protection for riparian and/or aquatic vegetation (P)		●
8.2 Provide guidance on best management practices for shore stabilisation (P)		●



9. Reduce the adverse impacts of introduced plants and animals in the Riverpark

Action	Status	FLM	DPIRD	DPIRD/ Fisheries
9.1 Manage riparian and/or aquatic weeds		●		
9.2 Coordinate the management of declared plant species			●	
9.3 Where resources allow, investigate and map the extent of occurrence of feral fish and invasive species, and mitigate impacts by directing efforts into the early control of invasive species				●

10. Maintain environmental values of the Riverpark with the community





Action	Status	DBCA
10.1 Administer legislation to manage the Riverpark including the use of vessels and facilitate safe community use (P)		●
10.2 Maintain an incident response capability to ensure public safety and environment protection		●

11. Improve understanding of Riverpark ecosystem through research

Action	Status	DBCA
11.1 Investigate threats to ecosystem integrity and processes		●
11.2 Improve understanding of the biophysical environment of the Riverpark		●









Objective 5: Maintain and improve sense of place with the Riverpark

12. Increase community understanding and engagement with natural and cultural heritage

Action	Status	DPLH/ Aboriginal Affairs	DBCA	Heritage Council
12.1 Assess, recognise and protect sites with a high level of cultural heritage significance (P)		●	●	●
12.2 Develop interpretive and educational opportunities incorporating the cultural resources of the area			●	
12.3 Provide publicly accessible information and maps detailing important cultural and natural sites and structures in the Riverpark			●	
12.4 Work with relevant Noongar groups to manage the Riverpark (P)			●	

Objective 6: Provide access and a safe environment for Riverpark visitors




13. Maintain and improve safe access for Riverpark visitors

Action	Status	DBCA	DPLH	Local Govt	DoT	DoH
13.1 Promote public use and enjoyment of the Riverpark (P)		●				
13.2 Maintain and improve the level of safe public access to and along foreshore areas in the Riverpark (P)		●	●			
13.3 Improve access to public/courtesy moorings and short-stay pens		●			●	
13.4 Implement a rational management system for dinghy storage on foreshore areas				●		
13.5 Facilitate safe use of vessels on waterways – maintain navigation aids in the Swan and Canning rivers to facilitate safe passage through the navigation channels (P)					●	
13.6 Coordinate primary contact water quality monitoring at popular swimming locations and report conditions to the community (P)						●
13.7 Develop a Shared Asset Management System to link funding/assets/damage to enable forecasting and prioritising of foreshore improvement works		●				
13.8 Implement works to stabilise the riverbank where valuable infrastructure or recreational amenity is threatened by erosion (P)		●			●	


14. Manage public use requirements to minimise conflicts

Action	Status	DBCA	DoT
14.1 Implement <i>Aquatic Use Review and Management Framework</i> for the Riverpark (P)		●	●

15. Enhance the standard of Riverpark facilities






Action	Status	DoT	DBCA	Local Govt	Development WA
15.1 Improve quality of existing public facilities and infrastructure		●	●	●	
15.2 Establish a Swan Canning Riverpark Trails project including walking, cycling and kayaking trails			●		
15.3 Improve walking and cycle ways including the implementation of the Recreational Shared Path Network along the rivers as set out in the <i>Western Australian Bicycle Network Plan</i>		●			●

16. Promote appropriate tourism activities

Action	Status	Local Govt
16.1 Support community events (e.g. Skyworks, river festivals, Swanfish) and tourism opportunities on the river foreshore (P)		●




Objective 7: Improve public knowledge and understanding of the Riverpark

17. Facilitate opportunities for engagement with the Riverpark




Action	Status	DBCA	DLGSC
17.1 Promote opportunities for community groups and individuals to be involved in on-ground conservation activities (P)		●	
17.2 Facilitate opportunities for local community groups, agencies, educational institutions and volunteers to be involved in research, behavioural change and sustainable living programs/projects		●	
17.3 Support local environmental groups to source additional funding (P)		●	
17.4 Promote active and healthy lifestyles that encourage the use of the Riverpark			●
17.5 Promote Riverpark identity through the media and major public and corporate events occurring in the Riverpark		●	

Objective 8: Improve the way we do business




18. Support appropriate development and businesses through a planning and policy framework

Action	Status	DBCA
18.1 Identify nodes for developing appropriate commercial opportunities in the Riverpark (P)		●
18.2 Ensure all commercial operators in the Riverpark meet high standards through licensing (P)		●
18.3 Ensure River reserve leases are managed in line with policy to best practice standards (P)		●

19. Engage effectively in the statutory decision making process

Action	Status	WAPC	DBCA	Local Govt	DevelopmentWA
19.1 Provide clear guidance consistent with SPP 2.10 to developers of land adjacent to the foreshore (P)		●	●		
19.2 Apply water sensitive urban design principles and other existing DBCA/Swan River Trust policies and guidelines		●		●	●
19.3 Continue to collaborate on the development of precinct plans to support riverside development			●		

20. Continually improve the statutory approval process

Action	Status	DBCA	DPLH/Aboriginal Affairs	Local Govt	DevelopmentWA
20.1 Review regulations and legislation to improve efficiency of the statutory assessment process (P)		●			
20.2 Support implementation of Aboriginal Heritage Protocol to obtain <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> approvals for conservation works in the Riverpark		●	●		
20.3 Monitor approvals and enforce compliance with development		●		●	●

21. Identify and attract new sources of investment to achieve greater management outcomes

Action	Status	DBCA
21.1 Develop mechanisms for attracting private sector financial support for conservation and community projects through corporate partnering		●
21.2 Investigate opportunities to diversify and increase investment in the Riverpark		●

Statutory assessments

In its statutory assessment role under the SCRM Act, DBCA assesses and determines, or provides advice to the Minister for 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 2019 -20, the Trust considered and provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on 10 development applications in accordance with Part 5 of the SCRM Act. There were a high number and broad range of developments proposed within the public foreshore reserves and river this year. Highlights included new and expanded cafes and small bars, new kayaking infrastructure, additions to commercial/public jetties, refurbishments at various yacht clubs, and expansion of community sports and school facilities.

DBCA staff also provide advice under delegated authority of the Trust to the Western Australian Planning Commission and local governments in accordance with the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), regarding planning proposals that abut, or affect, the DCA. During 2019-20, DBCA's Rivers and Estuaries Branch officers assessed and provided advice on 192 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the MRS.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan

The Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan was developed in collaboration with seven other State agencies and local governments. The plan will help guide future improvement and development of Perth Water, its foreshores and abutting private development interface, in a more strategic and proactive manner for the wider benefit of all visitors. Extensive public consultation, including with the Aboriginal community, has been undertaken during development of the plan. It is anticipated that the plan will be adopted later this year.

State Planning Policy 2.10: Swan-Canning River System

DBCA is working closely with the DPLH on a review of State Planning Policy 2.10: Swan-Canning River System, State Planning Policy 2.9: Water Resources, and State Planning Policy 2.1: Peel-Harvey Coastal Plain Catchment and associated guidelines. The State Planning policies are integral to enable consistent and integrated planning and decision-making in relation to the river and for ensuring that activities, land use and development maintain and enhance the health, amenity and landscape values of the rivers, including recreational and scenic values.

SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS 2007 REVIEW

Work began on preparing proposed amendments to the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007 to help streamline statutory assessment processes and reduce red tape for Swan Canning Riverpark development applications.

A new Swan Canning Riverpark online statutory assessment portal was also developed to help improve user experience for proponents seeking development applications and commercial operators seeking licences and permits for business ventures in the Riverpark. The portal site is scheduled to go live in December 2020.



*Riverfront living.
Photo: Mark Thornley.*



*Optus stadium from Claisebrook Cove.
Photo: Mark Thornley*

MAJOR PROPOSALS CONSIDERED

Seaplanes on the Swan River

The use of Perth Water for commercial seaplanes has been trialled and an Expression of Interest process has been completed. One operator has been approved to operate subject to appropriate conditions. The ongoing and long-term use of Perth Water by commercial seaplanes was considered strategically as part of the Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan, following extensive consultation with the community, industry and key government agencies, including with the Trust.

Matagarup Bridge

Use of Matagarup Bridge for tourism initiatives, including a bridge climb and zip-line, have been supported and facilitated by the Trust. Tenure of the bridge is being transferred to Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) for ongoing management and operation of the zip-line subject to a variety of environmental and amenity conditions.

Riverside projects

Via DBCA, the Trust has an advisory role regarding potential impacts on the river from major riverside projects. DBCA works closely with proponents to protect and enhance the landscape, amenity and ecology of the river, as well as protect and enhance the community's use and enjoyment of the waterway and its foreshores. Of note during 2019-20, the Trust provided advice on the redevelopment of Precinct D of the Belmont Park Racecourse and high-density development within the Canning Bridge Activity Centre.



*Remains of the heritage listed convict fence in the Canning River.
Photo: Matt Kleczkowski.*

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