



SWAN RIVER TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2022–2023



Annual Report 2022–23

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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 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 (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

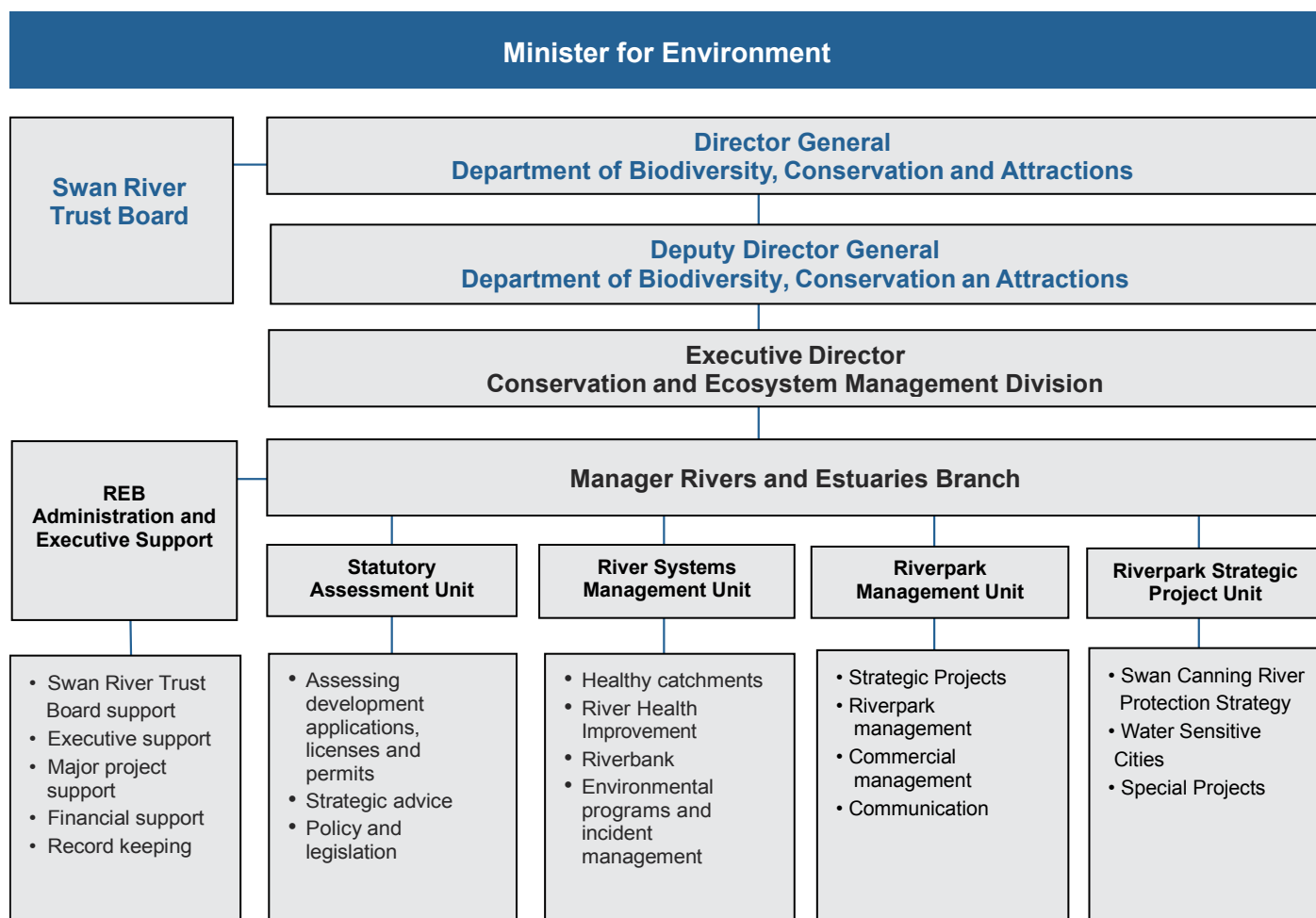
The Trust operates under the SCRM Act to provide advice and perform functions in respect of the Swan and Canning rivers and associated lands. A primary focus for the Trust is to provide advice and strategic direction regarding development proposals in and around the Swan Canning DCA.

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 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 2022-23



Funding and administrative arrangements

Table 1. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions financial support for the Swan River Trust 2022-23.

	Amount
Board Sitting Fees	\$ 35,488
Meeting Costs	\$ 985
Advertising for new board members	\$ 4,813
Communications and Public Interface Review	\$ 18,140
Total	\$ 59,426

Operational Agreement between the Trust and DBCA 2021-22 – 2023-24

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. There is a current Operational Agreement (the Agreement) between the Trust and DBCA, that is valid for three years, from July 2021 – June 2024.

The Agreement details the agreed service arrangements and information about the relationship between the Trust and DBCA. In June 2023, Schedule 1 of the operational agreement between the Trust and DBCA was updated to reflect the anticipated financial support for the 2023-24 financial year. The agreement does not include DBCA staff time that will be directed towards supporting the Trust.

Chair's Report

In May 2023, I was honoured to be appointed Chair of the Swan River Trust. Stepping into the shoes of my long-standing predecessor Hamish Beck has been equally daunting and rewarding. I acknowledge and thank Hamish for the enormous contribution he made to the Trust over the last 11 years and his assistance and counsel through the transition.

Over the coming year, the Trust will undertake an extensive strategic planning process to establish a new Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (SCRPS). This exercise will establish a new set of principles, priorities and goals that will shape our future for the next 10 years. The SCRPS renewal will be developed collaboratively with all our key stakeholders and will address the recommendations from the SCRPS Five Year Review completed in 2022-23. Through this process, the Board is keen to promote activity and appropriate activation opportunities, enhance biodiversity, cultural understanding and heritage within the Swan Canning Riverpark.

The SCRPS is an opportunity for the Trust to present an overarching strategy for the Riverpark in relation to:

- tourism and visitor experiences;
- science and research into waterways and ecosystems;
- connection to country and engagement with Whadjuk Traditional Owners;
- climate change; and
- vibrancy and development; balancing protection and activation.

Foreshore management, water quality and user safety associated with shark monitoring and the ongoing risk of *Alexandrium*, have been forefront issues for the Trust this year. The Trust, in collaboration with DBCA, has taken a proactive role in working with Local Governments and local NRM groups to coordinate foreshore management and planning; and with other State agencies to manage development and user risks within the Riverpark.

The Trust works with DBCA's Statutory Assessment Unit in a collaborative manner, to provide independent and timely strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and the Director General of DBCA on a range of complex development proposals affecting the Swan Canning Development Control Area.

This year 2022-23 the Trust provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on seven development applications lodged in accordance with Part 5 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, including two requests for variation of a development approval made pursuant to Section 84. DBCA officers have also assessed and provided advice on 108 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the Metropolitan Region Scheme. There were also 26 tourism operator licences and permits approved during the year.

Going forward, priority focus areas for the Trust include Aboriginal engagement, particularly with the Whadjuk Noongar community; foreshore management, the various river crossing projects and strengthening the Board's connections with our stakeholders, as well as continuous improvement of our relationship with DBCA.

I would like to thank the retiring Trust Board members for their dedicated service to the Trust and importantly the Swan and Canning Rivers, I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for being so welcoming to me as Chair; along with Peter Dans, Glen McLeod-Thorpe and the DBCA support staff for their stewardship, passion and commitment.

David McFerran

Chair

Outgoing Chair's Report

In May 2023, I stepped down as Chair of the Swan River Trust, and welcomed my successor, Mr David McFerran.

I was initially appointed to the Swan River Trust Board in June 2011, and was then honored to be appointed Chair in June 2014.

My early time on the Trust was one of significant change, with the amendments to the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* followed by the Machinery of Government changes.

During my time as Chair, the Trust was involved in, and supported the development of, many significant projects that have changed the face of Perth, including Elizabeth Quay, Perth Stadium, Matagarup Bridge, Barrack Square, Point Fraser hospitality hub and the many vibrant yacht and sporting club redevelopments.

The Trust also provided advice on the Kent St Weir upgrade and six major bridge crossing projects at Tonkin Gap, Redcliffe Bridge, Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge, Fremantle Traffic Bridge and two new bridges as part of the Great Eastern Highway bypass across the Helena River.

It has been a continuing challenge to maintain a suitable balance between environmental management, while supporting appropriate development and activation, including tourism and commercial operations. However, I am confident positive outcomes have been achieved through collaborative projects such as the Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan with many exciting new developments either underway, or approved, and a variety of new tourism offerings now available, including seaplanes on Perth Water, and the bridge climb and zipline from Matagarup Bridge.

I also reflect on environmental management challenges, such as significant flooding in the Swan Canning catchment during 2017, and the emergence of *Alexandrium* algal blooms, which could remain an ongoing issue for the rivers. By being proactive and vigilant however, the Trust and (DBCA) are well placed to work with other key stakeholders to continue managing critical incidents, aquatic user group conflicts and amenity in the Swan Canning Riverpark

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge three other outgoing Trust members – Vanessa Martin, Jo Wilkie, and particularly my Deputy Chair Dr Joanna Pearce. Thank you all for your expertise, support, and engagement over the years.

I would also like to recognise the staff and leadership of DBCA, and its predecessor agencies, including Mr Mark Webb and Mr Rod Hughes, who provided tremendous support and advice to the Trust during my term.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr Mick Poole, who passed away in September 2022. Mick was a member of the Trust from 2008 and served as Deputy Chair until becoming the Chair of the Trust from 2012-14. I fondly remember Mick's dedication to the Trust and the rivers, which he served with great passion and commitment.

Finally, I wish the new Board, and particularly David, all the best for their time with the Trust, as they experience new challenges and opportunities over the coming years. I also eagerly await the development of the new Swan Canning River Protection Strategy and look forward to how it will guide the future management of our iconic rivers.

Hamish R. Beck

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 2022-23 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.


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 2023-2024




<p>MR DAVID MCFERRAN CHAIR</p> 	<p>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 a previous Director of Western Dairy and has completed a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) degree with Honours from The University of Western Australia (1996) and is a Graduate of LeadershipWA Signature Program (2013). David was appointed Chair of the Trust in May 2023.</p>
<p>MR PETER KING DEPUTY CHAIR</p> 	<p>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.</p>

<p>MS TRACY SHEA</p> 	<p>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 own business <i>Tracy Shea Communications</i> plus her short-term accommodation property in Bridgetown. In recent years Tracy has also worked in the not-for-profit sector where she developed and activated the Spring into Parks program for the WA Parks Foundation. Tracy is a Park Ambassador for the Foundation and continues to volunteer with programs that showcase the health benefits of spending time in nature. A longstanding board member of FACET (Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco-Tourism Inc.), Tracy took over as Executive Officer in July 2020. She also volunteers her time 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.</p>
<p>DR PENNY O'CONNOR</p> 	<p>Dr Penny O'Connor has 35 years of deep and diverse management experience across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors in England and Australia. At present Penny is a Researcher with the Stolen Generations Immersive Hub at Curtin University, and is Principal of heritage advisory service Arc Insights. Previously Penny supported the work of the Heritage Council of Western Australia in a variety of government positions, most recently as Director of Historic Heritage Assessment and Registration for eight years. Her knowledge of and work relating to heritage places within and adjoining the Swan and Canning rivers has given her a keen appreciation of the diversity of interests the community has for these waterways. Penny has an Advanced Diploma of Management (2013) and a Doctor of Philosophy from Curtin University (2012) amongst other achievements. Penny was appointed to the Trust Board in May 2023.</p>
<p>MS MARENÉE PROVOST</p> 	<p>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.</p>

<p>Cr SARA SABERI</p> 	<p>Cr Sara Saberi is an experienced board member with expertise in local government as an elected member and technical experience as an officer. Elected to the City of Canning Council in 2017, 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 is also a member of the State Bushfire Advisory Council and Chair of a Local Emergency Management Committee. Sara was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018.</p>
<p>MS JACQUIE STONE</p> 	<p>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.</p>

Outgoing Members of The Swan River Trust Board

<p>MR HAMISH BECK (CHAIR)</p> 	<p>Mr Hamish Beck has strong interests and commitment to sustainable and effective environmental management by collaboration, benefitting both community interest and protection of Western Australia's unique flora and fauna. This passion drives him to coordinate and undertake the annual tree planting / revegetation with landcare groups. Hamish is a committed outdoor enthusiast, undertaking regular scuba dives, has completed multiple Avon Descents and a substantial hiking and camping regime throughout remote Western Australia. Hamish is the current Chairperson of the Rottnest Island Authority, Member of the Capital City Planning Committee, Deputy Chairperson of the Historic Heart of Perth Committee, Board Member of the Western Australian Maritime Museum Advisory Committee and recently retired Member of the Cockburn Sound Management Council. Hamish was also an Independent Non-Executive Director of ASX listed Primewest Group (one of Australia's leading private real estate funds management firms, managing in excess of \$5 billion of property assets). In addition, he is an advisor to various institutional and private groups with diverse interests and objectives. Hamish is the Managing Director of Beck Advisory, an independent property funds management firm providing specialist, strategic property advice and asset management to a variety of large private and public companies and not-for-profit institutions. Hamish was appointed to the Trust Board in 2011, and appointed Chair in June 2014. His term concluded in May 2023.</p>
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<p>DR JOANNA PEARCE (DEPUTY CHAIR)</p> 	<p>Dr Joanna 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 Doctor of Philosophy. Joanna was appointed to the Trust Board in September 2017, and appointed Deputy Chair in July 2018. Her term concluded in May 2023.</p>
<p>MS VANESSA MARTIN</p> 	<p>Ms Martin is a Noongar woman from the South Coast of Western Australia. She began her career as a qualified secondary teacher, and in 2000 Vanessa completed a Masters Degree in Management and Leadership, Curtin University, Graduate School of Business. In 2018, Ms Martin completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. This GAICD professional qualification complements her Board and senior executive experience. Vanessa has comprehensive experience working at senior levels in the private, government and not for profit sectors including roles in diversity and inclusion, employment, training and education, health, justice, community and Indigenous relations. She also has a comprehensive national network of community stakeholders, groups and organisations, Government Ministers, Director Generals and senior managers, CEOs and senior officers/managers in commonwealth, state, local governments, and private industry who she has supported and helped implement collaborative ways of working together to achieve successful outcomes. Vanessa was appointed to the Trust Board in December 2009. Her term concluded in May 2023.</p>
<p>MS JO WILKIE</p> 	<p>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. Jo 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, Jo worked at Lotterywest as the Senior Grants Manager with portfolio responsibility for Big Ideas (State-Wide Initiatives), Health and Medical Research, State Universities, Community Radio and Television, Community Legal Centres and Homelessness. She is currently on the Boards of the Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science and the Perth Cabaret Festival. Jo was appointed to the Trust Board in July 2018. Her term concluded in May 2023.</p>

Swan River Trust Meetings

Member attendance at the nine Swan River Trust meetings held in 2022-23 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 2022-23 financial year

Board Member Attendance 2022-2023	
Hamish Beck	7 of 7
Joanna Pearce	7 of 7
Peter King	9 of 9
Vanessa Martin	4 of 7
Marenée Provost	8 of 9
Sara Saberi	7 of 9
Jacquie Stone	8 of 9
David McFerran	2 of 2
Tracy Shea	2 of 2
Penny O'Connor	2 of 2
Jo Wilkie	7 of 7

Table 3. Swan River Trust members conflict of interest declarations.

Month	Member's name	Item No
Jul-22	Sara Saberi	5.1 (Riverbank Funding)
Aug-22	None Declared	
Sep-22	None Declared	
Oct-22	None Declared	
Nov-22	None Declared	
Feb-23	Hamish Beck	8.2 (Part 5 Royal Freshwater Bay YC)
	Joana Pearce	7.1 (Riverbank Funding)
Mar-23	None Declared	
Apr-23	Meeting Cancelled	
May-23	None Declared	
Jun-23	Jacquie Stone	6.1 (Belmont Park Racecourse Redevelopment)

Standing declaration from Chair, Hamish Beck, as a member of the Royal Freshwater Yacht Club.

Standing declaration from Jacquie Stone, regarding State Planning Policy 2.9.

Standing declaration from Deputy Chair Joanna Pearce, as a member of the Burswood Park Board.

Standing declaration from Chair, David McFerran, who on occasion works for Hesperia, a Western Australian property development company, as well as Turner & Townsend which provides strategic advice to the Westport project.

Standing declaration from Dr Penny O'Connor, who is the Secretary of Trails WA and is also a member of the Fremantle Museum Advisory Committee.

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

During the year, Trust members also attended community tree planting days and events such as the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program 25-year celebration event and the River Protection Strategy workshop with Local Government.

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, local governments that attended Trust meetings included the Cities of Bayswater, Gosnells, Melville and Perth, and the Town of Mosman Park.

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.

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.

In 2022/23, the Trust participated in a review conducted by Lester Blades regarding DBCA's five boards.

Delegations

The Trust delegations did not change throughout this financial year. However, the Trust requested the delegations be considered again, early in 2023/24.

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 SCRM Act outlines the responsibilities of the Trust and DBCA to prepare strategic documents for approval by the Minister for Environment. The first SCRPS was released in 2015 and following a review process the Trust and DBCA, with the endorsement of the Minister for Environment, have commenced development of a new SCRPS.

The SCRPS provides a coordinated whole-of-government strategy to protect and enhance the ecological and community benefit and amenity of the development control area and the Riverpark, and the meeting of any associated targets.

A key aim of the SCRPS is to improve collaboration between stakeholders with responsibilities to the Swan and Canning River system by providing strategic direction for the next 10 years. This strategic direction will be developed in consultation with Aboriginal knowledge holders, local and State Government partners, Natural Resource Management groups and the wider community.

The Trust and DBCA have commenced external consultation, and in 2022-23 held workshops with the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation and 24 local governments with key management responsibilities for the Riverpark. An independent review of the SCRPS document suite, as recommended in the SCRPS Five Year Review publication, is also underway, and due to be completed early in 2023-24.

In 2023-24, the Trust and DBCA will continue to be guided by stakeholder feedback and the Five Year and independent review recommendations and will finalise a draft SCRPS for consideration by the Minister for Environment.

Swan Canning River System Locality Policy and Plans

DBCA is amending the draft policy Planning for Localities along the Swan Canning Development Control Area and nine associated locality plans based on the 61 submissions received from local governments, State Government agencies, community groups, landowners, and the public. The policy and locality plans aim to provide specific locality-based guidance for development (including use of the land and water) around the DCA and complement the existing suite of Swan Canning river system policies that apply more broadly. Once finalised, the nine locality plans in addition to the already endorsed Perth Water *Buneenboro* Locality Plan will cover the entire DCA. The policy and plans are intended to be co-endorsed Trust-DBCA documents.

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 2022-23, the Trust provided advice to the Director General of DBCA on seven development applications lodged in accordance with Part 5 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, including two requests for variation of a development approval made pursuant to Section 84.

There was a broad range of developments proposed within the public foreshore reserves and river this year. Highlights included a proposal for significant upgrade to the Maylands Peninsular Golf Club and upgrade of important community infrastructure in particular the Mount Henry Jetty. In addition a significant environmental initiative, the installation of mussel reefs within the Swan Estuary was approved.

Responding to the need for long term planning around the river has resulted in substantial master planning exercises including ongoing master planning work for Ashfield Flats, the Nedlands foreshore, Perth Polo Club at Guildford and various yacht clubs.

DBCA is continuing its engagement with Riverpark yacht clubs regarding long term planning for their lease areas. Key considerations will include ensuring improved public access to foreshores within and around yacht club facilities, environmental compliance and improved amenity outcomes for the community.

DBCA also provided 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 2022-2023, DBCA's Rivers and Estuaries Branch assessed, and provided advice, on 108 development applications on behalf of the Trust in accordance with the MRS.

Strategic Activities

The Trust met with a variety of key stakeholder groups through the year, including the Causeway Link Alliance and the Department of Transport, to discuss priority and emerging issues for the Swan Canning Riverpark.

The Trust also held two workshops with an external consultant to assist in reviewing its communications and public interface. Following consideration of the report and recommendations early in 2023-24, the Trust will work with DBCA to develop a prioritised implementation approach.

Water Sensitive Cities Program

The Trust continued to support the New WAter Ways capacity building program that provides water sensitive urban design information and support to State and local governments and the urban development industry. Support was continued for the implementation of a water sensitive Perth and Peel through membership of the Water Sensitive Transition Network and delivering actions from the Vision and Transition Strategy for a Water Sensitive Greater Perth - Implementation Plan (2022-2024).

The Trust and DBCA continued its partnership with DWER in the national Water Sensitive Cities Australia (WSCA) research-to-practice mainstreaming program to support cities and towns to adopt evidence-based integrated urban water management solutions. This included establishing and progressing national and WA WSCA projects, such as a WA local government Councillor engagement program and a community water literacy project.

The Trust worked with DBCA to ensure the department became a partner in Kep Katitjin-Gabi Kaadadjan (Waterwise Perth action plan 2). Developed and led by the Minister for Water and DWER to establish leading waterwise communities for Boorloo (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) by 2030. The DBCA continued to contribute to the UWA/Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub project: Noongar Water Knowledge in the Djarlgarro Beeliar Catchment – Implications for Land-use and Water Planning.

Swan and Canning Rivers Management Legislation

Under the Streamline WA regulatory reforms, amendments to the SCRM Act and Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007 have now been finalised. The outcome of the work has refined approvals process and substantially reduced approval timeframes. Further unnecessary duplication has now been removed to achieve a single permit for commercial operators within the river for all commercial operators.

Major Proposals Considered

Tonkin Gap – Redcliffe Bridge duplication

The construction of the Redcliffe Bridge duplication is almost complete. In February 2023, the final in-river task involving the removal of both northern and southern coffer dams was completed successfully while regular water quality monitoring was undertaken. Since then, attention has shifted to the design and associated environmental controls of the re-activation underbridge works. This will involve revegetation, an interpretation node and BMX/mountain bike tracks, and is being finalised in consultation with the Trust and DBCA prior to construction commencing in mid-2023. As part of the re-activation works, DBCA is co-funding the development of the minor interpretation node on the Belmont foreshore.

Causeway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge

Following extensive consultation with the department, and consideration by the Trust, the Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge was approved in January 2023. The Causeway Link Alliance (CLA), on behalf of Main Roads WA, commenced the construction of the two cable stayed bridges shortly after. On behalf of the Trust, DBCA has worked with CLA, particularly in reviewing and providing comment on design documentation and plans. In a staged approach, the first component of construction works, related to mobilisation, site set-up, ground improvement and embankment works has been supported. Works are expected to continue into late 2024.

Swan River Crossings, Fremantle

The Trust and DBCA have been involved in detailed discussions with Main Roads and the Fremantle Bridges Alliance (FBA) on the Swan River Crossings project, which involves the replacement of the existing Fremantle Traffic bridge and construction of an additional rail bridge dedicated to passenger rail. Both the Trust and DBCA have provided preliminary comment on the design, and will continue to work with FBA and Main Roads as this significant project continues.

Burswood Peninsula

The Belmont Park Racecourse site, on the Burswood Peninsula within the Town of Victoria Park, is a significant riverside development site which includes large portions of land within the Swan Canning Development Control Area. On behalf of the Trust, the DBCA is currently assisting DPLH and the City of Belmont with the planning and design around Precinct A. Imperatives for the design have included maximising the retention of threatened ecological communities (samphire wetland) and rehabilitation of the foreshore for improved environmental and recreational outcomes.



Cover photos

Front Lake Hurlingham. **Back** Cygnets. *Photographer – Veronica McPhail*

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