

# Annual Report 2009

IN FOCUS



Perth Region  
NRM



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This interim Annual Report has been produced for specific distribution at Perth Region NRM functions. The complete version will be distributed post the Perth Region NRM Annual General Meeting.

We would like to thank the following people for contributing photos to the Perth Region NRM Annual Report:

Glen Byleveld SERCUL, Craig Chaudhry and Stephen Lloyd Eastern Hills Catchment Management Programme (EMRC),  
Craig Wilson Southern Metropolitan Coastcare Officer, Kate Sputore North Metropolitan Coastcare Officer and Erin Wright Perth Region NRM

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# Message from the Chairman



The 2008/2009 year has been a period of transition between the previous Natural Heritage Trust program for natural resource management and its replacement Caring for our Country. Under the business plan for Caring for our Country, Perth Region NRM applied for funding from both the base level fund for regional NRM organisations as well as the competitive fund open to all organisations.

Unfortunately we were not successful in the competitive bid (in fact there were only seven successful applicants in WA – three of them government agencies) but I am pleased to report that from the base level fund we have been granted \$4,608,000 for a period of two years to continue the important work of natural resource management in our region. This figure compares favourably to the grants awarded to the other fifty five regional NRM organisations throughout Australia. At this point I would like to thank the CEO, Linda Soteriou, and the staff of Perth Region NRM for the tremendous effort they put into the applications for both the base level and competitive funds. The base level funding application alone required five or six extensive re-writes before it was finally deemed acceptable for submission but at least it is good to see that all that hard work eventually paid off.

It is also pleasing to note that the State Government has also announced that it will continue to provide \$250,000 to each of the Regional Groups in WA for administrative support during 2009/2010. There will also be further developments later in the year from the State Government in regard to additional funding for NRM although at the time of writing these have yet to be elaborated. It is possible that they may involve some form of competitive funding element as was the case in Caring for our Country.

This year has also seen the publication of two reviews into NRM in WA. The first, published in February 2009, was commissioned and funded by the six regional NRM groups and its findings presented a good argument for the ongoing value that regional NRM groups provide in an integrated approach to natural resource management in WA, particularly in relation to the involvement of the community.

The second report, published in June 2009, was commissioned by the Minister for Agriculture and Food and made nineteen recommendations, sixteen of which the government has agreed to and the remaining three to which it has partially agreed to. The recommendations partially agreed to concern the establishment of new institutional arrangements for providing advice on NRM issues to the lead Minister for NRM and to the seven-member Ministerial NRM Council. This will involve the setting up of a peak body consisting of representatives of organisations providing community engagement services to provide advice to the State Government as well as an independent body to provide high level advice to the lead Minister for NRM on environmental, economic and social issues relevant to the State NRM program. The Ministerial report also made two recommendations that are of particular relevance to Perth Region NRM.

**We have been granted \$4,608,000 for a period of two years to continue the important work of natural resource management in our region**

## Perth Region NRM is hosting the 5th WA State Coastal Conference at the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle from 7 – 9 October

One is that an investigation be conducted to determine the most appropriate regional boundaries and the number of Regional NRM Groups in WA and the other is that an investigation be conducted to determine an appropriate structure for community engagement and NRM program implementation in the Swan-Avon catchments. These will be internal Government investigations involving consultation with regional NRM groups. The full Ministerial Report can be found at [http://www.nrm.wa.gov.au/NRM\\_review.htm](http://www.nrm.wa.gov.au/NRM_review.htm).

This interim year has also provided an opportunity for Perth Region NRM's 12 Reference Groups to reassess their roles and future directions. Each group is well advanced in the development of a business plan with clearly defined and agreed goals which will provide guidance to the work of the group over the next few years. I believe that all of the Reference Groups add great value to the work of Perth Region NRM in terms of community (in the widest sense of the word) engagement and the provision of expert advice to the Board on a very wide range of issues. In total, approximately 160 people give their time and energy to be involved in the work of the Reference Groups and I would like to take this opportunity to record my appreciation for that effort.

Another significant event this year has been the establishment by Perth Region NRM of a wholly-owned subsidiary company, Resilient Solutions Pty Ltd. One reason for taking this step is the desire to broaden the funding opportunities available for NRM projects by applying for funding grants that are available only to Pty Ltd companies. The company will seek opportunities on a fee for service basis in the areas of energy and water auditing.

This year has also seen some changes to the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program. Due to the global economic recession, at the time of printing, Alcoa Australia was unable to provide funding for the 2009/2010 program and the Swan River Trust's contribution was reduced due to cutbacks in government funding. Such a reduction in funding would have a major negative impact on the large number of community groups who have relied on

SALP funding for many years, many of them for ongoing projects which have spanned many years of work at one site. However, at the time of writing the gap in funding has been partially filled by an undertaking from Lotterywest to provide funds for the Program and there is also the reasonable possibility of further funding from another corporate sponsor. However, notwithstanding these additional funding sources, it is very unlikely that we will be able to match the level of funding of previous years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Alcoa Australia and the Swan River Trust for their generous and consistent funding of SALP over the last eleven years and I hope that when better economic times return they may be able to restore their previous contributions to the Program.

Turning to the future, there will soon be a refurbishment of the Perth Region NRM offices and a replacement of our ageing IT system and equipment thanks to a Lotterywest grant. Although this will inevitably produce some short term disruption for the staff and the operations of the organisation, I believe the upgrades will result in a significant improvement in the working environment for staff and a more efficient delivery of services.

Later this year Perth Region NRM is hosting the 5th WA State Coastal Conference at the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle from 7 – 9 October. This is the first time since its inception that the Coastal Conference has been held in the Perth Metropolitan area. The major theme for the Conference is "Whose Coast is it? adapting for the future." I know that it has not been an easy task to organise this conference because of the difficulty in finding sponsorship due to the global recession. However, after many anxious moments along the way I am pleased to say that things are now looking very positive and I am confident that the conference will be a great success.



Many people have contributed to the successful organisation of the conference but I would like to mention four people in particular who have made an outstanding contribution and they are Carolyn Jenour and Erin Wright of Perth Region NRM, Rebecca Dicker of Keynote Conferences, the conference organisers and Stuart Knott, the conference steering committee Chair. If you would like to find out more about the 2009 Coastal Conference you can find it on the following website: <http://www.keynotewa.com/wacoastal2009/>.

At the time of writing I have made the decision to step down as Chair of Perth Region NRM. I have not made this decision lightly but believe it became necessary after I was elected to the position of Chair of the new company which, I felt would lead to the possibility of conflicts of interest arising were I to continue to hold both positions. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served as Chair of Perth Region NRM for the last three and a half years and I wish my successor, David Boothman, every success in his new position as Chair. David brings a great wealth of experience in NRM to the role of Chair as well as high level experience in Local Government both of which will be of great value to Perth Region NRM. I will still retain a strong involvement and commitment to Perth Region NRM as Chair of the Natural Diversity Reference Group and a member of the Board and the Management and Audit Committee.

I believe that over the last twelve months the Board of Perth Region NRM has acted as a very professional and effective decision making body and I would like to thank the members of the Board for their support and for the time and effort they have devoted to attending Board meetings.

Finally, as always, I would like to express my gratitude to the staff of Perth Region NRM, and in particular Linda Soteriou, for all of their hard work and dedication throughout the year, without which Perth Region NRM would not be able to meet its goals and objectives of achieving the best possible environmental outcomes for the Region. I am particularly pleased that, during this period of funding uncertainty, Perth Region NRM has been able to retain its entire staff because it is, after all, the skill and dedication of its people that determine the success of an organisation.



Colin Heinzman  
Chairman  
Perth Region NRM



# Perth Region NRM

Perth Region NRM is a community-led regional group responsible for coordinating and delivering natural resource management (NRM) in the Perth Region.

The organisation addresses community needs by working closely with government agencies, industry, community, catchment groups and other bodies to promote collaboration on key environmental issues.

As one of 56 groups from around Australia, Perth Region NRM is helping to achieve a nation-wide approach to managing and restoring our environment.

The core objectives of Perth Region NRM are to:

- Conserve the Region's Biodiversity
- Promote sustainable use and management of the Region's resources
- Provide support for individuals, landholders, industry and community members in NRM
- Increase understanding of NRM issues in community, government and industry
- Influence government policy on NRM and related issues

Perth Region NRM's legal constitution is that of an incorporated association.

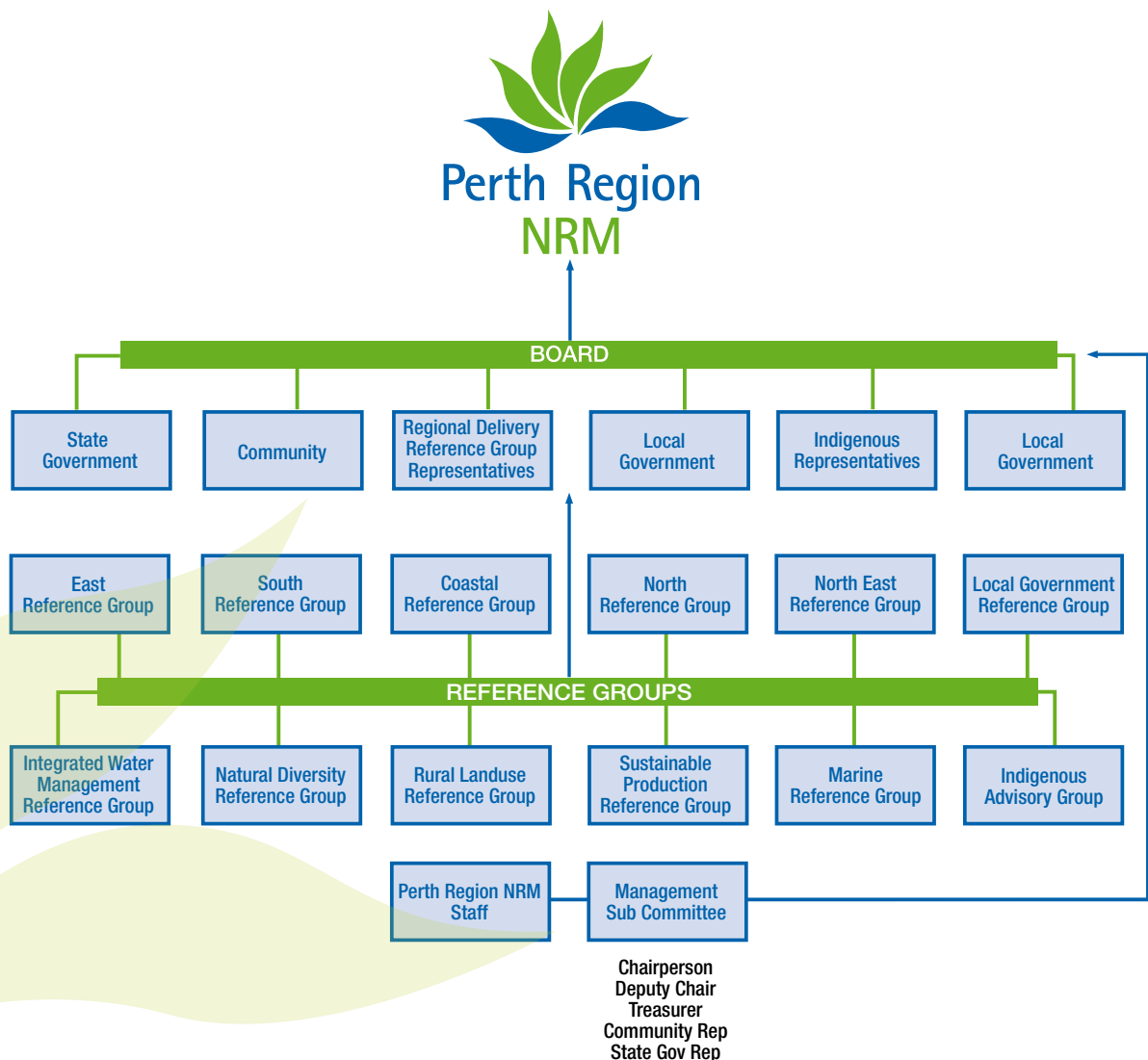


Figure 1: Perth Region NRM Organisational Structure

Perth Region NRM Vision:  
The natural resources of the Perth Region are protected and managed sustainably in their own right and for the enhancement of the quality of life for present and future generations.

Perth Region NRM Mission:  
We will work to implement our vision by engaging a range of stakeholders in coordinated and integrated Natural Resource Management.



# Strategic Planning

Perth Region NRM has worked on reviewing its Strategic Plan for the last 12 months. The core aim for the organisation is for each theme based reference group to develop targets for the program it is responsible for, then develop the program logic required to achieve these targets.

Program logic for achieving Caring for our Country targets will be included, and the major steps previously developed have been used as a starting point. The theme based reference groups will then develop business plans which will identify the way in which each group will achieve the targets, which fundamentally involves how to either attract the necessary funding, or partner with other organisations which have the funds already.

Geographical reference groups will identify which of the theme based targets are pertinent to them, and will develop their own business plans which will identify how they can contribute to those targets being achieved in their area.

Program managers responsible for a theme based target will facilitate liaison between the theme reference group and those geographical reference groups who have 'adopted' that target also. Where an issue is pertinent to more than one theme reference group, one program manager/reference group will be chosen as the lead, and will again liaise with the others.

Perth Region NRM is aiming for targets to be ratified in the coming round of reference groups meetings, with the program logic to be completed during the next round of meetings before the end of 2009. The 2010/2011 business plans will be developed in the first two rounds of 2010.

Once all groups have completed these plans, the Perth Region NRM Strategic Plan will largely be a compilation of these reference group agreements.

# Membership

The membership of Perth Region NRM reflects the diverse stakeholders in the Perth Region, which is amongst the most populous NRM regions in Australia.

Membership includes Local and State Government, community, indigenous and corporate stakeholders. The major NRM agencies also have membership (Departments of Water, Environment and Conservation, Planning, Transport, Agriculture and Food, and Fisheries). The Water Corporation and WALGA are also represented.

Theme Based Reference Groups consist of expert members who guide the direction of Perth Region NRM Programs.

Geographical representation is provided by the five community members representing the five sub-regions of the Perth Region.

The 12 Reference groups are:

## Theme Based Reference Groups

- Indigenous NRM Advisory Group
- Local Government Reference Group
- Rural Landuse Reference Group
- Integrated Water Management Reference Group
- Light Industry Reference Group
- Natural Diversity Reference Group
- Marine Reference Group

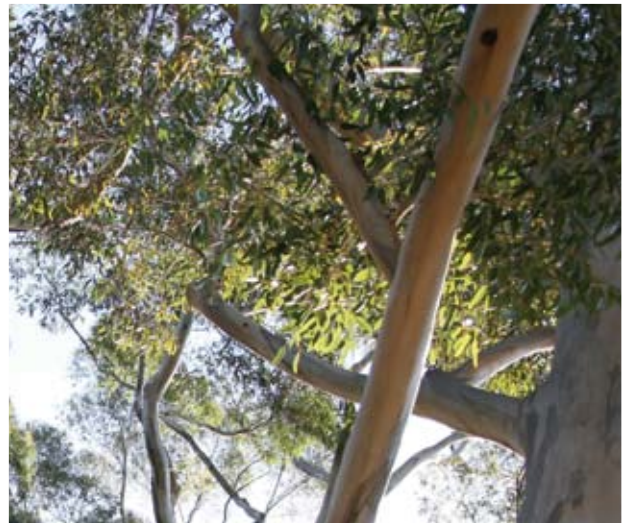
## Geographical Reference Groups

- Coastal Reference Group
- East Reference Group
- South Reference Group
- North Reference Group
- North East Reference Group

Each Reference Group is comprised of approximately 10-14 members, drawn from State and Local Government, non-government organisations, research institutions, industry and community, and are chaired by community members.

Local Government representatives sit on each Reference Group and form the membership of the Local Government Reference Group.

Reference groups have a key role in advising the Perth Region NRM Board on the progress of its programs, in developing Investment Plans and in forming partnership opportunities.



# Membership



Colin Heinzman, Chair, Natural Diversity Reference Group



Robert Hawes, Chair, North-East Reference Group



Stuart Knott, Chair, Coastal Reference Group



David Ellement, Chair, Rural Landuse Reference Group



Rodney Henderson, Chair, Light Industry Reference Group



Barbara Matters, Chair, Indigenous NRM Advisory Group



Cr David Boothman, Chairman, WALGA State Council representative



Cr Clive Robartson, Chair, Local Government Reference Group



Paul Brown, Department of Environment and Conservation



Jamie Bowyer, Department of Agriculture and Food



Ross Sheridan, Department of Water



Sally Lake, Chair, North Reference Group



Dr Robert Humphries, Water Corporation



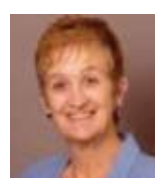
David Saunders, Department for Planning



Gerard Van Didden, Acting Chair, East Reference Group



Bruce Hamilton, Chair, Integrated Water Management Reference Group



Pat Hart, Chair, South Reference Group



Glenn Hyndes, Chair, Marine Reference Group

# The Perth **Region**

The Perth Region's social and economic life is dominated by the Perth Metropolitan Area, which makes up 53% of over 770,000 hectares of land (see Figure 3). Many NRM issues in the Region relate to the increasing demand for land, water, power and food to support a growing population

## Australian Natural Resource Management Regions

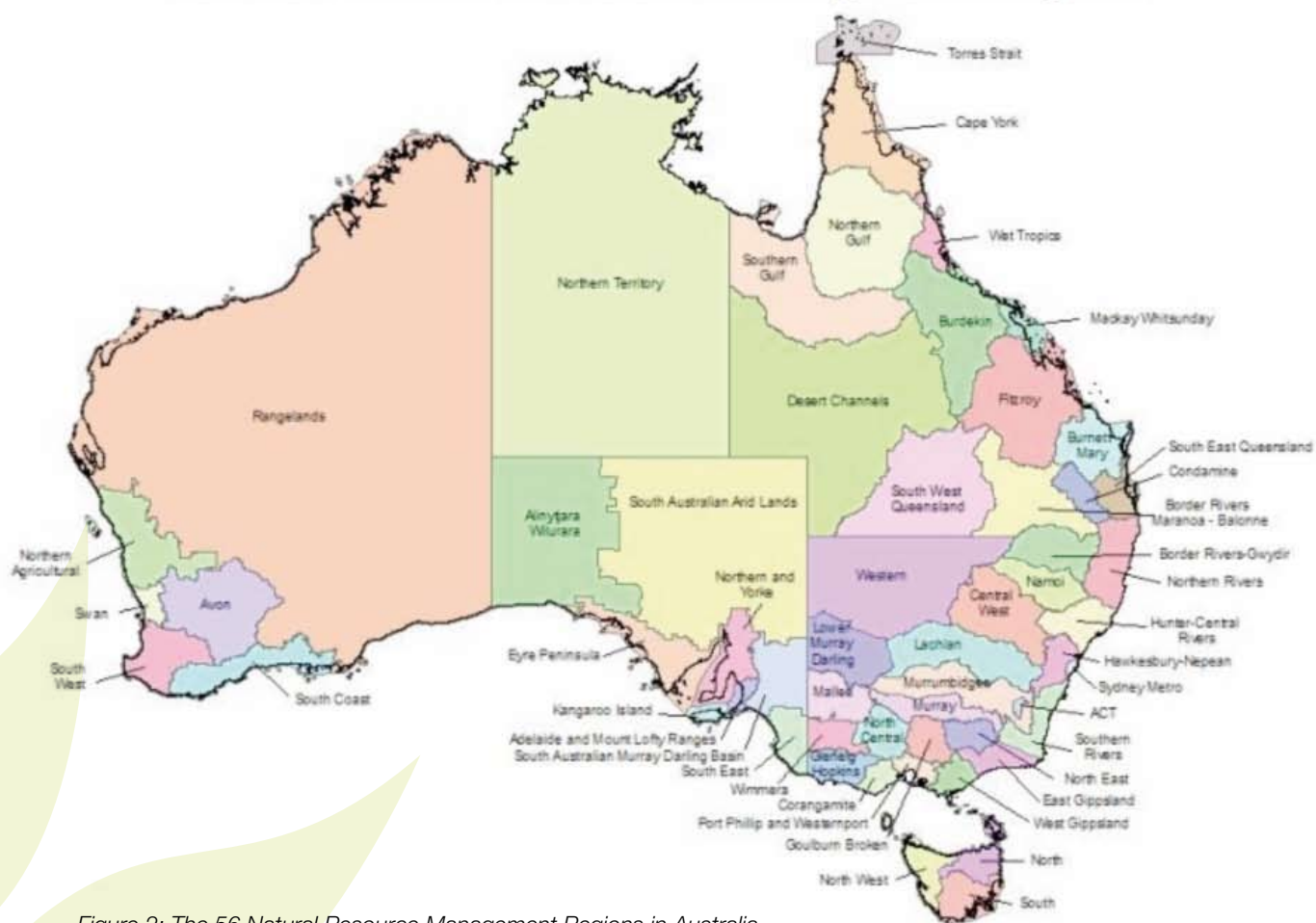


Figure 2: The 56 Natural Resource Management Regions in Australia

# The Perth Region

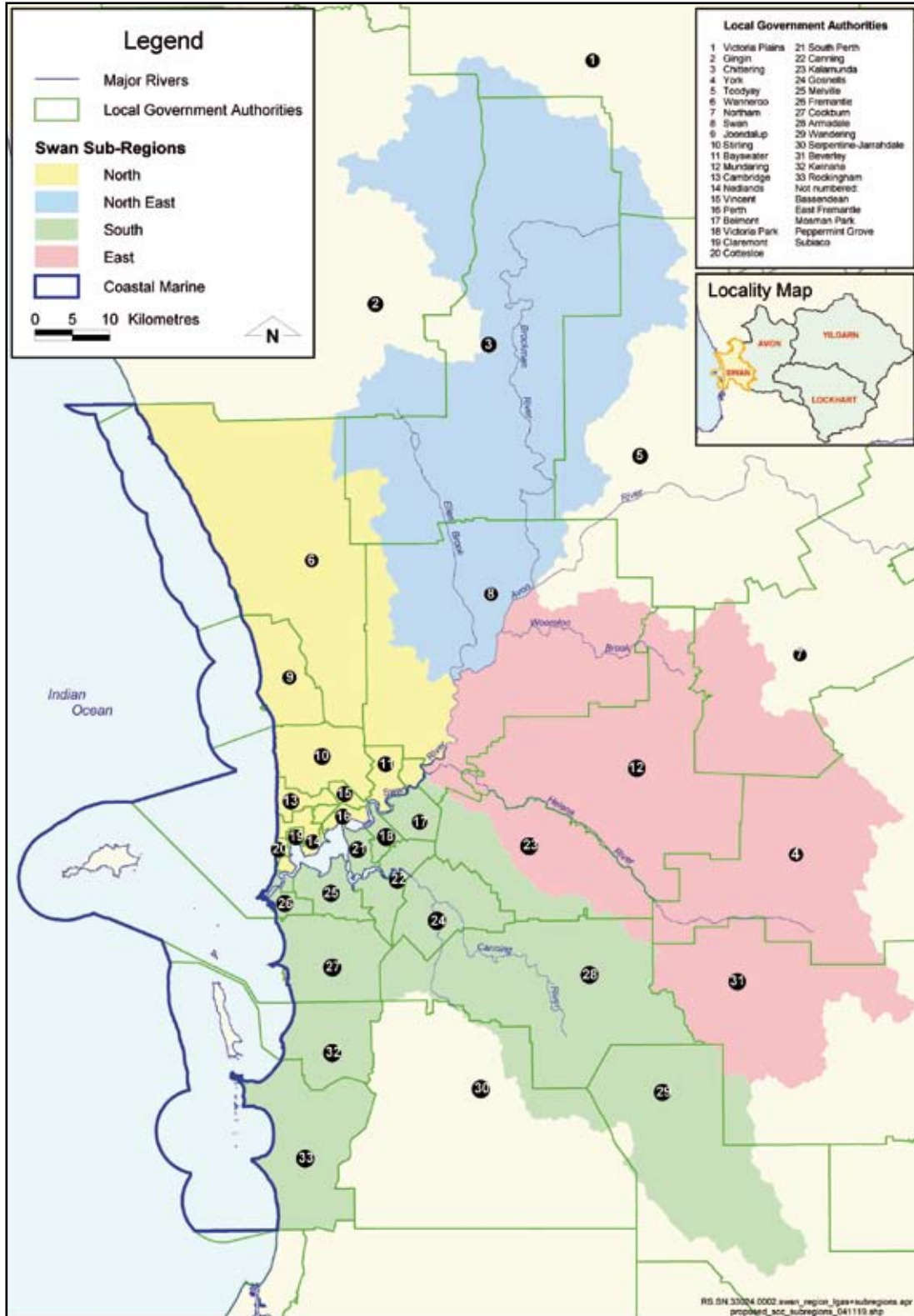


Figure 3: Sub-regions of the Perth Region including local government boundaries

# Regional Programs

The Perth Region NRM framework comprises of six main Theme Based Delivery Programs.

The aim of the regional delivery framework is to ensure cooperation and coordination in efforts to achieve Perth Region NRM's vision and mission.

The Theme Based Delivery Programs include:

Coastal and Marine

Indigenous Cultural Heritage

Integrated Water Management

Natural Diversity

Sustainable Production

Over-arching programs

Local Government Engagement Program

MERI

The following chapter outlines the projects these Programs have completed in the last financial year, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country and the Western Australian State Government.



# Integrated Water Management Program

In 2009, the focus of funding provided through the Integrated Water Management Program has been on the continuation of two long-standing projects -

Water Quality Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the Water Quality Partnership Project.

Commencing in 2005, these projects continue to provide baseline in-catchment water quality information that has been collected in a standardised manner using established protocols and procedures. The monitoring results are used by land managers to target catchment management investment to the areas of greatest need and in the development of locally focused action plans to improve water quality.

Delivered in partnership between Perth Region NRM, Department of Water, SERCUL, Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group and Local Government Authorities in the Perth Region, the following monitoring programs were implemented in 2008/09:



## **Central and South Belmont Catchment Partnership with City of Belmont**

Program initiated in 2005. Monthly samples taken at 24 sites from commencement of winter rainfall (~ June) until drain flow ceases. Land uses in the catchment include residential, stables and industrial.

## **Town of Victoria Park Stormwater Drain Sampling Program**

### **Partnership with Town of Victoria Park**

Program initiated in 2006. Monthly samples taken at 7 sites from commencement of winter rainfall (~ June) until drain flow ceases. Land uses in the catchment include recreational, industrial and residential.

## **Bickley Brook Catchment**

### **Partnership with City of Gosnells**

Program initiated in 2006. Monthly samples were taken at 10 sites in July, August, September, October and November 2008. Land uses in the catchment are predominantly residential and industrial.

## **Bayswater Main Drain (including Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary)**

### **Partnership with City of Bayswater**

This program is an annual snapshot commencing in 2007. Samples were taken at 31 sites in August. Land uses in the Bayswater catchment include residential, industrial and recreational.

## **Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary**

### **Partnership with City of Bayswater**

This program is an annual snapshot with samples taken at 3 sites in August 2008.

## **Bennett Brook Catchment**

Partnership with City of Bayswater, City of Swan, Friends of Lightning Swamp and Whiteman Park

This program is an annual snapshot commencing in 2002. 25 sites were sampled in October 2008.

Land uses within the catchment include residential, industrial, recreational and protection of groundwater resources.

### **Claisebrook Main Drain**

#### **Partnership with Town of Vincent, City of Perth and Claisebrook Catchment Group**

Program initiated in 2007. Samples are taken monthly, the first commencing in July and the last in October. Land uses within the catchment are predominantly residential.

### **Bassendean Stormwater Drains Monitoring Program**

#### **Partnership with the Town of Bassendean**

Program commenced in 2006. Samples are taken monthly at eight sites, the first commencing July and the last in October. Land uses within the catchment include residential, industrial and recreational.

### **Bull Creek Catchment Sampling Program**

#### **Partnership with the City of Melville and Department of Water**

Program initiated in 2007. Samples are taken quarterly (September, November and January) at 12 sites. This catchment has a predominantly residential land use.

### **North Forrestdale Sampling Program Partnership with City of Armadale**

Program commenced in 2008. Samples were taken quarterly commencing in August 2008.

### **Ellen Brook Catchment Water Quality Snapshot**

#### **Partnership with the Ellen Brockman Catchment Group and Tiwest**

Program commenced in 2006. Samples are taken monthly at 27 sites from commencement of winter rainfall (~ June) until stream flow ceases – approximately four months.

A web-based reporting tool has been developed to make the monitoring data readily available to the public and can be accessed through the Department of Water's website.



# Natural Diversity Program

The Natural Diversity Program delivered projects with a focus on invasive species and habitat loss – key threats to biodiversity in the Perth Region. Activities included direct on ground work, assisting planning for natural area management, high profile awareness raising, and training and education.

## **Canning River and Eastern Tributaries Project (SERCUL and EMRC)**

This project was funded to improve habitat, bank stabilisation and nutrient run-off in previously identified priority foreshore areas of the tributaries of the Swan and Canning Rivers. Activities were strategically focussed on Priority One and Priority Two areas for foreshore restoration as identified in the Swan Canning Tributary Foreshore Assessment Project. Over the year, more than 8 kms of foreshore was revegetated, and at least 4 km of weed control was undertaken. Weed control efforts targeted Blackberry, Bridlecreeper, Watsonia, and Sagittaria.

The Project Officers at SERCUL and EMRC linked with key management stakeholders including Local governments, WA Planning Commission and DEC. They also visited private land owners to provide support in undertaking their restoration activities. As always, assisting community groups in their revegetation planning and activities was a key component and measure of success.

## **Natural Diversity – North and South Project (SERCUL and Perth Region NRM)**

Two key threats to biodiversity in the Perth Region are weeds and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (Phytophthora Dieback). This project aimed at providing support to reducing these threats in priority natural areas, whilst also engaging the community.

Over the year, more than 8 kms of foreshore was revegetated and at least 4 km of weed control was undertaken

Nine conservation reserves infested with Phytophthora Dieback were treated with phosphite by Local Government land managers, with involvement of Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), Greencorp, Roleybushcare, Alcoa and many volunteers from local community groups. Eight reserves were treated for priority weed control.

Community groups and individuals have gained valuable knowledge and skills in addressing threats to biodiversity through the provision of Phytophthora treatment training, information material and presentations, using equipment and through opportunities to participate in weed and Dieback control activities.

## **Perth Biodiversity Project (WA Local Government Association)**

Delivered by the WA Local Government Association, The Perth Biodiversity Project (PBP) has become a highly valued project of support to many local governments in the Perth Region. All Local Governments that are managing bushland and wetlands continued to receive assistance for better biodiversity conservation outcomes from the PBP team in:

- Strategic biodiversity planning
- GIS data updates
- Information bulletins and networking opportunities
- Development of management action plans

The main focus for strategic biodiversity planning during 08/09 was on outer metropolitan Local Governments (including the Cities of Wanneroo, Swan, Gosnells, Armadale, Cockburn, Rockingham, the Shires of Mundaring, Kalamunda, Chittering

and the Town of Kwinana). Some of these Local Governments now have drafts completed or open to public comment. Others have been enabled to have started the process.

PBP is particularly valued for its Natural Area Management Network. PBP delivered Local Government natural area management officers with; fortnightly bulletins, three well attended forums, and a workshop. Of particular value is the opportunity these meetings provided for networking and better cross border cooperation.

PBP officers have been asked to give several presentations over the course of the year and have also worked closely with the similar South West Biodiversity Project, forming important cross regional links. PBP has now been funded by WALGA for a three month period. Perth Region NRM is hoping that ongoing funding can be found to continue the next stage as planned for this project.

### **Stop Dieback -the Biological Bulldozer Project (Dieback Working Group)**

Nearly 45% of plant species found in the south west of Australia are susceptible to Phytophthora Dieback and many of the reserves in the Perth Region are at high risk of heavy impact from this disease. 'The Stop Dieback the Biological Bulldozer' Project supports the DWG to protect high value bushland sites throughout Perth, working in partnership with the Department of Environment and Conservation and Local Government, community groups, and other relevant organisations.

The DWG has built a reputation for excellence in support over the years and local governments in particular have relied on its assistance in dealing with Phytophthora Dieback. However, the DWG, through this project, is now working towards building independence for its stakeholders. The main focus during the 08/09 financial year, was in working closely with local governments to implement institutional changes to ensure phytophthora dieback and other invasive species (pathogens and weeds)

are not introduced or spread into bushland reserves. A best management practice/accreditation scheme was developed with input from Local Government officers, and is now being piloted by the Shire of Mundaring and City of Armadale.

Throughout the year ongoing support was provided by distributing publications and equipment to a broad range of stakeholders. The DWG's award winning Dieback Education kit continued to be promoted to educators around the SouthWest. The project also continued to run training & awareness raising activities. Over the year 10 media releases were reported by local newspapers as well as the West Australian and ABC radio. The project also sent out four seasonal DWG Newsletters to 185 subscribers from across local and state government agencies, industry, researchers and community organisations.

One of the highlights of the year for this project was coordinating the annual DIG conference – once again well attended, with some 220 participants. This annual Phytophthora Dieback forum brings together researchers, land managers, industry and community members from across the state and this year generated much interest in Phytophthora Dieback across all media, with stories and interviews enabling the issue to be broadcast to a broad audience.



Throughout the year ongoing support was provided by distributing publications and equipment to a broad range of stakeholders

# Sustainable Production Program

## Light Industry Projects

Over the past 12 month period the Sustainable Production Program has continued to explore and develop an extensive range of innovative approaches to encourage and enable light industrial businesses to improve their environmental performance and move toward more sustainable practices. Small to medium enterprises (SMEs) have remained a key focus for Perth Region NRM as significant resource efficiency issues, mainly energy and water, have been increasingly targeted at this sector by both the State and Federal Governments.

Through a range of projects and collaborative partnerships, as detailed below, Perth Region NRM has now completed over 6,000 small business assessments and provided practical on-ground advice and support to assist this sector reduce their harmful environmental footprint.

## Partnerships/Collaborative Agencies

To design effective strategies that reach the SME sector and help them meet emerging sustainability objectives, Perth Region NRM has consulted and worked in collaboration with a progressively broader range of government and non-government agencies. In the past year these agencies have included:

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts – particularly the Greenhouse Challenge Plus Office

Department of Climate Change

Department of Environment and Conservation

Department of Planning

Over 10 Local Governments in the Perth Region  
WALGA

Waste Management Association WA

Regional Councils

Water Corporation

SEDO

Western Power

Synergy

Chamber of Commerce & Industry WA

Swan Chamber of Commerce

Tertiary Institutions – particularly Edith Cowan University and Swinburne University of Technology (Melbourne)

Energy, waste and water specialists, eg. EcoAdvance, Water Design International, Auto Industry Services, AMCOR

A range of expert consultants, eg. BlueSands Environmental, Worley Parsons

## Energy Efficiency Audits

Through the use of previously developed energy audit tools, Perth Region NRM has conducted energy efficiency assessments for a range of SMEs across the Perth Region. These on-site assessments have provided business operators with detailed reports outlining where energy is being used and have suggested practical options that will increase efficiency and reduce costs. Audits have been offered to businesses at a reduced rate in partnership with the Cities of Belmont and Swan.

Consultants were engaged in January 2009 to conduct an Energy Management Action Plan (EMAP) Project. Phase 1 of this project will complete detailed case studies on four different business types to understand typical energy use in these sectors. Projects are being undertaken in partnership with an engineering manufacturing business, a winery/restaurant, a food manufacturing business and a printing company. Desktop and a Level 2 analysis of energy used at these sites are being completed and energy efficiency opportunities are being explored for all of these case study businesses as part of this project.



## Light Industry Risk Assessment

Ten local government authorities have worked in close partnership with Perth Region NRM to conduct 'environmental risk assessments' of light industrial businesses across the metropolitan area. This project achieved over 4,000 on-site assessments since it commenced, with dedicated 'light industry officers' trained to complete these assessments in the Cities of Bayswater, Belmont, Stirling, Fremantle, Gosnells, Rockingham, Cockburn and Wanneroo and the Towns of Victoria Park and Kwinana.

This project has provided accurate data on the current environmental standards of light industrial businesses in the region and through this has demonstrated a clear need for this type of 'risk assessment' intervention to continue. Up to 30% of premises have been found to be non-compliant with environmental legislation.

Significant findings include the identification of numerous cases of unauthorised discharges (mostly from on-site liquid waste disposal practices), pollution risks to groundwater, on-site contamination, and discovery of dangerous quantities of hazardous materials being stored illegally. On many occasions the scale of these pollution related incidents has required assistance from the Department of Environment and Conservation's Pollution Response Unit to investigate and resolve.

## Industrial Precinct Improvement Project

In collaboration with the Cities of Gosnells and Cockburn this project has trialled a range of strategies to encourage and facilitate the adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in over 460 SMEs in the Maddington-Kenwick and Cockburn industrial areas. These strategies have included on-site environmental/resource efficiency assessments, followed by specially tailored assistance and support for the businesses; including specific educational material, trialling of recycling facilities and individualised reports to advise businesses on ways to reduce their resource use, mainly energy and water. Other collaborating agencies have included the South East Regional Energy Group, recycling/waste contractors and wastewater specialists.

Ongoing support provided to participating businesses throughout this project has included:

- promotion of expert advice from recycling companies and lighting consultants;
- advice on more energy efficient alternatives to specific equipment;
- assisting businesses design and install approved wash down areas and spray booths;
- trialling and monitoring the savings associated with energy efficient lighting;
- detailed energy audits with specific recommendations for more efficient use.

Following the roll-out of these support strategies businesses were re-surveyed to evaluate how effective these approaches were in improving environmental practices. Edith Cowan University's Small to Medium Enterprise Research Centre has been contracted to provide a detailed assessment and report on these findings.

## Regional Industrial Precinct Improvement Project

The 'Industrial Precinct Improvement Model' was replicated in the regional centres of Albany, Bunbury, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton. These projects were made possible through close partnerships with local agencies in each region, including respective Local Governments, Area Consultative Committees and Regional NRM Groups.

These projects have achieved over 800 on-site assessments of light industrial SMEs, approximately 200 in each region, with specifically tailored assistance and support being provided to businesses on pollution control and resource efficiency. Re-surveys of these businesses have been completed to evaluate the effectiveness of the assistance provided.

A similar project in partnership with Swinburne University has provided assistance and support for over 350 businesses in the Melbourne area.

Detailed reports for each of these regional projects have been completed with survey data and specific findings supporting recommendations and strategies for further initiatives to assist local businesses.

Ten local government authorities have worked in close partnership with Perth Region NRM to conduct 'environmental risk assessments'

# Sustainable Production Program

## Data Collection and Management

All data provided by individual SMEs through our various projects, from environmental risk assessments, sustainability surveys and resource specific audits (e.g. energy audits), has been collected through the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) equipped with specially designed software. This data is securely stored on a purpose built web-based data management system that enables comprehensive analysis and trend reviews of this information.

This leading-edge data management system has been developed in partnership with information technology experts, ioGlobal.

Progressing from this system is a newly developed 'O2R' business improvement package designed as a comprehensive assessment and reporting tool to assist SMEs reduce their environmental footprint. Developed in partnership with ioGlobal, 'O2R' will be marketed to SMEs as a highly cost competitive service to enable their operations to achieve resource efficiency targets and sustainability goals.

## Sustainability Guidelines for New Industrial Estates

A consultant was contracted in December 2007 to develop sustainability guidelines for new industrial estates, with a new consultant appointed in February 2009 to further develop these guidelines into a format consistent with state planning policies.

Key stakeholders within the Western Australian planning system have included the Department of Planning, LandCorp, and the City of Gosnells. A need for sustainable development guidelines applicable to the specific needs of light industrial estates has been expressed by the DPI, so considerable effort is being made to meet this objective. Extended stakeholder review will include other key state agencies such as the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Environmental Protection Authority, the Department of Water and the Water Corporation.

The guideline document will be completed by September 2009.

## Sustainable Procurement for Local Government

Perth Region NRM and WALGA have identified a common interest and opportunity to incorporate the principles of sustainable procurement into WALGA's 'Procurement and Tender Guide' as this document was due for extensive review in 2008-09. We have worked in collaboration to complete a detailed project brief and engage consultants to assist with the development of an assessment framework that will compare the level of sustainability of goods and services suppliers.

A significant percentage of Local Government authorities use this guide to achieve best value over an extensive range of procurement types and the incorporation of 'sustainability' or 'green' concepts into this guide will have a significant impact on suppliers of goods and services by requiring they demonstrate a certain level of environmental responsibility.

This initiative is proposed for completion later in 2009 with promotional material and training workshops being rolled-out to Local Governments.

## Industrial Stormwater Monitoring Project

A detailed report has been finalised and printed for this comprehensive stormwater monitoring project that was completed in partnership with the Department of Water. The report, "A Snapshot of Contaminants in Stormwater around Industrial Areas of Perth, June 2008", highlights a number of serious contaminants found in stormwater draining systems flowing from light industrial areas and makes recommendations for further monitoring and investigation.

Findings from this report were highlighted in a number of media articles, including the West Australian in September/October 2008.

A consultant was contracted in December 2007 to develop sustainability guidelines for new industrial estates

### **Enhancing Trade Skills**

A basic environmental module entitled, "Apply Environmental Principles in the Workplace", developed by a consultant for Perth Region NRM, was refined and adapted by the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) and provided to trainers in January 2009. This new module has been delivered on a trial basis to first year trade apprentices at least six times since January and has so far generated positive feedback from both trainers and students.

In addition to this strategy to improve the environmental skills and knowledge of apprentices, the ITI has adopted a number of best environmental practices within their training facilities located in Kwinana. It is intended that the demonstration of better practices, such as hazardous material storage, wash down waste disposal, solid waste recycling and energy efficiency principles, will assist and enable apprentices to adopt better long term practices in their own workplaces.

Perth Region NRM has also provided funding for a multi-function power meter that will be installed in the near future to assist the facility monitor their electricity use, make changes to reduce usage and train students in this new technology at the same time.

### **Green Advantage Project**

Perth Region NRM was a key partner in this project coordinated by Edith Cowan University. The final workshop to promote a self assessment tool designed for SMEs to gauge their environmental performance, the "Business Health Checklist", was held at Perth Zoo in August 2008.

### **Recycling Services Database**

A database of Recycling Services and Waste Contractors in the Perth Region remains available for free on the Perth Region NRM website. This database is updated periodically to ensure details are current.

### **Winery Demonstration Site**

This industry specific demonstration site established at a typical winery in the Swan Valley has continued to collect detailed data from energy and water sub-meters with some interesting trends and results emerging. For example, this information has found that the kitchen sink (servicing the 110 seat restaurant) uses an average of 12,850 litres of hot water each month at a cost of \$130.00 per month in electricity to heat this water.

This site is now also piloting the wine industries new national environmental assurance scheme. This new code will go by the name 'EntWine viticulture' and 'EntWine winery' with both codes receiving valuable input from Perth Region NRM on the energy, water and waste management elements. Once the pilot has been completed it is expected that this national code will then be released to relevant NRM groups and industry associations to help drive better environmental and sustainability practices for the wine industry.



The Industrial Training Institute has adopted a number of best environmental practices within their training facilities located in Kwinana

# Sustainable Production Program

## Rural Land Use

Sustainable agriculture remains a key priority under Perth Region NRM's Sustainable Production program even though our region is unique in its high population density.

All projects have continued to make significant progress over the past 12 months and several have successfully secured funding for at least another two years. These include:

- The Rapid Resource Assessment Toolkit (through Environmental Knowledge Systems Australia)
- Delivering Best Management Practise (BMP's) for Horse Owners (through the WA Horse Council)
- Wine Industry Best Practice (through the Wine Industry Assoc. of WA)

A number of projects were affected by funding cuts and were required to be completed by June 2009. These included:

- Orchardist's BMP Irrigation Benchmarking Project (through the WA Fruit Growers Fruit Growers Assoc.)
- Salinity Management in the Woorooloo Catchment (through the EMRC)
- Update of the Good Practice Guide for Vegetable Growers (through WA Vegetable Growers Assoc.)
- Avon-Upper Swan Land Management and Nutrient Intervention Project (through the Ellen Brockman Catchment Group)

The success of these projects in delivering significant benefits to their specific target groups, given tight budget constraints, is largely attributed to the commitment and concerted effort of partnering associations and agencies.

Close collaboration with two regional NRM groups, NACC and Rangelands, has demonstrated how sharing of skills, information and human/financial resources can effectively deliver BMP's to the

horticultural industry across the state. Three key strategies were developed to deliver BMP's to these regional areas, some as remote as Kununurra. These were:

- (1) A purpose designed presentation of reference material to provide best practice manuals and a range of brochures.
- (2) The Rapid Resource Assessment Tool, developed for farmers as an on-line knowledge base, customised to include local data for regions such as Geraldton, Carnarvon and Kununurra.
- (3) Roadshow workshops:
  - covering a wide range of topics relevant to horticultural farmers and specific to their local growing conditions.
  - incorporating field days and familiarisation tours of local properties.

Registered environmental training will be delivered for Freshcare Ltd, an environmental quality assurance program developed nationally through the growers industry.

## Waterwise on the Farm

The Waterwise on the Farm Swan Region Program received additional funding from the Federal Governments Caring for our Country – Landcare Sustainable Practices Grant to encourage irrigators to adopt sustainable irrigation and nutrient management practices across the Perth NRM Region.

## Irrigation Efficiency Training Workshops

The program continues to deliver the Irrigation Efficiency – Principles to Practice workshop with a successful workshop held at Moora TAFE for those using drip irrigation. Special thanks to Andrew Hinton (Irrigation Manager) from AgCorp Moora Citrus who hosted the irrigation audit component of the workshop.

All projects have continued to  
make significant progress over  
the past 12 months



Approximately 5 hectares of Avowest Avocados has been upgraded to a new micro-sprinkler system

### Demonstration Sites

Ecosystem Management Services (EMS) nursery in Noranda has recently joined the Waterwise on the Farm program as a demonstration site. EMS are a commercial production nursery specialising in native and local dryland and wetland plant species and are proactive in irrigation and nutrient efficiency on the property.

Approximately 5 hectares of Avowest Avocados has been upgraded to a new micro-sprinkler system which now delivers irrigation to the drip zone of the trees. There is 25% water saving switching to the new sprinklers but salt in the rootzone also needs to be managed.

### Increased community/industry awareness

Waterwise on the Farm attended the 2008 Karragullen Horticultural Field Day in conjunction with the WA Fruit Growers Association, the 2009 Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day in conjunction with Port Bouvard Ltd and the 2009 Gingin Field day.

Several articles were published during the last year in print media and various industry publications. The Countryman newspaper published 4 articles on work conducted at the waterwise demonstration sites. They include:

- Turf war on water wastage (Turf)
- Controlling salt levels thirsty work (Avocados)
- Trial strives for increase in efficiency (Table grapes)
- Program for berry good crops (Strawberry)

Industry associations showed their support for the project by publishing introductory articles about Perth Region NRM and the Waterwise on the Farm project in their quarterly magazines – Overflow (Irrigation Association of WA) and WA Grower (Vegetables WA).

The project has added to the Irrinote Factsheet series with the latest edition 'Scheduling irrigations with micro-sprays/jets'. This factsheet accompanies numbers 1-5 and several more will be produced in the future.

### Cross Regional Delivery Approach

There are significant horticultural precincts located to the north of the Perth Region in the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) (Moore Sub Region – Gingin Groundwater Area). The NACC region has identified the Gingin Groundwater Area as a regional groundwater asset and is an important resource for food production in the region. The Waterwise on the Farm Swan Region Project extended its activities to include the Gingin Groundwater Area and surrounds during 2008-2009. The project will offer irrigation efficiency training to growers in the southern Moore Sub region and support will be given with conducting irrigation audits, developing irrigation schedules and water budgeting. A result of these activities will be increased adoption of sustainable irrigation practices which will serve to achieve NACC NRM Strategy targets.

# Coast & Marine Program

The Coastal and Marine Program has had a successful transition year. The Marine Indicators project was extended to December 2009 to complete a review commissioned by the Marine Reference Group. The Coastcare Program has continued successfully with the achievement of numerous on ground outcomes and development of new partnerships. Perth Region NRM was also awarded the right to host the 2009 WA State Coastal Conference. Preparations for the conference, which is being held on 7th – 9th October 2009, are well underway.

## Marine

### Marine Indicators Project

In 2008, four marine indicators projects were successfully completed. While each project focused on different components of the marine environment, they all shared an overarching aim that was to identify potential key marine indicators that could be used in long term marine monitoring in the Perth Region.

All projects were presented at a Marine Indicators Workshop, held in October 2008 facilitated by Craig Salt. Stakeholders from State Government, Universities, Industry Bodies, Rottnest Island Authority, The WA Museum and Perth Region NRM attended the all day workshop. The aim of the workshop was to provide an overview of each of the projects, allowing participants to see what had been achieved. Discussions that followed were focused on how best to use the new and existing information, for future marine monitoring and management.



In late 2008, the decision was made to commission a review of existing knowledge, including the four recently completed marine indicators projects, relevant to monitoring the condition of the marine environment in the Perth Region. Cardno Ecology Lab Pty Ltd was employed to undertake this project, which is due for completion in August 2009. The aim of this project is to produce recommendations for a suite of indicators that would measure a range of different components of the ecosystem and would allow the detection of changes for a range of human disturbances. In the long term, the results of this project will form the basis of a Perth Region NRM marine monitoring program, run in conjunction with monitoring programs of the major management agencies.

## Coastal

### The Coastcare Program

The Coastcare Program has continued its highly successful work along the Perth metropolitan coastline. Both the North and South metropolitan Coastcare Officers have expanded their working partnerships in the 2008-2009 transition year, to assist a wider range of stakeholders.

#### *South Metropolitan Coastal Region*

Ongoing activities in the south region have been abundant and have involved a diverse range of stakeholders. Activities have included community planting days with a number of Friends Groups and also with Malibu Special Needs School; rehabilitation and weeding days with Conservation Volunteers Australia; walk track construction activities with

In 2008, four marine indicators projects were successfully completed

Green Corps Trainees and Indigenous Horticultural Trainees; and construction, vegetation pruning and seed collection activities with corporate groups, including Chevron and Woodside. The following areas/sites listed have involved onground coastal rehabilitation or revegetation activities this year;

Point Peron

Coogee Beach

Port Beach

Woodman Point

View St, Warnbro

Kwinana Beach

Challenger Beach

South Beach

City of Cockburn

Rockingham Foreshore

Lake Richmond

Golden Bay

East Rockingham Beach

The Adopt a Beach program has continued successfully for another year. This awareness raising program consists of in class presentations and beach activities. Over 130 students from five primary schools were involved and more than 1000 plants were planted.

There has been a number of training workshops held throughout the year. Indigenous Horticulture trainees, volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia, volunteers from Woodside and students from a number of schools have been educated and trained in coastal activities such as plant identification, planting techniques, plant propagation and coastal infrastructure construction.

The coastal Local Governments in the south metropolitan area have continued their support for the Coastcare program. The South Metropolitan Coastcare Officer has successfully worked with Natural Areas Managers, Environmental Officers and Works Managers and staff to provide assistance and expert advice on current and proposed coastal projects and coastal area management.



# Coast & Marine Program

## *North Metropolitan Coastal Region*

Coastal rehabilitation and revegetation activities have been numerous and successful. There are a large number of active community coastcare associations in the northern region who have worked closely with the North metropolitan Coastcare Officer undertaking a variety of coastal works. In addition, there has been strong support for, and involvement with, the Coastcare Program from all north coastal Local Governments.

Stakeholder number and involvement increased in the 2008-2009 transition year. Offering support from the corporate field was Lion Nathan, Chevron, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Woodside and HBF.

This year has seen much greater interest and participation in the Coastcare Program from the education sector. The Adopt a Beach program gained more support with three new primary schools participating in activities and a number of other primary schools engaged in presentations and onground activities. Presentations relating to coastal management and rehabilitation were given at the 2009 Catchments, Corridors and Coasts, a professional development course for teachers and the 2009 Seaweek Teachers Expo. The North metropolitan Coastcare Officer was also an integral part in facilitating and organising the 2009 Waves Clean Beach Challenge, which involved 6 secondary schools.

The partnership with Curtin University has also strengthened over the last financial year, with Urban and Regional Planning students participating in field sessions and tutorials arranged and run by the North metropolitan Coastcare Officer.

The Adopt a Beach program gained more support with three new primary schools participating in activities

## *Coastwest – Perth Metropolitan Coastal Biodiversity Project*

In 2007, Perth Region NRM funded a project “Ecological Assessment and Management of Coastal Natural Areas”. This project established information about the ecological condition of and management requirements for, the coastal vegetation of the Perth Region. Coastal vegetation communities were broken down into 3 levels of priority. Areas given a Priority 1 rating were areas with higher vegetation integrity than other sites and in very good condition.

The Perth Metropolitan Coastal Biodiversity (PMCB) Project has built on the outcomes from the above mentioned project and focused specifically on management, revegetation, restoration and strengthening of the following listed Priority 1 coastal vegetation sites.

City of Joondalup - Iluka, Mullaloo and Sorrento.

City of Stirling – North Beach, Trigg Regional Open Space.

Town of Cambridge - North Floreat Beach.

Town of Cottesloe - Grant Marine Park, Bryan Way, Vlamingh Memorial, Muderup Rocks and Cottesloe Native Garden.

City of Cockburn – Coogee Beach, Manning Lake, Redemptora Reserve.

City of Rockingham – Bayeux Dune Blowout, Golden Bay.

These Priority 1 sites form the core vegetation communities and have benefited from community based on-ground works to reduce the impacts from invasive weeds, erosion and human impacts.

## Coastal and Marine Regional Delivery Program Audit

In October 2008, the State NRM Office conducted an audit of the Coastal and Marine Delivery Program, which involved site visits within the coastal areas of the Perth Region. The project sites visited included Kwinana Beach, Naval Base Beach, Coogee Beach, Port Beach, Cottesloe Beach, Trigg Beach and Sorrento Beach. Overall the program was seen to be highly successful, attributable predominantly to the committed Coastcare Officers.

### 2009 WA State Coastal Conference

Perth Region NRM will be hosting the 2009 WA State Coastal Conference, being held from 7th-9th October 2009 at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle.

The focus for the Conference "*Whose Coast Is It? adapting for the future*" was chosen so that disputable issues surrounding coastal and marine ownership could be raised and so that the different issues and impacts relating to each of the various stakeholders involved could be discussed.



5th Western Australian State

COASTAL  
CONFERENCE 2009

*Whose Coast Is It?  
adapting for the future*



# Indigenous Cultural Heritage Program

The Indigenous Cultural Heritage Program is continuing to protect, enhance and conserve all aspects of traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture and heritage within the Perth Region. The Program also focuses on strengthening existing relationships and building new relationships with the Aboriginal community and related stakeholders.

Perth Region NRM Indigenous and Cultural Heritage projects are funded by Caring for our Country, the State Government and Coastwest.

## **Perth Region NRM Indigenous NRM Advisory Group**

This year Perth Region NRM appointed new members to the advisory group as well as a new chairperson. The group consists of representatives from Local and State government and private agencies as well as community representatives.

The advisory group continues to provide advice and direction on projects managed under the Indigenous NRM Program. They also guided the development of targets and objectives for the Perth Region NRM Strategy and the Perth Region NRM Reconciliation Action Plan.

The group also provide a forum for the Aboriginal community to counsel on current NRM activities and provide comment on the current and future projects.

## **Indigenous NRM Coordinator**

### *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan Template*

In August 2008 the Perth Region NRM Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan Template (ACHMPT) was launched by the honourable Michelle Roberts Minister for Housing and Works; Heritage; Indigenous Affairs; Land Information and the honourable Kim Chance Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; the Midwest and Wheatbelt

The ACHMPT is designed to be used by Local Government to provide direction for the protection and enhancement of Aboriginal culture and heritage in the Perth Region.

The ACHMPT is intended to be used when developing projects and management plans that aim to engage Aboriginal people and incorporate their traditional knowledge as part of the planning, implementation and operations processes.

### *Reconciliation Action Plan*

The development of the Perth Region NRM Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) will enhance relationships with the Indigenous community and assist in the national effort to close the 17 year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. In addition Perth Region NRM aim to set a benchmark for increasing Indigenous involvement in NRM whilst providing support for Indigenous people to achieve equality in all aspects of life – a goal which will benefit Australia.

The Indigenous NRM Coordinator continues to sit on the Environment Consultative group and the Perth Airport Advisory Board, assisting them with the management of Aboriginal culture and heritage within the Perth Airport precinct.

## **Indigenous Coastal and Marine Officer**

In 2008-09 Coast West in conjunction with Perth Region NRM continued to fund a position for an Indigenous Coastal and Marine Officer. The aim of the Officer is to develop projects that build partnerships with the 12 Local Government Councils along the coast of the Perth Metropolitan area and build solid relationships between the Indigenous community and their Local Government.

Some of the projects that have been undertaken in 2008-09 include the launch and extension of the Nyoongar Coastal Trail and the launch of the Kwinana Beach Bush Tucker Trail.



## The development of the Perth Region NRM Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) will enhance relationships with the Indigenous community

The Launch of the Nyoongar Coastal trail took place at Mudurrup Rocks in the Town of Cottesloe. The Nyoongar Coastal Trail proposes an extension to the existing identified trail to identify an additional 4 sites, including:

- North side of Garden Island,
- Clontarf Hill City of Fremantle,
- Woodman Point City of Cockburn, and
- A site in Mandurah.

The Indigenous Coastal and Marine Officer continues to work closely with Local Governments with coastal boundaries in assisting them to engage with the Aboriginal community.

### **Perth Region NRM Aboriginal Liaison Officer**

The Perth Region NRM Aboriginal Liaison officer was funded for six months by Perth Region NRM and hosted by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. The aim of this position was to assist Perth Region NRM's Stakeholders with Indigenous engagement, Aboriginal Heritage Act application and Swan Alcoa Landcare Program funding applications.

The Liaison Officer provided support and facilitated the consultation requirements for the Perth Region NRM Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan Template.

The Liaison Officer also assisted stakeholders in the completion of the section 18 processes outlined in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. The Liaison Officer developed a Memorandum of understanding between Perth Region NRM and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

### **Partnerships**

Perth Region NRM employed an Aboriginal Liaison Officer located within the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

Perth Region NRM also consults with the SWALSC Aboriginal Metropolitan Working Group, to receive approval on specific projects relating to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Perth Region.



# Local Government Liaison Program

Perth Region NRM's Local Government Reference Group (LGRG) and Local Government Engagement Program have gone from strength to strength this year. The development of a number of tools to assist Local Governments to be full partners in delivering "Integrated NRM" with the community and State and Federal governments has been a key focus for the 2008-2009 period.

The role of Local Governments in the delivery of NRM is vitally important. Estimates put the investment in NRM by Local Governments in the Perth Region at approximately \$270 million dollars per annum, and in order to invest effectively with both State and Federal NRM funding, the LGRG has developed a Strategic Direction for Local Government's role in NRM in the Perth Region.

## **Strong Progress for Local Government to be Leaders in NRM**

The focus of the Local Government Engagement Program has been to develop the tools required to support the strategic direction of the Local Government Reference Group. The major initiatives this year have been:

### **State NRM Framework – Moving Towards Integrated NRM**

A draft State Plan for NRM was released promoting an integrated approach to NRM but did not set out a process for how this could be achieved. Perth Region NRM made a detailed submission highlighting a number of issues relating to the role of Local Government in NRM delivery.

### **Perth Region NRM and Local Government Role in Integrated NRM**

Perth NRM has continued to promote and support Integrated NRM in the Perth Region through review of its Regional Strategy and development of its Business Plan. A key element is the strengthened role of Local Government working with community groups, through Perth Region NRM's Regional Reference Groups, to deliver on ground outcomes.

### **Local Government Strategic and Business Plans for Integrated NRM**

A draft Strategic Plan for Local Government engagement in Integrated NRM in the Perth Region has been prepared and is a stepping stone to help all

Local Governments in the region to clarify their role as a partner in delivering Integrated NRM.

In conjunction with preparing its own Strategic Plan, Perth Region NRM is supporting its LGRG to prepare an overarching Local Government NRM Business Plan. Development will be through a working group and a small number of discussion papers to enable wider debate, before drafting of the Business Plan itself for consideration by the LGRG.

Research into the business structures and strategies of a number of Perth Local Government authorities has been conducted, and the information has been used to create a "generic" Local Government Strategy and Structure. As each Local Government is very different, the creation of a 'generic structure' is a key step in developing and implementing an overarching business plan.

### **Local Government NRM Framework**

Case studies have been used to develop 'Framework Recommendations' for how Local Governments could take a more consistent approach to delivering its part of Integrated NRM. The paper "Integrating NRM into Local Government Core Business" by Dr Alan Lonsdale and Dr Bruce Hamilton was completed and a copy sent to every Local Government in the Perth Region. A digital copy of the report, and its case study document, were also made available on the Perth Region NRM website. Follow up emails were sent to ten individual Local Governments and three regional Local Governments for feedback on the framework recommendations.

The framework recommendations, of which there were 19 for individual Local Governments and six for regional Local Governments, were well received and met with interest from Local Governments and State Government Departments, including the Department of Local Government; which urged Perth Region NRM to continue its work during the Local Government Reform Process, announced in February 2009.

The case study Local Governments of the City of Belmont, Shire of Kalamunda, Town of Kwinana, City of Swan, Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council and South West Group; as well as Local Governments identified as having the capacity to not only test the recommendations, but act as mentors for other Local Governments – the City of Melville, City of

Joondalup, City of Armadale, City of Wanneroo, City of Stirling, City of Bayswater and WESROC have all been individually approached to test the recommendations and become “Local Government Champions” for Integrated NRM.

In order to test the recommendations, the Local Governments are examined using the case study questions developed by Dr Alan Lonsdale for the report. The recommendations are then mapped against the current business of the Local Governments, and emailed to nominated officers to check. A meeting is then requested with the Chief Executive Officer and other relevant Directors and staff.

The “Generic Local Government Structure” mapped against the recommendations, has been developed as a briefing set to present at this stage of the process. The next steps required to implement the recommendations are then discussed.

### Local Government Reform

Local Governments are currently undergoing structural reform in order to achieve greater capacity to plan, manage and deliver services to their communities with a greater focus on social, economic and environmental sustainability. Perth Region NRM is linking in to this process, to ensure that Local Government participation and investment in Natural Resource Management is not overlooked in this important reform. Every Local Government in the Perth Region was approached and urged to include NRM in their detailed submissions to the Structural Reform Committee.

### Program and Project Information System

Work has begun on a key integrating mechanism, which is an information system of all NRM programs and projects. This will allow us to see what work is being undertaken and where potential links can be made. A pilot program and project information system has been built and tested with key stakeholders, with universal support for the concept.

A large portion of information has been collated for entry into a database, which is planned for inclusion during an IT refurbishment at Perth Region NRM. As an interim project, a ‘contact list’ was developed for Local Government engagement across all of Perth Region NRM’s programs and projects. The purpose of the contact list is to inform all Perth Region NRM staff and stakeholders of the work the organisation is undertaking so that we can show each Local Government where our work ‘fits’. This is to ensure that all are aware of the full scope of our work.

## Managing and Tracking all Local Government Strategic and Operational Issues

Identifying links and relationships with all partners in NRM is vital to the success of the Strategic Direction of the LGRG. Perth Region NRM has looked at two case studies that highlight the roles of Local Governments in conjunction with other external stakeholders; Project Dieback and Light Industry Pollution Monitoring.

### Communication Tools

A paper was drafted and presented to the Local Government Reference Group to decide upon the most effective ways to communicate the work of the LGRG to other Perth Region NRM reference groups, Local Governments and the greater community. The LGRG agreed upon a number of different methods:

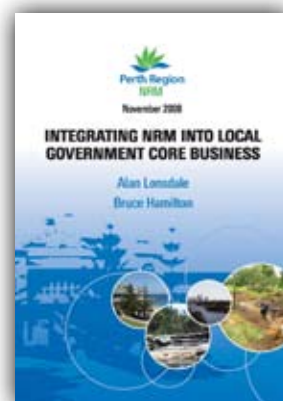
*Perth Region NRM Website:* A “Local Government Engagement” tab was added to the Programs List on the Perth Region NRM website, and a short summary of all of the current work being undertaken by the LGRG was added. The website is updated regularly.

*Electronic Newsletter:* Perth Region NRM has submitted articles to the WALGA “Eco-news”, a quarterly e-newsletter sent to all Local Governments in Western Australia, providing updates on the work of the Perth Region NRM Reference Groups.

*Elected Member Training:* Perth Region NRM has agreed to work with WALGA to prepare a shorter version of the full day training package that could be delivered to community groups in an evening.

*Mentoring by Local Governments and Councillors:* As a follow up to the ‘Integrating NRM’ report and recommendations, it is intended to build a Contacts Network and identify Local Government ‘leaders’ to begin a process of mentoring and support across the region.

*Presentation of Papers at Conferences, Forums and Seminars:* A copy of the report “Integrating NRM into Local Government Core Business” was tabled at a number of forums, including an ICLEI CCP and Water Campaign workshop and DPI Enviroplanning Seminar. A poster presentation was developed for the West Australian State Natural Resource Management and Environment Conference.



# Monitoring and Evaluation

The transition from NHT2 to Caring for our Country has caused a hiatus for most MERI activities.

The federal government's draft MERI guidelines for Caring for our Country were withdrawn, and have been re-released as a new draft in a significantly different form. At the time of writing, that draft has not been confirmed, but there has been significant Australia wide feedback about it, and Perth Region NRM was involved in developing a combined response from the WA regions and State NRM Office. This has meant that the MERI requirements for the transition year funded projects has not been completely clear, but fortunately the work we have previously done and are doing in developing program logic provides a good basis for developing useful MERI plans for the future. We believe there will be significant changes in reporting requirements, emphasising outcomes achieving targets as opposed to counting outputs, but we do not yet know the format, nor the part that Performance Story Reporting may play. However, all transition year projects are tracking well against their milestones, and are reporting good contributions toward the achievement of Caring for our Country targets.

The de-coupling of Federal and State funding has created renewed pressure for the finalisation of a State NRM Plan, and a component of that will be a State M&E plan. Again, we look forward to seeing what these things will look like.



In the mean time, we have developed integrated program logic for all the activities of Perth Region NRM, adapting the Resource Condition Targets from our regional strategy into more meaningful and useful goals for our reference groups, together with high level targets to achieve these goals. This is being combined with the program logic for our Caring for our Country projects, integrating our targets with the Federal Government's targets wherever possible. This approach will be repeated with the State Governments targets, when they are set.

This program logic will serve as the clothes horse on which a MERI plan will be built, so that each funded project will have a very clear understanding of what is to be monitored, how activities and the achievement of targets are to be evaluated, how these outcomes should be reported, and from this information, what changes can be made to improve the project.

A major effort in the area of GIS has been the capturing of spatial data, and recording much of this as 'project footprints' on the State Governments NRM Shared Land Information Platform hosted by DAFWA - <http://spatial.agric.wa.gov.au/slip/>. Project footprints for the Caring for our Country transition year projects are also being collected. We have conducted one to one and group training for most Caring for our Country project delivery organisations. This training included introduction to the Regional Spatial Information Toolkit, demonstration on the use of online map viewer such as the SLIP NRM Info and the Landgate SLIP portal. We have also demonstrated the use of online data services to the more interested users. And, of course, we have continued to provide a mapping and data analysis service for all project staff.

All in all, we are in a very good position to continue to utilise M&E to contribute to the continuous improvement of our projects' activities, no matter how they are funded.

# Partnerships

## The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program

The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) provides funds for community groups and local governments working with community groups involved in on-ground revegetation and rehabilitation projects in the Perth Region. The program, established in 1998, has funded more than 800 projects worth over \$4 million across the metropolitan area.

In partnership and with support from Alcoa of Australia Limited and the Swan River Trust, Perth Region NRM has managed this successful program since inception.

The Swan River Trust has supported initiatives to protect the Swan and Canning rivers, and has provided over \$2.6 million to Program recipients since 1999. The Trust has committed a further \$250,000 to SALP in 2008/09 through the Healthy Catchments Program of the Healthy Rivers Action Plan (HRAP).

Alcoa of Australia Limited has played a vital role in providing more than \$2.2 million since 1998 and committed a further \$250,000 in the 2009 funding round.

Funding in 2009 was made available for a wide range of activities in the Perth Region, addressing the following regional priorities:

- Retaining, restoring and managing bushland, coastal, wetland and riverine vegetation; and
- Protecting and enhancing the quality of surface water (streams, rivers and wetlands) and groundwater.

To achieve continuous improvement in the Program a reporting process was introduced in late 2008 and information gathered through the reporting process included information on the environmental impact of projects and the partnership contributions leveraged through the Program.

The City of Armadale, in conjunction with the City of Gosnells, received the Local Government Recognition Award for 2009.

The Cities of Armadale and Gosnells have been recognised for their long term commitment to the SALP by contributing to the community groups in their region over the last eleven years.

Without the continued and valued contribution from Volunteers, local "Friends" groups, community members and staff from the sub-regions, Alcoa, Swan River Trust and Perth Region NRM, these on ground projects would not continue. Recognition must go to these wonderful people protecting and enhancing the Perth Region through the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.



# The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program

Organisations to receive funding under the 2009 round of SALP funding are:

## North

Friends of Lightning Swamp Bushland	\$3,820.00
Friends of Bennett Brook Reserve	\$10,022.55
City of Bayswater	\$8,750.00
City of Bayswater	\$3,148.75
Friends of Coolbinia Bushland	\$3,145.00
City of Nedlands/Friends of Allen Park	\$14,305.00

## South

Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group Inc	\$83,915.00
Two Rivers Group	\$45,308.00
Roleybushcare Inc	\$10,495.00
SERCUL	\$34,650.00
Wilson Wetlands Action Group Inc	\$21,634.00
Baldivis Children's Forest Inc	\$10,619.10
Bungendore Park Management Committee	\$5,010.00
Friends of Attadale Foreshore In (FOAF)	\$13,845.05
Wandi Landcare Group/Town of Kwinana	\$4,434.00
The Canning River Regional Park Volunteers Inc	\$3,600.00
Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group	\$5,000.00

## North-East

Chittering Valley Land Conservation District Committee	\$11,773.30
North Swan Conservation District Committee	\$18,219.30
Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group	\$18,111.50

## Coastal

Coogee Beach Surf Lifesaving Club Inc.	\$34,805.00
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## South-East

Susannah Brook Catchment Group	\$1,570.00
Jane Brook Catchment Group	\$9,900.00
Friends of Pioneer Park	\$11,495.00
Friends of Marionvale Brook	\$6,000.00
Jane Brook Catchment Group	\$1,180.00
Friends of May Brook	\$3,066.00
Jane Brook Catchment Group	\$14,700.00
SWAN TAFE	\$2,260.00
Sandy and Roger Stone	\$1,194.40
Friends of Blue Wren/Susannah Brook Catchment Group	\$9,829.00
Friends of Boya Trail	\$3,100.00
United Nations Association of Australia (WA) Environment subcommittee	\$4,150.00
Wooroloo Brook LCDC	\$6,470.00
Wooroloo Brook LCDC	\$4,030.00
Helena River Catchment Group Inc	\$61,263.00
Susannah Brook Catchment Group	\$2,200.00
Friends of Piesse Brook Inc	\$50,000.00
Blackadder-Woodridge Catchment Group Inc	\$7,650.00
Wooroloo Brook LCDC	\$11,550.00
Wooroloo Brook LCDC	\$5,500.00
Wooroloo Brook LCDC	\$4,950.00
Friends of Black Cockatoo Reserve	\$1,717.00
Wooroloo Brook LCDC	\$4,450.00

## Total

**\$592,834.00**

# Geographic Reference Groups

As a key component of community consultation and engagement, Perth Region NRM has established five geographic reference groups. These groups, representing the North, East, North East, South and Coastal areas of the Perth Region meet quarterly and continue to have representation from local government authorities and community NRM groups. Each group has a community co-chair and a local government co-chair. The community co-chairs are automatically members of the Perth Region NRM Board, and this provides an effective bi-directional information path between Perth Region NRM and the groups. The local government co-chairs are also invited to participate in Perth Region NRM's Local Government reference group, providing a linkage between all of the geographic reference groups and the Local Government reference group. The groups are strongly supported by the NRM groups of SERCUL (South), EMRC (East) and EBICG (North East), who provide key links to community and Local Government.

Each geographic reference group has developed in their own unique, locally relevant style, whilst working on prioritising the strategic NRM issues in their area. They have also contributed to formal project proposal development, as well as providing a very useful forum for information sharing between and amongst local government authorities and local 'friends-of' community groups.



# Achievements

The following are highlights of Perth Region NRM achievements during 2008-2009

## Awards Recognition Evening

June 2008 signalled the completion of the National Heritage Trust II funding Program for Perth Region NRM.

To celebrate the on-time completion of the funding and recognise partners and supporters of the community based resource management group, Perth Region NRM held an event at the Waters Edge Winery in Guildford on August 15th.

The event was attended by over 100 guests including the honourable Kim Chance, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; the Midwest and Wheatbelt and the honourable Michelle Roberts, Minister for Housing and Works; Heritage; Indigenous Affairs; Land Information.

Six programs and over 35 projects were successfully managed through Perth Region NRM's facilitation and these were highlighted and celebrated at the event.

The evening also observed the successful partnerships formed between Local Government, State Agencies, Industry and Perth Region NRM.

'The success of managing our natural resources has been the development of effective partnerships between government agencies, regional NRM groups, private sector companies, industry associations, non-government organisations and the community' said Minister Chance.

Receiving awards of recognition for their support and on going contribution to Natural Resource Management in the Perth Region were:

The City of Swan – for their support of Indigenous Engagement in NRM.

The City of Bayswater – for continued support of the Light Industry Program, Biodiversity Program and Community Support.

Alcoa – for eleven continuous years of support to the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.

The Department of Water – in recognition of their continued support of the Water Quality Monitoring Project funded by Perth Region NRM.

The Dieback Working Group – in recognition of continued support of Dieback control in the Perth Region.

'These partnerships facilitated successful outcomes and milestone achievements and this is an opportunity to thank those involved' Colin Heinzman Perth Region NRM Chair said.

Perth Region NRM also took the opportunity to launch the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan Template, presenting the Template to both Ministers.

'Natural resource management is vital to continue investing in the future sustainability of WA's environment in order to provide protection and management of the State's priority assets' said Minister Chance.



# Ngobaat Bididi

## Coastal Sandhill Trail

### Opening

On Friday 17 April around 30 people gathered at Kwinana Beach for the launch of the Kwinana Beach Indigenous Walk Trail. Those present represented BHP Billiton – Nickel West, local Noongar people from the Kwinana area, the Town of Kwinana, Perth Region NRM, and the Department of Planning. The project was completed with the support of these organisations and the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program.

The Kwinana Beach Indigenous Walk Trail provides an opportunity to walk through typical indigenous coastal vegetation and to see some of the plants that Noongar people have collected for a wide range of uses. Important plant species are marked with displays to inform visitors of the names and uses that the Noongar had for them.

The trail follows the coastline and it is easy to imagine collecting shellfish from the rocks or spearing fish in the shallows. Noongar traditional practices included the calling of dolphins to herd schools of fish to the shore, where they could be caught or speared. At the end of the trail a traditional Noongar Fish Trap is represented in colourful mosaic tiles.

The highlight of the opening ceremony was a traditional dance and spear fishing demonstration, performed by local Noongar man Brenton Clinch. Following speeches from the project sponsor Lorna Petchell BHP Billiton, South Metro Coastcare Officer Craig Wilson, Indigenous Coastal and Marine Officer Barry McGuire, and Kwinana Councillor Ruth Alexander, additional quandong trees were planted to officially complete the project.

Attendees then wandered along the path and enjoyed morning tea of damper and quandong jam provided by the Medina Aboriginal Centre.

The Ngobaat Bididi Coastal Sandhill Trail is a wonderful project that has brought the local community together to create a celebration of the special place the coast occupies in Noongar culture.



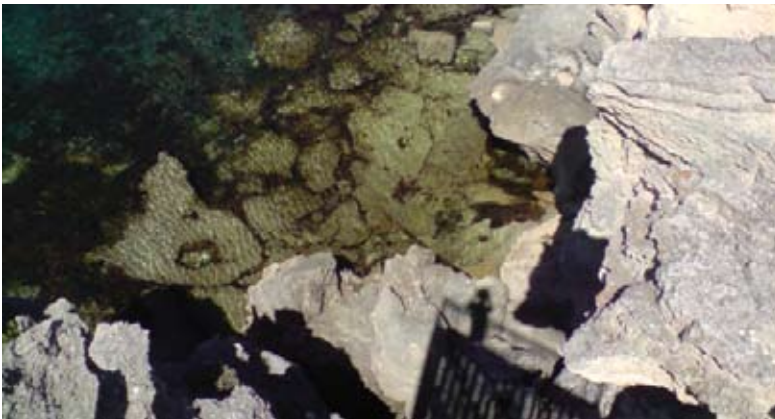
# KIC Coastal Photo Competition

Through generous support from the Kwinana Industries Council the 2009 Coastal Photo Competition attracted over 50 entries from amateur photographers both young and old. The competition was developed to capture unique elements of the Kwinana and Rockingham coast, to promote the diversity of coastal plants and animals and to showcase the natural beauty of the Perth Metro coastline.

The three category winners Leon Ebbelaar, Morgan Cooper and Ethen Clark each received a prize of a digital camera.



*Ethen Clark*



*Morgan Cooper*



*Leon Ebbelaar*



*Morgan Cooper*



*Ethen Clark*



*Leon Ebbelaar*

# SALP funding ceremony 2009

Minister Faragher presented more than \$500,000 in funding to care for the Western Australian environment to thirty-nine community environmental groups at the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) 2009 funding ceremony on 27th February, held at Waters Edge Winery in Guildford.

The 2009 funding assists community groups to undertake over 70 on-ground projects within the metropolitan area.

Perth Region NRM Chairman, Mr Colin Heinzman says that these projects involve foreshore, wetland and bushland restoration and include building drains for living stream projects, as well as creating bushland corridors.

"The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) was established to give community groups easy access to funding for on-ground revegetation, rehabilitation and other environmentally based projects.

"Now in its eleventh year, that funding has equated to over 800 projects across the metropolitan area", Mr Heinzman said.

Recipients enjoy the opportunity to meet each other at the funding ceremony as well as the organisations that fund them.

Managed by Perth Region NRM, the program is jointly funded by Alcoa of Australia and the Swan River Trust.

The SALP Program is unique, as it is a partnership between State Government, Industry and Community Groups with support from Local Government to support and enhance on-ground rehabilitation and revegetation.

Hundreds of SALP volunteers take time out of their busy lives to protect Western Australia's rivers and make a difference through rehabilitation projects. This event is a small thankyou for their hard work and dedication.



Hundreds of SALP volunteers take time out of their busy lives to protect Western Australia's rivers

# DIG Conference 2009

Members of the local community concerned about the impact of the plant disease Phytophthora Dieback were encouraged to attend the state's largest conference aimed at managing and preventing the devastating disease.

The Dieback Working Group hosted the annual 'Crossroads' conference on Friday 5 June 2009 at Murdoch University, where scientists, government officials, land managers, teachers, students and volunteers gathered to learn about the latest research and initiatives aimed at controlling what is recognised as one of the biggest threats to Western Australia's environment.

Phytophthora Dieback is caused by a mould that kills plants by attacking their roots and limiting their uptake of water and nutrients. It is known as "the biological bulldozer" because of its devastating impact on the state's natural bushland, and is being increasingly found in suburban backyards in Perth.

The Dieback conference was supported by the following organisations: Perth Region NRM, The Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management, Glevan Consulting, Alcoa of Australia, Department of Environment and Conservation, and Australasian Plant Pathology Society.



## Big Energy Savings from Using Alternative Lighting in Barrel Shed

Through its Energy Efficiency project Perth Region NRM has trialed the use of high output compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) in a barrel shed used by a large Swan Valley winery. The CFLs trialed are a direct replacement for the existing 400W high bay lights. Yearly energy saving will amount to

approximately \$3000 when all the lamps in the barrel shed have been replaced with the CFLs.

This efficient form of lighting also reduces the load on the coolroom air conditioning system by up to 25% as it converts most of the energy used into light instead of heat.

# Coastal Trails Launch at Mudurup Rocks

Along Perth's coastline a coastal trail consisting of six Noongar sites of strong significance has been developed. Each of these sites has a story to be shared with the intention of educating citizens of the Perth Region on Noongar Culture.

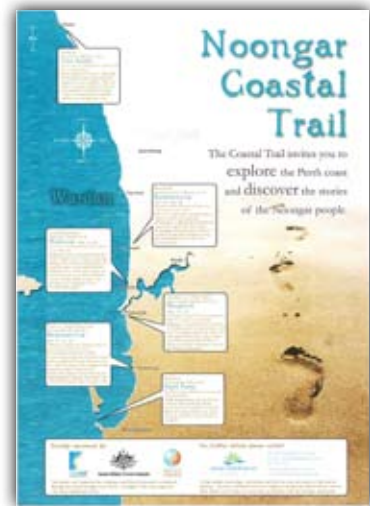
The six sites are located at:

- Two Rocks at Yanchep,
- Raebold Hill at City of Cambridge,
- Mudurup Rocks at Cottesloe,
- Bathers Beach at Fremantle,
- Mt Brown at Henderson, and
- Point Peron in Rockingham.

The identification of the sites and the stories will assist in teaching people about the area in which they live.

A map and brochure, available to the community and interested stakeholders, was developed as part of the project. They explain the stories associated with each location and detail how to find the sites.

The project was launched at Mudurup Rocks in Cottesloe, late in 2008.



## Review of Wastewater Treatment Systems City of Rockingham

The City of Rockingham and Perth Region NRM used findings from the Light Industry Risk Assessment Project and developed a project to review and monitor the effectiveness of on-site wastewater treatment systems used by light industrial businesses, particularly those associated with motor trades. A water quality monitoring regime was established to accurately determine the

effectiveness of a range of various vertical gravity and plate separators that are designed to remove hydrocarbons such as oil, thinners and petrol from contaminated wastewater. Research found that the effectiveness of these systems not only relied on regular cleaning and servicing of the system, but also the type and brand of cleaning agents and degreasers used.

# North Metropolitan Coastcare Tour 2008

The metropolitan Coastcare Program thrives on the dedication and enthusiasm of the many volunteers that contribute their time to coastal rehabilitation projects in the region.

The majority of these volunteers possess a vast amount of knowledge relating to their local areas – including historical, cultural and environmental awareness. This interest and passion is invaluable to the success of any community-driven project, and an opportunity to share their knowledge and skill with others gives volunteers an added incentive to learn more; gain new perspectives on environmental projects; and find the motivation to continue on with the fantastic work they do – as well as the chance to ‘show off’ their achievements!

With this in mind, the North Metropolitan Coastcare Tour (held in December 2008) was organised to showcase the work of all the Coastcare groups in the area; allow volunteers to network and discuss their approaches to rehabilitation projects; and share successes and challenges. The tour was open to community volunteers, local government representatives and other interested stakeholders.

After meeting at Trigg Beach, the 28 tour participants headed north to the sites of Iluka, Mullaloo and Sorrento, where some fantastic coastal vegetation is being carefully preserved and improved by the hard-working members of Joondalup Community Coastcare Forum – finalists in the last National Landcare Awards. From here, the tour headed south to the challenging coastline of Waterman’s Bay and

North Beach, where the dedicated members of Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare shared the challenges of working on steep limestone sites and detailed their careful approach to current projects.

Cambridge Coastcare then took time to explain some of their current strategies for weed management, and tour participants were able to admire several of their past rehabilitation sites, which are exceptional examples of the results we are all aiming for. It was originally scheduled to venture further south to talk about the newly-established Swanbourne Coastal Alliance and their plans; as well as visit some of the long-standing Cottesloe Coastcare Association’s successful projects – unfortunately time ran out and the tour group returned to Trigg for a well deserved picnic and yet more chat!

The tour proved to be an enjoyable and worthwhile capacity-building exercise for volunteers and will become a regular feature on the Coastcare calendar. There are many more groups and individuals working on projects along the coast that are an inspiration to Coastcarers across the region, and events like this are a step towards getting these fantastic volunteers the recognition they surely deserve.



volunteers possess a vast amount of knowledge relating to their local areas

# Promotion of Energy Efficiency Assessment through Business Development Groups

Links established with business development groups, such as the Bayswater Trader Group Advisory Committee, the Belmont Business Advisory Group and Malaga Business Association have generated strong interest in the energy assessments developed by Perth Region NRM.

With growing pressure to use resources more efficiently and significant increases proposed for

the cost of electricity, small businesses are looking for expert advice and knowledge on how they can make their business more energy efficient. This demand has been reflected by Cities of Bayswater, Belmont and Swan who have agreed to fund subsidised energy audits that will be delivered to small businesses within their jurisdiction at no cost to the business.

## Rehabilitation of Coastal Dunes Workshop

Coastcare volunteers gathered in Kwinana to attend a workshop and field session on the rehabilitation of coastal dunes

In March 2009 over 20 community Coastcare volunteers gathered in Kwinana to attend a workshop and field session on the rehabilitation of coastal dunes. The workshop, funded by the Federal Government's Caring for our Country program, provided an opportunity for volunteers involved in on-ground rehabilitation projects to obtain relevant information from industry practitioners, state government and NGO representatives.

The workshop also provided the opportunity for volunteers to discuss rehabilitation techniques and to share lessons learnt from a variety of rehabilitation projects in the Perth metropolitan region.

Workshop sessions covered the planning of a rehabilitation project, how to apply for Coastwest funds, how to recruit and manage volunteers to

ensure a safe and happy event, the identification of coastal native plants and weed species and an in-depth session on the practical implementation of a rehabilitation project.

The workshop was followed by a site tour to Coogee Beach to look at the rehabilitation work that the City of Cockburn has been undertaking over the past seven years. It was apparent that a well managed rehabilitation project such as the Coogee Beach project has benefited from good planning, strong community involvement, efficient on-ground works and relevant monitoring to ensure a successful outcome is achieved.



# To the Future



The last two years have seen many changes in direction at both a State and Australian Government level. The changes have created significant levels of confusion and stress for Perth Region NRM and its partners, as projects intended to achieve long term outcomes were reduced or discontinued. However, change creates opportunity, and the new direction of the Strategic Plan and the associated business plans (see p6) are an example of this. For the first time Perth Region NRM and its stakeholders are setting their own direction, and will continue to strive to meet their new targets regardless of changes in Government policy and direction.

Where our targets dovetail with State and Australian Government funding programs we will work in close partnership, however, we will also seek other sources of funds to achieve our outcomes, including income through our subsidiary company Resilient Solutions and through external partnerships and sponsorships. Another major change associated with the new Strategic Plan is the ownership for delivery of the targets by members of the Board and Reference Groups. I sense a new level of interest and excitement from stakeholders as the business plans continue to take shape, a desire to work together, and a sense that 'we can do this'. Reference groups are forming alliances, and working jointly on key projects.

Partnerships are an essential component of our business, and we have recently signed several very important Partnership Agreements with the Kwinana Industry Council and Water Corporation. Other Partnership Agreements which are underway include South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, the WESROC group of Councils and the sub-regional NRM groups (SERCUL, EMRC and Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Management Group).

Our funding from State and Australian Government has been reduced to \$2.5 million, which is about half that of previous years, however, two months into this financial year we have doubled those funds from other sources, and we expect to increase that into the future. With the continued strong support of our stakeholders the future looks brighter than ever.

Perth Region NRM  
and its stakeholders  
are setting their own  
direction



# Governance

Perth Region NRM continues to adhere to good governance practices which is integral to our relationship with the State and Federal Government and all agencies/organisations the Board has contracts/partnerships and agreements with. In the 2009/10 year the Board will undergo a stringent review of all current policies and procedures to ensure governance issues remain effective. The Council is striving to achieve a “culture” of good governance within its entity and will resist the temptation to merely meet legal requirements.

Underpinning the development of new policies and reviewing existing policies will be the following values: Integrity, Professionalism, Efficiency, Accessibility and Accountability.

Key areas for review are: Board of Management – Governance, Our Organisation and Our People.

## Governance

- Structure the Board to add value.
- Promote ethical and responsible decision-making.
- Safeguard integrity in financial reporting.
- Timely and balanced disclosure.
- Respect the rights of Stakeholders.
- Recognise and manage risk.
- Encourage enhanced performance.
- Remunerate fairly and responsibly.
- Board Member Induction.

## Our Organisation

- Ensure the organisation has systems and processes that maximise effectiveness and efficiency.
- Investing in ourselves and our partners, readily sharing knowledge, expertise and information.

## Our people

- To maintain professional standards and a positive, safe and productive workplace that values diversity.
- Maintain occupational health and safety practices.
- Maintain and promote employment diversity.
- Provide and support enhanced learning and development opportunities for staff.
- Seek and respond appropriately to feedback from staff.
- Working towards our common cause.



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