

Foreword

Environmental restoration provides a significant opportunity to build and repair relationships across all sectors of our community as we repair our environment.

Noel Nannup (an elder from the regional Nyoongar community) elegantly summed this up in the following way:

“If you heal the land and rivers you will heal the people”

This is the guiding premise behind the development of the Swan Catchment Council's Swan Region Strategy.

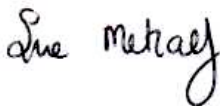
This Strategy represents a leap of faith for both the State and Australian Governments. It challenges them to accept the idea that the community can drive the management of our natural resources, through effective partnerships and utilising sound scientific advice.

The community collectively possess great wisdom. They have often seen resources ineffectively managed by successive Governments and the private sector. In times of scarce resources replication of effort is not sustainable. This Strategy provides an opportunity for the community to express their concerns and to ensure that this waste does not continue.

It is my sincere hope that this Strategy will lead to a logical rationalisation of programs for environmental protection and enhancement. Further, I hope the impetus for this change will occur at the community level, leading to a genuine partnership with the Government. To make this dream a reality, we must first build a genuine and lasting sense of trust between the Government and the community it serves.

The Nyoongar people of the Swan Region have lived and worked harmoniously with the land for 40,000 years. They have been closely involved in the development of this Strategy and have much to offer in raising awareness about the connections between our land and its people in the broader community.

We have a genuine opportunity to deliver good natural resource management outcomes in the Swan Region. We have the commitment of the State and Australian Governments and now is the time to deliver on those commitments.



Sue Metcalf
Chairperson
Swan Catchment Council
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