



Perth Region
NRM

update

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In this edition we provide an update on existing projects as well as those that have been recently completed.

On behalf of all staff at Perth Region NRM we would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and safe festive season!

Program News

Natural Diversity

Weeds of National Significance:

Perth region Boneseed control has been successfully completed for this season exceeding the Federal Government target by 19%. The programme located more mature & outlying plants than last year. This significant improvement may be attributed to more staff time on the ground and significant community help. This project has run concurrently with a wider State campaign to raise awareness and educate the community about the need for Boneseed identification and eradication. In most sites the control occurred before seed set and as such is the critical step toward eradication.

Black Cockatoo Project:

Birds Australia is working with the Dieback Working Group and Murdoch University to protect habitat for the Carnaby's Cockatoo by controlling the threat of Dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*). Revegetation work is also planned to increase the area of native habitat.

The group has completed a number of Great Cocky Counts with outstanding community engagement.

Threatened Ecological Communities:

All weed mapping has been completed for prioritised sites containing Threatened Ecological Communities.

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[Water Quality Improvement Plans](#)

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[Post Fire Restoration of Bennet Brook Project](#)

collaboration
alignment **facilitation**
access contact
brokering environmental change
outcome focused
streamline

Water Quality Improvement Plans

Bayswater Brook Catchment Study:

A Bayswater Brook Action Plan is being finalised and it is significant as it is the first time a collaborative approach has been implemented within catchment management in WA. A feature of the Plan is completion of research by the CSIRO to better understand the sources and pathways between surface and groundwater of all pollutants for the first time in a metropolitan catchment.

Sustainable Agricultural Management:

The Wine Industry Association has partnered with Perth Region NRM to undertake a new project to minimise the impact of fertiliser use from horticulturalists. The project is funded by the Federal Government's Caring for our Country (CfoC) program. CfoC's objective is to remediate declining water quality of priority coastal hotspots through implementing on ground management action.

Project Officer, Keith Pekin, is leading a team to develop trial sites throughout Perth's horticultural precincts. Detectors are strategically placed to collect samples of irrigated water as it moves through the soil profile. Data collected from the trial sites will assist producers to optimise their fertiliser usage as well as to minimise environmental impacts, particularly water quality of the Swan and Canning River systems and groundwater reserves.

The partnership between PRNRM and Fruit West, the new orchard industry peak body, has proved successful in promoting the joint project to address the issue of poor or declining water quality in coastal hotspots. To date citrus, stone and pome fruit producers have been identified and engaged to collect, analyse and measure fertiliser leachates.

Industry Audits:

The industry project has completed over 300 audits of small businesses in industrial areas draining into the Swan Canning River system since July 2011. The project team have also assisted 51 non-compliant businesses to ceasing illegal nutrient rich discharge.

Coastcare:

Since July 2011, Coastcare Officers Kate Sputore and Craig Wilson have worked with over 20 groups and organisations to undertake coastal rehabilitation, restoration and conservation activities. These groups include schools who are participants in the Adopt a Beach program to local coastcare groups to corporates such as Woodside and BHP Billiton undertaking staff volunteer activities. The November 2011 issue of the Perth Metro Coast News is now available for download from the Perth Region NRM website!

Indigenous Engagement:

Cheryl-Anne has been working with Now Green, Local Government Aboriginal trainees, and SWALSC to provide support for Aboriginal peoples participating in on ground Caring For Our Country Activities. These activities include working on country with Weeds of National Significance, Revegetation projects along the coast and the Swan and Canning Rivers and the Carnabys Cockatoo project. In addition, Perth Region NRM will be developing a web based database that will identify the Noongar significance and knowledge of Perth endangered and rare flora and fauna. This information will be available to the public via the Perth Region NRM website during mid-2012. Workshops will also be offered to assist those working on country to have a unique understanding of the Noongar connection to country and the flora and fauna of the Perth Metropolitan area.

Post Fire Restoration of Bennett Brook Project:

This project to restore indigenous habitat in 10 hectares of burnt bushland in Bennett Brook Reserve is now finished and successfully met all its key objectives including regenerating native vegetation, eradicating Blackberry, removal of other weeds including Lantana and reducing fire risk throughout the Reserve.

Through funding from the Swan River Trust and the State NRM office, the Friends of Bennett Brook have undertaken strategic revegetation throughout 2010/11 and have planted 11, 654 seedlings. Weed control was effective over 6ha of burnt land and 3ha of Blackberry has been controlled.

Restoration work will continue within Bennett Brook Reserve to provide important habitat for the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot, native fish, birds and other fauna.

Perth Region NRM is supported by



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Perth Region NRM Inc: 80 Great Northern Highway (Corner Bishop Road), MiddleSwan WA 6056
Postal Address: PO Box 2206, Midland WA 6936

www.perthregionnrm.com

enquiries@perthregionnrm.com

ph. (08) 9374 3333