

WESROC NEWS



Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

February 2019

Groundwater Restoration Plan

WESROC and the Department of Water (DoW) continue to collaborate conducting a study of the groundwater aquifers in the Western Suburbs. Understanding how water moves through the Kings Park formation, an important geological layer, will enable us to better manage groundwater. The combined investment by the department, and WESROC facilitates our scientific understanding of how groundwater moves in the aquifers beneath the western suburbs.

This knowledge will help the councils plan for future water supplies while leaving enough water in the ground to support ecosystems, including wetlands. In a meeting with DWER and WESROC's Water Project Officer Neil McGuinness, it was confirmed that modelling should be complete in mid to late March 2019. This will be presented at the new DWER offices in Joondalup.

Historical abstraction data for the previous 10yrs will be collated for the region with DWER indicating figures will be available by mid 2019. This will enable circumstances to be developed to test Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) scenarios on a source independent basis. Once infiltration and extraction points are

determined utilising "infiltration gallery" methodology, water will be infiltrated via the superficial aquifer.



Drilling inspection undertaken at Perry Lakes

Proactive research continues to "Connect the drops" WESROC's groundwater study aims to ensure we prepare for and adapt to anticipated severe water shortages .

In This Issue

- Groundwater Restoration
- Whadjuk Trails update
- Introduction to WESROC project officers
- NPSS continues to increase sales
- Rainbow Lorikeets
- Feral Animals
- Urban Forest

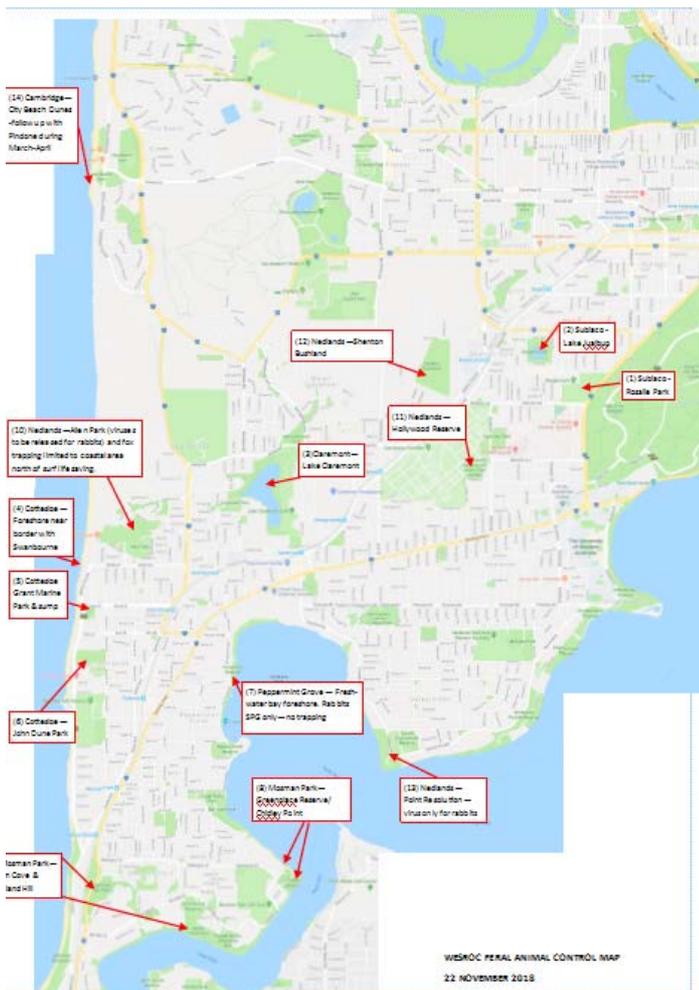
Feral Animals

Feral Animal control has been undertaken by WESROC since 2014 due to significant research demonstrating there is evidence of reduced survivability of native fauna, flora and impacts of biodiversity. The primary objective of the control program is to reduce the negative impact caused by foxes and feral cats through predation, and to reduce the negative impact that rabbits have on the environment through soil degradation, and competing for food.

Fox, cat and rabbit control was undertaken at 8 sites in response to recent reports of activity within reserves across the region. Studies validate that control needs to continue and discussion is underway about the development and implementation of a model for the control of Feral Animals.

The capture of an adult fox demonstrates the methodology used is an effective management tool with reduced activity from the 2017 program. This program also produced evidence demonstrating that the cat activity observed throughout a number of reserves prior to the program taking place, belongs to domestic cats and public notifications were effective in reminding cat owners to keep their pets on their property.

It is WESROC's intention to conduct feral animal monitoring and control in 2019 at 12 selected sites known to have feral animals. The Final report from the 2018 control outlined the program benefits with better results and findings where all three pest animal species were targeted simultaneously. In 2017, rabbits were controlled first, with fox and feral cat trapping programs undertaken later.



The above map depicts areas where feral animal control is needed within the WESROC area

During the control program, achievements included the capture of a feral cat and an adult male fox.

An internal review of the trapping program assessed minimising the likelihood of catching non-target species, whilst remaining effective. This investigation included the location and number of traps set, target areas and other factors that may contribute to capture. Consideration was given to the location of warning signs as any lapse in welfare outcomes from control programs is a negative result to any animal and should not be tolerated.

Recommendations included:

- Continuous monitoring ensuring control is undertaken at appropriate intervals and establishing a data base for public to record or report sightings of feral animals.
- Providing information to the public
- Assisting neighboring land tenures with involvement in similar projects, through participation and collaboration.
- Regular control efforts to ensure that populations cannot re-establish.

WALGA will be developing an eLearning module intended to be a training package for elected members, around the WESROC study.

Birdlife Australia and Rainbow Lorikeets

WESROC continue their partnership with Birdlife Australia investigating the impact of feral Rainbow Lorikeets on our native birds. A previous grant from State NRM facilitated monitoring which will continue later in the year.

An additional 2 years funding from Lotterywest will facilitate continuation of this process with the 2019 annual roost count in late February.

A further small grant from the State NRM office will facilitate investigating the use of artificial nests by



Rainbow Lorikeets. These results will assist to determine best practice population control.

Whadjuk Trails

The Whadjuk Trails, initiated in 2001 were funded by WESROC, Lotterywest and Department of Sport and Recreation with additional contributions from Perth NRM. Implementation of 6 Whadjuk trails traversing about 90km was completed late in 2017 and a comprehensive asset register has been developed to provide the basis for maintenance funding grants in the future.

These trails offer unique experiences linking Noongar, Heritage, Iconic, walking and cycling accessible trails that are dog friendly. They continue to attract to a variety of new users with current website analytics showing 12 203 new users making up 87%.

Demographics include 40% Australian, 32% United States and 20% Great Britain. Promotion of this asset could harness the lucrative Chinese market bringing visitors to the WEROC area.



WESROC welcomes new project officers

WESROC staffing changes have seen projects, slowed however we start 2019 with Sally Wallace (previously dedicated to Whadjuk Trails) returning to WESROC. Sally will administer the numerous projects currently being undertaken. Her understanding of WESROC brings with it familiarity, continuity and proven efficiency completing projects.

Neil McGuinness has recently taken on the role of WESROC Water Project Officer and brings a wealth of knowledge in this field having previously worked in Local Government, private industry and State Government roles within the water industry. Neil has previously been the State's Water and Environmental Regulator (having held senior management roles at both the Department of Health and the EPA Compliance Branch). He has project managed many recycled water and alternative water supply projects, including the Point Grey Development and the Tuart Lakes Lifestyle Village. Neil has also been involved with the development of recycled water policy and guidelines at a State and National level including working as a Strategy Manager – Non Drinking Water at the Water Corporation.



Sally Wallace

WESROC Project Officers



Neil McGuinness

NPSS—Native Plant Subsidy Scheme

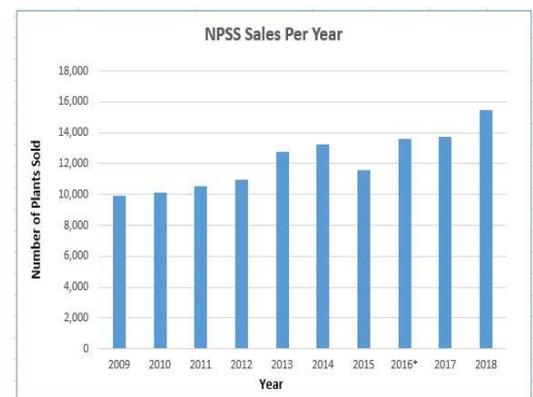


The native plant subsidy scheme (NPSS), established in 2008 has continued to gain momentum throughout the WESROC and Town of Cambridge councils. In 2018 the 15 449 plants sold to residents produced the greatest numbers to date—an effort to be proud of.



The NPSS scheme runs annually during Autumn. In 2019 residents will be offered plants at the subsidized cost of \$1.50 each. This arrangement will be available from 29th April to 31st May where the community Nursery APACE, based in North Fremantle, embrace the NPSS each year.

This scheme complements the Urban Forest Plan uniting the canopy cover effort and our concerns for water savings.



A selection of some of the beautiful native plant seedlings available this year.

Vegetation Aerial Imagery

In February 2018, the Greening plan was updated, and a resolution to investigate the Urban forest and Vegetation Imagery was reached.

Members of the WESROC executive committee agreed that the concept, able to provide High-resolution multispectral airborne imagery would benefit WESROC by providing accurate and reliable data for assessment on:

- Canopy and Vegetation Cover
- Land area and percentage of cover
- Changes over time split into wards
- Canopy cover over time
- Both land use and rezoning impacts
- Condition of forest and heat mapping



CURRENT WESROC PROJECTS

- Coordinated Corella Control
- Groundwater Aquifer Recharge
- National Plant Subsidy Scheme
- Birdlife Australia Rainbow Lorikeets Control
- Urban Forest Plan
- Feral Animal Control
- Greening Plan
- Whadjuk Trails