

WESROC NEWS



Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

December 2015



A Long-neck turtle

“Feral animal control is a really good example of councils working together on an issue that crosses our boundaries”.

- Mayor Jock Barker

Feral Animal Study and Control

Native animals such as the long-neck turtle (pictured above), ground nesting birds, quendas, and lizards are under threat from foxes hunting throughout the western suburbs bushland at night.

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) appointed Greening Australia to conduct a feral animal monitoring study to gain a better understanding of the distribution and relative abundance of foxes and rabbits in the area.

City of Nedlands Mayor, Max Hipkins, said “A number of motion sensor cameras were installed in bushland in early November as part of the monitoring project”.

It is anticipated recommended control measures will occur in January 2016 following data collection and analysis.

Town of Claremont Mayor, Jock Barker, said “This regional approach to feral animal control is a really good example of councils working together on an issue that crosses our boundaries”.

A detailed report will be provided to WESROC in May 2016 and the report is likely to be of interest to local governments across metropolitan Perth.

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River Foreshore

WESROC received an incomplete draft River Foreshore Management Plan (RFMP) from Seashore Engineering on 3 November 2015.

The report provides a management and adaptation sequence for 30 segments of river foreshore in the WESROC area for three time-scales. These are *risk mitigation* (0-5 years), *management pathways* (5-25 years) and *adaptation strategy* (>25 years).

The draft RFMP therefore contains much detail and work is continuing to condense the report – with the detailed works for each segment likely to be contained in the appendices.

At the broader WESROC level some of the issues identified and relevant to State Government management include:

- Interactions with private ownership;
- Resumption of privately-owned foreshore for subdivision;
- Material disposal costs (landfill levy); and
- Availability of sand for re-nourishment.

These broad issues are explained in the report, along with the vulnerability assessment of the foreshore, and the rationale behind the specific options for each council.

It is anticipated that the final report will be delivered in March 2016.

Groundwater Restoration

WESROC has been concerned about securing and future proofing supply of water for irrigating public open space for some years now. It began investigating options for the use of recycled water from the Water Corporation's Subiaco waste water treatment facility in 2013/14.

Groundwater quality has been on the agenda too, and this year further concerns have been raised in relation to this, and the suspected connection to tree stress. WESROC has been collaborating with the Department of Water and more recently with the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities.

Like most public policy issues, there are competing values, interests and resources. The Water Corporation for example have a preference for recharging the deeper Leederville aquifer for potable water supply. This of course stems from the successful Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) trial at Beenyup where a larger plant is now being constructed.

As such, there are essentially five proposals to be developed, costed, and compared on a cost / benefit basis to determine the greatest public good benefits. These are:

1. Stormwater infiltration (WESROC);
2. Non-potable Recycled Water MAR (WESROC);
3. Direct Pipe Store and Irrigate (WESROC);
4. Potable Recycled Water MAR (Water Corporation); and
5. Water Use Minimisation/Optimisation (DoW).

The latter is more a contributing option but may be costed and assessed at the same time.

WESROC also provided a submission to the recent Senate Inquiry into [Stormwater Management in Australia](#). The Senate Report highlighted stormwater as an under-utilised resource in Australia, and noted that a best practice management approach for managing stormwater in Perth differs to the approach needed in Melbourne.

There were no public hearings in Perth and the Committee therefore did not appreciate the importance of the Cottesloe Aquifer Recharge project or the superficial groundwater quality issues that Perth is currently experiencing.

Yange Kep Bidi Opening

On Friday 4 December 2015, the Yange Kep Bidi, the third trail in the Whadjuk Network of trails, was officially opened to the public with a ceremonial handing of the Message Stick to Mayor Keri Shannon of the Town of Cambridge. Noongar Elder Neville Collard conducted the Welcome to Country.

The Message Stick welcomes trail users to the area, and is shared among WESROC, with regular displays in libraries throughout the region.

Town of Cambridge CEO, Jason Buckley, provided recognition to the sponsors of the Whadjuk Trails. The advocacy and support from the elected members, WESROC Executive staff and Environmental Committee was clear with Friends and Community Groups, Lotterywest, the Department of Sport and Recreation, and Perth Region NRM all helping to ensure the continued successful development of the Whadjuk Trails.



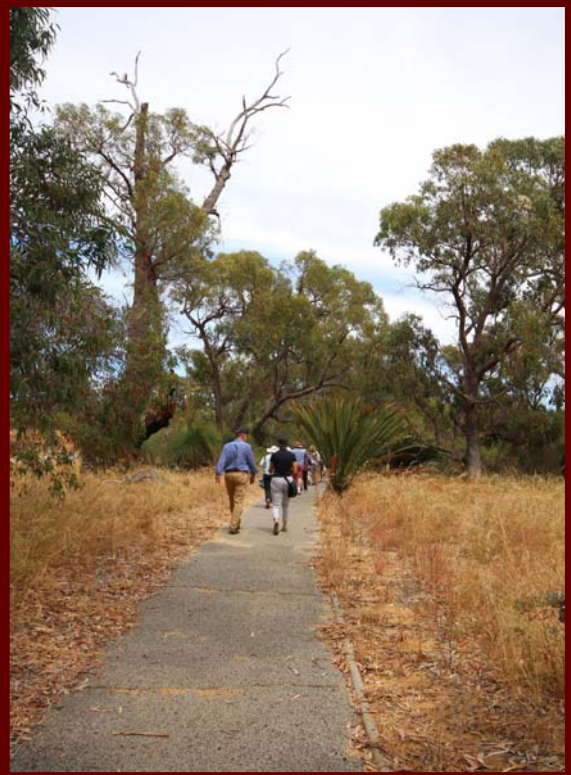
City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins with Neville Collard (Noongar Elder and story teller) presenting the Whadjuk Trails Message Stick to Town of Cambridge Mayor Keri Shannon.

Stephanie Clegg of the Friends of Bold Park Bushland invited attendees to experience a short 1km section of the 21.2km trail. The weather at an ideal 25 degrees enabled most to walk and experience the metropolitan bushland sector which effortlessly showcased the Yange Kep Bidi.

Town of Cambridge Mayor, Keri Shannon, said “WESROC and the Friends Groups should be proud of delivering such an asset to our community who will use it well in the future to foster an increased affection between our communities and their natural areas”.

The innovative QR codes enthralled listeners with Noongar stories whilst they marvelled at the tranquil bush escape within suburbia.

Walkers enjoy the tranquil bushland through Bold Park on route to Bold Park Aquatic Centre.



Town of Cambridge CEO, Jason Buckley, introduces walkers to the newly opened Bold Park Aquatic Centre where guests enjoyed refreshments and shared their experience of the Yange Kep Bidi.

Coastal Monitoring Along the Cottesloe Foreshore

The Town of Cottesloe abuts 4km of highly developed coastline. The beaches undergo both long and short-term erosion. Early studies from the 1950s and 60s demonstrate evidence of erosion within the local government boundaries, while early photographic records document periodic and severe erosion events resulting from storms.

While previous coastal management actions, such as construction of groynes and sand re-nourishment have mitigated and/or masked some of the current impacts of coastal hazards, the Town currently experiences short term erosion events from storms on an annual basis, with evidence of ongoing erosion and areas at risk.

As such the Town is committed to understanding coastal processes and change for the stretch of coast that lies within its jurisdiction. In 2014 funding was received through the Department of Transport's Coastal Adaptation and Protection Grant to implement a long-term coastal monitoring project.

Year one of the project involved the installation of two remote imagery units over North Cottesloe beach and Cottesloe main beach. The units were programmed to photograph one image every hour during daylight in order to capture a visual catalogue of coastal processes.

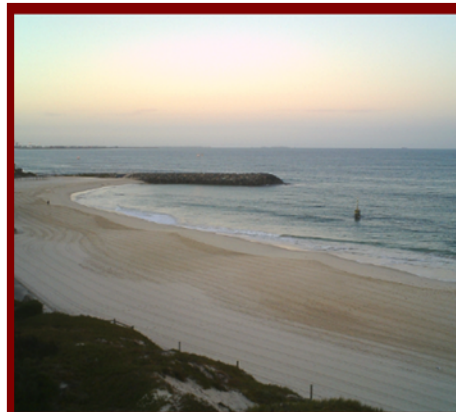
Furthermore biannual beach profile surveys were undertaken, at the end of winter and at the end of summer, to record seasonal changes and patterns present along the coastline as well as assist in identifying areas of erosion and accretion over the monitoring period.

It is anticipated that this project will continue on a long-term basis with the fundamental objective of providing greater understanding of coastal hazards, specifically erosion and accretion trends. By building a long-term data set the project aims to assist with identifying appropriate management options and enhance the Town's capacity to make sustainable decisions regarding future planning and coastal management.

The Cottesloe monitoring project will also provide important information to a range of local government authorities along the coast.



North Cottesloe beach



Cottesloe beach



Coastal profile survey

Contact Us

For further information about WESROC projects, to comment on the current articles, or for suggestions on future articles please send an email to vcusack@nedlands.wa.gov.au