

WESROC NEWS



Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

July 2017



Some of the attendees engaging with poster displays during the break at the protecting our coast and rivers community event.

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- Shire President Rachel Thomas

Protecting our coast and rivers: being climate smart

The need to protect our coast and rivers now, and into the future as a result of urbanisation and adapting to climate change was the main message highlighted at a community event in the Grove Library on Thursday 23 March.

About 60 people attended the Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) event “Protecting our coast and rivers”.

Rachel Thomas, Shire President of Peppermint Grove welcomed the community and presenters and said, “the aim of WESROC’s climate smart project is to highlight the need for us all to prepare for and adapt to Perth’s changing climatic conditions.

Coastal engineer and geomorphologist Tanya Stul provided a summary overview of WESROC’s river foreshore management plan (RFMP) that Seashore Engineering developed for the western suburbs ‘river councils’.

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1.53million groundwater study progressing

WESROC and the Department of Water (DoW) are collaborating to conduct a study of the groundwater aquifers in the western suburbs. The study will help plan future water supplies for irrigating green spaces, while ensuring there is enough water in the superficial aquifer to improve water quality, and support ecosystems such as wetlands, trees and vegetation. The current study is being delivered over two phases with various subprojects within each phase.

Phase 1 consisted of three subprojects in the initial pre-feasibility investigations. These were:

- Desktop review of water resources in the western suburbs of Perth Western Australia (DoW, 2016);
- Pre-feasibility study of western suburbs managed aquifer recharge of treated wastewater (GHD,2016); and
- Enhanced stormwater infiltration project plan (JDA, 2017).

The purpose of Phase 1 was to improve understanding of hydrogeology of the western suburbs area, assess further information requirements, develop a prefeasibility assessment of managed aquifer recharge (MAR) using treated wastewater and explore opportunities for enhanced stormwater infiltration in river sub catchments. WESROC is considering measuring the water quality and flows from the Herdsman and Subiaco main stormwater ocean outfalls as part of Phase 1



A collaboration agreement between the DoW, WESROC and the Town of Cambridge details a number of subprojects, milestones and funding commitments to deliver Phase 2.

Among the subprojects to be delivered in phase 2 by December 2018 are:

- Option evaluation of generic water recycling options;
- Conceptual and regulatory requirements scoping for MAR supply options;
- Groundwater investigation field work and model conceptualization; and
- Development of a numerical model.

The groundwater investigation field work involves surface geophysical surveys and drilling groundwater monitoring bores.

The DoW's Program Manager Robert Karelse said "the investigation will improve the department's understanding of how groundwater moves in the aquifers under the metropolitan region and will assist in finding sustainable solutions to maintain water levels in local wetlands".

City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said "WESROC, the DoW and the Water Corporation recognises the importance of potable and non-potable water supplies and are aiming for mutual benefits for the community, the aquifers and the environment."

Coastal and river vulnerability and risk

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The RFMP applied a vulnerability framework over three time frames:

- A one to five-year period considers the present state of the foreshore focusing on risk mitigation of acute events.
- A medium five to 25 year period looks at planning, identifying trends and developing management options.
- For more than 25 years, an adaptation strategy considers different scenarios with the aim of improving foreshore resilience, taking account of the predicted sea level rise.

Department of Parks and Wildlife river systems manager, Mark Cugley presented on the key pressures and challenges involved in managing the Swan Canning Riverpark. Some of the pressures include excess nutrients, algal blooms and fish deaths, shoreline setbacks, loss of vegetation development and recreation and reduced rainfall and stream flow.

DPaW's Healthy Catchments Program aims to reduce nutrients in priority catchments, fund on-ground restoration work by the community and phase out highly water soluble phosphate fertilisers.

Coastal adaptation coordinator Craig Perry provided an overview of the collaboration with the Peron Naturaliste Partnership, as well as the methodologies and outcome to date of the partnership's award-winning coastal adaptation project.

Cardno coastal and ocean engineer Daniel Strickland presented on the long-term monitoring of Cottesloe's beaches, highlighting the importance of coastal monitoring with local data serving as invaluable information in improving local knowledge of the area for the future.

GHD senior planners Colleen Thompson and Rachel Marie concluded with a presentation on the Port Leighton and Mosman Beach Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan.



Mike Ewing Cottesloe Coastcare Association with Town of Cottesloe's Sustainability Officer Melissa Rachan and Councillor Rob Thomas during the break at the protecting our coast and rivers community event.



River foreshore restoration at Point Resolution. Around 3000 local provenance species planted with limestone spalls at front.



Coastal reserve at Mudurup Rocks Cottesloe. Photo Courtesy Cottesloe Coastcare.

114,068 native plants sold in 10 years



Verge garden on Stubbs Terrace, Daglish showcasing some of Western Australia's beautiful native plants.

The native plant subsidy scheme (NPSS) continues to be popular throughout the western suburbs with 13,741 plants sold to residents this year. The scheme runs annually each May in the WESROC and Town of Cambridge councils.

City of Subiaco Mayor Heather Henderson commended WESROC, APACE and residents for embracing the NPSS each year and said the scheme complements the plantings along the railway road reserve. "Feedback from residents is always positive with comments about the stunning colours, low maintenance and water savings".

The NPSS started in 2006 and WESROC has kept plant sales data since 2008. Over the last 10 years residents purchased 114, 068 plants at the subsidised price of \$1.50 each from APACE community nursery 1 Johannah Street, North Fremantle.

Whadjuk Trails

Trails were initiated in 2001 when Friends groups introduced the concept of bush trails in the urban setting. Whadjuk Trails have been funded by WESROC, Lotterywest, and DSR with additional contributions from Perth NRM. The support of diverse industry funding has been critical to the successful implementation of Whadjuk trails, WESROC's flagship project since 2011.

Grant funding of \$230,000 has returned 90 km of trails implemented and opened in stages as follows:

- Bush to Beach September 2013.
- Wardun Beelier Bidi May 2014.
- Yange Kep Bidi December 2015.
- Karda and Karak Bidi November 2016.
- Bidi Bo Djinoong 2017.

The Whadjuk Trail Network gained National Recognition in September 2015 when preserved by the National Library of Australia on their Pandora Website.

Trails offer unique experiences linking Noongar, Heritage, Iconic, walking, cycling accessible trails that are dog friendly to a vast variety of users.



WHADJUK TRAILS FUNDING TABLE

