

## Seaplane landings to be trialled on the Swan River

Tuesday, 18 November 2014

Catalina Airlines will shortly be commencing a 12 month trial to land seaplanes on the Swan River. Members of the public are invited to comment on the location of the seaplane landing area and the potential long-term use of the river for the landing of commercial seaplanes.

The trial will include the landing of Cessna 208 Caravan seaplanes between the South Perth PWC Freestyling Area and Milyu Marine Park eight times a day between 8am and 5.30pm seven days a week.

The seaplanes have the capacity to carry up to 11 passengers and will approach/depart the marked landing area via the centre of Melville Water. A support vessel will be present to check the landing area for marine and bird life and other watercraft before each take-off and landing.

Statutory Planning acting manager Jennifer Stritzke said the Swan River Trust may consider extending the seaplane trial by six months, to allow for the operation to run over two peak periods, if it is evident that the continuation of the trial will not unnecessarily impact on the community, wildlife or waterway.

"A number of management plans and response strategies will be in place during the trial to ensure that practices are put in place to protect the wildlife and the river during the operation," Ms Stritzke said.

"The proximity of the seaplane landing area to Milyu Marine Park and Nature Reserve was one of the major considerations for the Trust, as this area has been set aside as a refuge for migratory wading birds protected under international agreements.

"In an effort to protect birdlife, the seaplanes and support vessel are not permitted to enter the Milyu Marine Park and an exclusion/ no fly zone has been established 300 metres from the shore to minimise shadowing and disturbance of birds in the area.

"Restricting the seaplanes from flying close to the Como foreshore will also greatly reduce any noise impacts on nearby residences."

An overall assessment including environmental and community aspects of the operation will be undertaken by the Trust following completion of the 12 month trial. This will be used to inform future decisions on the long-term use of the river for the landing of commercial seaplanes.

Ms Stritzke said that comments received during the trial period will help guide further consideration of applications to use the river for similar activities.

Further information and a copy of the approvals with conditions granted by the Trust for this seaplane trial can be viewed on the Trust's [development applications page](#) or be obtained by contacting the Trust on 9278 0900.

Submissions should be lodged by close of business on 27 November 2015 by email to [planning@swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au](mailto:planning@swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au) or post to General Manager, Swan River Trust, at PO Box 6829, East Perth WA 6892.

[View the licence and permit conditions](#) (opens as a 7.2MB PDF).

## **Swan Canning Riverpark interpretation plan developed**

**Tuesday, 11 November 2014**

A new framework for communicating and sharing the cultural values of the Swan Canning Riverpark has been developed by a specialist interpretation team at the National Trust of Australia (WA).

The project has delivered [marli riverpark - an Interpretation Plan for the Swan and Canning Riverpark](#). Marli is the noongar word for black swan.

National Trust Communications and Interpretations officer Gina Pickering said the project included an extensive audit of social values associated with the Riverpark.

“Working closely with a Noongar Advisory Panel, the project includes an extensive audit of social values documenting 740 artworks, more than 1,200 images and over 120 oral histories,” Ms Pickering said.

“The project has delivered a range of recommendations and practical approaches for stakeholders connected to the riverscape.”

Ms Pickering said a digital map featuring 450 heritage sites and a library of cultural assets was created as part of the project which will serve as a readily accessible reference guide to heritage sites across the Riverpark.

“Key to the interpretation plan is the understanding that government and community groups play vital roles in the interpretation of the riverscape,” Ms Pickering said.

Swan River Trust Recreation and Trails project officer Ben Ansell said a vital component of the project was the engagement of the Noongar Advisory Panel that provided valuable guidance relating to interpretation of indigenous culture and heritage.

“The interpretation plan will help guide the Trust and other stakeholders who play vital roles in the interpretation of the Riverpark.

“It serves as a key input to the Riverpark Trail Project, which aims to improve recreational experience through interpretation of the social, historical, Noongar and natural values of the Riverpark.”

For further information about the interpretation plan, Riverpark Heritage Map or library of cultural resources, please visit the [River Culture and Heritage page](#) of this website, or contact the Swan River Trust’s Recreation and Trails Project Officer on 9278 0906.

## **Riverbank funding boon for river health**

**Wednesday, 6 August 2014**

- More than \$466,000 in funding to protect Swan and Canning rivers
- Funding to result in 13 projects across riverside suburbs

The Swan and Canning rivers are set to benefit from \$466,475 in funding for foreshore restoration works as part of the State Government's commitment to improve the health of the rivers.

Announcing the funding today, Environment Minister Albert Jacob said 13 projects across 10 riverside local governments and the Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils would benefit from the Riverbank Funding Program.

"This funding is in addition to \$3million allocated over three years in the 2014-15 State Budget," Mr Jacob said.

"We want people to enjoy our magnificent rivers and the abundance of recreation opportunities they offer.

"What these grants will do is help enhance and protect riverbanks and shorelines so access is improved, while at the same time safeguarding the environment.

"The grants will see foreshores stabilised, degraded sites revegetated, valuable infrastructure protected and, as a result, river users will enjoy improved access and safety.

"The funding will make sure practical on-ground works and long-term management plans can be developed and completed to protect the future of the rivers.

"A key feature of the Riverbank Funding Program is that local councils that receive grants match these funds. This is an excellent example of local and State governments working together to improve the health and amenity of the Swan and Canning rivers."

### **Fact File**

- Since 2008, the Liberal National Government has invested more than \$9.2m in 100 projects focused on riverbank restoration
- 2014-15 State Budget allocated \$3m over three years for foreshore works; \$1m invested in 2014-15 will see works in South Perth, Belmont and Bayswater

## **Reel it in clean-up leaves Bayswater foreshore a safer place**

**Monday, 19 May 2014**

The inaugural Reel it in fishing line clean-up day at Hinds Reserve has been a huge success with more than one kilometre of potentially deadly fishing line removed from the banks of the Swan River.

The Swan River Trust teamed up with the City of Bayswater, Clean Marine Keep Australia Beautiful, Native Animal Rescue and Recfishwest to clean up the popular Bayswater foreshore and to spread the message that discarded fishing waste can kill or injure animals.

Trust Communications manager Mark Thornley said stormy conditions failed to deter a band of 50 dedicated community volunteers and thanks to their efforts the Bayswater foreshore is now a cleaner and safer place.

“It was a fantastic effort from all those involved and we hope to make this an annual event,” Mr Thornley said.

“All up, we removed more than a 1km of fishing line, 34 hooks, 148 bait bags and more than 47 bags of general rubbish including 121 cans and bottles.”

Mr Thornley said the clean-up day formed part of a larger Reel it in campaign for fishing line disposal bins installed at popular fishing locations throughout the Swan Canning Riverpark.

The fishing line bin project focuses on reducing fishing line entanglements impacting dolphins, pelicans and other wildlife in the Riverpark.

“We are very pleased with this response but the amount of fishing gear collected underscores the message about the dangers of fishing line entanglements,” Mr Thornley said.

“Since the fishing line bin trial began in December last year, the Trust has installed 22 units at jetties, fishing platforms and under traffic bridges in the Riverpark. The initial data suggests we will collect over 25 kilometres of fishing line per year.

“The program will be a success when we can no longer collect this amount of dangerous waste from our river.”

Another eight bins are scheduled to be installed at the Fremantle Port Authority and Cockburn City Council has also installed two units. The Trust has also fielded a number of requests from Riverpark yacht clubs to get involved.

## **Investing in Infrastructure to Grow the State - State Budget 2014-15**

**Wednesday, 14 May 2014**

- \$3m for Swan and Canning foreshore projects
- Budget delivers \$3million over three years for foreshore projects
- Projects improve river access and safety

River users will benefit from a \$3million State Government commitment to improve the accessibility and safety of the Swan and Canning river foreshores.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the 2014-15 investment in \$1million of foreshore works in South Perth, Belmont and Bayswater was a partnership between State and local governments to significantly improve shoreline conditions while providing major benefits to river health.

“We want people to enjoy our magnificent rivers and the abundance of recreational opportunities. The result of this funding will be improved access and safety for river users, cyclists and pedestrians,” Mr Jacob said.

The work includes:

- replacing damaged river walls in the City of Bayswater
- stabilising the eroded foreshore and enhancing public access at Garvey Park in Belmont
- replacing river walls near the Mends Street Jetty.

Treasurer Mike Nahan said since 2008, the Liberal National Government had invested more than \$9.2million in 100 riverbank restoration projects.

Dr Nahan said the \$3million provided in the 2014-15 State Budget was in addition to the \$1million a year spent on the Riverbank program.

### **Fact File**

- An initial \$1million in 2014-15 will be shared among the cities of South Perth, Belmont and Bayswater
- Funds for 2015-16 and 2016-17 will be allocated on a priority basis
- Total investment of \$6million by the State Government over the next three years could generate \$12million for foreshore works and the Riverbank program with local government matching contributions

## **Nutrient stripping wetland underway**

**Tuesday, 11 March 2014**

Construction of a nutrient stripping wetland on the Ellen Brook has begun.

Swan River Trust Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan coordinator Kate Bushby said stage one of the project would take three months to complete.

“The first stage, will involve the creation of one wetland basin on the floodplain of the site, approximately 800 m<sup>2</sup> of bank stabilisation works, the installation of an access path, riffle and a pumping system and revegetation with almost 50, 000 native plants,” Ms Bushby said.

“The wetland has been designed as a compartmentalised system, allowing for up to seven basins to be constructed in stages and it will use the same proven principles of other constructed wetlands to improve the quality of incoming water prior to it being released.”

Ms Bushby said the wetland system would use a combination of shallow and deep, vegetated and non-vegetated zones to maximise water quality improvement.

“Once fully constructed the wetland will use a series of innovative offline basins to treat water before returning it to the Ellen Brook,” Ms Bushby said.

“This innovation extends to the use of IronMan Gypsum that enhances nutrient removal. IronMan Gypsum has been proven in laboratory and field trials to provide consistently high phosphorous removal and is a key element in this project.”

Ms Bushby said initial works, which included the application of Phoslock in late 2013, were already making a difference to the quality of water entering the Swan River from the brook.

“Water quality monitoring clearly showed that a reduction in phosphorus, one of the main nutrients contributing to algal blooms in the Swan Canning river system, occurred following the application of Phoslock®,” Ms Bushby said.

“The application of Phoslock® is believed to have reduced the phosphorus load entering the Swan River from the Ellen Brook in 2013 by up to 500kg and positive results are expected to continue.

“The first stage of the Ellen Brook Wetland is estimated to remove 270 kg of phosphorus and 330 kg of nitrogen per year. Additional stages of works will further increase the quantity of nutrients removed from the Ellen Brook before it flows into the Swan River.”

## **2014 Australian Riverprize Now Open!**

**Tuesday, 18 November 2014**

The International RiverFoundation is now accepting applications for the 2014 [Australian Riverprize](#).

Riverprize gives recognition, reward and support to those who have developed and implemented outstanding, visionary and sustainable programs in river management.

Valued at \$200,000, the Australian Riverprize is comprised of a cash prize and a Twinning grant, enabling best practice to be shared in a peer-to-peer knowledge exchange program with another river basin organisation.

Applications can be submitted online and any organisation involved in river, wetland, lake, or estuary restoration or protection is encouraged to apply for the Australian Riverprize.

Applications will be judged by a panel of experts on criteria including the integration of programs, collaborative approaches and demonstrated achievements. Joint applications submitted on behalf of a group of organisations are welcome.

Applications are due to be submitted by 9 May 2014, and shortlisted applicants will then be invited to proceed to stage two of the application process. Finalists will be announced in July, and the overall prize will be awarded in front of an international audience at the Riverprize Gala Dinner in Canberra on 16 September, as part of the [17th International Riversymposium](#).

[Click here for further information](#)

[Click here to apply now](#)

## **New Boat carries Noongar name**

**Friday, 7 March 2014**

The Swan River Trust has named its new boat Kwilana - the Noongar word for dolphin – in recognition of the central role the Swan and Canning rivers play in the lives of the Noongar people.

Whadjuk Noongar traditional owner Ingrid Cumming today blessed the boat with a traditional smoking ceremony to prepare it for its role in protecting and managing the river for the entire community.

It's inclusion in the Trust's fleet was made possible with State Government contribution of more than \$200,000.

Trust chairman Professor Mick Poole said the Aboriginal name acknowledged the spiritual and cultural connection Noongar people had to the Swan Canning Riverpark.

"The Noongar people have been caring for and respecting the Swan and Canning rivers for more than 40,000 years," Professor Poole said.

"It is only fitting that the Trust's new boat, which is also charged with continuing that legacy, carries a Noongar name."

Professor Poole said the Kwilana would replace the ageing patrol vessel Noel Robins which was bought by a private charter company after being a fixture in the Riverpark for a decade.

"The new eight metre boat has been purpose-built for river sampling, patrols and inspections," Professor Poole said.

"It has several improvements on the Noel Robins, including a wider deck providing more work space for staff, improved dry storage area and improved electronic equipment and communications.

Professor Poole said the boat would serve the Trust and the community for a decade.

## **Dolphin Watch data goes global**

**Wednesday, 19 February 2014**

Western Australia's most successful citizen science program Dolphin Watch can now share data instantly on the Perth's river dolphins to a global community and international scientists following the release of a specialised App.

Swan River Trust River Guardians Program manager Marnie Giroud said the new technology, which linked into the Coastal Walkabout project an initiative between Murdoch University and US-based Duke University and the Marine Ventures Foundation – was a technological leap forward.

"The new App will allow Dolphin Watch volunteers to share dolphin sightings, photos and video with a global community of scientists," Ms Giroud said.

"Simplifying the data collection process, using the latest smartphone technology, will significantly improve the quality and flow of information and it will help researchers track dolphin movements, identify individual animals, determine key behaviour patterns and provide an early warning system for dolphin entanglements."

Ms Giroud said the data collected by Dolphin Watch volunteers would still be accessed by the Coastal and Estuarine Dolphin Project and assessed by Murdoch and Curtin universities.

"The App was developed by Perth based Gaia Resources to enhance access to the Dolphin Watch data and increase global information exchange on Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins," Ms Giroud said.

"It will help us better manage and protect the Swan Canning Riverpark dolphins and will contribute to a global perspective on marine animals by increasing the volume and quality of information flowing to scientists," Ms Giroud said.

Ms Giroud said only trained Dolphin Watch volunteers could access the full functionality of the App to protect the integrity of the data. The Swan River Trust will hold extra training sessions to help ensure the general public can access the App and join the global initiative.

"We want people out there using this exciting technology and making a significant contribution to science," Ms Giroud said.

"It's hoped that more West Australians embrace this citizen science project because the more eyes we have on the river, the stronger the future of our Riverpark dolphins."

### **Fact File**

- Dolphin Watch was launched in 2009 and there are now 600 trained volunteers
- Forty – including ten mother and calf pairs – use the Swan Canning Riverpark and at least 22 of those use the river on a regular basis.
- For more information on how to become a Dolphin Watch volunteer, visit [www.riverguardians.com](http://www.riverguardians.com)

## **Riverbank funding applications open for 2014**

**Tuesday, 18 February 2014**

Applications are now open for the 2014-15 round of Riverbank Funding.

Directed at local governments, Riverbank Funding has distributed more than \$12 million across 200 projects since 2002. Along with partner contributions, the value of these projects is estimated at over \$25 million. The Swan River Trust initiates shoreline protection and rehabilitation works through the funding. The Trust supports this funding with partnership arrangements formed with local government. Community participation is encouraged in Riverbank projects.

Guidelines and application forms are available on the [Riverbank Funding](#) page on the Trust website. Applications close 5pm Friday 11 April 2014.

## **Community to bring back river prawns**

**Thursday, 6 February 2014**

The Perth community now has an opportunity to join an exciting project focused on the Western School Prawns in the Swan and Canning rivers following the launch of Prawn Watch.

The citizen science program is an integral part of the Western School Prawn program that aims to restock the rivers and reignite the once popular pastime of prawning on the Swan and Canning rivers.

Swan River Trust principal scientist Dr Kerry Trayler said Prawn Watch would complement the research program – which includes culturing the Western School Prawn for release and understanding factors limiting recruitment – by getting the community actively involved.

“Through Prawn Watch, the Swan River Trust is encouraging people to get back into the water and share information on river prawns to help scientists understand what’s happening to the prawns,” Dr Trayler said.

“There are still prawns in the river but they are less common than in the past and initially Prawn Watchers will be making a far greater contribution to science by sharing vital data while the restocking program tackles the population’s decline.”

Dr Trayler said the Trust would provide a free training session and some great incentives to all Prawn Watch volunteers.

“Our volunteers will be taught to collect and log data on the abundance and distribution of prawns on a specially developed website and they will also learn the importance of returning all by-catch, including blowies, protecting the foreshore and sustainable fishing,” Dr Trayler said.

“It’s important we teach the next generation key tools to protect the fishery.

“The community can then connect with the river in a sustainable way and preserve activities, such as prawning, that go to the heart of Perth’s connection to the Swan and Canning rivers.”

Challenger Institute of Technology director Greg Jenkins said his team at the Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research had developed ground-breaking systems to culture the river prawn and large-scale releases were now a fortnightly reality.

“This project is not about re-establishing a commercial fishery, it’s about helping the community engage with the river and science” Mr Jenkins said.

“We now have the systems in place to culture and release up to a million juvenile prawns during the breeding season from December to April.

Recfishwest chief executive Dr Andrew Rowland said the success of the program to date and Prawn Watch was a perfect way for the community to get back into enjoying fishing for river prawns particularly over the summer period.

“The Swan and Canning rivers are popular recreational fishing sites and perfect for families,” Dr Rowland said.

“The Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund relies on contributions from recreational fishing licence money and we are excited to see this money going back into recreational fishing to produce tangible benefits for the community,”

This project was made possible by the Swan River Trust, Challenger Institute of Technology and the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and is supported by Recfishwest and the WA Department of Fisheries.

There is also a complementary research program at Murdoch University, funded through the Fisheries Research Development Corporation, associated with the restocking project and data from Prawn Watch will contribute to understanding the distribution and abundance of the Western School Prawn.

To get involved in Prawn Watch log on to <http://www.riverguardians.com/projects/prawn-watch>