

New master plan for Swan and Canning rivers

Tuesday, 20 October 2015

- River protection strategy outlines future management of the rivers
- One whole-of-Government shared vision and approach

Perth's much-loved Swan and Canning rivers will remain vibrant and accessible for all West Australians under a new State Government strategy released today.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy provided a master plan to guide investment, keep the rivers healthy and ensure they were accessible for the community to enjoy in the long term.

"For the first time, we have a whole-of-Government strategy that sets out a shared vision on what needs to be done to make sure our rivers are better protected while meeting the demands of a growing city," Mr Jacob said.

"This strategy will better co-ordinate work between the government agencies involved in managing the rivers with the aim of improving benefits to the community and ensuring the rivers continue to be attractive and desirable places.

"This improved integration between agencies will lead to more efficient use of the State Government's substantial investment in the management of our rivers with better outcomes for river health and community use and enjoyment."

The Minister said the Government had already implemented some priority projects outlined in the strategy, including reducing excess nutrients, improving oxygen levels in the rivers and supporting riverbank restoration to enhance natural and cultural values.

The State Government has developed nutrient stripping wetlands at Ellen Brook and in Bayswater and has upgraded river oxygenation systems in the Canning River. More than \$16 million has been allocated to the Department of Parks and Wildlife in 2015-16 for the management of the Swan and Canning rivers.

"A key priority is encouraging greater community awareness and collaboration with about \$2 million provided this financial year for priority Riverbank projects," Mr Jacob said.

Implementation of the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy is led by an interagency working group co-ordinated by the [Department of Parks and Wildlife](#).

Fact File

- The strategy has been developed in partnership with 21 local government authorities, State Government agencies, NRM groups and extensive community consultation
- The Swan Canning River Protection Strategy is required by the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006 and follows the release of a draft strategy for public comment in 2011

Nutrient-stripping wetland on track

Monday, 21 September 2015

Earthworks at the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary in Bayswater are complete and the planting of 170,000 native plants is set to transform the degraded wetland into a lush habitat for wildlife.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the next phase of the \$3 million project to restore the sanctuary was critical in also reducing harmful phosphorus and nitrogen loads entering the river from Bayswater Brook.

Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary is the second wetland the Liberal National Government has invested in during the past 15 months to reduce the amount of nutrients flowing into the Swan and Canning rivers. The \$4.05 million Ellen Brook wetland was completed in March 2014 and will be commissioned this year.

"The sanctuary will prevent almost 40 tonnes of sediment and rubbish, 1.3 tonnes of nitrogen and 200 kilograms of phosphorus from entering the Swan River every year," Mr Jacob said.

"Nutrient-stripping wetlands are an effective tool in reducing nutrient loads and these wetlands are part of the State Government's commitment to improving water quality and ensuring the long-term future of the Swan and Canning rivers."

Water from Bayswater Brook will be diverted into the Eric Singleton wetland where it will pass through a pollutant trap that removes rubbish, sand and other large material. The water will then flow through alternating deep and shallow vegetated wetland areas where natural processes will improve water quality.

The Minister said the wetland would be fully operational next year once the plants had grown to a height to allow the wetland to be filled.

"Once revegetation of the new wetland is complete, we expect to see an increase in the number of animals and biodiversity at the site," he said.

"Restoration of this wetland was our election commitment and it's pleasing to see work on this important project progress with such a high level of community support."

Mr Jacob thanked the City of Bayswater for its environmental vision and financial commitment to this important wetland project.

Fact File

- The State Government has contributed \$1.2 million to the project and the City of Bayswater has contributed \$1.8 million
- More than 30 different local native plant species will be returned to the bird sanctuary through the project

City of Melville interpretation works planned

Monday, 21 September 2015

A joint project between the City of Melville and the Department of Parks and Wildlife will see visitor interpretation facilities installed at Bicton Baths, Point Walter and Heathcote.

Parks and Wildlife will install facilities including wooden deck structures with seating and multi-media interpretation at each of the selected sites.

These are designed to enhance the experience for recreational users, while also communicating the natural and cultural heritage values of the Swan and Canning rivers and the surrounding foreshore.

During the installation of the interpretation facilities, access to some areas may be restricted or closed and those people who may be directly affected have been notified.

Parks and Wildlife and the City of Melville will work together to ensure minimum inconvenience to users of the areas.

Temporary signage has been installed at each of the interpretation sites providing information.

Parks and Wildlife has appointed a contractor for the installation works, with construction expected to begin by Monday 5 October and be completed by Monday 30 November. Natural vegetation in the areas will not be impacted.

For more information on this project, please contact Ben Ansell, Riverpark Project Officer on (08) 9442 0300. For more information on the broader interpretation plan for the Riverpark, visit the [river culture and heritage page](#) of this website.

Students take up fight to keep waterways clean

Wednesday, 9 September 2015

- Willetton Senior High School wins best video from more than 70 entries

Fisheries Minister Ken Baston today congratulated school students for helping to protect Western Australia's waterways by raising awareness of the risks of dumping non-native fish species.

Mr Baston said students from Willetton Senior High School won the Don't Dump That Fish video competition, run by the Department of Parks and Wildlife in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries.

More than 70 entries from 20 schools were received for the competition, which urged students to come up with a clever way to highlight the need to keep pest fish out of waterways and rivers.

Mr Baston presented Willetton Senior High School students with a certificate as they took part in their award-winning cruise on the Swan and Canning rivers.

"Willetton's winning video explains why it is vitally important not to release aquarium fish in WA's rivers and lakes or drains that lead into waterways," he said.

"Not only can some of those fish out-compete native species by consuming their food and taking up their habitat, they can also spread disease.

"It's not just aquarium fish that are a concern, but plants from aquariums, which can choke waterways. Aquarium snails can also cause damage, or even tank water can spread disease.

"I want to congratulate all the schools which took part for their enthusiasm in wanting to protect our rivers and in raising awareness about the potential impacts of dumping non-native species in our waterways."

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said Willetton's winning video successfully highlighted some of the environmental problems caused by releasing aquarium fish into WA's waterways.

"Ornamental fish that are released into our waterways are a big threat to the environment," Mr Jacob said.

"The video competition has been a great way to engage young people to help protect our native fish populations from the introduction and spread of exotic fish species."

Fact File

- The video competition was an extension of the Department of Fisheries' Don't Dump That Fish campaign
- Call FISHWATCH on 1800 815 507 to report suspected aquatic pests
- For more information, visit <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au>

Cadets share in \$3.5 million investment

Sunday, 12 July 2015

- 201 cadet units funded in Western Australia in 2015-16
- 10 types of cadet units, including bush rangers, armed forces and surf life saving

After 17 years involvement with the Australind emergency services cadet unit, Graeme Watson could justifiably lay claim to the title king of the cadets.

The 72 members of the Australind Senior High School Emergency Services Cadets overseen by Mr Watson are among more than 8,000 students from 201 units to benefit from the State Government's \$3.5 million funding of Cadets WA.

Mr Watson said his experience had shown him that cadets acquired leadership skills, had extra motivation to attend and succeed at school and were looked upon favourably by prospective employers.

Speaking at Leeuwin Barracks to observe the Australian Army Cadets parade to receive their new State Banner, Youth Minister Tony Simpson said the State Government was very supportive of Cadets WA, a program for young people in secondary schools.

"Cadets take part in a huge range of activities. Typically, you will find yourself enjoying adventure training, camping, hiking and sporting activities. So ask at school about available cadet units," he said.

"The benefits that being a cadet can offer to young people are wide ranging.

"Self-confidence, teamwork, survival skills, decision-making, leadership, fitness and a range of practical skills are all qualities that will stand our young people in good stead as they prepare for adulthood," Mr Simpson said.

While most cadet units operate in high schools, the State Government also funds the River Rangers program. This provides primary school students with the opportunity to develop confidence, teamwork and leadership skills through group work and hands-on river projects.

Mr Simpson also presented Cadets WA Service Medals (for 10 years' service), Service Medal Clasps (for 15 years' service) and Cadets WA Certificates of Recognition (for six years' service) to Australian Army Cadets and Australian Air Force Cadets staff at a ceremony after the parade.

Fact File

- Cadets WA is co-ordinated by the Department of Local Government and Communities
- For more information, visit <http://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/cadetswa>
- Minister's office - 6552 6600

Funding for 2015-16

Australian Air Force Cadets (16 units) - \$69,000

Australian Army Cadets (27) - \$89,000

Australian Navy Cadets (12) - \$35,000

Bush Rangers (58) - \$900,000

Emergency Services Cadets (40) - \$750,000

Police Rangers (17) - \$240,000

Red Cross Cadets (4) - \$95,000

River Rangers (16) - \$240,000

St John Ambulance Cadets (4) - \$40,000

Surf Life Saving Cadets (7) - \$240,000

Support for Instructors - \$800,000

Crab tagging project continues, fishers can help

Wednesday, 15 April 2015

Between now and June, Department of Fisheries' researchers hope to tag 2000 blue swimmer crabs in the Swan Canning Estuary, as part of a three year project on crab stocks.

Funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund as another example of fishing licence fees at work to support recreational fishing, the project will be seeking help from crab fishers who might come across a tagged crab.

Crab research scientist David Harris said a small pilot survey run between October and February was very successful and saw more than 10 percent of the tagged crabs reported as captured by recreational fishers.

"We are again calling on recreational crab fishers in the Swan and Canning to let us know if they capture a tagged crab, by calling the phone number on the tag and giving some details about their crab and to claim their reward," Mr Harris said.

"It would be ideal if crabbers could provide the capture date, location and depth the crab was caught at, how they caught it, the tag number, size and sex of the crab, whether eggs are visible and if it was retained or returned."

Mr Harris said the information would help the researchers track crab movements, to get a better understanding of how they move around the Swan Canning Estuary.

"Volunteer logbook participants from the True Blue Swimmer Supporter program will be offered the opportunity to join researchers aboard the research vessel during the tagging project, to get a close look at how we are conducting this survey," he said.

For more information, visit [the Department of Fisheries website](#) at www.fish.wa.gov.au.

Fish results show rivers in good shape

Tuesday, 10 March 2015

- Fish communities have improved in Swan and Canning rivers
- New report debunks the myth that the rivers are dead

Research into the health of the Swan and Canning rivers has found that the waterways are in good shape, debunking claims the estuary is dead.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the 2014 Fish Community Index showed that fish communities in the Swan and Canning rivers from Mosman Park and upstream to the Swan Valley and Kent Street Weir had improved since the mid-2000s.

The fish index uses a range of metrics including diversity and number of fish species to evaluate the fish community as one measure of estuary health.

Other measures that contribute to an overall picture of river health include water quality, seagrass growth and distribution and a survey of foreshore conditions.

“The 2014 Fish Community Index assessment for the estuary as a whole is consistent with the pattern of good-fair condition assessments in recent years,” Mr Jacob said.

“In total, 35 species and more than 30,825 fish were caught and released in shallow waters and 21 species and 1,601 fish were caught and returned in deeper waters by scientists.

“It is important to note that the number of species caught in deeper water was consistent with those in 2012 and 2013.

“However, the number of species recorded in shallower waters in 2014 was notably higher than the 29 species recorded in the previous two years.”

The Minister said the rivers, like all urban waterways, were under pressure from climate change, historical land use and development, but the fish community results showed the rivers were stable.

“This year’s results reflect high and stable salinity in the rivers, higher oxygen levels and the absence of algal blooms across much of the water way,” he said.

“It’s true that some parts of the river system are healthier than others but the claim that the river is dead is just not supported by the science and monitoring.”

Fact File

- The Fish Community Index was developed by Murdoch University over five years in collaboration with the Swan River Trust and the departments of Water and Fisheries
- Fish communities are sampled annually at 48 sites during summer and autumn

New system gives oxygen relief to the Canning River

Wednesday, 4 March 2015

- New \$1 million oxygenation plant on the Canning River is complete
- Improved conditions for aquatic life

The health of the Canning River has received a boost with the completion of a third \$1 million oxygenation plant to help reduce the impact of algal blooms and to prevent fish deaths.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the new plant at Nicholson Road doubled the capacity to provide oxygen relief to the environment upstream of the Kent Street Weir.

“It ensures that an extra 2.2 kilometres of river can have adequate oxygen levels at times when levels drop to a point which harms aquatic life,” Mr Jacob said.

Low oxygen levels mainly occur in summer and autumn and are caused by decomposition of excess organic matter and nutrients.

The Minister said the Liberal National Government had also invested another \$1.4 million to upgrade the two older oxygenation plants upstream of the Kent Street Weir which service 2.3 km of the Canning River.

“The two older plants, which are now 15 years old, will be upgraded using the latest technology once the performance of the new Nicholson Road plant has been confirmed,” he said.

Mr Jacob said improving oxygen levels in the river helped to provide a refuge for fish, improve nutrient cycling, speed up the breakdown of organic matter and prevented offensive odours.

The oxygenation program is one component of the State Government’s catchment to coast approach to protect and improve the health of the Swan and Canning rivers.

Other initiatives include a \$4.2 million investment to build nutrient-stripping wetlands - one on the Ellen Brook in Belhus and a second at the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary in Bayswater - and new regulations to reduce the concentration of phosphorus in domestic fertiliser.

Fact File

- The oxygenation program began in 1998 and now includes two plants on the Swan River and three on the Canning River
- The plants on the Swan River are at the Guildford Road Bridge and Caversham
- The program is managed in partnership with the Swan River Trust and the Department of Water

Funds flow to community for river projects

Thursday, 26 February 2015

25 groups share \$335,500 for 58 landcare projects in the Swan Canning catchment

Projects focus on improving water quality

Tackling water quality issues in the Swan and Canning rivers remains the focus of a successful landcare partnership between the Liberal National Government, Perth Region NRM and Alcoa Australia.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob today announced the 2015 funding recipients of the long-running Swan River Trust and Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP).

"A worthy 25 community groups will share \$335,500 to help deliver 58 on-ground projects focused on reducing harmful nutrients and contaminants entering waterways and groundwater in the Swan Canning catchment," Mr Jacob said.

"This is an exciting collaboration between Government, local government, environmental groups and industry that delivers positive outcomes for communities."

The Swan River Trust and Alcoa have been working together since 1999 and once the latest round of projects have been rolled out, the partnership will have delivered more than \$7.35 million to community groups to fund 1,210 projects.

The Minister said the program, managed by Perth Region NRM, allowed local environmental groups to invest time and resources into ensuring the future of the catchment.

Works this year include revegetating priority waterways, bushland restoration, dieback management, fencing to keep animals out of waterways, weed control, and the removal and management of feral pests.

Mr Jacob said while the work done by community groups was outstanding, it was also important to acknowledge the project's partners Alcoa and the Burswood Park Board.

"I thank Alcoa and the Burswood Park Board for their important contribution to environmental projects in the Swan Canning catchment," he said.

Fact File

SALP volunteers have contributed more than 154,500 volunteer hours, planted more than 2.2 million trees and revegetated 1,826ha of degraded bush

In 2015, SALP recipients will plant more than 104,000 trees

For more information, visit www.perthregionnrm.com

Swan River Trust and Alcoa Landcare Program 2015 - Funding Recipients

North Region

Friends of Lake Claremont - \$17,600

Friends of Bennett Brook Reserve - \$9,900

Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group - \$6,600

The Friends of Lightning Swamp Bushland - \$1,650

North East Region

Chittering Landcare Group - \$22,000

Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group - \$22,000

North Swan Landcare Group - \$16,500

East Region

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council - \$9,900

Lower Helena Association - \$13,200

Friends of Pioneer Park - \$5,500

Bugle Tree Creek and Black Cockatoo Reserve Friends Group - \$5,500

Friends of Darlington Brook - \$2,420

Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group - \$6,600

Friends of Woodlupine Living Stream - \$5,500

Jane Brook Catchment Group - \$6,050

South Region

Mt Henry Peninsula Conservation Group - \$5,500

Armadales Gosnells Landcare Group - \$42,680

Wilson Wetlands Action Group - \$7,150

Bungendore Park Management Committee - \$4,950

Friends of Mary Carroll Lake - \$17,600

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare - \$46,750

Bannister Creek Catchment Group - \$34,650

Roleybushcare - \$4,950

Wandi Landcare Group/City of Kwinana - \$9,900

Canning River Regional Park Volunteers Inc - \$10,450

Riverbank Funding applications open for 2015

Monday, 23 February 2015

Applications are now open for the 2015-16 round of Riverbank Funding.

The Swan River Trust has initiated shoreline restoration and rehabilitation works through Riverbank Funding since January 2002. Funding is made available for a wide range of foreshore restoration and protection activities throughout the Swan Canning Riverpark. These projects are based on partnership arrangements with local government land managers and encourage community participation wherever possible.

Guidelines and application forms are available on the [Riverbank Funding](#) page on the Trust website. Applications close 5pm Friday 10 April 2015.

River prawn release exceeds target

Sunday, 22 February 2015

Scientists achieved a world-first following the successful development of methods to culture Western School Prawns in the laboratory

The scientific break-through is part of the Western School Prawn restocking program focused on addressing prawn decline in the Swan Canning Riverpark

Plans to restock the Swan and Canning rivers with Western School Prawns have hit a significant milestone with more than one million prawns already released this year.

Fisheries Minister Ken Baston said the Western School Prawn restocking project had trumped expectations with project partners Challenger Institute of Technology, Murdoch University and the Swan River Trust revising their 2015 release predictions.

"The Western School Prawn project set a target to release one million prawns this season and already more than 1.24 million have been released and this week a further 300,000 prawns will be released, bringing the total to more than 1.5 million in 2015 alone," he said.

"It is an outstanding outcome that has seen Challenger staff develop aquaculture techniques with release rates increasing from 1,000 in 2013 to 635,000 in 2014 and more than 1.5 million in 2015."

Mr Baston said this year's breeding season had another month to run and the Western School Prawn restocking project is expecting to release close to two million prawns this year.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the three phase project - which included restocking, determining the factors affecting natural recruitment and the citizen science project Prawn Watch - had community participation at its heart.

"Prawning on the Swan and Canning rivers is a popular summer pastime and reinvigorating the prawn population will ensure this will continue," Mr Jacob said.

"Now is the ideal time to get out in the water with the warm summer evenings providing perfect conditions for prawning."

Fact File

The Western School Prawn restocking project was made possible by the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and is supported by Recfishwest, the Department of Fisheries, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Swan River Trust and the WA Fish Foundation

Since 2011, more than \$6.5 million from the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund has been committed to large and small initiatives throughout WA

For more information, visit <http://riverguardians.com/projects/prawn-watch>

More fishing line bins to reel in river waste

Wednesday, 18 February 2015

Recreational fishers using new bins along Swan and Canning rivers

Reduced risk of fishing rubbish having an impact on river wildlife

8,788m of fishing line, 1,743 hooks and sinkers, 1,508 bait bags and 254 lures and tackle packets collected

A fishing line bin project will be expanded along the Swan and Canning riverbanks to help reduce the impact of discarded fishing line and tackle on dolphins, water birds and other animals.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the State Government would invest \$20,000 to continue the Reel It In project that is expected to remove up to 20 kilometres of discarded fishing line from the rivers each year.

The Swan River Trust installed 25 dedicated fishing line bins at popular jetties, fishing platforms, traffic bridges and boat ramps as a trial during 2014. The initiative involved seven riverfront local governments, plus the Fremantle Port Authority and City of Cockburn.

“The fishing line bin project is a cost effective solution to a serious problem and has delivered significant benefits to the dolphins, birdlife and the community,” Mr Jacob said.

“The results show that recreational fishers have made excellent use of the bins during this trial and we are reducing the risk of rubbish impacting on wildlife.

“In total, more than 8,788 metres of fishing line, 1,743 hooks and sinkers, 1,508 bait bags and 254 items such as lures and tackle packets were collected throughout the year.”

The Minister said another 20 bins would be installed in 2015 and funds would be used to inform the community about the dangers of discarded fishing tackle, and to alert the public to the location of bins.

“Dolphins and waterbirds have been severely impacted by discarded fishing line and this project is a simple way of minimising the number of entanglements that animal rescuers are dealing with on a weekly basis,” he said.

The bins, emptied fortnightly, are made from 100 per cent recycled plastic.

[View footage from the launch of the new bins on Youtube.](#)

Fact File

- The project is delivered in partnership with Recfishwest, Native Animal Rescue and Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Marine
- In 2013-14, the Swan River Trust removed 2.65 tonnes of rubbish from the rivers

Prawning in the rivers

Wednesday, 11 February 2015

Recreational fishers have heard the call and people are returning to the banks of the Swan and Canning rivers chasing Western School Prawns.

The Swan River Trust, Challenger Institute of Technology, West Australian Fish Foundation and Murdoch University have joined forces with Recfishwest to reignite this once popular summer pastime with backing from the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund.

To date, more than 885,000 juvenile Western School Prawns, including almost 250,000 so far this season, have been released into Perth's rivers.

Teams from the Trust and Challenger are out on the water now collecting gravid (pregnant) female prawns to spawn at the hatchery, with the aim of releasing one million juvenile prawns over this breeding season.

Trust River Health Manager Dr Steeg Hoeksema said it was great to see recreational fishers back on the water catching prawns which are now running in the estuary downstream of the Narrows and Canning Bridge.

"This is the ultimate goal of the Prawn Watch and restocking programs," Dr Hoeksema said.

"By culturing river prawns in the hatchery, we are not only reinvigorating the prawn population in the estuary but also an iconic Perth pastime.

"The project also provides the opportunity to investigate the factors that are limiting the natural recruitment of the Western School Prawn and engage the community to help monitor the population in the estuary."

Now is the perfect time to get out in the water with the warm summer evenings providing ideal conditions for prawning. This is also the optimum time for prawns to breed and recreational prawners are encouraged to keep an eye out for gravid females carrying fertilised eggs.

"While we are continuing to stock Western School Prawns to the estuary, we strongly encourage recreational fishers to return gravid school prawns to the water so they can successfully spawn and help to naturally bolster the population for the following season," Dr Hoeksema said

Director of Challenger's Applied Aquaculture Research Centre Mr Greg Jenkins said depending on their size, each female Western School Prawn could produce between 20,000 and 60,000 eggs and each gravid prawn returned to the water could lead to many more prawns the next year.

"Gravid school prawns can easily be identified by the bright green row of eggs that can be seen through the transparent shell of the female running from the middle of their back to their tail," Mr Jenkins said.

Restored wetland to improve river water quality

Sunday, 18 January 2015

- Fulfilment of 2013 election commitment to build nutrient-stripping wetland
- Amount of nitrogen and phosphorus flowing into Swan River to decline

Construction of a nutrient-stripping wetland at Bayswater's Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary has started, to improve water quality in the Swan River.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the \$3 million project would reduce sediment, rubbish, phosphorus and nitrogen entering the river from the Bayswater Brook while also restoring bird and animal habitat at the degraded sanctuary. The redeveloped wetland will divert water from the Bayswater Brook into a wetland treatment system. The water will initially flow through a trap to remove sediment, rubbish and other debris. It will then flow through open water and vegetated areas to remove nutrients, ultimately improving the quality of the water entering the Swan River.

It is the second wetland to be built by the Liberal-National Government in the past 12 months following construction of the \$4.05 million Ellen Brook Wetland.

"The Government made an election commitment in 2013 to build nutrient-stripping wetlands with the highest nutrient contributions in the Swan River sub-catchments and I am pleased construction of this second project is now under way," Mr Jacob said.

"These wetlands are an effective way to reduce nutrient loads and are part of the Government's solution to ensure the long-term future of the Swan and Canning rivers."

The restored sanctuary will prevent almost 40 tonnes of sediment and rubbish, 1.3 tonnes of nitrogen and 200 kilograms of phosphorus from entering the Swan River. During construction, 150,000 native plants will be planted in the wetland.

Bayswater resident Eric Singleton, who died in 2011, built the wetland from a disused rubbish tip in the 1970s. It was declared a reserve in 1977 and has been a significant bird sanctuary for more than 40 years.

The Minister said the sanctuary had become degraded and the restoration work would enhance its ecological value in line with Mr Singleton's vision.

"Once construction and revegetation are complete, we expect to see an increase in the number of birds and animals here," he said.

Fact File

- The project is jointly funded by the State Government (\$1.2 million) and the City of Bayswater (\$1.8 million)
- High nutrient loads can contribute to algal blooms in the Swan and Canning rivers

Share your story and win with River Guardians photography competition

Monday, 12 January 2015

The Swan River Trust and Community Newspaper Group are calling on all photographers to capture their favourite places, people, activities and wildlife on Perth's Swan and Canning rivers in the River Guardians fourth bi-annual photography competition.

This year's theme – What's your story? – will provide the community with an opportunity to share their connection to the Swan Canning Riverpark in images.

For the first time, the River Guardians photography competition will also have an Instagram category. Follow us @riverguardians and upload your entry with the hashtag #RGphotocomp2015 @riverguardians.

There are heaps of great prizes to be won in the Amateur, Junior, People's Choice and Instagram categories including digital cameras, Finn Kayaks, Captain Cook Cruises and vouchers for The Left Bank and Scitech. Entries close on 12 March 2015.

For full details, visit the [2015 Photography Competition page](#) on the River Guardians website.

Prawn Watch app boon for science

Wednesday, 7 January 2015

Perth's prawners can contribute to science with the click of a button thanks to a new smartphone app.

Fisheries Minister Ken Baston said Prawn Watch was an exciting citizen science project linked to the Western School Prawn restocking program which was focused on restocking the Swan and Canning rivers with prawns.

"The project has already released more than 635,000 juvenile Western School Prawns into these rivers and will investigate the distribution of prawns and the factors limiting the prawn stock," Mr Baston said.

"This app will help recreational fishers add their catch information to data collected by scientists to help unlock the mysteries of Perth's river prawns."

The restocking program is a collaboration between the Swan River Trust, Challenger Institute of Technology and Murdoch University and is managed by the WA Fish Foundation. This project was made possible by the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and supported by Recfishwest, the Department of Fisheries and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

[Read the Fisheries Minister's media statement](#) on the WA Government website.

To find out more about Prawn Watch, visit <http://riverguardians.com/projects/prawn-watch>.

[View Channel 9 News Perth's coverage](#) of the project on YouTube.