

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

11 October 2011

(REF: COMMITTEES-13055)

A meeting of the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee was held at Red Hill Waste Management Facility, 1094 Toodyay Road, Red Hill WA 6056 on **Tuesday, 11 October 2011**. The meeting commenced at 12.30pm.

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6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Nil

8 BUSINESS NOT DEALT WITH FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil



9 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9.1 EMRC DELEGATION TO CANBERRA SEPTEMBER 2011

REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-13156

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Council with information on the EMRC delegation to Canberra 14-15 September 2011.

KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- The EMRC has been given a formal role to be actively involved in regional advocacy on behalf of the member Councils.
- The development of a Regional Advocacy Strategy (RAS) provides an overarching framework on which future advocacy and leveraging activities can be structured using a standardised approach approved by Council.
- At its meeting of 21 April 2011, Council approved a delegation comprising the Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer and the Director Regional Services to travel to Canberra in September 2011 to discuss key regional issues with Federal Members of Parliament.
- The Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer and Director Regional Services undertook a delegation to Canberra on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th September. Over the two day period, there were 14 appointments with Members, Senators and Advisors from most political parties.
- The discussions were productive and provided a valuable insight into the policy directions of the political parties. Information from the meetings will be used to follow-up with specific actions to benefit the region and meet the EMRC strategic direction.

Recommendation(s)

That Council notes the report on the delegation to Canberra in September 2011.

SOURCE OF REPORT

Director Regional Services

BACKGROUND

At its meeting in August 2009, Council adopted a Regional Advocacy Strategy (Ref: Committees-10257) to provide an overarching framework from which all future advocacy and leveraging activities will be guided using a standardised approach approved by Council.

In developing the RAS, the EMRC established principles, standard approaches and guidelines that underpin and guide strategic advocacy activities and identify regional short and long term issues that need to be targeted to guide advocacy activities.

The RAS outlines and establishes nine Key Regional Issues of Priority impacting on all member Councils which have been the focus for advocacy activity. They are:

1. The health, protection and sustainable use of the Swan and Helena Rivers;
2. An effective and integrated transport system;
3. The establishment of high speed, reliable broadband in the region;



Item 9.1 continued

4. The continued and timely delivery of underground power;
5. The facilitation of appropriate and sustainable tourism development;
6. The facilitation of economic development and investment opportunities;
7. The continued improvement of regional waste management activities;
8. A natural environment that is protected, enhanced and maintained for future generations; and
9. Enhanced social inclusion and access to health, education and community services for all residents.

Whilst these are nine very broad strategic categories, they provide the EMRC with a framework to structure and develop regional advocacy so that issues that are not seen as impacting the Region can be filtered and dealt with by the individual local government authorities.

The EMRC has been given a formal role to be actively involved in regional advocacy on behalf of the member Councils. At its meeting in April 2010, Council considered sending a delegation to Canberra in June 2010 however this delegation was postponed because of Federal Government elections. (Ref: Committees-7356)

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 21 April 2011 (Ref: Committees-11797) it was resolved:

“THAT A DELEGATION COMPRISING THE CHAIRMAN, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE DIRECTOR REGIONAL SERVICES TO TRAVEL TO CANBERRA IN SEPTEMBER 2011 TO DISCUSS KEY REGIONAL ISSUES WITH FEDERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.”

The focus of regional advocacy during 2011/2012 will be on a range of regional issues raised by member Councils and the regional strategies of the EMRC, such as the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy, the Regional Tourism Strategy and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.

REPORT

The Chairman Councillor Graham Pittaway, the Chief Executive Officer and Director Regional Services undertook a delegation to Canberra on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th September 2011. Over the two day period, there were 14 scheduled appointments with Members, Senators and Advisors from most political parties held at Parliament House.

A delegation “pack” was supplied for each appointment and this contained a map of the EMRC area, briefing notes, fact sheets and relevant strategic plans and documents. Compliments were received on the standard and presentation of the EMRC delegation. Each of the three EMRC delegates had a file containing an appointment schedule, a full set of EMRC Fact Sheets, and the briefing notes, biographies and departmental strategic overviews for each portfolio.

Actions Arising from the Delegation

It was agreed to follow up with letters to all politicians to express the thanks of the EMRC and also to reconfirm agreed actions from both parties. Specific follow up actions are summarised below.

The Hon. Mark Dreyfus, Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency would like to see Red Hill and the Solar Cities projects when next in Perth. Contact will be made with his office for availability to schedule these visits.

The Hon. Greg Hunt, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage advised that the EMRC should follow up with local Liberal Party Members to express interest in the Swan River Recovery Program.

The Hon. Warren Truss, Steve Irons, Ken Wyatt and Jess Finlay, Transport Advisor Truss Office requested follow up with Ken Wyatt to provide a briefing on carbon pricing implications and to provide detailed briefing notes from the Delegation meetings.



Item 9.1 continued

The Hon. Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities requested a follow up with letter to explain the legal status of the EMRC in relation to eligibility for funding. ie "defined as a local government under the Local Government Act".

The Hon. Greg Combet, Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency - Chief of Staff, Alan Behm and Senior Advisor Peter Nicholas suggested that that EMRC present a proposal/business case for the proposed waste to energy facility to assist with the design of rules for the Low Carbon Communities Funding program. It was also suggested that EMRC contact the Department to seek assistance to rework cash flow streams for Red Hill under the Carbon Pricing legislation.

The Hon. Simon Crean, Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government and the Arts - Senior Advisor Adrian Warner suggested that EMRC seek clarification of the eligibility for regional governments for funding through providing correspondence to outline the governance and accountably requirements as required under the Local Government Act.

Notes on each of the appointments are shown in the Attachment.

The meetings were productive and provided a valuable insight into the policy directions of the political parties. It was agreed that it was important that the profile and issues for Perth's Eastern Region be actively raised with both politicians and also key departments. Information from the meetings will be used to follow-up with specific actions to benefit the region and meet the EMRC strategic direction.

STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The advocacy and government relationship building activities support the following objective and strategies in the Strategic Plan for the Future 2008/09 to 2013/14.

Objective 4.2 To provide advice and advocacy on issues affecting Perth's Eastern Region

Strategy 4.2.1 Implement the Regional Advocacy Strategy

Strategy 4.2.2 Participate in consultative groups regarding Federal and State Government policies and regulations

This report aligns to the Regional Advocacy Strategy 2010-2013 and the EMRC Policy 1.8 Lobbying and Advocacy Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the delegation was \$4517.68 and this was met from the 2011/2012 adopted budget.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The future sustainability of Perth's Eastern Region will be largely dependent on the strength and ability of the region to pool its resources to compete for and attract government and private sector funding into the region.

An annual regional investment into an effective ongoing advocacy and leveraging strategy, supported by strategic and robust campaigns will become an essential tool for ensuring the region's ability to attract funding and investment is fully exploited.



Item 9.1 continued

MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

Member Council	Implication Details
Town of Bassendean	} Advocacy and relationship building aims to increase awareness of the Perth's Eastern Region and the role of the EMRC as well as to identify future funding opportunities to support regional scale projects/activities.
City of Bayswater	
City of Belmont	} The implications arising from this report for member Councils relate to Member Councils continuing to support and to promote the benefits of a regional approach to advocacy and continuing to endorse the EMRC as their peak advocacy body when dealing with regional issues for Perth's Eastern Region.
Shire of Kalamunda	
Shire of Mundaring	
City of Swan	

ATTACHMENT(S)

EMRC Delegation to Canberra - Meeting Notes - September 2011 (Ref: Committees-13170)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council notes the report on the delegation to Canberra in September 2011.

CEOAC RECOMMENDATION(S)

MOVED MS LEFANTE SECONDED MR COLE

That Council notes the report on the delegation to Canberra in September 2011.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MEETING REPORT (Ref: Committees-13170)**1. Canberra Delegation 14th and 15th September 2011****Day One****1.1 The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, Shadow Minister for Communications and Broadband**

The EMRC sought to:

- Provide awareness of the Regional Business Case for the Broadband Infrastructure across the Eastern region.
- Gain an understanding of the Liberal Party view and requirements for broadband roll out.

The Liberal Government will update broadband more quickly with the intent to use fibre to node deployment then use the existing copper to residence. This option considered as more cost effective as it requires less civil works. The intent is to identify poorly serviced areas then roll out. Mr Turnbull spoke about the cost benefit of providing broadband speeds beyond what is required to do the job and the significance of the increasing use and speed of wireless networks. The Liberal option is believed to be more cost effective and more affordable than NBN.

1.2 The Hon. Mark Dreyfus, Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

The EMRC sought:

- An investigation into the unintended consequences of the draft Clean Energy Legislative Package on local government before finalisation in Parliament.
- Recognition of the significant work undertaken by local government in gas capture and storage and recycling as a key activity for reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Collaboration on determining methodologies for calculating waste stream emissions and carbon dioxide equivalence.

It is believed that EMRC may earn carbon credits under carbon farming measures. There will be a trade off between price on waste deposited and carbon credits from July 2012 however these initiatives will be clearer in 2-3 months. Mr Dreyfus was aware of implications of Local Governments "managing" waste streams below 25,000 tonnes to avoid paying carbon tax. The Clean Energy Finance Corporation will be set up by July 2012 in a non commercial lending space and will operate to get initiatives going or over the line. Mr Dreyfus encouraged the EMRC to provide feedback to the Government on the Clean Energy Legislative Package through input into draft methodologies to be released by the Government. The Draft for the Low Carbon Communities Funding Program will be out by the end of September for comment. Mr Dreyfus made comments on his visit to the Lucas Heights waste site and would like to see Red Hill and the Solar Cities projects when next in Perth.

1.3 The Hon. Ian Macfarlane, Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources

The EMRC sought:

- Recognition of the significant work undertaken by local government in gas capture and storage and recycling as a key activity for reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.
- To provide awareness of the implications of carbon pricing for local government generally and in relation to landfill.
- To gain an understanding of Mr Macfarlane's view on the Clean Energy Legislative Package.

Mr Macfarlane discussed a visit from Peter Dyson from Kwinana Phoenix Energy and his proposal to treat industrial waste. Discussion on the increase in costs for EMRC with carbon tax (estimated at \$130 tonne with \$30 being cost of carbon price) and whether or not costs for methane have been settled upon. Mr Macfarlane stated that the Liberal Party is against carbon tax but there will be no amendments during the passage of the legislation. It is believed it is inappropriate for Australia to have carbon tax or CPRS. When the Liberal party get into Government, they will rescind carbon pricing and implement their Direct Action Plan for Carbon Reduction. They will look at ways of stopping methane and a methane reduction process; maybe through direct assistance for local councils or a tender process for abatement.

1.4 The Hon. Greg Hunt, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage

The EMRC sought:

- Awareness of implications of the carbon price mechanism on local government operations and in particular landfill operations.
- Ongoing support for regional scale community based NRM activities that meet the needs of the Perth Eastern Metropolitan Region.
- Recognition of the significant work undertaken by local government in gas capture and storage and recycling as a key activity for reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Clarification of Australian Government support for the long term preservation of the Swan and Helena River systems.
- Awareness of the proposed Resource Recovery waste to energy technology facility.

Mr Hunt asked questions regarding NRM and its overlay with the boundaries of the EMRC and about the amount of funding received from the Federal Government through NRM. The Liberal Policy outlines a Swan River Recovery Program for approximately \$1 million and they may look at EMRC and Catchment Management to deliver. Mr Hunt suggested that EMRC contact Steve Irons, Luke Simpkins and Julie Bishop to pursue this and express interest in this program. There was discussion on the implications of Carbon Pricing on landfill and the possible incentive to go to smaller waste sites to avoid Carbon Pricing rather than use the larger council sites. Under the Liberal proposal there would be no liability for payment, rather a bid system to receive benefits /incentives for carbon reduction. Emission reduction incentives abatement is a market based incentive competitive tender to buy back ie tender to Govt to sell x tonnes to Govt at \$y cost. Organisations may receive payments for abatement which give an income stream over 5 years. Mr Hunt believed that under the ALP regulations, all non legacy waste post 1/7/2012 will incur carbon pricing and that this will be a perpetual payment. There will be a rate increase for three years then, after three years there will be a floating rate. Mr Hunt provided contact details of Mr Max Spedding who has modelled land fill costs.

1.5 Senator the Hon. Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations

The EMRC sought:

- To provide awareness of the need to continue employment growth in the Eastern Region through funding of apprenticeship and training opportunities in Perth's Eastern region.
- Support for the establishment of a University presence for Midland to increase opportunities for residents in eastern region to access university education

Discussion of Eastern Region as a growth area and the need for requiring a university presence in Midland. This is a long term investment and needs to be seen as such. Senator Evans stated that Perth is over supplied with universities and there will be no new universities for Perth. He was aware of the proposal to partner with Curtin Medical School however the allocation of medical places is in the Health Minister's court. Senator Evans advice was not to just look at a partnership with Curtin University. There is a need to build a business case which will help drive policy and strategic direction for the region and he suggested to look more broadly than just a medical school - look at all health professions. Curtin University is talking to Senator Evans. There is an issue with clinical placements and as this is the State Government province, Curtin will need to work with the State Government to address this.

There was a general discussion on the role of the Industry Skills Council who are looking at skilling in the shortage areas of mining, construction and aged care. Senator Evans suggested that we look at accredited training, identify where the training was required, identify what training is needed, and identify the industry to partner with Government to meet skill or industry needs of region.

Polytechnic West is delivering up-skilling of existing workers, Accelerated Learning and retraining through mature aged apprenticeships.

1.6 The Hon. Warren Truss, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

The EMRC sought:

- To build awareness and seek support for improved road transport infrastructure such as the Perth Darwin Highway, upgrades to Great Eastern Highway (Mundaring).
- To provide an overview of the significance of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan and seek support of Liberal Party for the Plan.
- To gain an understanding of the Liberal Party view on the National Urban Policy and the Major Cities Unit.

The meeting was attended by Warren Truss, Steve Irons, Ken Wyatt and Jess Finlay, Transport Advisor Truss Office. Mr Truss initiated discussion on the Queensland model of Local Government amalgamation and the current WA situation. There was discussion on waste management issues and the implications for local government. The Liberal Party believe the time line for carbon charges could be around 30 years. Mr Wyatt will send the Carbon Pricing Bills for EMRC feedback. Mr Truss initiated discussion on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government stating that the Eastern States appear to be in favour with the West Australian Government being out of step. Mr Truss believes that Perth-Darwin Highway funding will be considered in next round of Auslink and that the Liberal Party is are committed to the upgrade of the airports roads as well.

2. Canberra Delegation 14th and 15th September 2011

Day Two

2.1 The Hon. Bob Baldwin, Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Tourism

The EMRC sought:

- To gain an understanding of Mr Baldwin's view of the RDA model and allocation of RDAF.
- To provide awareness of the significance of Perth's Eastern region for tourism product development and destination marketing.
- To provide a best practice model for regional cooperation for local governments and the opportunity for a single point of contact for input into key policy issues as they relate to Perth's Eastern Region.

Mr Baldwin expressed his support for the RDA model and its links to the community. He supported the "local people for local issues" theme. Discussion on the EMRC "regional council" set up and his experience with the Hunter Regional Council.

Mr Baldwin believed a Liberal Government will repeal both the Mining Tax and Carbon Pricing legislation. Mr Baldwin discussed the trends in tourism and the growth in visitors from China and India and asked whether our destination marketing material catered for the needs of these people by languages on web sites and social media. He believed that Tourism Australia are doing a good job by creating brand awareness at a national level and undertaking research to understand what experiences each customer group wanted. Product development was State level function through Regional Tourism Associations and Mr Baldwin suggested to have a look at Trip Advisor and maybe blogs to promote the region.

2.2 The Hon. Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

The EMRC sought:

- Possible funding under the \$120 million Sustainable Communities package to assist outer suburbs with population growth, housing transport, establishment of local employment precincts and improving the skills and participation of the local workforce in local employment.

- Funding under the third round of the Australian Government's "Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Projects" where \$100 million is available.
- Ongoing support of regional scale community based NRM activities that achieve strategic outcomes.

Discussion on the eligibility of Regional Councils for Federal Government funding and Mr Burke's response was the Federal Govt were looking at probity issues. They deem local government as a directly elected body as opposed to regional bodies who were constituted differently across Australia. The CEO outlined that EMRC was an authority under the WA Local Government Act and as such was subject to the same governance and accountability as any local government in Western Australia. There was general discussion on the Sustainable Cities-Sustainable Jobs program and Mr Burke advised that guidelines were being developed by Cabinet but he was unable to give timelines for start of program.

2.3 The Hon. Greg Combet, Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Meeting with his Chief of Staff, Alan Behm and Senior Advisor Peter Nicholas

The EMRC sought:

- Investigation of the unintended consequences of the draft Clean Energy Legislative Package on local government operations and in particular landfill, before finalisation in Parliament.
- Resources to manage and restore the Swan River system on behalf of member councils with river responsibilities.
- Funding under the Low Carbon Communities funding program with greenhouse gas emission abatement or carbon reduction strategies, energy efficiency strategies, and climate change adaptation action plans already in place to identify potential projects.
- Funding under Clean Energy Futures to support the proposed waste to energy or anaerobic digestion technology at the Resource Recovery Facility.

Discussions around Red Hill proposed municipal waste to energy project which will go to tender in 2012 and will be a five year product ready to receive waste in 2017. It was stated that assistance for the landfill industry should be reviewed under Carbon Pricing.

Carbon Pricing would have three years at fixed price from 1 July 2012 and will be a market system from 2015. It is anticipated that there will be two directions after the legislation is passed:

1. National Abatement Policies to be implemented at a local level.
2. Reliable trading and transfer for Carbon.

There will be credits for saving emissions to off set liabilities with the Carbon Farming Initiatives to 2020 and Clean Energy Financing from 2013 will provide conditional loans just over Commonwealth bond rate. There was discussion on the Low Carbon Communities Funding program and Mr Behm suggested that the EMRC present a proposal/business case to assist with design of rules. Discussion on cash flow streams from carbon credits and Mr Behm suggested to have a look at the formula on the web site and to contact the Department to work through the figures with them and will provide a range of solutions for implementation and management.

2.4 Senator the Hon. Don Farrell, Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water Meeting with Senior Advisor Helen Rodwell.

EMRC was referred by the Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to Mr Farrell's office to discuss resources to manage and restore the Swan River system on behalf of member councils with river responsibilities. There was discussion on issues facing Swan River and the difficulty getting funding to address these issues. The EMRC put forward the Swan River pathways and wall project for discussion. Ms Rodwell discussed the Storm Water Harvesting program of \$100 million and closing in December 2011. Proposals for this program

must harvest water for a purpose, replace mains water, demonstrate reuse of water and maybe look at flood mitigation. The program requires partners, joint funding and feasibility reports maybe required.

2.5 Senator Barnaby Joyce, Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government and Water.

The EMRC sought:

- To provide awareness of the issues facing the Swan and Helena River Systems.
- To gain an understanding of Mr Joyce's view of the RDA model and allocation of RDAF.
- To provide a best practice model for regional cooperation for local governments and a single point of contact for input into key policy issues as they relate to Perth's Eastern Region.

Senator Joyce asked about the WA position on Constitutional reform for local government and made the suggestion that WA local governments should make a position around the fact that they are distant from the State Government's stance.

Discussion on funding allocations and RDA which was seen as a good model following on from the ACC network. The Nationals believe there are issues with the funding and that Labour are using RDAF to pork barrel. Regional funding should be used as a priority for people in remote areas. Senator Joyce questioned why the Government are legislating for Carbon Credit Abatement schemes which he believed would send \$57 billion off shore.

2.6 The Hon. Simon Crean, Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government and the Arts. Meeting with Senior Advisor Adrian Warner.

The EMRC sought:

- To provide a best practice model for regional cooperation for local governments and the opportunity for a single point of contact for input into key policy issues as they relate to Perth's Eastern Region.
- Advice on possible funding avenues to support the proposed waste to energy or anaerobic digestion technology at the Red Hill Resource Recovery Facility.
- Feedback on successful Round One of RDAF applications.
- Awareness of the impact of carbon pricing for local government.

Discussion on waste to energy funding options and the unintended consequence of carbon pricing creating large bills for waste. Mr Warner proposed the option of an opportunity for a joint application from all councils to finance their share of the proposed waste to energy project.

The Department is looking at establishing a state office to establish a stakeholder relationship function at state level. There was discussion on the eligibility of Regional Councils for RCIP and RDAF and the correspondence to Mr Albanese asking for clarification of the eligibility for regional governments for funding. Mr Warner advised EMRC to redo the correspondence and outline the governance and accountability requirements as required under the Local Government Act. EMRC suggested that there could be a change to the definition for eligibility for RDAF funding to "Local government as defined by the Local Government Act". The next round of RDAF will be opening in November and closing maybe at the end of February. Future rounds of RDAF are subject to the Mining Tax.

2.7 Senator the Hon. Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. Meeting with Innovation Advisor, David Brown

The EMRC sought:

- Funding through the Low Carbon Communities program to address greenhouse gas emission abatement, carbon reduction strategies, energy efficiency strategies, and climate change adaptation actions. EMRC can deliver these programs to local government, community and business.

- Funding to support the proposed waste to energy or anaerobic digestion technology at the Red Hill Resource Recovery Facility.
- Awareness of the impact of carbon pricing for local government.

Discussion on the eligibility of Regional Councils for Federal Government funding and the options for funding for the proposed waste to energy project. Mr Brown suggested that an angle maybe that the project is innovative to Australia and could be used as a pilot for Australia. Mr Brown also suggested that maybe Energos could apply for the funding and that Clean Energy Financing could be an option around 2013.

2.8 Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy. Meeting with Advisor Jonathan Chowns

The EMRC sought:

- Provide awareness of the Regional Business Case for the Broadband Infrastructure across the Eastern region.
- Promote the Ashfield site as an opportunity for NBN to partner with the State Government in a trial project to deliver broadband at the same time as works for underground power are undertaken.
- Gain commitment to roll out broadband to Perth's Eastern Region after Victoria Park.
- Have a point of contact, a senior adviser that can be reached and be provided with background information on progress of broadband roll-out and potentially other issues.

NBN Co has signed a deal with Telstra and they now control the rollout. Over the next few months NBN Co will release their 12 month roll out plan and a three year roll out outlining the fibre, wireless and satellite sites at a local level. NBN Co has signed construction contracts for WA. Mr Chowns stated that Stage One of the roll out was to test roll out in a range of conditions and a business case was important in the Stage 1 and 2 release sites. The next stages will be chosen based on engineering factors and across up to 31 sites.



9.2 REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2011 - 2016

REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-13085

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Council approval of the EMRC Regional Environment Strategy that will guide regional environmental and sustainability activities delivered by the EMRC for the period 2011 to 2016.

KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Council approved development of a Regional Environment Strategy (RES) for Perth's Eastern Region at its meeting on 18 February 2010.
- Regional Development and Environmental Services are cited as continuing services in Schedule 1 of the EMRC's Establishment Agreement.
- The need to develop a Regional Environment Strategy document to guide Perth's Eastern Region is driven by changes in the environment and the need for greater alignment of regional activities with environment and sustainability strategies of member Councils.
- The process for development of the Regional Environment Strategy involved consultation with member Councils through the Regional Environmental Advisory Group. This assisted to ensure that activities delivered by the EMRC at the regional level complement and support those underway or proposed by member Councils.
- The Regional Environment Strategy is structured around six key focus areas, each with associated objectives and projects. Implementation of the Regional Environment Strategy will be facilitated by the EMRC with support of member Council Officers through the Regional Environmental Advisory Group.
- The EMRC will develop costed project plans to present to member Councils for consideration in the 2012/2013 and subsequent budget development process and seek external funding opportunities to implement projects within the Strategy.

Recommendations

That:

1. Council approves the EMRC Regional Environment Strategy 2011 – 2016.
2. Council notes that the EMRC will seek funding from member Councils and external funding opportunities to develop projects within the Regional Environment Strategy.

SOURCE OF REPORT

Director Regional Services
Manager Environmental Services

BACKGROUND

Establishment Agreement and Regional Services Funding Framework

The EMRC's Establishment Agreement (1998) provides the basis for the provision of Regional Services and projects by the EMRC and provides direction on funding for project and service costs as well as administration and governance costs incurred by the EMRC in the delivery of these projects and services.



Item 9.2 continued

In line with these provisions, business units were established by the EMRC in the areas of Regional Development and Environmental Services. Regional Development and Environmental Services are cited as continuing services in Schedule 1 of the Establishment Agreement.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 13 December 2007 Council approved a Funding Framework for Regional Services project and service delivery based on four primary funding categories:

1. Cost Recovery-Based Projects and Services
 - Fee for service consultancies;
 - Member Council contribution-based projects; and
 - Multi-funding party or externally funded partnership projects.
2. Partial Cost Recovery Projects
 - EMRC and member Council funded projects and services.
3. EMRC Funded Projects and Services
 - EMRC funded services and regional projects; and
 - Regional lobbying and advisory services.
4. EMRC Support and Administration
 - Regional Services governance and administration

Section 10 of the Establishment Agreement states that for the development of new projects and services:

- The EMRC is to produce a project plan outlining details, cost and benefits to the Region and a proportion and basis of calculation that participants will make contributions; and
- The procedure for giving of notice by a project participant wishing to withdraw from a new project or service including notice period.

Regional Environmental Strategy (RES) 2000

The Regional Environmental Strategy (RES) was developed by the EMRC with input from member Councils through a project Steering Committee over an 18 month period. The RES 2000 was approved by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 2 December 1999.

Specific budgets were allocated from 2000 to 2003 for implementation of the strategy. Many of the key recommendations of the Strategy continue to be implemented today. These include:

- EMRC and member Councils participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Program (now the ACE_R program);
- EMRC and member Councils continue to seek opportunities to gain further external funding to assist in undertaking environmental projects in the Region;
- EMRC lobby the State Government to improve public transport;
- EMRC seek funding to undertake an education campaign on waste minimisation in the Region;
- EMRC monitor and encourage the development of markets for waste derived products;
- Member Councils continue to support Integrated Catchment Management Programs (i.e. Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program); and
- Member Councils support the recommendations of the Swan River Trust Swan Canning Clean Up Program (now Healthy Rivers Action Plan).



Item 9.2 Continued

Regional Environmental Strategy (RES) 2011 - 2016

Member Council needs and expectations of the EMRC's Environmental Service have evolved over the past five years from primarily consulting services to a greater focus on collaboration and delivery of regional projects and services. This ranges from large multi-partner projects such as the Perth Solar City project, through to projects that are tailored to each member Councils' individual needs, such as the Water Campaign.

In addition to delivering projects for member Councils, the EMRC has also developed major regional strategies, such the recent Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region: Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-2013.

Although each of the current initiatives, services and projects identified above are well aligned with the EMRC's Strategic Plan for the Future, there was a need to ensure all elements are a part of a cohesive and comprehensive whole, with consideration given to addressing any gaps in the range of services delivered by the EMRC.

To address this need, it was proposed to Council to:

- Develop a new RES which would provide the overarching framework within which the EMRC's environmental services would be delivered.
- Establish a Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG), which would replace the current suite of environmental projects steering groups.

The EMRC Council approved the development of a Regional Environment Strategy at its 18 February 2010 meeting. (Ref: Committees-103851). The REAG was established in 2010, and is made up of Environmental and Sustainability Officers from each of the member Councils and EMRC Environmental Services Staff. The group meets on a regular basis to provide guidance to the projects and services delivered by the EMRC Environmental Services business unit.

REPORT

This report outlines the process utilised in development of the Regional Environment Strategy (RES) 2011 - 2016 and provides an overview of the key focus areas. The complete RES document is attached.

The EMRC's Strategic Plan for the Future 2010/11 to 2013/14 sets in place a vision to "be a responsive and innovative leader in assisting Perth's Eastern Region to be a great place to live, work, play and do business". The EMRC's vision for the RES for Perth's Eastern Region builds upon this context and is defined as:

A Region supporting healthy ecosystems and habitat for flora and fauna, where the air, land and waterways are clean, there is green space, highly efficient buildings and transport systems, renewable energy and minimal waste and emissions.

In order to reach this vision the strategy aims to ensure a sustainable approach for the future development, protection and management of Perth's Eastern Region.

The EMRC seeks this by following the guiding principles:

- Facilitate the cooperative, regional implementation of environmental initiatives;
- Lead by innovation;
- Enhance and promote cost effective and sustainable environmental management programs and practices, through regional cooperation in research, capacity building and information exchange between the EMRC and its member Councils; and
- Attract funding and resources to Perth's Eastern Region to research, design and deliver innovative best practice in environmental management policies and programs.



Item 9.2 continued

The six key focus areas identified in the RES are:

1. Land Use Planning;
2. Biodiversity;
3. Climate Change;
4. Water;
5. Advocacy; and
6. Engagement and Education.

Implementation

Implementation of the RES will be facilitated by the EMRC with support of member Council officers through the REAG.

The EMRC will take a central role in the implementation of this Strategy and will coordinate collaboration amongst member Councils to achieve the objectives of the Strategy. In addition to this, EMRC will undertake day-to-day activities to support the projects within the Strategy.

The proposed role of member Council officers over the next five years is to actively engage in implementation of regional projects that have relevance at the local level. This will involve:

- Participating in the REAG;
- Leveraging regional advocacy activities;
- Liaising with other business units within their Council; and
- Keeping the EMRC informed of relevant local activities and other projects.

Resources

Implementation of the RES is expected to be resourced through a blend of EMRC contributions, member Council contributions, and supplemented by external funding for projects. Detailed budgets for the delivery of actions within the RES will be developed as part of the next stage of implementation planning.

Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The implementation of the RES will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated on an on-going basis through;

- Regular meetings of the REAG;
- The quarterly Environmental Services Activity Report which is presented to the CEOAC and EMRC Council; and
- A minor review of the Strategy undertaken annually, including a workshop with REAG to review progress, and allowing the RES to be a living document.
- A major review of the RES in 2013 and 2016 to identify new projects and update existing projects and review progress.

STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Services activities align with the following objectives in the EMRC Strategic Plan for the Future 2010/11 to 2013/14:



Item 9.2 continued

Key Result Area 1 – Environmental Sustainability

- 1.5 To contribute towards improved regional air, water & land quality and regional biodiversity conservation
- 1.5.4 Implement and participate in regional environmental issues and projects that affect the region.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Development of the RES has been undertaken in-house by EMRC officers.

No additional contribution will be required from member Councils in 2011/2012 beyond the existing financial contributions.

Detailed project plans and budget outcomes to progress the RES will be produced in 2012/2013.

Member Council contributions from 2012/2013 will be addressed through the existing annual budget development process commenced annually in October.

The commencement of each project is dependent on budget approval in successive financial years.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The development and implementation of a Regional Environmental Strategy will assist in strengthening the natural environment of Perth's Eastern Region. The Strategy is complementary to the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan and the member Councils various environmental and sustainability strategies.

MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

Member Council	Implication Details
Town of Bassendean City of Bayswater City of Belmont Shire of Kalamunda Shire of Mundaring City of Swan	Activities within the Regional Environmental Strategy (RES) 2011-2016 complement other member Council priorities and provide the strategic framework for member Councils to develop and/or align local environmental strategies to regional directions in order to leverage opportunities and funding. The future financial cost implications for activities that emerge from the RES will be developed and integrated into future budget proposals for member Council consideration and be sought through various funding programs.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Regional Environment Strategy 2011 – 2016 (Ref: Committees-13169)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority



Item 9.2 continued

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Council approves the EMRC Regional Environment Strategy 2011 – 2016.
2. That Council notes that EMRC will seek funding from member Councils and external funding opportunities to develop projects within the Regional Environment Strategy.

The Chief Executive Officer of the City of Belmont noted that the updated report was more comprehensive than the previous one. The Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Bassendean informed the CEOAC that he had written to the EMRC and enclosed a copy of the report "Pesticide Management Assessment", requesting the EMRC to consider carrying out a suitable study of all the most common pesticides used by local government, practice guidelines and the potential effect on public health. He felt that this was an issue for all local governments as Jane Bremer and Lee Bell for Poisons Action Network or Alliance for Clear Environment would continue to pursue this matter as they believe it was Councils responsibility for the health and wellbeing of residents.

CEOAC RECOMMENDATION(S)

MOVED MR COLE

SECONDED MS LEFANTE

That:

1. Council approves the EMRC Regional Environment Strategy 2011 – 2016.
2. Council notes that EMRC will seek funding from member Councils and external funding opportunities to develop projects within the Regional Environment Strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2011 - 2016

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1 INTRODUCTION

Perth's Eastern Region stretches from the edge of the Perth CBD, along the Swan River through urban residential, commercial and industrial areas to the scenic Swan Valley and into the forests and prime agricultural land of the Darling Ranges.

Covering approximately one third of the Perth metropolitan area, the Region is home to a number of diverse cultural backgrounds. With a population of approximately 300,000 people and population growth forecast to be around 8% per annum over the next 10 years; it is also one of the fastest growing regions in Western Australia (see Figure 1)

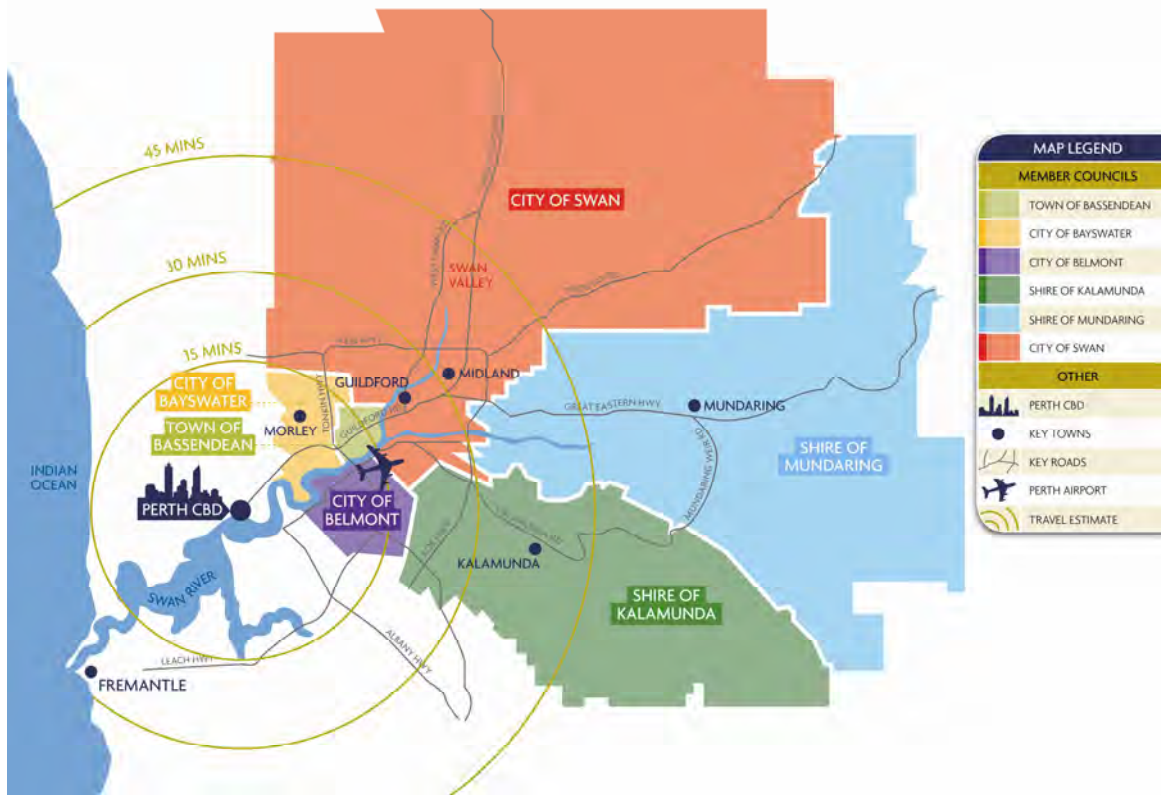


Figure 1: Perth's Eastern Region

Protecting and managing the varied landscapes and significant environmental assets of the Region under the increasing pressures of urbanisation and development is a significant challenge for member Councils and the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC).

To meet this challenge the EMRC needs to deliver regional projects and programs that benefit the environment and future sustainability of the Region as well as providing timely and targeted support to its member Councils in their environmental management activities.

Whilst the EMRC has already had significant success in this regard it is important to ensure all programs, projects and services are part of a cohesive and comprehensive whole, with consideration given to addressing any gaps in the range of services.

This new Regional Environment Strategy (RES) provides an overarching framework for the delivery of the EMRC's environmental services, as agreed by member Councils, to ensure that the environment of Perth's Eastern Region is protected and maintained.

1.1 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The RES sits within a context of both EMRC strategic planning and member Councils' environmental planning as well as being influenced by Federal and State Government legislation and policy, as demonstrated below.

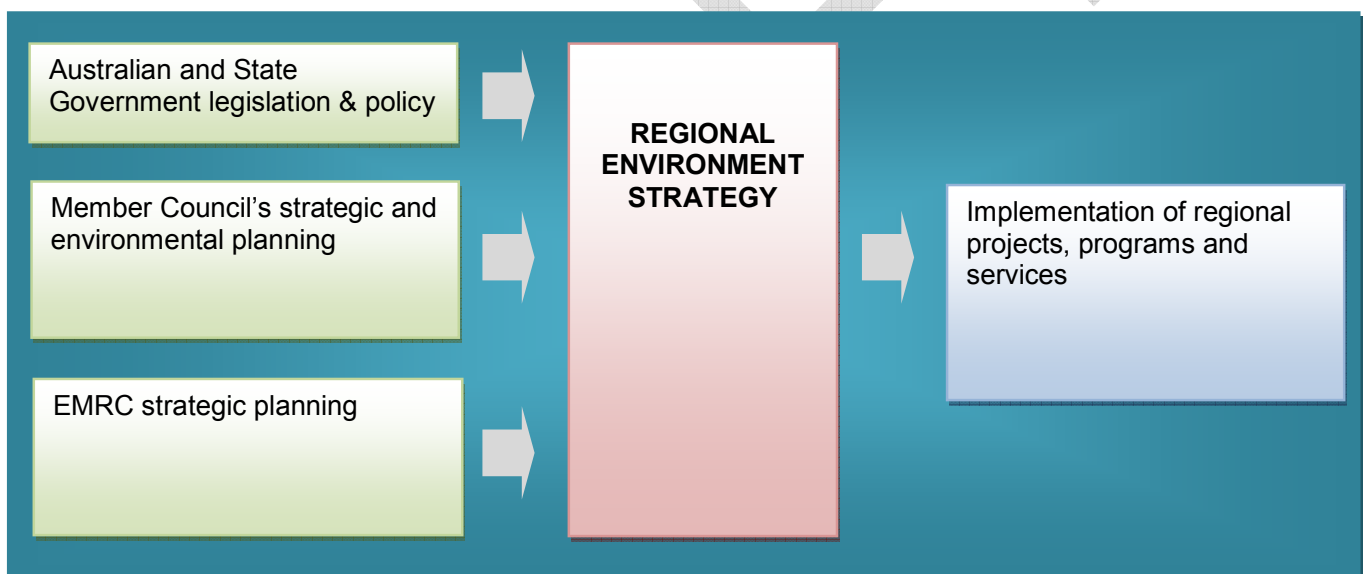


Figure 2: Regional Environment Strategy – Strategic Context

The EMRC's *Strategic Plan for the Future 2010/11 to 2013/14*, identifies Environmental Sustainability as Key Result Area 1, which aims to facilitate the sustainable use and development of resources. In particular, the RES links to:

- Objective 1.5 - To contribute towards regional biodiversity conservation and improved air, water and land quality, and
- Strategy 1.5.4 - Implement and participate in regional environmental issues and projects that affect the region.

The EMRC also has a number of strategic planning documents that target specific issues, see below. All of these strategies have relevance to the RES as together they support the broader goal of sustainability for the Region.

- The Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) (2010 – 2015);
- The Regional Tourism Strategy (RTS) (2010 – 2015) ;
- The Regional Integrated Transport Strategy (RITS) Action Plan 2010 – 2013;
- The Regional Advocacy Strategy (RAS) (2010 – 2013);
- The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (RCCAAP) 2009 – 2013;
- Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF) (2007), including a number of implementation strategies:
 - Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan (2009);
 - Best Management Practices for Foreshore Stabilisation – Approaches and Decision-support Framework (2009) (EMRC/Swan River Trust);
 - Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan (2011); and
 - Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines (2011).
- EMRC / Swan River Trust Local Government Natural Resource Management (NRM) Policy Manual (2008).

Each of the Region’s six member Councils have also undertaken their own strategic environmental planning, a list of these plans is provided in Table 1 below. This Strategy does not seek to replace individual environmental strategies of member Councils, but rather to complement them by outlining a regional framework for the delivery of agreed environmental outcomes across the whole of Perth’s Eastern Region.

Table 1: Member Council Environmental Planning Documents

Member Council	Strategies, Plans and Policies
Town of Bassendean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (2011) ▪ Collective Local Biodiversity Strategy (2008) (Bassendean, Bayswater & Belmont) ▪ Five Year Operational Plan for Natural Areas (2008) ▪ Water Action Plan (2006) ▪ Environment Plan (2004) ▪ Strategic Plan 2010-2011 ▪ Corporate Greenhouse Action Plan (2000)
City of Bayswater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Environment Strategy (currently in development)

Member Council	Strategies, Plans and Policies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (currently in development) ▪ Collective Local Biodiversity Strategy (2008) (Bassendean, Bayswater & Belmont) ▪ Lighting Swamp Bushland Management Plan (2002) ▪ Corporate Greenhouse Action Plan (2000)
City of Belmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environment Plan 2010-2015 ▪ Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (2010) ▪ Collective Local Biodiversity Strategy (2008) (Bassendean, Bayswater & Belmont) ▪ Water Action Plan (2007) ▪ Corporate Greenhouse Action Plan (2000)
Shire of Kalamunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (2011) ▪ District Conservation Strategy (1995) and review (2010) ▪ Local Biodiversity Strategy (2009) ▪ Water Action Plan (2009)
Shire of Mundaring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft Environmental Management Strategy (2011) ▪ Draft Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (2011) ▪ Local Biodiversity Strategy (2009) ▪ State of the Environment Report (2008) ▪ Private Land Conservation Strategy (2008) ▪ Water Action Plan (2006) ▪ Community Greenhouse Action Plan (2001) ▪ Community Education Strategy (Environment) (2002) ▪ Corporate Greenhouse Action Plan (2000) ▪ Wildlife Corridor Strategy (2000) ▪ Integrated Catchment Management Plan (2000) ▪ Environmental Management Strategy (1996)
City of Swan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable Environment Strategy (currently in development) ▪ Biodiversity Strategy (2005) ▪ Corporate Greenhouse Action Plan (2000) ▪ Environmental Report (1996)
Perth Region NRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic Plan Overview (2010) ▪ Integrating NRM into Local Government Core Business (2008)
South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noongar Consultation Protocol Guidelines (2011)
State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft State NRM Strategy ▪ Directions 2031 and Beyond ▪ Liveable Neighbourhoods

Member Council	Strategies, Plans and Policies
Australian Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caring for Our Country ▪ Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy ▪ Weeds of National Significance (WONS) framework ▪ Australian Weeds Strategy (2007) ▪ National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992) ▪ Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) ▪ National Framework for Energy Efficiency (2004 & 2007) ▪ National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2007) ▪ National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 ▪ Renewable Energy Target (2010) ▪ National Strategy on Energy Efficiency Update 2010 (COAG) ▪ Securing a Clean Energy Future

For a full list of environmental planning documents, please refer to [Appendix 1 – Environmental Resources Index](#).

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1.2 AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

The EMRC's *Strategic Plan for the Future 2010/11 to 2013/14* sets in place a vision for the organisation to “be a responsive and innovative leader in assisting Perth's Eastern Region to be a great place to live, work, play and do business”. The EMRC's vision for the RES for Perth's Eastern Region builds upon this context and is defined as:

A region supporting healthy ecosystems and habitat for flora and fauna, where the air, land and waterways are clean, there is green space, highly efficient buildings and transport systems, renewable energy and minimal waste and emissions.

In order to reach this vision, the strategy aims to ensure a sustainable approach for the future development, protection and management of Perth's Eastern Region.

The EMRC will seek to do this by following the guiding principles below:

- Facilitate the cooperative, regional implementation of environmental initiatives;
- Lead by innovation;
- Enhance and promote cost effective and sustainable environmental management programs and practices, through regional cooperation in research, capacity building and information exchange between the EMRC and its member Councils; and
- Attract funding and resources to Perth's Eastern Region to research, design and deliver innovative best practice in environmental management policies and programs.

1.3 A PROJECT BASED APPROACH

The RES has been developed using a different approach than has previously been used by the EMRC in its strategic planning. The RES will still provide a strategic framework for delivery through the identification of an aim, guiding principles and objectives and a program for implementation and review. However, rather than using action planning to identify key focus areas and a series of associated actions for implementation, it will identify project themes and develop a framework of project delivery that includes existing and proposed projects.

By identifying both existing and proposed projects, the strategy ensures a comprehensive overview and plan for program delivery, reinforcing commitment to existing projects while addressing gaps in program delivery. New projects that have been identified build upon the

EMRC's existing programs and services and/or target areas that are not currently being addressed.

Using a project based approach will ensure that the strategy delivers on-ground benefits through specific projects targeting identified gaps in program delivery. In addition, it will enable specific projects to be costed, planned and approved by member Councils, as part of the strategy's adoption. This will facilitate the implementation of the RES and maximise the on-ground benefits to member Councils and the Region.

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2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

2.1 REVIEW OF EMRC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The EMRC has supported member Councils and stakeholders to achieve environmental outcomes since 1993. The EMRC's mission is to partner with member Councils and other stakeholders to facilitate strategies and actions for the benefit and sustainability of Perth's Eastern Region.

Over this time the EMRC has strengthened and broadened its capacity to deliver environmental benefits to the Region and the support it provides to member Councils. Similarly, member Councils have also broadened and strengthened their environmental programs. For some member Councils this has included an increase in environmental staff from one or none to a whole team.

The development of the new RES provided an opportunity to review the role of EMRC's Environmental Services team, the support it provides to member Councils in their environmental management activities, and the types of programs and services it delivers across the Region.

Member Council needs and expectations of the EMRC's Environmental Service have evolved, and in response EMRC has shifted from primarily providing consulting services to a greater focus on collaboration and delivery of regional projects and services. This ranges from large multi-partner projects such as the Perth Solar City project, through to projects that are tailored to each member Councils' individual needs, such as the Water Campaign™.

In addition to delivering projects for member Councils, the EMRC has also developed major regional strategies with member Councils, such as the recent Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region: Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-2013. The EMRC's regional environmental activities and achievements include:

- Perth Solar City Program;
- Future Proofing - Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-2013 and Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Planning;
- Development and implementation of Achieving Carbon Emissions Reduction (ACER) Program;

- Delivery of the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Water Campaign™ and previously Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) programs;
- Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program (EHCMP);
- Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF); and
- Environmental and sustainability consulting, advice, advocacy and policy development.

These activities illustrate the role of the EMRC in environmental management within Perth's Eastern Region, and can be broadly categorised into the following main activity areas:

- Land Use Planning;
- Biodiversity Conservation;
- Climate Change;
- Water;
- Advocacy; and
- Engagement.

In 2010, the EMRC established a Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG) to bring together environmental officers from across all six member Councils to provide direction to EMRC environmental services. The group replaced a suite of existing steering groups that had been set up to provide guidance and direction on different environmental and sustainability projects.

2.2 CONSULTATION WITH MEMBER COUNCILS

During August 2010, a range of officers (predominantly environmental staff) from member Councils were interviewed to determine their Councils views on environmental issues, barriers and opportunities within the Region. Member Council Officers were also consulted on the potential content and structure of the RES.

Member Councils identified that they wanted the RES to:

- Complement member Councils' environmental strategies and policies;
- Recognise that issues on the Swan Coastal Plain are different to those in the hills;
- Have a long term focus;
- Have clear aims and objectives;
- Have clear implementable actions;
- Identify what EMRC environmental services will deliver;

- Identify a mechanism for accountability, review and monitoring;
- Outline clear roles and responsibilities; and
- Identify the necessary resources and costings for implementation.

Member Council officers also identified a range of environmental issues facing the Region. In general, they cover the areas of:

- Education and engagement of the community;
- Volunteer management and recruitment;
- Protection of bushland and biodiversity;
- Protection of waterways and management of foreshore erosion;
- Increasing pressures from urbanisation, development and land clearing; and
- Integrating environment with land use planning.

A workshop was held in July 2011 where projects within the draft Strategy were discussed and prioritised by the REAG.

2.3 CONSULTATION WITHIN EMRC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

In 2010/11, the Environmental Services team explored the thinking tools of Dr Edward de Bono – a leading international authority on creative thinking. Undertaking a cognitive learning program, the team explored 21st century decision-making and problem solving tools, namely focusing on the *Power of Perception* tools. The overall objective of which has been to apply these tools and processes to the creation of a new RES.

3 PROJECT THEMES

3.1 LAND USE PLANNING

Perth's Eastern Region consists of urban residential areas, commercial and industrial areas, major transport hubs, peri-urban agricultural land, large amounts of bushland, as well as the Swan River and its tributaries and important foreshore areas. It is important that these diverse land uses are managed so that urbanisation and commercial development has minimal impact on the Region's environmental assets.

The development of changing and competing land uses such as residential areas, agriculture and industry, can impact on neighbouring natural areas through surface runoff, production of waste and pollutants entering the soil, waterways and atmosphere. Therefore the location and management of competing land uses is of critical importance. Effective and considered land use planning will help to protect and conserve the Region's valuable natural areas.

Planning decisions can have a major impact on the environment and other natural resources. Local government has significant opportunity to influence the impact of urban development on the environment through strategic land use planning and its development, and planning approval processes. By incorporating environmental considerations and natural resource management into the planning process, decisions can be made that will mitigate potential impacts on the environment. Similarly, it is also possible for more use to be made of the planning system to manage environmental issues.

Specifically, Local Governments can use their Local Planning Schemes, planning policies and development approvals to:

- Reserve and protect bushland areas and other natural areas of value;
- Avoid development that may result in unacceptable environmental impacts;
- Attach environmental conditions to development approvals that can enhance environmental benefits;
- Promote energy efficient development and urban design incorporating energy efficient building design, walkable neighbourhoods, transit orientated development and solar orientation of lots;
- Promote water conservation, management of stormwater and the use of water sensitive urban design; and

- Use appropriate zoning to manage environmental impacts and to reduce the likelihood of incompatible land uses to be located next to environmental assets.

In Local Government the responsibilities for environmental management and for planning often sit within different business units and the integration and coordination between the two is often not as effective as it could be. In addition, planning officers usually do not have extensive knowledge of environmental issues, while environmental officers likewise do not often have extensive planning knowledge. Better communication, understanding and coordination between planning and environmental staff within Local Governments could achieve significant environmental benefits.

One particular land management issue that is of importance to the Region and that has not been adequately addressed is Local Government owned contaminated sites. Contaminated sites are defined as:

"having a substance present in or on that land, water or site at above background concentrations that presents, or has the potential to present, a risk of harm to human health, the environment or any environmental value." (Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (WA).

For Local Government, the key issue in relation to contaminated sites is its potential responsibility for the remediation of old landfill sites. Old landfill sites may be contaminated as they were created and operated at a time when there was minimal understanding of their potential impact on the environment and there were few or no controls on the dumping of waste and little or no rehabilitation of landfill sites.

The following objective has been identified for land use planning:

Objective 3.1 To ensure that environmental considerations and sustainability principles are integrated into land use planning.

Key land use planning projects that provide a strong foundation for environmental planning throughout the Region are summarised in [Table 2](#), with proposed projects outlined in [Table 3](#).

Table 2: Overview of Environmental Planning Projects in Perth's Eastern Region

Project Name	Summary	Status	Budget	Funding	Staffing
Healthy Rivers Local Government Land Use Planning Project - Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)	<p>The project engaged planning officers at nine Local Governments in the north-east metropolitan corridor to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ tools, guides, processes and/or protocols that would aid their implementation of Better Urban Water Management (Western Australian Planning Commission, 2008); and ▪ allow additional support and activities, beyond that provided in existing programs, required to facilitate Local Government commitment to implementation of WSUD within local planning processes. 	Completed 2009	N/A	Fully funded	1.0 FTE
Local Government Natural Resource Management Policy Manual	<p>The Local Government Natural Resource Management (NRM) Policy Manual is an easy to use reference guide designed to assist Local Governments to manage natural resources in their region, and reduce nutrient and other pollutants in priority catchment areas of the Swan-Canning river systems.</p> <p>The NRM Policy Manual includes best practice guidelines for areas such as: land use planning and development control; stormwater/drainage management; and provision of services such as recreational facilities.</p> <p>EMRC also developed Policy Development Guidelines to outline a process that can be used by Local Government to develop policies, using the format adopted within the Local Government NRM Policy Manual.</p>	Completed 2009	N/A	Fully funded	1.0 FTE
Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF)	<p>The SHRMF details strategic priorities for a co-ordinated approach to the management of the Swan and Helena Rivers in the areas of social benefits; environmental values; cultural and natural heritage; design and development; and planning and management. The framework provides a vision for the future protection and development of the Swan and Helena Rivers as regional assets - it identifies roles and responsibilities and allocates strategic actions to all stakeholders to guide the ongoing management and development of the eastern reaches of the Swan River and the Helena River.</p>	Strategy completed 2007 – ongoing implementation.	<p>Provision made in subsequent budgets to progress development of high priority strategies and actions.</p> <p>2011/2012 - \$114, 497</p>	Fully funded by EMRC	1.0 FTE

Project Name	Summary	Status	Budget	Funding	Staffing
	<p>Current projects being implemented/developed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Recreational Path Development Plan; • Best Management Practices for Foreshore Stabilisation; • Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan; and • Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines. 				
<p>Eastern Catchment Management Plan (ECMP) - formerly Integrated Catchment Management Program (ICMP)</p>	<p>The review process for the ECMP involves Perth Region NRM, EMRC, Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program member Councils, catchment groups and the community. The document is to be a living document that assists in driving the future direction of natural resource management in the eastern region. The review process will look at the existing ICMP recommendations and ascertain what was done well and not so well and will address gaps in the plan and identify future actions in the ECMP. The Plan is expected to be completed in 2012/2013.</p>	<p>Current</p>	<p>\$2,000</p>	<p>\$2,000 EMRC \$5,000 Swan River Trust \$3,000 Shire of Mundaring \$3,000 City of Swan</p>	<p>In-Kind officer time</p>

Table 3: Proposed Land Use Planning Projects

P3.1.1	Regional Conservation and Habitat Restoration Strategy
Summary	The Regional Conservation and Habitat Restoration Strategy will link the Swan and Helena River Management Framework (SHRMF) to the Regional Environmental Strategy to provide a framework for implementation of environmental works along the rivers. This will also inform and support the implementation of the environmental themes in the Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan.
Background	The Regional Conservation and Habitat Restoration Strategy was identified under the environmental values guiding principle.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify regional conservation nodes for protection along the foreshore for areas of high habitat value; • To undertake flora and fauna surveys to identify corridors / areas to be rehabilitated to create sustainable habitats; • To identify linkage opportunities between conservation nodes; • To prepare an implementation plan based on conservation priority; • To develop consistent protocols for rehabilitation; • To develop a unified plan for weed control.
Costings	Fully funded by EMRC as part of SHRMF.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional plan for EMRC river member Councils (Bassendean, Bayswater, Belmont & Swan) to manage and prioritise foreshore conservation and restoration activities in a co-ordinated manner; and • Standardised protocols, guidelines and policy documents for conservation and restoration activities for river member Councils and EMRC.
Responsibility	Environmental Projects Officer
P3.1.2	Regional Funding Strategy
Summary	The Regional Funding Strategy will inform ongoing advocacy and create an overview of funding sources, availability, partnerships, foreshore works and priorities. This will enable advanced planning for collaborative submissions; highlight regional needs and link with work done by Swan Canning Policy Forum as well as supporting other major projects in the SHRMF, such as the Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan and Regional Recreational Path Development Plan.
Background	The Regional Funding Strategy was identified under the planning and management guiding principle.
Objectives	<p>To prepare a funding strategy to obtain funds to undertake significant and co-ordinated works along the foreshore and river banks. The strategy should include funding sources from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government Grants (including dollar-for-dollar funding); • EMRC and Member Councils; • Natural Heritage Trust; • LotteryWest; • Sponsorship; • Fundraising events;

P3.1.2	Regional Funding Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Government funding opportunities; and • Funding from major corporations and industry etc.
Costings	Fully funded by EMRC as part of SHRMF.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional planning document of available funding sources to inform and guide funding activities in a co-ordinated and timely manner. • Leverage/obtain funding for Local Government for river management activities.
Responsibility	Environmental Projects Officer

P3.1.3	Continue implementation of the Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan
Summary	As part of the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF) project the EMRC will continue to implement recommendations from the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan.
Background	The Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan was developed to identify and prioritise the missing links in the pathway network along both sides of the Swan River between the Windan Bridge and the Guildford Road Bridge. Directional and distance signage specifications were also included as part of the plan to provide a consistent approach and method to signposting the Swan River Trails network.
Objectives	To continue to implement the recommendations from the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan to facilitate continued access and enjoyment of the river foreshore that is compatible with the river environment.
Costings	EMRC, EMRC river member Councils and external funding.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and maintenance of recreational pathway around the rivers; • Directional and distance signage around the rivers.
Responsibility	Environmental Projects Officer

P3.1.4	Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan
Summary	As part of the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF) project the EMRC will continue to investigate the development of the Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan.
Background	The Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan project was initiated from recommendations in the SHRMF (2007) for the development of a regional recreation trail providing a continuous, accessible, interpreted and signed route along each side of the Swan and Helena Rivers' foreshore. Work completed includes Perth's Eastern Region Swan River Trails Project (2007); Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan (2009) and the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance Report (2009).
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To determine the theme(s) for the Swan and Helena Rivers foreshore using the "meta" themes identified in the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance; • To identify the sites to be interpreted; • To determine the message(s) to be communicated; • To determine the methods of interpretation; • To produce specifications for the physical interpretation infrastructure;

P3.1.4	Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce an action plan for the implementation of the interpretation plan; and • Produce a detailed budget for implementation of the interpretation action plan.
Costings	EMRC, EMRC river member Councils and external funding.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interpretation plan for a multi-use trail along a section of the Swan and Helena Rivers' foreshore outlining the theme(s), sites, method(s), design and physical structure of the interpretation; and • An interpretation infrastructure action plan that is fully costed and can be implemented by member Councils.
Responsibility	Environmental Projects Officer

P3.1.5	Contaminated Sites – Desktop Assessment
Summary	A desktop assessment will be carried out to identify contaminated sites and establish member Council and State government responsibilities, remediation options and funding sources available.
Background	Contaminated sites within the region and where responsibility lies for remediation are an area of increasing concern for member Councils.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify contaminated sites within the region; • To determine environmental impacts; • To identify relevant legislation and potential liability; and • To identify current approaches for remediation.
Costings	Funded by EMRC.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document the history of the site and likely contaminants; • Increase existing knowledge about environmental impacts; • Identify relevant legislation and potential liability; and • Identify current approaches for remediation
Responsibility	Manager Environmental Services

P3.1.6	Contaminated Sites Auditing
Summary	Offer auditing of contaminated sites including a technical analysis of the site including testing for contaminants, management recommendations and proposals for remediation.
Background	Contaminated sites within the region are an area of increasing concern for member Councils.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide professional auditing of contaminated sites; • To gain professional accreditation through Department of Environment and Conservation.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Assist member Councils and other clients in addressing contaminated sites.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

P3.1.7	Environmental Planning
Summary	<p>Within Local Government the responsibilities for the environment and for planning often sit within different business units and the integration and coordination between the two is often not as effective as it could be. In addition planning officers usually do not have extensive knowledge of environmental issues, while environmental officers likewise do not often have extensive planning knowledge.</p> <p>Where environmental planning or associated positions are not held within Local Governments, the EMRC could provide such a service (e.g. assessment of strategic developments etc).</p>
Background	<p>Environmental planning concerns itself with the decision making processes required for managing relationships that exist within and between natural systems and human systems. Environmental planning endeavours to manage these processes in an effective, orderly, transparent and equitable manner for the benefit of the present and for the future. Present day environmental planning practices are the result of continuous refinement and expansion of the scope of such decision making processes. Some of the main elements of present day environmental planning are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and economic development; • Urban development; • Regional development; • Natural resource management & integrated land use; • Infrastructure systems; and • Governance frameworks. <p>Environmental planning assessments encompass areas such as land use, socio-economics, transportation, economic and housing characteristics, air pollution, noise pollution, the wetlands, habitat of the endangered species, flood zones susceptibility, coastal erosion, and visual studies among others, and are referred to as integrated environmental planning assessments.</p>
Objectives	To ensure sustainable land use and planning in Perth's Eastern Region.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Achievement of better environmental outcomes in relation to land use planning.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

P3.1.8	Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)
Summary	To provide Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) services.
Background	<p>Local Government is a key player in the conservation and management of biodiversity and threatened species in WA. As land use planners, Local Government is responsible for planning and regulating many activities which may impact on biodiversity and threatened species. Local Government also manage large areas of public land, much of which contains important biodiversity values.</p> <p>If a development proposal is lodged with a Local Government, and it appears that the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, the decision-making authority (e.g. Local Government) must refer the proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for an environmental impact assessment.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect the environment; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent, control and abate pollution and environmental harm.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparency of the process and opportunities for public involvement in decision making process that enhances the credibility and reliability of the EIA process; and Rigorous assessment of the extent of environmental change, pollution and environmental harm.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

P3.1.9	Environmental Management Systems
Summary	Environmental Management Systems (EMS) provide a set of management methods for achieving continual improvement in the environmental performance of organisations. EMS provide a means of ensuring environmental strategies, policies and initiatives are effectively implemented.
Background	<p>EMS provide a set of management methods for achieving continual improvement in the environmental performance of organisations. An EMS can be developed according to Australian and New Zealand standards ISO 14000 which provides guidance on the establishment, implementation, maintenance and improvement of an EMS and its co-ordination with other management systems.</p> <p>The process assists organisations in implementing environmental policies and provides the means for evaluating whether desired outcomes have been achieved and reviewing whether changes to policy direction are required. The EMS process assists organisations in managing their assets in an economically and environmentally responsible way. The process also enables organisations to manage risk and due diligence issues and to monitor and assess environmental impact within a systematic framework.</p>
Objectives	<p>To develop an EMS for Local Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve continual improvement in environmental performance; Effectively implement environmental strategies, policies and initiatives; Manage their assets in an economically and environmentally responsible way; and Manage risk and due diligence issues and to monitor and assess environmental impact within a systematic framework.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced cost of waste management; Savings in consumption of energy and materials; Lower distribution costs; Improved corporate image among regulators, customers and the public; Framework for continual improvement of environmental performance; and Sustainable management.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

P3.1.10	Sustainable Landscaping
Summary	Sustainable landscaping encompasses obtaining an attractive environment that is in balance with the local climate and requires minimal resource inputs, such as fertiliser,

P3.1.10	Sustainable Landscaping
	<p>pesticides and water. Sustainable landscaping begins with an appropriate design that includes functional, cost efficient, visually pleasing, environmentally friendly and maintainable areas.</p> <p>The EMRC would assist Local Governments with creating sustainable landscapes, with research and collation of appropriate plant species for the various biophysical zones of the South-West, soil and light preferences, physical appearance, growth habits, attraction for native fauna and hydrozoning.</p>
Background	Lack of rainfall, water restrictions and the increasing costs of water are resulting in Local Governments looking for alternative landscape design that is sustainable. Local Government can provide leadership to the community by implementing sustainable landscaped gardens within their Local Government area.
Objectives	To assist Councils to achieve more sustainable landscapes through improved plant selections and landscape design.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced water use and cost; • Savings in energy consumption for irrigation; • Improved corporate image; and • Improved local biodiversity and urban habitat.
Responsibility	NRM Coordinator

P3.1.11	Local Government Natural Resource Management Policy Manual Review
Summary	Undertake a review and update of the EMRC NRM Policy Manual best practice policies and guidelines.
Background	<p>In 2008 the EMRC, in partnership with the Swan River Trust, developed a set of guidelines for Local Governments in priority catchment areas. The Local Government Natural Resource Management (NRM) Policy Manual is an easy to use reference guide designed to assist Local Governments to manage natural resources in their region, and reduce nutrient and other pollutants in priority catchment areas of the Swan-Canning river systems.</p> <p>The NRM Policy Manual includes best practice guidelines for areas such as: land use planning and development control; stormwater/drainage management; and provision of services such as recreational facilities.</p> <p>Since the NRM Policy Manual's publication, the EMRC recognises there have been a suite of new developments in legislation, State Government departments and in best practice management. The EMRC will review the NRM Policy Manual, ensuring it is up to date with such information.</p>
Objectives	To review and update the NRM Policy Manual to ensure it remains a current best practice resource for Local Government.
Costings	External funding will be sought.
Outcomes	A valuable, updated NRM environmental management and planning resource for Local Government that reflects current best practice, legislation and State and Federal Government initiatives.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 1

P3.1.12	Development of Tailored Environmental Policy and Guidelines for Local Government
Summary	Building on the work undertaken through the Local Government Natural Resource Management Policy Development Project, the EMRC proposes to develop sets of best practice policies and associated implementation guidelines tailored specifically to the needs of individual Local Governments.
Background	<p>Policy development is a key function of Local Government. Policies and guidelines provide the framework within which an organisation operates. For Local Government, they define what the municipality does and how to do it.</p> <p>In recent years, the EMRC in partnership with the Swan River Trust developed the Local Government Natural Resource Management Policy Manual – a best practice manual containing a suite of policies and guidelines for Local Governments in priority catchment areas.</p> <p>Using this manual as a basis, the EMRC has developed tailored policies and guidance documents for the Town of Bassendean, City of Belmont and Shire of Mundaring.</p>
Objectives	To develop policies and guidelines for Local Government to ensure best practice environmental considerations are integrated into planning, operations and management.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Governments are equipped with required tailored best practice environmental policies and guidelines; and • Best practice environmental considerations are integrated into planning, operations and management.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 1

P3.1.13	Environmental Land Use Planning Training for Local Government Staff
Summary	<p>Land use planning and environmental management are different areas of expertise and it is not common for Local Government staff to have a thorough understanding of both areas. Generally speaking planning officers do not have extensive knowledge of environmental issues, while environmental officers likewise do not often have extensive planning knowledge.</p> <p>The EMRC / Swan River Trust (SRT) Local Government NRM Policy Manual provides best practice guidelines for areas such as land use planning and development control; stormwater/drainage management; and provision of services such as recreational facilities. Using this and other relevant sources, the EMRC proposes to provide training to Local Government officers.</p>
Background	<p>The guidelines and other material in the EMRC/SRT Local Government NRM Policy Manual was developed to help Local Government to better manage natural assets within their jurisdiction with the aim of maintaining or enhancing local and regional environmental quality.</p> <p>The best management practice (BMP) guidelines are designed to provide direction in the absence of a regulatory framework for natural resource management at the local level. The NRM Policy Manual is a best planning practice and best management practice led approach to assist Local Government to achieve the objectives of the Healthy Rivers Program.</p> <p>The main objective of the guidelines is to improve the water quality of the receiving</p>

	<p>waters of the Swan Canning river system.</p> <p>The guidelines are for use by Local Government officers in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use planning - the strategic and statutory planning system; • Urban design and landscaping - the design of the public areas and infrastructure; • Land management - Council operations and development sites; • Stormwater treatment and flow management structural measures and non-structural measures; and • Community education and awareness - through media, education programs and participation.
Objectives	To train Local Government officers in the use of the Local Government NRM Policy Manual.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Officers who are familiar with, and engaged in the use of the Local Government NRM Policy Manual.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 1

3.2 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Perth's Eastern Region has many local bushland areas and reserves managed by member Councils. These reserves support a variety of flora, fauna and ecological communities. In addition, the region has over ten national parks which have conservation, recreation and landscape values of national significance, several regional parks of regional significance and thousands of hectares of State forest. These areas are managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation and provide important ecological linkages with member Councils' local bushland areas.

The Environmental Services team currently undertake a number of projects in partnership with Local Governments and the community which aim to enhance and protect the bushland, biodiversity, wetlands, rivers and streams within Perth's Eastern Region. Key biodiversity assets include the extensive bushland areas of the Eastern Hills Precinct (Shires of Mundaring and Kalamunda and the City of Swan) and the Swan Coastal Plain Precinct (Cities of Bayswater and Belmont, and Town of Bassendean), as well as the Swan River and its tributaries and foreshore areas.

Since its inception, the EMRC has placed a strong emphasis on natural resource management which encompasses catchment and regional scale approaches to managing land, water and biodiversity resources. The Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program (EHCMP) has been the EMRC's keystone project for natural resource management and has been recognised for its success and innovation with a number of state and national awards. A key challenge for the EHCMP moving forward is the recruitment of new volunteers and community members. Other successful projects include the Dieback Best Management Practice Project and Communication Strategy, and the development of a Collective Biodiversity Strategy for the Cities of Bayswater and Belmont and the Town of Bassendean. Current biodiversity conservation projects are summarised in [Table 4](#) with proposed projects outlined in [Table 5](#).

The following objectives have been identified for biodiversity conservation:

Objective 3.2	To maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of Perth's Eastern Region.
Objective 3.3	To continue to support member Councils and community groups in their bushland management activities.

Table 4: Overview of Biodiversity Conservation Projects in Perth's Eastern Region

Project Name	Summary	Status	Budget	Funding	Staffing
Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program (EHCMP)	<p>EHCMP is a partnership between the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring, City of Swan, EMRC, Perth Region NRM and Swan River Trust. The team includes a Natural Resource Management Co-ordinator and two Natural Resource Management Officers who work in partnership to support a large, active and diverse community network. The network comprises of over 130 friends of groups and four catchment groups</p> <p>Key activities include production of the Greenpage newsletter, Bush Skills for the Hills workshops and close liaison with Local Governments.</p>	Ongoing	2011/2012 \$259,940	Funded by Shires of Kalamunda, Mundaring & City of Swan, EMRC, Perth Region NRM & Swan River Trust.	3.0 FTE
Native Fish Fauna Monitoring	<p>The EHCMP team secured funding to conduct native fish monitoring along a 26 km section of the Helena River from the Upper Helena Catchment area to the Lower Helena Catchment area to the confluence of the Swan River. The survey assesses the diversity and abundance of fish species in the river reaches and tributaries of the Helena River between Spring/Summer 2010 and representative samples of permanent pools between Autumn/Winter 2011.</p> <p>The findings of this report will be used to make recommendations with regards to conservation of native freshwater fish species in the Eastern Hills and to develop strategies to increase fish habitat through restoration and protection.</p>	Commenced June 2010 Due for completion June 2012	2010/2011 State Natural Resource Management Office: \$34,458 2011/12 Swan River Trust \$53,702	Fully funded by State NRM Office & Swan River Trust	0.2 FTE
Dieback Best Management Practice Project	<p>The aim of this project is to increase the capacity, skills and knowledge of Local Government's community based environmental groups and private landholders with regard to effective management of Phytophthora dieback. The Phytophthora Dieback Best Practice Management Framework has been developed to help lead land managers through the process of assessing their current Phytophthora dieback management and to integrate operating procedures and policies which are applicable to their organisation, allowing these to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The framework is a</p>	Completed	\$25,000 p.a.	Fully funded by Dieback Working Group	0.5 FTE

Project Name	Summary	Status	Budget	Funding	Staffing
	set of guidelines by which land managers can assess their compliance to best management practices thereby providing continuous quality development and leadership.				
Dieback Communication Strategy	<p>The project sought to raise awareness and change the behaviour of reserve visitors to minimise the spread of Phytophthora dieback. It was a partnership with EMRC, the Dieback Working Group, Perth Region NRM and the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring and the Cities of Swan, Armadale and Gosnells.</p> <p>The objectives of the project were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the level of awareness of dieback; ▪ Identify the attitudes and behaviours of community members; and ▪ Develop communication tools that are effective in evoking measurable changes in behaviour for dieback containment in reserve management. 	Completed 2009	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 5: Proposed Biodiversity Projects

P3.2.2	Wildlife Corridor Planning
Summary	The EMRC proposes to develop tailored strategies for Local Governments to strengthen and maintain wildlife corridors.
Background	<p>A wildlife corridor or green corridor is an area of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities (such as roads, development, or logging). This allows an exchange of individuals between populations, which may help prevent the negative effects of inbreeding and reduced genetic diversity (via genetic drift) that often occur within isolated populations.</p> <p>Corridors may also help facilitate the re-establishment of populations that have been reduced or eliminated due to random events (such as fires or disease). This may potentially moderate some of the worst effects of habitat fragmentation.</p> <p>Where Shires have existing wildlife corridors identified, this project will support the implementation of measures to protect and enhance the ecological integrity of these corridors.</p>
Objectives	To develop tailored strategies that enables Local Governments to strengthen and maintain wildlife corridors, thus reducing habitat fragmentation.
Costings	Seek external funding.
Outcomes	Increased wildlife corridors in the Eastern Hills.
Responsibility	NRM Officer

P3.2.3	Baseline Environmental Studies
Summary	The EMRC proposes to undertake baseline surveys/studies on behalf of its member Councils. This may include weed mapping, flora and fauna surveys, fungi surveys and salinity mapping.
Background	<p>Baseline environmental surveys and studies are critical to providing Local Government with a comprehensive understanding of the biodiversity, ecosystems and environmental threats that exist within their municipalities. In turn, it can provide a basis for future environmental planning, management and protection activities.</p> <p>A baseline study simply defines the conditions that will be used to assess improvements in an area as a result of NRM work or degradation of sites from lack of NRM activities or from other stress factors.</p> <p>Without baseline data to establish current conditions it is difficult to establish a measure of outcomes and impacts to an area.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To undertake baseline studies in reserves and public open spaces on behalf of Local Government; • To prepare baseline reports to define the condition of a study area in preparation for future projects, monitoring or assessment purposes; • To provide weed, flora, fauna and fungi surveys; • To identify areas for potential NRM projects; and • To develop research projects.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning for future NRM activities; • Protection of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) and threatened fauna; • Funding for protection and or enhancement of biodiversity areas; and • Improvements to ecological health as a consequence of research projects.

P3.2.3	Baseline Environmental Studies
Responsibility	NRM Coordinator

P3.2.4	Best Practice Alternative Weed Management Manual
Summary	<p>EMRC has commenced investigating alternative weed management techniques. Following research and trials into the application of these techniques, the EMRC proposes to trial such mechanisms within its member Councils.</p> <p>The manual will provide best management practices and tools that are both effective and represent value for money for Local Governments and community groups to consider in relation to alternative weed management.</p>
Background	<p>There are a number of different weed control herbicides currently being used by Local Government and community groups, many that may be harmful to both environmental and human health. Increasing research is demonstrating the need for Local Governments and the community to re-evaluate the amount of herbicides being used in bush-care activities and in the maintenance of public open spaces.</p> <p>In some Local Governments, alternative methods to chemical weed control such as saturated steam are currently in place and working effectively. In other cases Local Governments rely on herbicides for weed control.</p> <p>Some community groups have developed their own alternative methods to chemical weed control such as manual hand weeding, solarisation and the development of specialised tools to suit specific weed species.</p> <p>With increased public concern regarding the use of herbicides, highlighted recently with the Swan River Dolphin deaths, it is anticipated that there will be increased pressure on Local Governments to utilise alternative methods.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify effectiveness of alternative weed management techniques; • To collaborate with universities/research institutions; • To showcase best management practices; • To reduce the environmental and human health impacts of herbicide; • To reduce the costs spent on weed management by Local Government and the community; and • To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and policy.
Costings	Research project – seek external funding and university collaboration
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice Alternative Weed Management Manual; • A reference library of alternative weed management papers; • Document successful alternative weed management practices (including work by catchment groups – Blackadder Woodbridge, Joondalup Community Coast Care Forum); • A database of alternative weed management contractors and charge out rates; • A database of herbicides used both by Local Government and catchment/friends of groups and costs allocated to practices; • A suite of alternative weed management tools; • Collaborative partnerships with universities to develop peer reviewed scientific papers on alternative weed management; • Training on alternative weed management practices; and

P3.2.4	Best Practice Alternative Weed Management Manual
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the manual and best practices.
Responsibility	NRM Coordinator Manager Environmental Services

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3.3 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Environmental Services team undertakes sustainability projects and initiatives in partnership with Local Governments and the community which aim to reduce carbon emissions; assist Local Governments and communities to assess and manage their energy resources; provide climate change risk assessment, management and adaptation planning, and to educate in the areas of energy and climate change.

Australian Local Governments have been leaders in reducing carbon emissions and energy use. Through participation in the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program they have set targets for reducing their emissions (both from their own operations and from the community), developed and implemented action plans and undergone monitoring and review of their emissions. Since the withdrawal of the CCP Program in 2009, the EMRC has worked with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) to develop a new method for monitoring carbon emissions. Additionally, the EMRC with member Council support has developed a new carbon mitigation program called Achieving Carbon Emissions Reductions (ACER) to replace CCP.

The need to reduce and manage energy use is important not only for reducing carbon emissions and preventing climate change, but also for helping communities adapt to rising energy costs. The EMRC and its member Councils have worked with a number of consortium partners to bring the Perth Solar City Program to the communities of Perth's Eastern Region. The Perth Solar City Program is a suite of initiatives designed to bring together individuals, communities, governments and business to trial and showcase practical and creative ways to reduce energy use. As part of the program, 13 demonstration projects showcasing renewable energy have been delivered throughout the region and 6,000 residents have received the Living Smart behaviour change program.

The EMRC has assisted the region to prepare for expected climate change impacts by developing the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-2013. This was developed in partnership with member Councils by undertaking a comprehensive climate change risk assessment to identify impacts and the associated actions that will be needed to respond and adapt. The EMRC also facilitated each member Council developing their own Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans. The EMRC and some of member Councils are now implementing these Plans across the Region.

Continuing challenges for the EMRC and its member Councils over the coming years will include conserving and managing energy use in the face of rising costs and keeping abreast of changes in climate change policy and science. In particular, the proposed introduction of a carbon price via an emissions trading scheme could have significant implications for member Councils and their communities.

Current climate change projects are summarised in **Table 6** with proposed projects outlined in **Table 7**.

The following objectives have been identified for climate change:

Objective 3.4	To factor climate change adaptation into member Councils' core business decision making.
Objective 3.5	To ensure Perth's Eastern Region is committed and prepared to address climate change.
Objective 3.6	To support member Councils to achieve their strategic climate change or carbon reduction targets.
Objective 3.7	To promote alternative and renewable energy and fuels to ensure that Perth's Eastern Region is prepared for future shifts in technology.

Table 6: Overview of Climate Change Projects

Project Name	Summary	Status	Budget	Funding	Staffing
Achieving Carbon Emissions Reductions (ACER)	The ACER program is an initiative developed to encourage and support member Councils to monitor, reduce and report on their corporate carbon emissions and educate the community on energy and climate change related issues.	Ongoing	2011/2012 \$68,252	Participating member Councils contribute on an agreed basis per annum.	1.0 FTE
Perth Solar City	The Perth Solar City program is being delivered by a consortium of federal, state and Local Governments as well as business and industry partners. The program trials and demonstrates a range of solar technologies in Perth's Eastern Region. The program aims to increase the uptake of solar technologies through community engagement strategies and to decrease carbon pollution and energy use.	Due for completion 30 June 2013	2011/2012 \$	\$15,000 per year from each member Council until June 2013.	1.0 FTE
Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region	<p>Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region is a framework that has been developed to complement regional actions to reduce emissions by identifying the major risks of climate change relevant to the region and to assist in the development of a regional adaptation plan to address the risks.</p> <p>The EMRC and its member Councils undertook a comprehensive climate change risk assessment in 2009 to identify impacts and associated actions to better prepare the Region's community to adapt to the pressures climate change will bring. This resulted in the development of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-13 and Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans for each member Council. These plans are now being implemented across the Region.</p>	Due for completion 30 June 2013	2011/2012 \$109,904	<p>\$15,000 per year from each participating member Council until June 2013</p> <p>\$40,000 per year contribution from EMRC</p>	1.0 FTE

Table 7: Proposed Climate Change Projects

P3.3.1	Sustainability Auditing - Events
Summary	EMRC will be offering a Sustainability Auditing service for events. The audit, conducted by the EMRC's accredited Environmental Consultant, will provide an on-site survey and assessment of water and energy-using equipment; management practices to determine the efficiency of energy and water use; and to develop recommendations for improving the sustainability of the event. It will also provide a range of practical and cost effective measures for reducing consumption.
Background	<p>Standards exist for the sustainability of events. As outlined in ISO 20121 - <i>Event sustainability management systems</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing, Procurement, Sourcing, Supply Chain, Materials Use. <p>The materials, supplies and products used to produce an event all have the potential for negative environmental impacts. Through environmental preferred purchasing, reductions in these impacts can be achieved throughout the supply chain. Options to reduce environmental impacts of purchasing can be achieved through such things as using products which have an eco-label (including organic, fairtrade, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified or other sustainable forestry products, VOC (variable organic compound) free, chemical free cleaning products, PVC free, eco-paints, sustainably produced meat/chicken/pork/seafood and/or vegetarian catering, products made from sustainable and recyclable materials, etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy <p>The energy used to produce an event can be provided directly through the mains/grid power or through mobile or portable power generators. Reducing the environmental impacts of event production can be achieved by reducing the amount of energy needed, by providing energy through renewable or zero emissions sources or by offsetting emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste <p>Reducing the total amount of waste going to landfill is the aim. This can be done through preventing waste from being created in the first place, or through diverting waste from landfill through recycling, composting biodegradable waste and through salvage and re-purposing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water & Sanitation <p>The amount of water used at an event and focusing on its reduction is the key to sustainability in event management in this topic. Reducing the amount of sewage and grey water produced is also an aim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport <p>The impact of the audience's travel to an event is often seen as one of the largest environmental impact. CO₂ emissions as a direct result of transport is the measure used to gauge this. To reduce the impact of audience transport to and from an event, public transport use, filling up all the seats in the car, car pooling and coming on foot or by bicycle where appropriate, can be encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity <p>Protecting the natural environment, both flora and fauna and the ecosystems in which they live is an important aspect to the environmental management of event production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue, Accommodation and Destination <p>Ensuring that the choice of destination, accommodation and venue is suitable for the requirements of the event and the attendee demographic can be key in reducing unnecessary travel and boosting the local economy. By sourcing local suppliers, the carbon footprint of the event will be reduced dramatically given the reduced need for suppliers to transport themselves, products or services to the event.</p>

P3.3.1	Sustainability Auditing - Events
Objectives	To encourage sustainable event management in Perth's Eastern Region.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils/clients would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report outlining the event's sustainability impact (covering greenhouse gas emissions, water usage and waste management); a review of positive actions undertaken and recommendations for improving the sustainability of future events. • Other events will benefit through an increased understanding of sustainable events and through the leverage of recommendations.
Responsibility	Environmental Projects Officer Environmental Consultant 1

P3.3.2	Energy Efficiency Audits for Local Governments
Summary	The EMRC currently provides water audits to Local Governments. Given the continuing need to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy use there is opportunity to also provide energy audits. Energy efficiency audits could include analysis of energy use, assessment of energy using appliances and equipment, recommendations for reducing energy use and estimates of reduced costs and payback periods.
Background	<p>With rising energy costs, an increased drive to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions, the introduction of a carbon price and the impacts of carbon pollution, there is a need for organisations to consider ways to better manage and reduce energy costs, consumption, and carbon tax across facilities. Such measures can be demonstrated through an energy efficiency audit.</p> <p>An energy efficiency audit is an inspection, survey and analysis of energy flows for energy conservation in a building, process or system to reduce the amount of energy input into the system without negatively affecting the output(s).</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable understanding of energy use patterns within the Local Government; • To determine where and how savings can be made in electricity and gas usage, whilst maintaining or improving the comfort and services that such energy provides; and • To develop an action plan to implement the activities and measures identified to increase energy efficiency.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	The Local Government shall receive a report that provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An on-site assessment of energy use sectors and management practices; • Recommendations for improving energy-use efficiency; and • A range of practical and cost effective measures for reducing consumption, including cost-benefit analysis.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 1

P3.3.3	Energy Efficiency Audits for Small Business
Summary	It has been proposed that the EMRC provide water audits for small business. This

P3.3.3	Energy Efficiency Audits for Small Business
	could be combined with energy efficiency audits so that a more comprehensive assessment of both energy and water use is provided. This will provide local business with information and advice they may not otherwise be able to access and assist them in reducing their energy and water use, environmental impact and operating costs, creating environmental and economic benefits for the Region.
Background	<p>With rising energy costs, an increased drive to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and the introduction of carbon price and the impacts of carbon pollution, there is a need for organisations to consider ways to better manage and reduce energy costs, consumption, and carbon tax across facilities. Such measures can be demonstrated through an energy efficiency audit.</p> <p>An energy efficiency audit is an inspection, survey and analysis of energy flows for energy conservation in a building, process or system to reduce the amount of energy input into the system without negatively affecting the output(s).</p> <p>Provision of energy audits to small business also aligns with the objectives of the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 6.1 Support industry with taking action to be environmentally conscious in their day to day activities; • Objective 6.2 Encourage innovation in environmental management, clean tech industries and sustainable business practices; and • Objective 6.4 Leverage the Perth Solar City Program to assist in raising awareness of energy management in small to medium enterprises.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable understanding of energy use patterns within the business; • To determine where and how savings can be made in electricity and gas usage, whilst maintaining or improving the comfort and services that such energy provides; and • To develop an action plan to implement the activities and measures identified to increase energy efficiency.
Costings	Local business would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<p>The business shall receive a report that provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An on-site assessment of energy-use sectors and management practices; • Recommendations for improving energy-use efficiency; and • A range of practical and cost effective measures for reducing consumption, including cost-benefit analysis.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 1

P3.3.4	Energy Efficient Capital Works Implementation and Management
Summary	Following an energy efficiency audit, the EMRC proposes to work with Councils to tackle climate change through facilitating the implementation of nominated energy efficiency projects. The EMRC would project manage upgrades of existing buildings to be more energy efficient, and facilitate more renewable energy products and services being introduced into Councils and/or their wider community. This would increase the energy efficiency of municipalities as a whole and reduce their environmental footprint.
Background	Member Councils have begun to tackle energy efficiency through the Perth Solar City and ACER programs. This project, with appropriate funding, would continue the journey towards energy efficiency and carbon reductions through identifying, planning

P3.3.4	Energy Efficient Capital Works Implementation and Management
	and implementing specific projects. Possible projects could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building retrofits to energy efficient lighting, shading and air conditioning; • Installation of PV systems; • Installation of wind turbine and/or other renewable energy systems; and • Installation of energy efficient hot water systems.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase energy efficiency within Councils and communities across Perth's Eastern Region.
Costings	Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Reduced energy costs; reduced environmental footprint; meeting strategic objectives.
Responsibility	Environmental Advisor Environmental Projects Officer

P3.3.5	Carbon Price, Emissions Trading and Climate Change Policy
Summary	Energy and climate change policy is an ever evolving field which is influenced by changes in State and Federal governments, community and industry opinion as well as climate change science. It is important that the EMRC keeps abreast of the changing policies, funding programs and services, and assesses the impact that they will have on member Council operations and their communities. This will ensure that member Councils are prepared to adapt to increased regulation or costs and can reduce the impact on their operations and their communities.
Background	<p>Various federal policies to address and respond to climate change have been proposed in the past 10 years - an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) and now the Carbon Pricing Mechanism. It is inevitable that some form of price on carbon and emissions trading will occur in the next few years, however, there is a large degree of uncertainty regarding the form it will take and the likely impacts on Local Government.</p> <p>This project will provide support, research and recommendations to member Councils on the best approach to dealing with this uncertainty and planning for the future.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide analysis of impacts of changes to emissions trading and climate change policy to member Councils; and • To provide relevant recommendations to member Councils to reduce any negative impacts of changes to emissions trading and climate change policy.
Costings	EMRC funded.
Outcomes	Better understanding of current policy; ability to factor uncertainty into future planning; reduced impact over time of policy changes; future proofing.
Responsibility	Environmental Projects Officer

P3.3.6	Incorporate NRM Plant Offsets (Research Program)
Summary	The amount of CO ₂ that is utilised by planted trees varies from species to species. The EMRC and its member Councils undertake extensive planting projects within Perth's Eastern Region. Collectively these plants would utilise significant CO ₂ tonnage offset. However, there is currently no accurate mechanism for determining just how much CO ₂ is utilised by each plant species, and therefore collectively offset for the Region. The EMRC proposes to facilitate research into this field, including quantification of CO ₂ offset and means by which this may be verified.

P3.3.6	Incorporate NRM Plant Offsets (Research Program)
Background	<p>Carbon offsets play an important role in a multi-dimensional solution to slowing climate change. Offsets provide a facility to mitigate the impact of emissions on our atmosphere. Carbon offsetting through native tree planting is an important means of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere. Planting trees as offsets can address other environmental issues such as salinity, erosion, loss of biodiversity and habitat and land degradation.</p> <p>This project will require the involvement of a university to be able to undertake studies on the potential CO₂ uptake of different vegetation endemic to Perth's Eastern Region.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ascertain CO₂ sequestration capabilities of plant species native to the Eastern Hills; • To seek partners interested in funding sequestration research; • To participate in research of sequestration trials; • To seek partners interested in offsetting carbon; and • To educate stakeholders regarding the carbon sequestration abilities of native vegetation.
Costings	Seek external funding.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research project developed to establish CO₂ sequestration capabilities of plant species native to the eastern hills; • Strategy to market the outcomes and promote the project to stakeholders needing to offset carbon; • Community and industry workshops on CO₂ reductions attributed to native vegetation; and • Revegetation projects funded by private investors obliged to offset carbon.
Responsibility	NRM Coordinator

P3.3.7	Co-generation Projects (Research)
Summary	Whilst Western Australia's infrastructure is not currently set up to receive large amounts of renewable energy into the grid, the EMRC proposes to undertake research and provide future planning advice to member Councils regarding the possible implementation of co-generation technologies which may assist in attracting future funding.
Background	Co-generation plants generate energy from a combination of sources (e.g. diesel and gas; wind and solar). Whilst these improve upon the energy efficiency of most power plants, the EMRC proposes to investigate renewable co-generation projects and technologies on behalf of member Councils. This will assist in the urban planning process and may assist in attracting funding for implementation as State and Federal governments are committed to investment in renewable technologies.
Objectives	To provide researched future planning advice regarding renewable co-generation technologies and their implantation.
Costings	Seek external funding.
Outcomes	Improved understanding of co-generation technologies and their implementation for future planning and funding.
Responsibility	Environmental Advisor Environmental Projects Team

P3.3.8	Monitoring and Evaluation of Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans
Summary	<p>The EMRC has worked in partnership with its member Councils to develop Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans (LCCAAP's) to address impacts of climate change. These plans provide a strategic framework for actions that target a number of key areas and environmental threats.</p> <p>As the actions of the LCCAAP are implemented by Councils, the EMRC proposes to undertake monitoring and review effectiveness of actions, particularly as new developments in the climate change field emerge, in order to ensure Councils are adapting appropriately to environmental threats and impacts, thereby protecting and enhancing the environment as well as fostering economic prosperity within the Region.</p>
Background	<p>Councils within Perth's Eastern Region recognise the need to adapt to the new reality that climate change will bring. Adaptation is about taking action to avoid, manage or reduce the consequences that will be brought about from climate events. Adapting to climate change must be integrated into day to day planning and risk management activities of Local Government and this discipline must be transferred within local communities.</p> <p>Member Councils, in partnership with EMRC, have developed Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans (LCCAAP) to address impacts of climate change that will create challenges for Local Government, impacting not only on the environment but the Councils' business operations and its communities.</p> <p>The LCCAAP provides a strategic framework for actions that target a number of key environmental areas and environmental threats. The implementation of the LCCAAP protects and enhances the environment as well as fostering economic prosperity within the eastern region.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor and review effectiveness of implemented LCCAAP actions, in ensuring Councils are adapting appropriately to environmental threats; and • To protect and enhance the environment as well as foster economic prosperity within Perth's Eastern Region.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	An annual progress report outlining progress against the LCCAAP actions, achievements and any changes to reflect current needs of the Council in the adaptation process.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

P3.3.9	National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) Building Ratings
Summary	<p>The ability to "rate" a building for its environmental impact is a powerful tool for project management and efficiency change as well as promotion to stakeholders. Different "green" ratings systems for existing buildings were reviewed and the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) was identified as being the most nationally applicable and recognisable of the ratings systems currently available.</p> <p>NABERS is a performance-based rating system for existing buildings which rates a building on the basis of its measured operational impacts on the environment, and provides a simple indication of how well these environmental impacts are being managed compared with other buildings.</p> <p>An accredited NABERS rating allows identification of how efficiently a building is operating compared to other buildings. It allows measurement of the impact of</p>

P3.3.9	National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) Building Ratings
	<p>projects, and can be used in communicating successes to stakeholders.</p> <p>Existing buildings can be assessed by an accredited NABERS assessor to determine areas of inefficiency. Retrofits can be assessed before and after the project to highlight improvements in energy and/or water efficiency.</p> <p>The EMRC's accredited NABERS assessor will be able to provide ratings for office buildings in the areas of NABERS Energy (previously the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating), NABERS Water, NABERS Waste and NABERS Indoor Environment.</p>
Background	<p>Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) is a national program designed to improve the energy efficiency of Australia's large office buildings that is being managed by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.</p> <p>Under the Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Act 2010 (the Act), there are mandatory obligations applicable to many commercial buildings. Most sellers or lessors of office space of 2,000 square metres or more will be required to obtain and disclose an up-to-date energy efficiency rating. From 1 November 2011 a full Building Energy Efficiency Certificate (BEEC) will need to be disclosed. BEECs are valid for 12 months, must be publicly accessible on the online Building Energy Efficiency Register, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A NABERS Energy Star Rating for the building; • An assessment of tenancy lighting in the area of the building that is being sold or leased; and • General energy efficiency guidance. <p>NABERS now incorporates the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating (ABGR), which has been re-named 'NABERS Energy for offices'. ABGR was a world first initiative for rating the greenhouse and energy performance of commercial office buildings.</p> <p>The scheme encourages building owners and tenants to reduce energy use and costs and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NABERS ratings for offices include NABERS Energy (previously ABGR), NABERS Water, NABERS Waste and NABERS Indoor Environment.</p>
Objectives	<p>A NABERS accredited rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a credible, independently verified means for benchmarking and monitoring actual improvements towards sustainability within offices; • Encourages best practice, by providing realistic aspirational benchmarks that encourage the owners and occupants of office premises to minimise their environmental impacts; • Assists Member Councils to evaluate how efficiently a building is operating compared to other buildings in the marketplace; • Provides a nationally recognised tool for assessing and communicating the outcomes and achievements of energy efficiency retrofits to existing buildings; • Equates to a more efficient building which will cost less to operate; and • Enables member Councils to stay ahead of future environmental regulation.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited NABERS Rating
Responsibility	Environmental Projects Officer

P3.3.10	Sustainable Street Lighting (Research)
Summary	<p>Street lighting is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs for Local Government. Many advances in sustainable street lighting technologies have been made in recent years, however, many Member Councils simply do not have the officer time or expertise to investigate and evaluate available technologies.</p> <p>The EMRC proposes to undertake research and provide future planning advice to member Councils regarding the availability, compatibility and possible implementation of sustainable street lighting technologies which may assist in attracting future funding and will assist with capital works planning.</p>
Background	<p>Street lighting has been identified as a major cost to Local Government, as well as contributing to carbon emissions. Advances in street lighting technologies have been occurring across Australia, and many now meet local energy provider specifications.</p> <p>The EMRC has identified a need by Member Councils for expert advice to assist them in planning and implementation of street lighting upgrades for energy and cost efficiencies, and long term sustainability to meet strategic objectives.</p> <p>Funding for street lighting efficiency upgrades may also become available through the Federal Government's Low Carbon Communities program.</p>
Objectives	To provide researched Member Council specific advice regarding sustainable street lighting technologies and their implementation. This advice will include compatibility, estimated costs, energy efficiency information and emissions savings.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Current, relevant information on sustainable street lighting technologies and their implementation to facilitate future planning, funding and implementation.
Responsibility	Environmental Projects Officer

3.4 WATER

Below average rainfall in the south-west of Western Australia, together with a changing climate, have reduced the availability of freshwater in the Perth metropolitan area. This has resulted in a greater reliance in the groundwater of the Gnangara Mound. The overuse of this resource is likely to have significant environmental implications. The efficient and sustainable use of both freshwater and groundwater is important for reducing environmental impact, reducing costs and ensuring water resources are preserved for future generations.

Local governments have a responsibility to ensure that their own operations and activities conserve water as well as encouraging their local communities to conserve water. Member Councils have already taken significant steps to reduce their own water use through water efficiency and conservation measures. Key areas for member Councils to target include watering regimes of parks, gardens, recreation facilities, verges and medians. Community programs promoting water efficiency and conservation can target households, schools and businesses.

The Swan River is a natural icon and a major regional aquatic habitat as well as having recreational, aesthetic, cultural and social values. Management of the river and its foreshores to enable its biodiversity values to be maintained and enhanced whilst also meeting the range of human use values, requires constant attention to its changing needs and consistent application of best management practices. The EMRC has taken steps to protect this valuable asset through the development of the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework. The Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework was completed in 2007 with support from the Department of Planning (previously the Department of Planning and Infrastructure) and the Swan River Trust. Three high priority projects recommended in the framework were completed in 2009 and include:

- Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreation Path Development Plan;
- Swan and Helena Rivers Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance; and
- Best Management Practices for Foreshore Stabilisation Project.

Challenges for the EMRC and its member Councils are the sustainable use of the Swan River and the efficient and sustainable use of both freshwater and groundwater resources. Current water projects are summarised in **Table 8** with proposed projects outlined in **Table 9**.

The following objectives have been identified for water:

Objective 3.8 **To ensure sustainable use of water across Perth's Eastern Region.**

Objective 3.9 **To improve the quality of water within Perth's Eastern Region.**

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Table 8: Overview of Water Projects

Project Name	Summary	Status	Budget	Funding	Staffing
ICLEI Water Campaign™	<p>The Water Campaign™ is a sustainability program developed by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Australian government, aimed at providing Local Governments with a framework and structured approach to actively assess and manage their water resources.</p> <p>EMRC is taking an active role in assisting member Councils to progress through their five milestones, by liaising with ICLEI, the Water Corporation, other external organisations and local councils</p>	Ongoing	2011/2012 \$91,026	Participating member Councils contribute on as agreed basis.	1.2 FTE
Water Auditing for member Councils	<p>EMRC offers a comprehensive water auditing service by its accredited Environmental Consultants. The water audit provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analysis of historical water use; • An on-site survey and assessment of water-using hardware, fixtures, equipment, landscaping, and management practices to determine the efficiency of water use; • An inspection for any leaks; • A range of practical and cost effective measures for reducing consumption; • Annual financial savings, payback periods and return on investment for the various water savings initiatives suggested; and • Further recommendations stemming from the audit. 	Ongoing	Part of Water Campaign	Participating member Councils are charged at consulting rates for officer time.	1.0 FTE (part of Water Campaign)
Shire of Kalamunda Water Quality Monitoring	<p>EMRC, through the Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program, undertakes water quality monitoring of various catchments of the Shire of Kalamunda. The purpose of the sampling is to determine the extent to which water quality is affected by industrial, urban, peri-urban, rural and other contaminant sources within the Shire of Kalamunda and to identify appropriate community actions to address water quality issues.</p>	Ongoing	N/A	Participating member Councils contribute on as agreed basis.	As needs basis.

Table 9: Proposed Water Projects

P3.4.1	Water Efficiency Audits for Small Business and Community
Summary	<p>The ICLEI Water Campaign™ sustainability program not only makes an active assessment of Local Government's own water resource use and management, but also that of their communities, including businesses.</p> <p>In addressing this community component of the program, it is proposed that the EMRC expand its water efficiency auditing services to small businesses within the region. This will provide local business with information and advice they may not otherwise be able to access and assist them in reducing their water use, environmental impact and operating costs, creating environmental and economic benefits for the Region.</p>
Background	<p>With the current water shortage in Perth, water conservation and water use efficiency is a high profile issue. There is a need for organisations to consider ways to better manage and reduce water consumption. Such measures can be demonstrated through a water efficiency audit.</p> <p>Providing a means to develop precision in schemes for water conservation, water use efficiency and water management, a water audit assesses water-using appliances and practices, both indoor and outdoor, and develops recommendations for improving water-use efficiency.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable understanding of water use patterns; • To determine where and how savings can be made in water usage, whilst maintaining or improving the comfort and services that such water provides; and • To develop an action plan to implement the activities and measures identified to increase water efficiency.
Costings	Local business would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<p>The business will receive a report that provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An on-site assessment of water use sectors and management practices; • Recommendations for improving water-use efficiency; and • A range of practical and cost effective measures for reducing consumption, including cost-benefit analysis.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 1 and 2

P3.4.2	Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)
Summary	Building upon the WSUD work undertaken through the Local Government Natural Resource Management Policy Manual and the Healthy Rivers Local Government Land Use Planning Project - Water Sensitive Urban Design, the EMRC proposes to assist Councils with support to facilitate implementation of WSUD within local planning processes.
Background	<p>Water cycle management is an important consideration for urban development that contributes to an ecologically sustainable city. Water cycle management covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water; • Stormwater run-off; • Waterway health; • Sewage treatment; and • Re-cycling. <p>There is concern about the quality of water discharging from drains into water bodies</p>

P3.4.2	Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)
	<p>such as the Swan and Canning Rivers. Stormwater runoff from urban areas carries sediments and pollutants such as nutrients and heavy metals from impervious surfaces.</p> <p>A mechanism to address water quality of stormwater runoff from developed areas and ensure integration of water cycle management into urban planning and design is through Water Sensitive Urban Design. This design philosophy provides a framework for managing water-related issues in urban areas and incorporates sustainable management and integration of stormwater, wastewater and water supply into urban design.</p> <p>In recent years the previous Department of Planning and Infrastructure and partnership agencies have been involved in the development of guidance documents related to Water Sensitive Urban Design, such as Better Urban Water Management which is designed to facilitate better management and use of urban water resources.</p> <p>The Healthy Rivers Local Government Land Use Planning Project - Water Sensitive Urban Design was funded and established by the Swan River Trust (the Trust) Healthy Rivers Program and coordinated by EMRC, with the assistance of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.</p> <p>The project aimed to engage planning officers at nine Local Governments in the north-east metropolitan corridor to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools, guides, processes and/or protocols that will aid implementation of Better Urban Water Management (Western Australian Planning Commission, 2008); and • Additional support and activities, beyond that provided in existing programs, required to facilitate Local Government commitment to implementation of WSUD within local planning processes.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist member Councils in implementation of WSUD within their local planning processes; • To improve surface and ground water quality; • To reduce surface water runoff and associated water contamination from heavy metals, nutrients, chemicals and other pollutants; • To protect natural systems; and • To integrate stormwater treatment into landscape.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Protecting natural waterways, incorporating stormwater treatment into landscapes while increasing public amenities, and protecting infrastructure from flooding events.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 2

P3.4.3	Water Quality Monitoring
Summary	<p>Monitoring water quality provides a picture of catchment health, assists with the maintenance and rehabilitation of waterways and catchments and determines if the health of the waterway and catchment is improving, declining or being maintained.</p> <p>The EMRC has experience in water quality monitoring and proposes to undertake water quality monitoring for member Councils. Additionally, the EMRC may prepare Sampling and Analysis Plans for Councils.</p>
Background	Water quality results collected in Local Government areas and fed into Department of Water's Water INformation (WIN) database will contribute to the knowledge store available to aid in regional planning for improving waterway and catchment health.

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prepare Sampling and Analysis Plans as required for Councils; To undertake water quality sampling; and To analyse water quality results and provide reports and catchment snapshots to member Councils.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Enhanced capacity to monitor and manage the health of waterways and catchments in the Local Government areas.
Responsibility	NRM Officer

P3.4.4	Stormwater Quality Management
Summary	<p>A field biofiltration system utilises natural processes by establishing an ecosystem to remove pollutants from the runoff. The primary objective is to “filter”, to capture and retain nutrients, sediment, pesticides and water, which could be exported from the surrounding catchment and be transported through stormwater runoff to surface water systems.</p> <p>The EMRC proposes to investigate options for runoff treatment through field biofiltration, including funding opportunities (such as the Federal Government’s proposed Low Carbon Communities grant scheme) to improve use of ‘green spaces’.</p>
Background	Stormwater quality management is part of Water Sensitive Urban Design, however it is an issue of high importance and can be dealt with on its own.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist Councils with stormwater quality management; To provide information on appropriate stormwater treatment options; and To improve stormwater quality and integrate its management with green spaces.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Improving the quality of stormwater, protecting receiving waterways/environments, incorporating stormwater treatment into landscapes while increasing public amenities.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 2

P3.4.5	Stormwater Drainage Plans
Summary	Recognising the importance of this Local Government service and the potential for implementation of contemporary best practice in this area, the EMRC proposes to work with Councils to develop stormwater drainage and asset management plans. This encompasses responsive management of assets (and services provided from assets); compliance with regulatory requirements; and funding required to provide the required levels of service.
Background	Local governments provide stormwater drainage infrastructure asset networks across their respective municipalities to mitigate risks associated with flooding to protect private property and personal safety of its residents. Working in partnership with the Water Corporation, Local Government aims to facilitate an effective and, where possible, environmentally sensitive drainage system.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure responsive management of assets; To provide protection from flooding; and To incorporate best practice environmentally sensitive drainage system management.

P3.4.5	Stormwater Drainage Plans
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Developing comprehensive and sound stormwater management plans for Councils to ensure responsive management of assets, protection from flooding, and best practice environmentally sensitive stormwater drainage management.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 2

P3.4.6	Greywater Use
Summary	<p>Decreasing existing water supplies and increasing demand means that alternative water supplies need to be explored as well as exploring ways to reduce water consumption and reuse water for fit-for-purpose use.</p> <p>Recognising the importance of maintaining the water supply and meeting the water demand, EMRC proposes to investigate possible wastewater recycling projects including greywater, and keep member Councils informed and up to date with relevant technologies, legislation and funding available.</p>
Background	Decreasing rainfall resulting in decreasing water supply, and increasing population resulting in increasing water demand, means that efforts and actions to increase water use efficiency and water conservation are needed more than ever before. Greywater reuse and wastewater recycling are some of the actions that can aid in improving water efficiency and water conservation. Most Local Governments allow and encourage residents to use greywater re-use systems under the condition that they adhere to the Department of Health's 'Code of Practice for the Use of Greywater in WA 2010'. EMRC has investigated greywater reuse and created a discussion paper called 'Reuse of Greywater in Western Australia'. The discussion paper looked mainly at the greywater as the title suggests, however complete and integrated wastewater recycling on a localised scale has also been examined.
Objectives	To keep member Councils up to date with relevant technology, legislation and funding available in regards to wastewater recycling and fit-for-purpose water use.
Costings	EMRC funded.
Outcomes	Keeping member Councils up to date with the wastewater industry, technology and legislation, and identify available funding, so that Councils can make appropriate, informed and timely decisions when taking actions in regards to water supply and water/wastewater management.
Responsibility	Environmental Consultant 2

3.5 ADVOCACY

As a regional body the EMRC acts on behalf of its six member Councils and their communities for the benefit and sustainability of Perth's Eastern Region. As such it is important that the EMRC represents the environmental interests of the Region through effective advocacy and governance.

The importance placed on this advocacy role is reflected in the EMRC's Strategic Plan which identifies undertaking advocacy activities on issues affecting Perth's Eastern Region as an important strategy of good governance.

This advocacy role has been undertaken on a case by case or project by project basis with differing degrees of formal planning and most often occurring on an ad-hoc basis. In order to facilitate a more comprehensive and targeted regional advocacy program the EMRC Council approved the development of a Regional Advocacy Strategy (RAS) in April 2009.

The Strategy identified nine Key Regional Issues of Priority, of which four relate specifically to the environment:

- The health, protection and sustainable use of the Swan and Helena Rivers;
- An effective and integrated transport system;
- Continued improvement of regional waste management activities; and
- A natural environment that is protected, enhanced and maintained for future generations.

Effective advocacy can ensure that the EMRC and its member Councils:

- Have an early awareness of proposed legislative or policy changes that impact upon the environment of Perth's Eastern Region;
- Can more effectively attempt to influence policy and legislative changes;
- Are heard on matters that affect the environment of Perth's Eastern Region;
- Develop and maintain valuable contacts and networks that can be utilised to support the environmental goals and objectives of Perth's Eastern Region;
- Can rapidly mobilise an effective and targeted response to environmental opportunities and issues as they arise; and
- Can ensure relevant stakeholders and decision makers have a clear understanding of the environmental issues that are a priority for Perth's Eastern Region.

Key strengths throughout the Region with regard to advocacy and governance include:

- A history of co-ordination and collaboration through facilitating a suite of environmental projects steering groups including establishment of a Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG); and
- Development of a Regional Advocacy Strategy, which includes environmental issues and priorities.

Key areas to target for advocacy and governance in the Region are identified as:

- Carbon pricing, emissions trading and climate change policy;
- Energy costs and infrastructure changes;
- Swan River; and
- NRM funding.

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Table 10: Overview of Advocacy Projects

Project Name	Summary	Status	Budget	Funding	Staffing
Participation in reference groups	<p>Groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swan Canning Local Government Policy Forum (C21); • Perth Region NRM East Reference Group; • Perth Region NRM Local Government Reference Group; • WALGA Senior Climate Change Officers Group; • WALGA Emissions Reporting Platform Steering Committee; • Swan River Trust Sub Regional Co-ordinators and Chairs; • Swan Canning Iconic River Trails Project Advisory Group; • Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails Master Plan Project Advisory Group; • Gateway WA Perth Airport and Freight Access Project – Environment Reference Group; and • Integrated Catchment Management Project. 	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A
Submissions to State and Federal Government on relevant environmental issues	<p>Some of the submissions have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring for Our Country • Prime Minister’s Task Group on Energy Efficiency - Issues Paper; • National Building Energy Standard-Setting, Assessment and Rating Framework - National Strategy on Energy Efficiency; • National Waste Policy - Managing Waste to 2020 Consultation Paper; • A Natural Resource Management Plan for Western Australia - Consultation Draft for Public Comment; 	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A

Project Name	Summary	Status	Budget	Funding	Staffing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030; • Energy 2031 - Strategic Energy Initiative Directions Paper; • Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency - Proposed Carbon Pricing Architecture and Implementation; • Swan River Trust Dinghy Management Along the Swan Canning Riverpark Shoreline Policy; • Swan River Trust Stormwater Management Policy SRT/D4; and • Swan Canning Local Government Policy Forum (C21) - Draft Priority Plan for Investment in the Swan Canning Catchment. 				

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The following objectives have been identified for advocacy:

Objective 3.10 To advocate on behalf of Perth's Eastern Region on environmental and sustainability issues.

Objective 3.11 To provide leadership in relation to environmental and sustainability issues.

Table 11 identifies proposed advocacy topics related to the environment.

Table 11: Proposed Advocacy Projects

P3.5.1	Vegetation Clearing
Summary	Provide advice on vegetation clearing.
Background	Extensive land clearing has taken place in Australia since the arrival of the European settlers. Australia ranks high in the world in terms of land clearing rates with an estimate of some 687,800 hectares of native vegetation being cleared annually in Australia. The clearing of native vegetation has contributed to a decline in biodiversity and an increase in problems such as salinity and soil erosion. In July 2004 the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)</i> was amended to bring in more stringent and uniform controls for clearing native vegetation. Land clearing is regulated by the Environmental Protection Act and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004.
Objectives	To assist Local Government and community in reducing the loss of native vegetation
Costings	Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Reduced land clearing of quality native vegetation in Perth's Eastern Region.
Responsibility	NRM Coordinator

P3.5.2	Review Environmental Strategies
Summary	Provide review services to member Councils for key strategic environmental documents to ensure they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider all relevant environmental issues; • Are appropriately aligned with stakeholder needs; • Are appropriately aligned with current legislation, state government requirements and guidance areas; and • Where necessary, provide appropriate strategic direction for environmental management activities.
Background	Many Local Government authorities are active in environmental management with the majority of activities being undertaken by a range of staff from different business units. Environmental strategies provide strategic direction and a framework for future environmental management activities aimed at meeting statutory obligations and best management practices for the Local Government sector. It is vital for the Local Government to undertake a review process of its major environmental strategies to ensure that Council complies with current legislation, policy and guidance at Federal and State Government levels.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep Council strategic documents up-to-date with State and Federal requirements;

P3.5.2	Review Environmental Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address Council environmental management needs; and To provide future environmental management direction.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Provision of environmentally sound strategies that comply with current legislation and address Councils' environmental management needs.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

P3.5.3	Leverage Funding
Summary	Funding from the State and Federal government is critical for many Local Government and associated partnership environmental projects to be initiated, particularly given the limited resources available to many Councils.
Background	<p>The popularity of Perth's Eastern Region as a place to live, work and play has led to increased development and urbanisation, which in turn leads to increased pressures on biodiversity and natural habitats.</p> <p>Many Local Governments throughout Australia have introduced an environment levy to fund projects that would contribute to sustaining a healthy environment. In this way, council and the community are working together to protect the long-term health of the environment.</p> <p>Funding for environmental projects has decreased in recent years. EMRC will seek to identify a funding model to sustain environmental projects in Perth's Eastern Region such as the feasibility of an environmental levy.</p>
Objectives	<p>The EMRC proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To undertake a desktop assessment of environmental funding models; To investigate other environmental levies; To continue to advocate for State and Federal government for environmental projects funding; To identify further funding opportunities (e.g. private enterprise); and To develop a funding model to support sustainable projects in environmental services to ensure continuity of staffing.
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Sustainable funding for environmental projects in Perth's Eastern Region.
Responsibility	Manager Environmental Services

P3.5.4	Grant Application Services
Summary	<p>Environmental grants help communities and individuals undertake projects which have environmental benefits. However, these can take significant officer resources to complete.</p> <p>In the interest of reducing member Council staff time spent on such applications, the EMRC proposes to provide a grant application and acquittal service to its member Councils.</p>
Background	Through consultation with member Councils it was identified that there is a lack of

	resources to seek funding opportunities and facilitate development and submission of grant applications. Therefore EMRC is proposing to assist member Councils in identifying funding opportunities and providing support with grant applications.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To satisfy member Council needs in the area of funding seeking; • To identify potential projects for funding; and • To provide high quality service to develop sound grant applications
Costings	Fee for service. Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	Increased external funding to support implementation of environmental projects.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

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3.6 ENGAGEMENT

Environmental education and engagement is formal or informal learning that increases people's understanding of the natural environment and how it functions. It aims to:

- Increase community knowledge of the environment and environmental issues;
- Increase positive attitudes towards the environment;
- Demonstrate positive actions that can be taken to improve the environment;
- Encourage the reduction of negative environmental behaviours; and
- Encourage direct participation in, and experience of, environmental projects and programs to achieve positive environmental and social benefits.

Recently environmental education and engagement has focussed on how humans interact with, and impact on the environment in order to improve their awareness, attitudes and concern for the environment.

Environmental programs can target schools, households, businesses and the general community and can take the form of workshops, education materials, media and promotion, events and one-on-one communications.

Table 12 identifies key strengths throughout the region for environmental education and engagement.

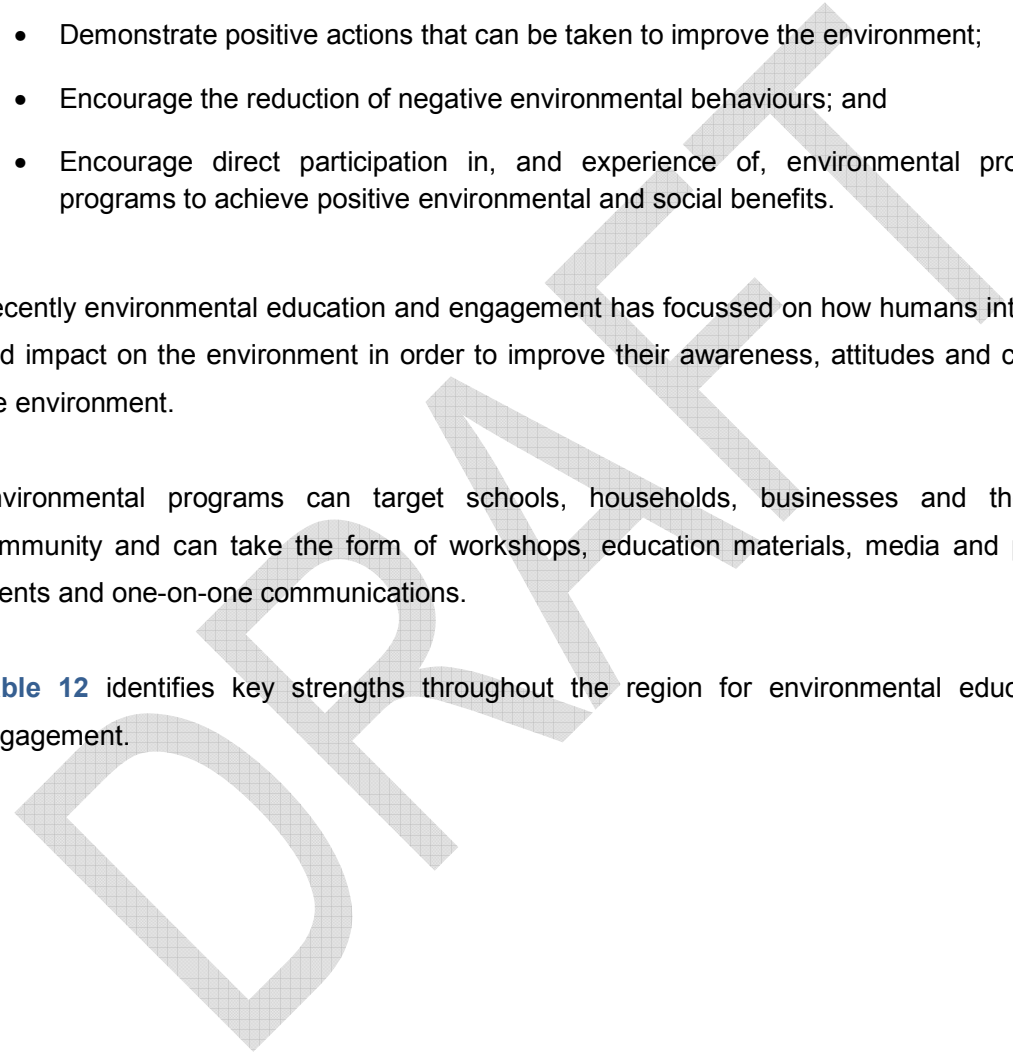


Table 12: Key Strengths for Environmental Education and Engagement

Project Name	Summary	Status	Budget	Funding	Staffing
Perth Solar City local solar demonstration projects	A program designed to encourage the uptake of solar energy in the community.	Due for completion June 2013	Part of Perth Solar City	Funded as part of Perth Solar City. Member Council contribution of \$15,000 p.a. each until June 2013.	1.0 FTE (As part of Perth Solar City)
Living Smart	A community based behaviour change program focussed on sustainable living in the home.	Completed	Part of Perth Solar City	Funded as part of Perth Solar City	1.0 FTE (As part of Perth Solar City)
ACER Home Energy Audit Kit	A do-it-yourself home energy audit kit which is available for hire from selected member council libraries.	Ongoing	Part of ACER	Member Councils contribute on a negotiated basis.	1.0 FTE (As part of ACER)
Bush Skills for the Hills Workshops	Community based education which aims to increase bushland conservation in the community.	Ongoing	Part of Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	Funded under Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	In kind under Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program
Greenpage Newsletter	A newsletter for the volunteer bushland conservation community networks in the eastern hills natural resource management sub-region.	Ongoing	Part of Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	Funded under Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	In kind under Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program
Development of Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines for Local Government officers	Aims to assist in improving the current planning and consultation processes through Section 18 applications under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> and to enable more consultative and respectful engagement with the Indigenous community.	Completed	Part of Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework	Funded under the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework	1.0 FTE part of Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework

Green Jobs Corp Project	Engages a group of up to ten 17 to 24 year olds, with a qualified co-ordinator, to assist with NRM projects across the region	June 2012	Part of Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	Funded by Australian Government	In kind under Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program
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Objectives for environmental education and engagement have been identified as:

Objective 3.12	Educating the younger generation (and future volunteers) about bushland management.
Objective 3.13	Assisting the community, small business and member Councils to reduce their resource use.
Objective 3.14	Increase Indigenous heritage and cultural awareness.

Table 13 outlines proposed engagement projects.

Table 13: Proposed Engagement Projects

P3.6.1	Bush Skills for our Kids/Youth
Summary	<p>The aim of Bush Skills for Kids is to run a skills-based, hands-on science and technology education program for upper primary school students in low socio-economic areas to foster an interest in, and responsibility for, local bushland conservation. It focuses on educating students to improve the natural bushland in an area which is often neglected and encourages civic pride and environmental concern in its future citizens.</p> <p>The upper primary school students involved in this project will be visited by a Community Education Officer (qualified teacher) on a regular basis. This teacher will provide classroom activities designed to develop the students' knowledge and appreciation of the bush and teach them basic science and technology skills necessary for conservation work. The program will be based on the Western Australia years K – 10 school curriculum for both Science and Technology.</p> <p>An NRM officer will take the students into bushland near their school on a weekly basis to make observations and collect data to plan bush conservation projects. Students then assist Catchment Groups and other community volunteers with weeding, rubbish collection and re-vegetation of these bushland reserves.</p>
Background	<p>Perth's Eastern Region contains a number of remnant bushland reserves which are suffering heavily from the impacts of urbanisation.</p> <p>Member Councils, Catchment and Friends of Groups, together with the support of Natural Resources Management Officers from the EMRC, have been attempting to conserve these bushland areas by removing rubbish and weeds and planting native species, however, their efforts are being thwarted by vandalism and a lack of community volunteers to complete the work.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage and promote participation of upper primary students and their teachers from primary schools; • To teach the students simple scientific observation and data collection skills (i.e. basic biodiversity assessment, etc) to identify and inform future planning for bushland enhancement projects in their local area; • To teach the students to work respectfully and cooperatively with other project participants to achieve the preservation and beautification of their local bushland areas; • To teach the students about the significance of these bushland areas to themselves and others; • To prevent the vandalism of local bushland in the areas near these schools; and

P3.6.1	Bush Skills for our Kids/Youth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To involve the students in 'advocacy activities' which will encourage support for this project from the wider community.
Costings	Seek external funding.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program delivered to three local schools a year; Improved maintenance and management of bushland areas; and Improved knowledge and concern for local bushland areas amongst students and wider community.
Responsibility	NRM Coordinator

P3.6.2	Marri Canker Project (Kalamunda, Mundaring and Swan)
Summary	Marri Canker is a severe canker disease that has been causing decline in <i>Marri sp.</i> across their natural range in south-west Western Australia for some years now. The EMRC proposes to undertake a research project, in partnership with Local Government and catchment groups, into the cause of the disease and possible treatments.
Background	<p>Marri (<i>Corymbia calophylla</i>) and Red Flowering Gum (<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>) are prominent woodland and urban trees found throughout the South West of WA. They are suffering from a decline syndrome. A destructive canker disease is thought to be the primary cause of tree death and it is poorly understood. In addition, a variety of other pests and environmental stresses are affecting the tree, suggesting marri is suffering from a complex tree decline syndrome</p> <p>Marri is considered a 'keystone species' and its loss will have dramatic impacts on the integrity of our ecosystems. Red flowering gum is a popular street tree important to local residents. The health of marri is of concern to community groups, farmers, small property owners, and other stakeholders.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To educate the community in the recognition and trial treatment of marri canker; To increase understanding of complex tree decline syndrome; To support marri canker research; To implement trial treatment program; To design monitoring/observation program of sites in the hills; and To develop partnership with tertiary institutions.
Costings	Seek external funding.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community workshops on marri canker identification and trial treatment; Marri canker research project involving the Eastern Hills; Trial treatment programs in place and monitoring program; Active participation of community groups in the research program; Data on marri canker its impacts and treatment; Trained NRM officers to continue with workshops, trial treatments and monitoring of sites; and Partnership with Murdoch University.

Responsibility	NRM Coordinator
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P3.6.3	Private Land Conservation Officer (0.5 FTE) (Kalamunda, Mundaring and Swan)
Summary	<p>Private land conservation aims to develop and encourage an integrated approach to private land management and planning that helps landowners fully benefit from the sustainable management of the natural diversity their property.</p> <p>It seeks to achieve high level recognition of the biodiversity values of natural systems and the need to appropriately protect them and to support individuals who voluntarily manage these systems for conservation outcomes.</p> <p>The EMRC proposes to provide a Private Land Conservation Officer service to member Councils.</p>
Background	The Eastern Region's land uses include peri-urban agriculture, as well as people living on large semi-rural residential blocks. Agricultural and suburban chemical runoff from products such as pesticides and fertilisers can impact on the health of waterways. Conversely such activities as private landholder conservation can lead to environmental benefits such as increase in animal habitat and mitigation of erosion. For these reasons the influence of a Private Land Conservation Officer could be very beneficial to the environmental health of the Region.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide training and educational workshops to private landholders; • To provide technical advice and assistance in the development of management plans to manage biodiversity; • To provide information on access to materials such as seedlings and DIY dieback kits and funding opportunities; • To foster community relationships in ways which encourage community groups and volunteers to attend meetings where residents can join together to discuss biodiversity issues; and • To develop a recognition system to show appreciation to the community for their support in private land conservation. e.g. local awards.
Costings	Seek external funding and contribution by participating member Councils.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material support such as seedlings, DIY dieback kits and on-ground works through volunteers and groups such as Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) volunteers and Green Jobs Corps; • Landholders become more technical in their landcare and conservation knowledge through knowledge sharing with EMRC officers; • Landowners develop practical on-ground skills in landcare and conservation through workshops and accredited courses; and • Recognition of efforts through an awards system and networking with the greater community and catchment groups.
Responsibility	NRM Officer

P3.6.4	Continued Climate Change Adaptation Education
Summary	Building upon the work of the Future Proofing Project, the EMRC proposes to continue

	to provide education to member Councils on climate change science and policy, impacts (e.g. fire), implications for member Councils and adaptation measures.
Background	To address climate change issues and save money, the community is seeking experts to provide them with advice in the areas such as climate change adaptation, energy and water efficiency and carbon pricing.
Objectives	To keep the community abreast of climate change science and policy, impacts (e.g. fire), cost implications; and adaptation measures.
Costings	Seek external funding opportunities.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting in place sound climate change adaptation strategies for the Region; • Money saving through proposed energy and water efficiency measures; and • Educating the community to conserve energy and water.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

P3.6.5	Energy and Climate Change Adaptation for Businesses
Summary	Building upon the work of the Perth Solar City Project, Achieving Carbon Emissions Reductions (ACER) and the Future Proofing Project, the EMRC proposes to extend these projects to engage businesses within Perth's Eastern Region. This would educate businesses on energy and climate change related issues; and trial practical and creative ways to be smarter about energy use.
Background	To address climate change issues and save money, more businesses are prepared to engage experts to provide them with an advice in the areas such as climate change adaptation, energy and water efficiency and carbon pricing.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To educate businesses on energy and climate change related issues; and • To encourage businesses to integrate practical and creative energy efficiency measures.
Costings	Businesses would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting in place sound climate change adaptation strategies for businesses; • Money saving through proposed energy and water efficiency measures; and • Educating business owners and staff to conserve energy and water.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

P3.6.6	Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training
Summary	<p>Cultural awareness entails an understanding of Noongar culture, including values, beliefs and protocols. This understanding is essential for Local Government, particularly when consultation is desired.</p> <p>EMRC proposes to facilitate training for Local Government in the area of Noongar cultural awareness.</p>
Background	As part of the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework project Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines are being developed for Local Government officers to facilitate better engagement and consultation processes between Local Government and the Noongar community. At a workshop held in March 2011, a lack of cultural awareness was identified as a key issue for Local Government officers.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a greater appreciation and understanding for Noongar culture; • To remove the guesswork by appropriately observing, clarifying and demystifying Noongar matters;

P3.6.6	Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acquire practical tools to confidently work with Noongar people with a view to building sound working partnerships; and To identify appropriate training providers, programmes and associated costs to deliver training.
Costings	EMRC, contribution from member Councils, and external funding and partnerships (e.g: Perth Region NRM)
Outcomes	To increase the cultural awareness of Local Government officers.
Responsibility	Environmental Projects Officer

P3.6.7	Environmental Education Package Development for Landowners (EHCMP)
Summary	<p>Landholders have many responsibilities and legal obligations to consider with respect to the environment. Additionally, the cumulative actions of landholders can have a significant impact on the natural assets that occur within and across municipalities.</p> <p>Significant issues for member Councils include (but are not limited to) foreshore erosion, development on watercourses and in bushland, ecosystem fracture and damage to/removal of street trees.</p> <p>Local government, as the first point of contact with their local community, can play a key role in educating and raising awareness. The EMRC proposes to work with member Councils to develop tailored environmental education packages for landholders that address what their obligations are with respect to the environment; current legislation; current environmental issues; best practice information and information resources relevant to them.</p>
Background	<p>Widespread clearing of native vegetation and agricultural and urban land uses have had a significant impact on the natural resources of the Swan Region. Removal of native vegetation has threatened the biodiversity and water quality of much of the Swan Coastal Plain. It wasn't until relatively recently that the cumulative impacts of historical land uses have been recognised.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that most residents within the Swan-Canning catchment accept that they have a role in maintaining the rivers and surrounding environment, however their knowledge of the issues is somewhat limited.</p> <p>There is a need to engage the general community, increase awareness of environmental issues and obligations, increase knowledge of environmentally friendly practices, and generate behavioural change.</p>
Objectives	To develop tailored environmental education packages for landholders that address their obligations with respect to the environment; current legislation; current environmental issues; best practice information and information resources relevant to them.
Costings	Seek external funding.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowners develop their own property management plans with technical assistance from EMRC. This will give landowners ownership over their projects; Voluntary agreements such as conservation covenants to protect bushland on private property for the long term or in perpetuity; and Financial support from funding opportunities.

Responsibility	NRM Officer
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P3.6.8	Local Government Staff and Councillor Environmental Education (EMRC and Member Councils)
Summary	Most Local Governments have strategies and practical programs to involve their local communities in sustainability actions. However, not all Local Government Councillors and staff have the knowledge or expertise in education on sustainability approaches and, in turn, successful implementation of these plans. In addition, Councils may not have the capacity to model sustainability themselves. The EMRC aims to educate Councillors on environmental issues, and develop the capacity of staff to create internal sustainability change, which may in turn manifest in community sustainability change.
Background	<p>Environmental education refers to organised efforts to teach people about how natural environments function and, particularly, how human beings can manage their behavior and ecosystems in order to live sustainably. The term is sometimes used more broadly to include all efforts to educate the public and other audiences.</p> <p>Environmental education is a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops the necessary skills and expertise to address the challenges, and fosters attitudes, motivations, and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action (UNESCO, Tbilisi Declaration, 1978).</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase awareness and sensitivity about the environment and environmental challenges; • To enhance knowledge and understanding about the environment and environmental challenges; • To encourage an attitude concern for the environment and help to maintain environmental quality; • To teach skills to mitigate the environmental problems; and • To increase existing knowledge on environmental related programs.
Costings	Seek external funding/Member Councils would be charged at consulting rates for officer time.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To educate Local Government Councillors and staff members on environmental issues. • To develop the capacity of member Council staff to create internal sustainability change in order to achieve positive environmental outcomes.
Responsibility	Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

P3.6.9	Volunteer Retention Strategy (EHCMP)
Summary	The EMRC proposes to develop a strategy for volunteer retention and succession planning for volunteer/'friends of' groups and an associated education and engagement program. This aims to encourage more community membership of volunteer groups, thereby ensuring continuity of these groups and the valuable service they provide.
Background	<p>Retention and succession planning is about planning appropriate action when a person who currently holds a position within a volunteer group moves on or is no longer available. Succession planning is also about retaining current volunteers and engaging new participants.</p> <p>Volunteer groups are vitally important in initiating and co-ordinating environmental</p>

P3.6.9	Volunteer Retention Strategy (EHCMP)
	<p>projects and the EMRC is keen to encourage greater community involvement in these groups. Partnerships between volunteer groups and Local Government are mutually beneficial by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing individual and community pride in the Local Government's natural environment; • Increasing individual and community knowledge and appreciation for the wider environment; • Achieving a higher degree of care that is beyond Council resources; and • Providing greater opportunity for wider community enjoyment of natural bushlands and creating a more stable environmental future.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage increased community membership of volunteer groups; • To maintain current membership of volunteer groups; • To inform the community of volunteering opportunities; • To encourage families to become involvement in volunteer work; and • To develop a new approach to increase volunteering network in the region
Costings	Seek external funding/Funded by EMRC/EHCMP.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to existing community groups; administration, onground and knowledge; • Ten environmental workshops and three movies held each year; • End of year celebration event for volunteers; • Submit award applications acknowledging individual and group achievements; • Attend promotional events at community forums; • Volunteer succession strategy; • Promote individual bushland sites and promote to local residents; and • Engage schools in NRM projects.
Responsibility	NRM Coordinator

4 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The EMRC is responsible for ensuring that the Regional Environmental Strategy achieves its aim and that projects are implemented in a timely and effective manner. It will do this through:

- The Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG), which was established to guide the implementation of the strategy and to discuss emerging issues as they arise;
- The development of a communication strategy to member Councils and other stakeholders to deliver the RES to ensure effective implementation of the strategy;
- Developing project plans for each of the projects identified and approved within this strategy;
- Developing a monitoring and reporting process to ensure actions are being implemented and outcomes met.
- Quarterly progress reports provided to the EMRC Council and member Councils detailing progress on each of the projects;
- A minor review of the Strategy undertaken annually, including a workshop with REAG to review progress, and allowing the RES to be a living document; and
- A major review of the RES in 2013 and 2016 to identify new projects and update existing projects and review progress.

In addition, the EMRC needs to be able to respond to emerging issues or new opportunities and, as such, new projects should be added to the RES on an ongoing basis as needed.

4.1 BUDGET AND STAFFING

This strategy has identified a number of existing projects that have existing budget and staffing allocated to them. There are also a number of proposed projects for which budgets and staffing needs have been identified but are not yet fully scoped. The EMRC will develop costed project plans to present to member Councils for consideration in the 2012/2013 and subsequent budget development process and seek external funding opportunities to implement projects within the Strategy.

EXISTING PROJECTS	BUDGET 2011/12 (GST ex)	EXISTING STAFFING
Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program (EHCMP)	\$259,940	3.0 FTE
Achieving Carbon Emissions Reductions (ACEr)	\$68,252	1.0 FTE

EXISTING PROJECTS	BUDGET 2011/12 (GST ex)	EXISTING STAFFING
Perth Solar City	\$82,807	1.0 FTE
Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region	\$109,904	1.0 FTE
ICLEI Water Campaign	\$91,026	1.0 FTE
Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF)	\$114,497	1.0 FTE
SUB TOTAL	\$726,426	

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Appendix 1 – Environmental Resources Index

The Environmental Resource Index may be found at the link below:

<http://emrcsql4/Documents/EMRC-131757>

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9.3 EMRC SUBMISSION – DRAFT PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK PLAN: PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR PERTH IN 2031

REFERENCE: COMMITTEES- 13143

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Council of the EMRC Submission to the Department of Transport in reference to the Draft Public Transport Network Plan, Public Transport for Perth in 2031.

KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- The EMRC Regional Integrated Transport Strategy (RITS) Action Plan 2010-2013 was adopted by Council in February 2010. The RITS is closely aligned with the WA Government's policy and planning directions including *Directions 2031 and Beyond* and identifies strategies and actions to address transport infrastructure and access issues in the Region.
- The EMRC and member Councils conducted eight public transport forums during October and November 2010. The final report "Transport Planning Forums 2010 Findings: East Metropolitan Regional Public Transport Aspirations" has been distributed to politicians, Ministers of Government, Government departments, member Councils and forum participants. The Report was formally presented to the Minister of Transport, the Hon. Troy Buswell at a meeting in May 2011.
- The State Government released a 20 year Public Transport Network Plan, Public Transport for Perth in 2031, Draft for Consultation document in July 2011. The Plan identifies the main public transport infrastructure needs and the links required between major activity centres and will play a vital role in addressing congestion and accessibility issues. Key initiatives include the introduction of light rail, the development of rapid transit corridors, expansion of the rail network and more buses and trains.
- EMRC will provide a submission to the State Government's 20 year Public Transport Network Plan, Public Transport for Perth in 2031, Draft for Consultation document. The EMRC submission is a regional position, highlighting the broader regional issues.
- It was requested at the Special East Zone meeting on 30 August 2011 that the EMRC provide a copy of its draft submission to WALGA for consideration at its Zone Meeting on 29th September 2011.

Recommendation(s)

That the EMRC submission to the Department of Transport – Draft Public Transport Network Plan: Public Transport for Perth in 2031 be noted.

SOURCE OF REPORT

Director Regional Services
Manager Regional Development

BACKGROUND

It has been recognised for some time that there has been a shortfall in the level of investment to upgrade and extend public transport infrastructure in Perth's Eastern Region. The 2010/11 Regional Advocacy Priorities states the EMRC will pursue increased public transport to the airport, Midland and Ellenbrook as priority regional destinations and metropolitan regional linkages to Fremantle and the north coastal line as were identified through the series of eight public transport planning forums in 2010.

The EMRC Regional Integrated Transport Strategy (RITS) Action Plan 2010-2013 was adopted by council in February 2010. The RITS is closely aligned with the WA Government's policy and planning directions including *Directions 2031 and Beyond* and identifies strategies and actions to address transport infrastructure and access issues in the Region.



Item 9.3 continued

Curtin University in partnership with EMRC and member Councils, conducted eight public transport forums during October and November 2010. Around 250 people attended the forums including a number of local, state and federal politicians. The final report "Transport Planning Forums 2010 Findings: East Metropolitan Regional Public Transport Aspirations" has been distributed to politicians, Ministers of Government, Government departments, member Councils and forum participants. The Report was formally presented to the Minister of Transport, the Hon. Troy Buswell at a meeting in May 2011.

The State Government released a 20 year Public Transport Network Plan, *Public Transport for Perth in 2031*, Draft for Consultation document in July 2011. The Plan identifies the main public transport infrastructure needs and the links required between major activity centres such as universities and Perth Airport and will play a vital role in addressing congestion and accessibility issues as Perth grows to an expected population of 2.5 million by 2031. Key initiatives include the introduction of light rail, the development of rapid transit corridors, expansion of the rail network and more buses and trains.

REPORT

It was noted in the Council Information Bulletin of 18 August 2011, the EMRC would provide a submission to the State Government's 20 year Public Transport Network Plan, *Public Transport for Perth in 2031*, Draft for Consultation document. The EMRC submission is intended to be a regional position highlighting the broad regional issues. It is acknowledged that individual member Councils may wish to provide their own submissions to the Department of Transport that deal with particular local issues, opportunities and concerns.

An information session by the Department of Transport was held on Monday 12 September 2011 at the EMRC offices to provide an opportunity for briefings on the Plan and to provide background information to assist Local Governments in the development of their individual submissions to the Draft Plan. These comments will be considered by the Department of Transport before a final plan is released.

As requested at the Special East Zone meeting on 30 August 2011 the EMRC provided a copy of its draft submission to WALGA for consideration at its Zone Meeting on 29th September 2011.

The EMRC submission includes:

- Feedback from Member Council CEO's as requested at the Special Eastern Zone Meeting on Tuesday 30 August 2011;
- Feedback from the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Implementation Advisory Group Meeting held on 31 August 2011;
- Feedback from the Economic Development Officers Group;
- Alignment with findings from the East Metropolitan Region Transport Planning Forums held in October and November 2011;
- Alignment with Directions 2031 and Beyond employment self sufficiency and activity centre's outcomes;
- Alignment with agreed outcomes and priorities of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy; and
- Alignment with agreed outcomes and priorities of the Regional Economic Development Strategy.

The EMRC generally supports the Draft Public Network Plan and requests that the Department of Transport review the *Public Transport for Perth in 2031* Plan, taking into account the Transport Planning Forums 2010 Findings: East Metropolitan Region Public Transport Aspirations Report and the comments as outlined in the submission shown as Attachment 1.



Item 9.3 continued

STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report relates to achievement of the EMRC's Strategic Plan for the Future 2010/11 – 2013/14 outlined as follows:

Objective 3.1 To facilitate increased investment in regional infrastructure; and

Strategy 3.1.1 Facilitate implementation of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy 2010 -2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

This document underpins Perth's Eastern Region future sustainability. Along with *Directions 2031 and Beyond*, Public Transport for Perth in 2031 will be critical in shaping integrated transport and land use in the region. Furthermore it will aid in decreasing traffic congestion, facilitating social equality and safe-guarding against the impacts of peak oil production.

MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

Member Council	Implication Details
Town of Bassendean	} Nil
City of Bayswater	
City of Belmont	
Shire of Kalamunda	
Shire of Mundaring	
City of Swan	

ATTACHMENT(S)

EMRC Submission to Department of Transport – Draft Public Transport Network Plan: Public Transport for Perth in 2031. (EMRC – 135103)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the EMRC submission to the Department of Transport – Draft Public Transport Network Plan: Public Transport for Perth in 2031 be noted.

The Chief Executive Officer of the City of Bayswater handed the Chief Executive Officer of the EMRC a copy of their submission for his records. The Chief Executive of Officer of the City of Swan felt that the EMRC's submission would be a very high level document which addressed the Plan at a regional level; however it was felt that the member Councils should lodge their own submissions detailing issues directly relating to them.



Item 9.3 continued

CEOAC RECOMMENDATION(S)

MOVED MR JARVIS

SECONDED MR COLE

That the EMRC submission to the Department of Transport – Draft Public Transport Network Plan: Public Transport for Perth in 2031 be noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council

Submission to

Department of Transport

**Draft Public Transport Network Plan:
Public Transport for Perth in 2031**

October 2011

1. Introduction

Perth's Eastern Region is a major air, rail and road transport hub servicing the passenger and freight demands of the state. Perth Airport and the Kewdale Intermodal Freight Terminal are amongst the significant transport infrastructure located in the Region. Also situated in the Region are industrial centres that play a key role in servicing the state's construction and resources sector including Kewdale-Welshpool, Forrestfield, Malaga, Hazelmere and Bayswater-Bassendean.

It has been recognised for some time that there has been a shortfall in the level of investment to upgrade and extend public transport infrastructure in Perth's Eastern Region. The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) and its six member Councils are committed to working with government, community, institutions and commercial partners to create a transport network in Perth's Eastern Region that is efficient, safe and integrates all modes of transport with particular emphasis on increased public transport. This integrated network will meet the needs of the Eastern Region as a fast growing and strategic economic hub for the Perth metropolitan area.

The EMRC Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan 2010-2013 (RITS)¹ was adopted by Council in February 2010. It is closely aligned with the WA Government's policy and planning directions including *Directions 2031 and Beyond* and identifies strategies and actions to address transport infrastructure and access issues in the Region. One of the key goals is to increase the use of public transport by expanding and integrating the Region's public transport network through:

1. Improving transport services to, from and between activity centres in urban areas;
2. Increasing the number and frequency of public transport services; and
3. Improving connectivity between public transport services and other modes of transport.

In October and November 2010 the EMRC hosted eight community forums. These forums were held with the intention of identifying the community's aspirations for an effective public transport service in the Region. In early 2011 Curtin University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning completed the final report *Transport Planning Forums 2010* detailing the findings of these community forums and utilising the data gathered from the forums to assess the state of public transport as it exists. This information underpins the community's aspirations for the future direction for public transport in Perth's Eastern Region.²

2. Alignment with Perth's Eastern Region Integrated Transport Planning

The EMRC generally supports the Draft Public Network Plan and offers the following comments made in accordance with the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan and the Transport Planning Forums 2010 Report. Feedback has also been sought from member Councils which has been incorporated into these comments.

¹ Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council 2010, Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan 2010 – 2013, report, provided as Attachment 1.

² Curtin University 2010, Transport Planning Forums 2010 Findings: East Metropolitan Region Public Transport Aspirations, report, provided as Attachment 2.

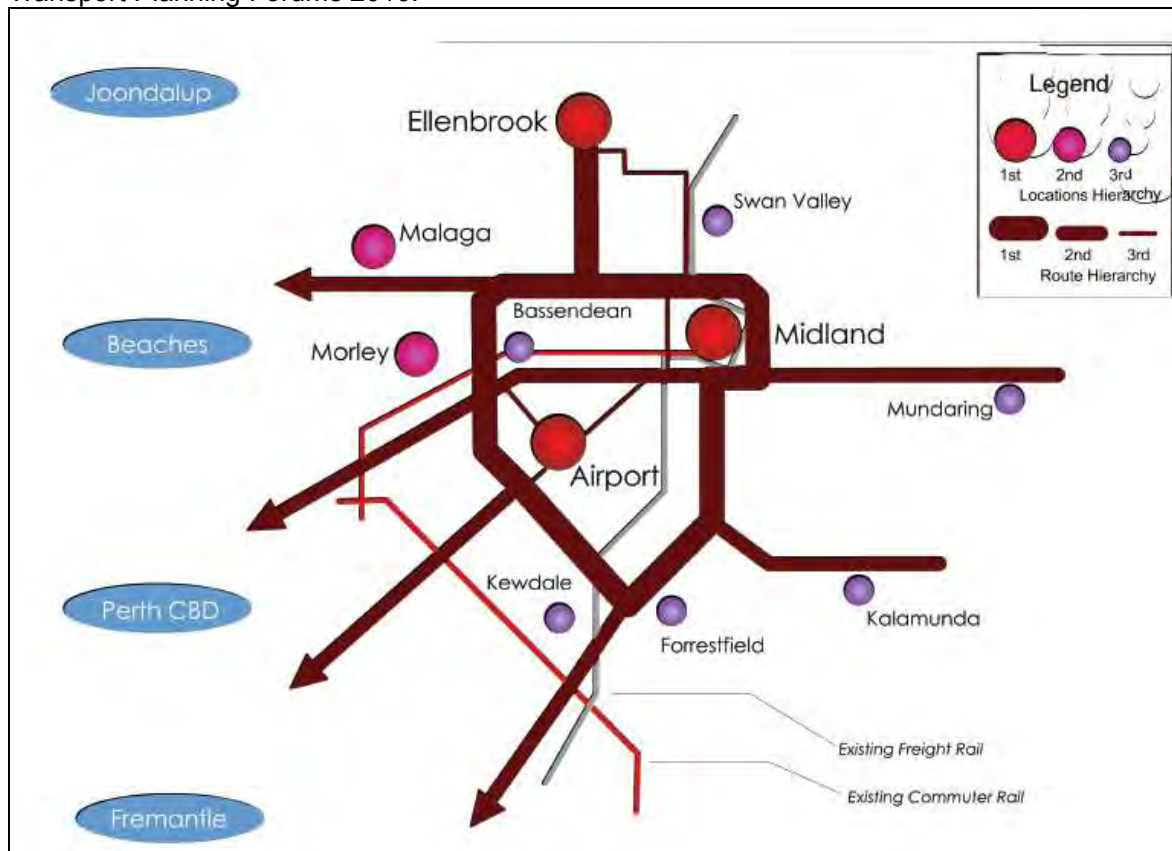
2.1 Activity and Employment Centres

The Outer Metropolitan Perth and Peel Sub-Regional Strategy identifies a number of key centres throughout Perth's Eastern Region (PER). These centres include: the Kewdale-Welshpool Strategic Industrial Centre; industrial centres at both Malaga and Kewdale; the priority industrial site at South Bullsbrook including the planned intermodal freight terminal; the Forrestfield Terminal; and the Kewdale Port Shuttle. These centres are integral to the economic sustainability of PER and form the key gateway for freight in the Perth metropolitan region.

As such, a key action included in the RITS is to gain increased public transport services to the Region's Activity and Employment Centres. This increase in services is not indicated in the Draft Public Transport Network Plan despite its integral importance for access to these key industrial and freight sites.

The importance of these Centres is further emphasised by the findings of the Transport Planning Forums 2010 undertaken by the EMRC. This initiative consisted of eight community forums held throughout PER. The aim of these forums was to capture the community's aspirations for public transport in the Region. As a result of the findings of these forums, a preferred public transport network was developed, as shown in Figure 1. This preferred network highlights the importance of the Malaga and Kewdale industrial centres as destinations requiring improved access to public transport.

Figure 1: Conceptual Configuration – An Emerging Public Transport Network³
Transport Planning Forums 2010.



2.2 Perth Airport Environs

³ Curtin University 2010, Transport Planning Forums 2010 Findings: East Metropolitan Region Public Transport Aspirations, report, provided as Attachment 2.

A key aspect of the Draft Public Transport Network Plan is the provision of a heavy rail line to the consolidated Perth Airport Terminal. Whilst the development of the future business park at the existing domestic terminal will not be completed before 2020, there will be significant expansion and development at the international terminal site. This includes the development of a hotel and the continued expansion of commercial activities among various other projects outlined in the Perth Airport Master Plan 2009. It is important to note that the Master Plan indicates that these projects will be completed prior to 2021.

In addition to the increased development and passenger activity forecasted for Perth Airport prior to 2021, the Transport Planning Forums 2010 Findings also reflected the importance of the airport as a key destination. The community identified Perth Airport as a priority destination for public transport access via heavy rail.

Public Transport for Perth in 2031 has identified a number of routes and modes to be provided to the Perth Airport and Belmont activity centre. Priority bus lanes are proposed for Great Eastern Highway between the Victoria Park Bus Interchange and Kooyong Road; and 'queue jump lanes' at intersections from Kooyong Road to Tonkin Highway, both to be delivered prior to 2020. This will enable improved access between the Perth CBD and other Centres to the Airport for buses and will facilitate Rapid Bus Transit as the primary mode of public transport. Furthermore it will also result in significantly improved services to Belmont Forum.

2.3 Key Growth Areas.

The Outer Metropolitan Perth and Peel Sub-Regional Strategy identifies a number of key growth areas under the Draft Urban Expansion Plan. The areas identified for the North-east sub-region include: Bullsbrook and Upper Swan; Gidgegannup; and Forrestfield.

2.3.1 Bullsbrook and Upper Swan

As well as being identified as a priority industrial area, Bullsbrook and Upper Swan represent significant urban expansion in the short to medium term. Furthermore the North-East Sub-Regional Strategy identifies public transport provision as a major unresolved constraint to development. The Draft Public Transport Network Plan does not indicate any future upgrades to the services applicable to this area. If the objectives of Directions 2031 are to be realised for this area, improvement of public transport services to Bullsbrook and Upper Swan are required. It is recommended that the rapid bus transit service allocated for Ellenbrook is extended to Bullsbrook and Upper Swan post 2020. In terms of economic, social and environmental sustainability, improved access to public transport is integral for this area.

2.3.2 Gidgegannup and Mundaring

Gidgegannup has been identified as an urban investigation area on the draft urban expansion plan outlined in the North-East Sub-Regional Strategy. The Draft Local Planning Strategy also indicates significant development at North Parkerville and North Stoneville.

The Shire of Mundaring Draft Local Planning Strategy indicates numerous areas for incremental development as well as increases in density in the town-site. Similar to the Bullsbrook and Upper Swan area, a major constraint identified by the North-East Sub-Regional Strategy is the lack of public transport. This constraint significantly threatens the future social, environmental and economic sustainability of Gidgegannup and Mundaring due the distance to the nearest strategic centres.

2.3.3 Forrestfield

Forrestfield and the surrounding areas of High Wycombe, Helena Valley, Bushmead and Maida Vale have been identified as areas of high growth by the Shire of Kalamunda Draft Local Planning Strategy. Furthermore, Forrestfield has been identified as an urban investigation area under the Draft Urban Expansion Plan. There is also potential for Wattle Grove to be included as an urban investigation area due to its proximity to more intense urban development and employment opportunities.

Despite the relatively high degree of expansion and development planned for this area, the Draft Public Transport Network Plan does not include any future upgrades for services. If the potential of the Forrestfield area is to be realised, it is imperative that increased services are dedicated in the form of rapid bus transit or the extension of the future heavy rail line through the airport.

2.4 Ellenbrook

Public Transport for Perth in 2031 has identified Ellenbrook as a major destination and a priority connection via Rapid Bus Transit. The inclusion of this connection and preferred mode supports the findings of the EMRC's Transport Planning Forums 2010, which recognised Ellenbrook as a major destination in Perth's Eastern Region and included identifying Rapid Bus Transit as the preferred mode of transport by the Ellenbrook community.

2.5 Morley City Centre

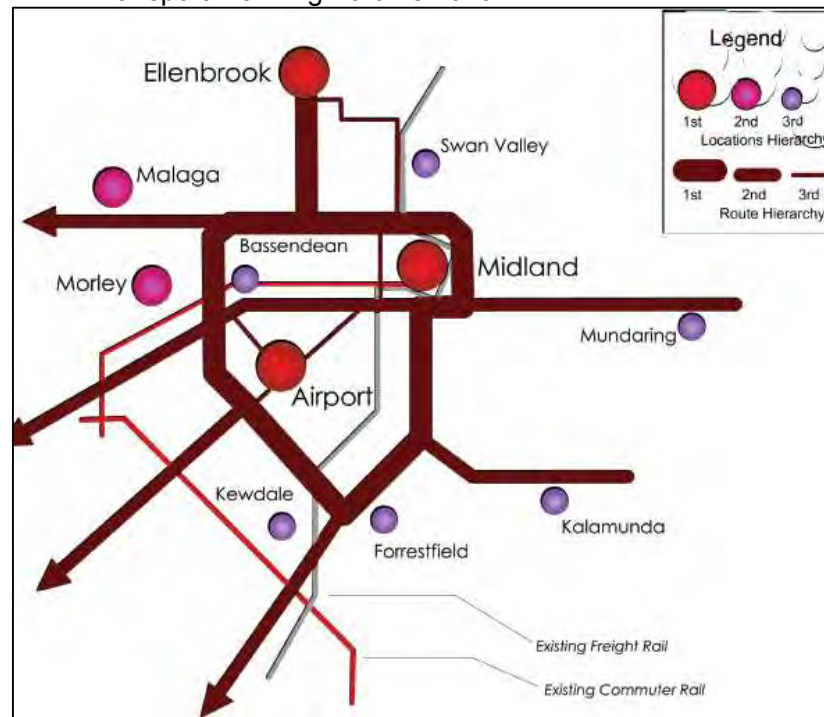
Morley is a major centre for Perth's Eastern Region and the City of Bayswater is currently undertaking planning for the Morley City Centre to coordinate its growth. Public Transport for Perth in 2031 proposes two major connections to the Morley City Centre. The first to be delivered prior to 2020 is a Rapid Bus Transit link between the Centre and Bassendean Train Station. The second is a Rapid Bus Transit route from the Morley Centre to Perth CBD to be completed prior to 2031. In addition, two other Rapid Bus Transit Routes have been identified for future investigation/development. This includes a route to Warwick Train Station on the Joondalup line; and the Mount Lawley Campus for Edith Cowan University.

Whilst the EMRC's Transport Planning Forums 2010 reflect slightly different routes to these destinations, Public Transport for Perth in 2031 provides for a similar level of service both locally and on a regional scale as shown in Figure 2. The communities preferred mode of transport for these connections was light rail followed by Rapid Bus Transit, as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 2: Public Transport Network Plan – Rapid Transit Infrastructure⁵



Figure 3: Conceptual Configuration – An Emerging Public Transport Network⁴
Transport Planning Forums 2010



⁴ Curtin University 2010, Transport Planning Forums 2010 Findings: East Metropolitan Region Public Transport Aspirations, report, Perth, Australia

⁵ Department of Transport 2011, Public Transport for Perth in 2031: Mapping out the Future for Perth's Public Transport Network, report, draft, Perth, Australia

3 Alignment with Perth's Eastern Region Economic Growth

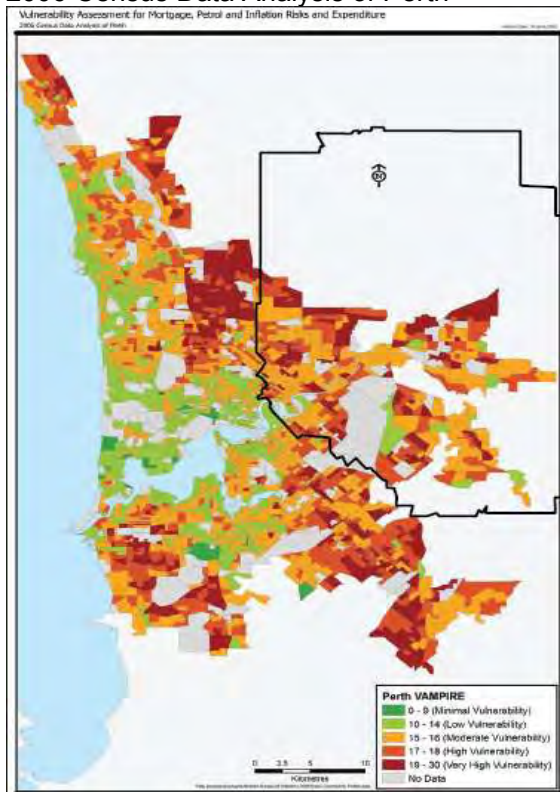
Directions 2031 and Beyond highlights a hierarchy and spatial distribution of activity centres which define Perth's Eastern Region as a significant transport and industry hub. The EMRC Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015 aligns with the context set by *Directions 2031 and Beyond* and the Draft Industrial Land Strategy 2009. This identifies that a healthy, prosperous and resilient local economy requires the close alignment of local residents to local employment opportunities and the access to services. Not only does this help to maximise the economic output of the region but it also minimises the burden on transport infrastructure by commuting workers. Accessibility to public transport is essential to ensure workers can commute to employment locally as well as to major employment centres.

3.1 Access to Public Transport

The Draft Public Transport Network Plan justifies the priority areas for improved public transport based on congestion within areas in proximity to the Perth CBD, and efficiency in terms of the passengers per service. However there are a number of key implications that the Draft Public Transport Network Plan does not seem to address such as car dependence; vulnerability to increases in oil, mortgage rates and inflation, and index of disadvantage.

On average, car dependency in Perth's Eastern Region is over 2.4% higher than the Perth Statistical Division. Furthermore, in reference to the Vulnerability Assessment for Mortgage, Petrol and Inflation Risks and Expenditure undertaken by Griffith University, all six of the EMRC's member Councils include areas identified as having high and very high vulnerability as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Vulnerability Assessment for Mortgage, Petrol and Inflation Risks and Expenditure, 2006 Census Data Analysis of Perth⁶



⁶ Dodson, J & Sipe, N 2008, *Unsettling Suburbia: The New Landscape of Oil and Mortgage Vulnerability in Australian Cities*, report, Urban Research Program, Griffith University, Nathan, Queensland

In addition to the comparably higher levels of vulnerability in PER, the Socio-Economic Indices for Areas (SEIFA) developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, raises further issues regarding the equity of the Draft Public Transport Network Plan. The SEIFA indicates that four of the ten most disadvantaged local government areas in the Metropolitan Region are located in PER.

The findings illustrated above warrant significant consideration in regards to the location and frequency of public transport provision. The residents of PER will require better public transport in the future not out of convenience, but out of necessity. It is considered that the Draft Public Transport Network Plan does not adequately address these concerns due to the majority of focus being placed on areas with low levels of vulnerability and disadvantage, such as the CBD and adjacent suburbs.

The Draft Public Transport Network Plan lacks strategies to defray the “Park and Ride” demand on the Midland Commercial Centre, arising from the Eastern Hills / Foothills areas. The land consumed by ‘long stay’ parking is effectively quarantined, not only from development but also from being used by customers during business hours. The associated traffic congestion also negatively impacts on the amenity of the centre. It is not economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. The reference to investigations into “a separate park and ride facility for Hills transit users” on page 27 of the document should be elaborated upon to provide a more certain position for the Midland Commercial Centre.

3.2 Achieving Employment Self Sufficiency and Access to Services

Directions 2031 and Beyond identifies the importance of locally available employment to create self contained communities which reduce the need for long journeys to work and alleviates pressure on the transport system. The connected pattern of urban growth supported by *Directions 2031 and Beyond* relies on the integration of frequent and efficient public transport modes with strategic industrial and employment activity centres.

Feedback from member Councils in the outer metropolitan areas stress the importance of a public transport system that facilitates the movement of local people to access employment and community services locally as well as ease of movement to more strategic centres on an east west basis. It is considered that the Draft Public Transport Network Plan should take into account the importance of linkages between the major industrial estates of Malaga and Wangara with key interchanges of Midland, Morley and Joondalup. The focus of the Draft Public Transport Network Plan is primarily on the growth and servicing of the northern and southern corridors of the City, with little consideration given to existing strategic centres, employment centres and residential areas within the eastern corridor despite the anticipated significant residential and commercial infill for this area.

4. Conclusion

The EMRC member Councils request that the Department of Transport review the Public Transport for Perth in 2031 Plan taking into account the Transport Planning Forums 2010 Findings: East Metropolitan Region Public Transport Aspirations report and the comments as outlined in this submission.

Submission Contact

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Submission approved by

EMRC Council Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee Meeting
11 October 2011

Attachments

Attachment 1 Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan 2010 - 2013
Attachment 2 Transport Planning Forums 2010 Findings: East Metropolitan Region
Public Transport Aspirations.



9.4 SWAN AND HELENA RIVERS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK UPDATE

REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-12945

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Council on progress in facilitating implementation of the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework.

To provide Council with the draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines and seek approval to forward the document to appropriate stakeholders for comment

To provide the completed Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan to Council.

KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Implementation of the management actions contained within the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF) has continued to occur during 2010/2011 and 2011/2012. Progress on the actions are outlined in this report.
- The Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines have been completed and the draft document has been distributed to the Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG) and is proposed to be distributed to key stakeholders, agencies and individuals as appropriate for feedback.
- Stage 1 of the Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan has been completed. Feedback has been received from the Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG), key stakeholders and agencies and incorporated into the document.
- A review of the priorities identified in the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan has been undertaken and funding sources will be sought as they arise.
- EMRC provides representation on a number of advisory groups; makes submissions and comments on stakeholder documents; undertakes marketing and promotion activities to advocate for the protection and long term sustainability of the Swan and Helena Rivers and implementation of the SHRMF.
- A review of all strategies listed in the SHRMF has been undertaken in consultation with the REAG to determine future priority areas and budgeting requirements and opportunities.
- A regional funding application was submitted under the Regional Development Australia Fund by the City of Belmont on behalf of the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater and the EMRC for environmental protection infrastructure along the Swan River foreshore for a total value of \$3.6 million. The funding application was unsuccessful.

Recommendations

That:

1. Council receive the Draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines shown as Attachment 1.
2. The Draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines be forwarded to the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), Swan River Trust (SRT), WA Planning Commission (WAPC) and other relevant stakeholders for comment.
3. Council receive the Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan shown as Attachment 2.

SOURCE OF REPORT

Director Regional Services
Manager Environmental Services



Item 9.4 continued

BACKGROUND

The Swan and Helena River Management Framework (SHRMF) was initiated by the EMRC on behalf of member Councils with support of the Swan River Trust and the Western Australian Planning Commission. The project provides a strategic framework that identifies roles and responsibilities and allocates strategic actions to all stakeholders to guide the ongoing management and development of the eastern reaches of the Swan River and its major tributary, the Helena River.

The boundaries of the SHRMF study are defined by four precincts that extend from Windan Bridge near Perth City, east to Middle Swan Road and Swan River Bridge (formerly Whiteman Bridge), and south to Roe Highway. The majority of the study area is included within the boundaries of the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont and the City of Swan.

The SHRMF provides a vision for the future protection and development of the Swan and Helena Rivers as regional assets and identifies nodes, forms of development and strategies to contribute to achieving the vision in the following areas:

- social benefits;
- environmental values;
- cultural and natural heritage;
- planning and management; and
- design and development.

The SHRMF was received by Council in June 2007 and provision made in subsequent budgets to progress development of high priority strategies and actions. High priority projects were identified through a number of SHRMF Steering and Officer Working Groups comprising of external stakeholders and member Councils' staff and to date the following high priority projects have been completed:

- Perth's Eastern Region Swan River Trails Project (2008);
- SHRMF Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance (2009);
- Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan (2009);
- Best Management Practices for Shore Stabilisation – Approaches and Decision Support Framework (2009); and
- Best Management Practices for Shore Stabilisation – Concept Designs for Shore; a Stabilisation at selected sites in the City of Bayswater (2009).

The Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance and the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan reports were completed and received by the EMRC Council in September 2009. The reports identified the need to conduct further consultation with the Aboriginal community to ensure that any future infrastructure including interpretation, trails and foreshore restoration works were sensitive to Aboriginal heritage and cultural issues.

The SHRMF Steering and Officer Working Group members prioritised the need for a regional Aboriginal consultation process to assist in improving the current planning and consultation processes through Section 18 applications under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and to enable more consultative and respectful engagement with the Indigenous community. A project was initiated in 2010 to develop Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines.

In 2010 a Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG) was established (replacing the suite of former SHRMF steering and working groups) to progress the implementation of the SHRMF and other EMRC environmental projects and activities. Projects which are underway and that will be progressed in 2011/2012 include:



Item 9.4 continued

- Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines;
- Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan;
- Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan;
- Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Conservation and Habitat Restoration Strategy; and
- Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Funding Strategy.

An update report on SHRMF projects (Ref: Committees-11746) was provided to Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 February 2011 Council (Ref: Committees-11660) where Council resolved as follows:

“THAT:

- 1. COUNCIL RECEIVES THE SWAN AND HELENA RIVERS FORESHORE TRAIL INTERPRETATION PLAN, FORMING THE ATTACHMENT TO THIS REPORT.*
- 2. COUNCIL AUTHORISE FORWARDING OF THE SWAN AND HELENA RIVERS FORESHORE TRAIL INTERPRETATION PLAN (DRAFT FINAL REPORT) TO THE SOUTH WEST ABORIGINAL LAND AND SEA COUNCIL (SWALSC), DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS (DIA), SWAN RIVER TRUST (SRT), WA PLANNING COMMISSION (WAPC) AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS FOR COMMENT.”*

The following report informs Council of progress to date and proposed next steps with implementation of the SHRMF during 2011/2012.

REPORT

1 Regional Strategies

1.1 Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines

The EMRC is working in partnership with a range of key stakeholders, member Councils and relevant agencies and providers of Indigenous heritage advice and services to develop a deeper understanding of the issues and processes required for Indigenous consultation. The Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines document is a step-by-step process for member Council officers to better undertake Aboriginal consultation in order to meet legislative requirements and to identify who, how and what needs to be communicated within the local Aboriginal community, in a manner that is inclusive and respectful of Aboriginal heritage and culture.

In 2010 a desktop assessment and interviews with member Councils' officers and relevant stakeholders were conducted to determine current local government Aboriginal consultation processes and models and to identify issues with these processes. This information was collated into a report to provide an overview of current Aboriginal engagement and consultation processes and an Issues Paper was developed from interview responses to highlight stakeholder concerns related to current Aboriginal engagement and consultation processes.

From the information collected it appeared that there are a number of plans and model documents available on how to undertake general Aboriginal engagement and consultation, however there is a lack of guidance for local government officers and the Aboriginal community on matters such as standard payment fees, knowledge of Aboriginal cultural protocols and local government protocols. This information was used to form the basis of a regional stakeholder workshop held on 10 March 2011 facilitated by Ken Hayward of Kallip Pty. Ltd.



Item 9.4 continued

The workshop was conducted in two sessions. In session one a hypothetical exercise was undertaken by table groups in order to determine current practices in Aboriginal consultation and engagement. Session two was a facilitated discussion on the outcomes of the exercise and then presentations were given by the City of Swan on the Swan Indigenous Reference Group and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council on Native Title functions and the current Native Title negotiations with the State government.

The workshop session identified a number of key issues that face local government officers including:

1. Lack of cultural awareness training.
2. The need to include the Noongar community throughout the whole process of programme and project development from the concept/ideas stage.
3. Knowing who to contact.
4. Timing – explanation to community; ongoing consultation; start the engagement as early as possible.

The information from the stakeholder workshop was used to inform the development of the draft guidelines which sought to address some of the issues and opportunities identified and discussed. The aim of the guidelines is to provide a practical set of tools to assist local government officers with Aboriginal engagement and consultation.

The draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines have been completed and distributed to REAG members for feedback. Council approval is now sought to distribute the Guidelines (shown as Attachment 1) to key stakeholders and agencies as appropriate for comment.

1.2 Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan

Following recommendations from the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance and the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan, a consultant was engaged in 2010 to develop an Interpretation Plan for a multi-use trail along the Swan and Helena Rivers foreshore. The objective of the plan was to determine themes, sites, methods, messages, design and physical structure of the interpretation.

Stage one of the plan was completed in consultation with member Councils. Themes for interpretation, sites, methods and messages to be communicated have been identified. A draft report was distributed to member Councils through the REAG for feedback and member Council comments were incorporated.

In November 2010 a presentation was delivered to the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) Metropolitan Working Party (native title holders over the Perth metropolitan region) outlining the draft plan. The Group advised that they would provide formal feedback to the EMRC on the Plan. Formal feedback was received in August 2011 stating that the group was satisfied with the Stage 1 Report.

The central suggestion in the first draft of the Interpretation Plan was to develop two trails at the same time using the same infrastructure. The trail heading East from Windan Bridge would be the Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail and would focus on the European story and the environmental story from a European perspective. The trail heading West from Kings Meadow and Roe Highway would tell the Aboriginal stories related to the trail. It would use Aboriginal names and would provide recognition of Aboriginal uses. This trail would also tell the environmental story from an Aboriginal perspective.

This would allow people to compare and contrast the way that all Western Australians view the river. It would show the collaboration that is being undertaken in the care of the river and the focus on ensuring sustainability. The trails would create a cultural corridor from the sources of the Swan and Helena Rivers through the Perth City and out to Rottnest Island. Although the EMRC project and delivery will concentrate on the areas contained within their member Council jurisdictions, this methodology will provide an opportunity to create a landscape scale cultural experience and providing visitors with a seamless journey along the rivers.



Item 9.4 continued

Rather than building a static interpretation centre that will be costly to develop and operate, it is recommended that four major interpretation nodes be developed along the trail, one in each of the precincts. It is envisaged that some kind of shelter and seating would be provided at these nodes. They would also provide a venue for written interpretation panels, storytelling and a place where people could meet. Traditional methods of signage, way markers, art and providing venues for face-to-face experiences will be the main focus for interpretation. In addition to this it is suggested that more high tech methods be investigated such as smart phone applications and podcasts to provide interpretation in places that are prone to flooding, difficult or too expensive to access and maintain.

The Interpretation Plan recommends the following:

- Four major interpretation nodes to be identified and developed;
- A range of interpretation methods to be investigated and developed;
- Consultation to be undertaken with the community to identify stories. This consultation will include the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) with a view to linking to the Swan Canning Iconic River Trails Project (SCIRTP);
- Additional funding to be sourced for the delivery of the interpretation; and
- Liaise with stakeholders outside the EMRC region to encourage the adoption of the same messages and a similar or complementary approach to interpreting the river.

After the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 February 2011 the Draft Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan was distributed to key stakeholders and agencies for comment. Feedback was received from the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council; Perth Region NRM; Swan River Trust; Department of Indigenous Affairs and Kallip Pty Ltd (Consultant).

Recommendations from the feedback received included:

- To undertake further consultation with the Noongar community to inform the development and selection of sites, themes and stories for interpretation; and
- The trail should be one trail which interweaves all the Noongar and European heritage values and environmental values rather than two separate trails, which is divisive.

These recommendations have been incorporated into the document (see Attachment 2). Funding will be pursued for Stage 2 of the project to undertake community consultation as per the stakeholder recommendations.

1.3 Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan

A review of the priorities identified in the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan, capital works budgets and other barriers to implementation was undertaken in early 2011 in consultation with the REAG and relevant member Council staff. Due to path priorities changing and funding constraints meeting in kind requirements no funding bid was made under the Lotterywest and Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) Trails funding programme in 2010/2011.



Item 9.4 continued

Member Council path priorities have been identified in the table below.

Member Council	Priority Project/s
Town of Bassendean	Path construction - Sandy Beach Reserve to Ashfield Flats (connecting with existing path)
City of Bayswater	Path construction - Claughton Reserve
City of Belmont	Path upgrades - Garvey Park
City of Swan	Path construction - Max Hunt Reserve

It is proposed that a funding bid be made under the Department of Transport (WA) Perth Bicycle Network Local Government Grants Programme which is due to open in October 2011. The programme provides funds to local governments for cycling infrastructure and for the development or updating of Local Bicycle Plans.

A meeting was held in September 2011 with Lotterywest to discuss funding opportunities under the Lotterywest/Department of Sport and Recreation Trails funding programme. Lotterywest advised they will be reviewing the scope and future direction of the trails funding programme. A metropolitan trails forum and discussion session has been proposed by Department of Sport and Recreation for early November.

1.4 Foreshore Stabilisation

The Best Management Practices (BMP) for Foreshore Stabilisation Report was a collaborative project between the Swan River Trust and EMRC. The project aimed to improve foreshore stabilisation management along the Swan and Canning rivers through:

- Improved knowledge on foreshore stabilisation best management practices for local government officers and natural resource managers; and
- Increased understanding of management responses for foreshore stabilisation to help strategic allocation of future Riverbank grants scheme funding.

The foreshore stabilisation techniques presented in the report have been grouped into eight approaches that stabilise the banks directly or indirectly.

In 2011 the Swan River Trust commenced a review of Part C – Indirect Techniques of the BMP document. The EMRC has reviewed the document and provided comments. The document undergoes regular updating by the Trust to reflect current best management practices.

The EMRC attended training provided by the Trust in February 2011 on the use and installation of coir logs as a foreshore stabilisation technique and a field trip in July 2011 looking at foreshore stabilisation projects on the Swan River in the Town of Bassendean and the Cities of Bayswater and Swan.

2 Regional Advocacy

The SHRMF is a key project within the EMRC's Regional Advocacy Strategy which identifies the health, protection and sustainable use of the Swan and Helena Rivers as a priority issue. The EMRC has participated in advocacy activities through representation on advisory groups; making submissions and comments on stakeholder documents; marketing and promotion and attending conferences.

The EMRC Council sent a delegation to Canberra from 14 – 15 September 2011 comprised of the EMRC Chairman (Cr Graham Pittaway, OAM), EMRC Chief Executive Officer (Mr Peter Schneider) and EMRC Director Regional Services (Ms Marilyn Horgan) to advocate inter alia for the Swan and Helena Rivers to address the associated environmental, recreational, infrastructure, resource and funding issues. Presentations were made to relevant Ministers, ministerial advisors and Shadow Ministers in relation to the



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SHRMF. A particular area of advocacy focus was the ineligibility of EMRC to apply for particular funding and the need for funding bodies to accept applications from local governments as defined under the Local Government Act.

2.1 Advisory Groups

EMRC officers are members of the following advisory groups:

- WALGA - Swan Canning Local Government Policy Forum (C21) - Representation on the Swan Canning Local Government Policy Forum has focussed advocacy efforts on obtaining resources for local government authorities for the care of the Swan and Canning Rivers in a co-ordinated manner. Participation on the advisory groups has ensured EMRC and stakeholder projects are complementing each other through information and resource sharing.
- Swan River Trust – Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails Master Plan Project Advisory Group. The Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails Master Plan Project aims to develop a plan to guide the development of a linked trails network throughout the Riverpark. The EMRC represents three member Councils on the advisory group which is made up of land managers and relevant agencies with responsibilities within the Riverpark. The group has established a terms of reference and has provided trails mapping information to the Swan River Trust who are currently collating and mapping the existing trails network data. The Trust has advised that they will be using the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan and Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance as a blueprint for their planning documents for the Riverpark.

2.2 Submissions and Articles

EMRC Officers have developed the following submissions in relation to draft federal and state policy documents and reports including:

Regional Development Australia

- Regional Development Australia Perth Committee – Draft Regional Plan
The Regional Plan for the Regional Development Australia Perth Committee provides a vision and identifies among other priorities the Swan and Canning River Systems; Transport and Education and Training as its key focus areas. RDA Perth recognises that the health of our city is closely linked with the health of the Swan and Canning Rivers.

Swan River Trust

- Swan River Trust Aquatic User Management Framework User Survey

The following articles have been produced:

- Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines workshop article for the May 2011 edition of the EMRC newsletter. The newsletter is distributed to EMRC stakeholders.
- Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines workshop article for the June 2011 edition of the WALGA Eco-News.

3 Funding

In May 2011 the City of Belmont on behalf of the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater and the EMRC submitted a funding bid to the Federal Governments Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) programme for river infrastructure and restoration works within the SHRMF project area. Unfortunately the submission was not successful. The City of Belmont is currently awaiting feedback on the submission. It was noted that the majority of successful projects were located within rural/regional areas rather than metropolitan/urban areas. Feedback and suggestions have been provided to RDAF on the funding process and again highlighting EMRC's ineligibility to apply.



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In 2011 funding opportunities will continue to be sourced and applied for where relevant to progress implementation of the SHRMF. The following grant opportunities will be pursued in 2011. As information becomes available, grant suitability will be scoped and submissions made in collaboration with member Councils where applicable.

- Department of Transport Perth Bicycle Network Local Government Grants Programme;
- Lotterywest/Department of Sport and Recreation Trails Grants Programme;
- Lotterywest Grants – Valuing Our State’s Heritage; and
- Tourism Quality (TQUAL).

4 Member Council Consultation

The Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG) first convened in August 2010. The group is made up of one officer from each of the six member Councils and meets regularly to provide ongoing input into the implementation of the SHRMF strategies and other environmental services and activities undertaken by the EMRC.

5. Next Priorities - Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework

A review of all strategies listed in the SHRMF has commenced and will be undertaken in consultation with the REAG to determine future priority areas, budgeting requirements and opportunities.

At this stage it is proposed in 2011/2012 to focus on the Regional Conservation and Habitat Restoration Implementation Strategy and the Foreshore Funding Strategy.

The Regional Conservation and Habitat Restoration Implementation Strategy will link the SHRMF to the Regional Environmental Strategy to provide a framework for implementation of environmental works along the rivers. This will also inform and support the implementation of the environmental themes in the Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan.

The Foreshore Funding Strategy will inform ongoing advocacy and create an overview of funding sources, availability, partnerships, works and priorities. This will enable advance planning for collaborative submissions; highlight regional needs and link with work done by Swan Canning Policy Forum as well as supporting other major projects in the SHRMF, such as the Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan and Regional Recreational Path Development Plan. Lead agencies have been identified as including EMRC, Swan River Trust, WA Planning Commission, and local government.

STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Continued implementation of the SHRMF will align with the following objectives in the EMRC Strategic Plan for the Future 2010/11 to 2013/14:

Key Result Area 1 – Environmental Sustainability

- 1.5 To contribute towards improved regional air, water & land quality and regional biodiversity conservation.

Key Result Area 2 – Social Opportunities

- 2.1 To facilitate regional tourism development.
- 2.2 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational activities.



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Key Result Area 3 – Economic Development

- 3.1 To facilitate increased investment in regional infrastructure.
- 3.3 To facilitate regional economic development activities.

Key Result Area 4 – Good Governance

- 4.2 To provide advice and advocacy on issues affecting Perth's Eastern Region.
- 4.4 To manage partnerships and relationships with stakeholders.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2011/2012 budget to continue implementation of the SHRMF is \$114,497. The budget includes officer time and funds to complete the Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines, Stage 2 of the Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan and to develop the Regional Conservation and Habitat Restoration Strategy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Social:

- Improved community engagement in Swan River foreshore management activities in the Cities of Bayswater, Belmont and Swan, and Town of Bassendean;
- Inclusive and meaningful Noongar consultation;
- Increased public safety and amenity along the Swan River foreshore; and
- Increased tourism and recreational opportunities at key sites along the Swan River.

Economic:

- Opportunities to value add to current individual local government river projects; and
- Provision of employment opportunities.

Environmental:

- Conservation and protection of biodiversity along the Swan and Helena Rivers.
- Improved fauna habitat along the Swan and Helena rivers foreshore.

MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

Member Council	Implication Details
Town of Bassendean	• Allocation of budgets in future and existing budgets and capital works programmes for implementation of SHRMF strategies. • Participation in the Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG) and provision of guidance on priority actions and strategies.
City of Bayswater	
City of Belmont	
City of Swan	
Shire of Kalamunda	• Participation in the Regional Environmental Advisory Group REAG.
Shire of Mundaring	



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ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1 - Draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines (Ref: Committees-13167)
2. Attachment 2 - Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan (Ref: Committees-13168)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That:

1. Council receive the Draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines shown as Attachment 1.
2. The Draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines be forwarded to the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), Swan River Trust (SRT), WA Planning Commission (WAPC) and other relevant stakeholders for comment.
3. Council receive the Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan shown as Attachment 2.

The CEOs questioned if the report was trying to engage a blanket understanding of the whole regions needs in this area or whether it was intended to provide guidelines to deal with only projects under the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework. It was requested that the draft guidelines be forwarded to member Council Chief Executive Officers for review and comment prior to being finalised.

The Chief Executive Officer of the City of Bayswater moved an amended resolution to that effect.

CEOAC RECOMMENDATION(S)

MOVED MS LEFANTE

SECONDED MR JARVIS

That:

1. That the Draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines be referred to member Council Chief Executive Officers for comment before being referred back to the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee for endorsement.
2. Council receive the Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan shown as Attachment 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



REGIONAL ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

Acknowledge and respect Noongar Culture and Heritage



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Disclaimers

The term Noongar (alternative spellings include Nyungar, Nyoongar, Nyoongah, Nyungah, Nyugah, Yunga) is inclusive of all Aboriginal people in the South West region of Western Australia. Throughout this document the term Noongar has been used in accordance with the way in which the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council refer to the Aboriginal people of the south west region.

An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he [or she] lives.

(Department of Aboriginal Affairs, *Report on a Review of the Administration of the Working Definition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders* (1981), Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, cited in J Gardiner-Garden, *The Definition of Aboriginality: Research Note 18, 2000–01* (2000) Parliament of Australia, 2) (<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/rn/2000-01/01rn18.htm>)

First published in X X 2011.

Cover page images:

Figure 1 Derbarl Yerrigan Swan River with Perth City to the west

Figure 2 Traditional Whadjuk Custodial Boundaries

Informant Yagan: Extract from Robert Lyons Diary 1830s in 'Nyungar People' Neville Green (1984)

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INTRODUCTION

The health and management of the Swan and Helena Rivers and foreshore areas is of high importance to the EMRC and its member Councils. An important part of managing and maintaining the health and quality of these areas is ensuring appropriate and meaningful engagement with traditional owners and local Noongar communities.

Member Councils have identified difficulties in undertaking meaningful engagement and applying the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* to achieve the required outcomes in implementing works programmes along the river foreshore. Costs of consultation are high and breaches of the Act can result in severe penalties.

These Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines have been developed to assist EMRC member Councils in dealing respectfully, efficiently and effectively with river management, project planning, and approvals relating to Aboriginal heritage, whilst also ensuring compliance with legal requirements including the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

The EMRC and its member Councils wish to support Noongar people in their desire to care for their country. Partnerships between member Councils and Noongar people will provide a means for the passing on of Elders' knowledge and skills about country to younger Noongar people. It will build capacity for the next generation of Noongar people to continue managing country with traditional and western environmental management skills and facilitate stronger relationships between Noongars (in particular the Whadjuk people) and member Councils.

These Guidelines build on previous work undertaken by the EMRC and its member Councils and more recently the Swan and Canning Rivers Iconic Trails project with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), Perth Region Natural Resource Management and Swan River Trust.

SWAN AND HELENA RIVER MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Swan and Helena River Management Framework (SHRMF) was initiated by the EMRC on behalf of its member Councils with the support of the Swan River Trust and WA Planning Commission. The major output was a strategic framework that identified roles and responsibilities and allocated strategic actions to all stakeholders to guide the ongoing sustainable management and development of the eastern reaches of the Swan River and its major tributary, the Helena River.

To date five key documents have emerged from the framework:

- Perth's Eastern Region Swan River Trails Project
- Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance
- Regional Recreational Path Development Plan
- Best Management Practices for Foreshore Stabilisation – Swan River Trust and EMRC

- Best Management Practices for Shore Stabilisation - Concept Designs for City of Bayswater – Swan River Trust and EMRC

The Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance and the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan reports identified the need to conduct further consultation with the Noongar community to ensure that any future infrastructure including interpretation, trails and foreshore restoration works were sensitive to Aboriginal heritage and cultural issues.

Relevant recommendations in the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance included:

- Consultation with representatives of the Noongar community should be ongoing to ensure that the large numbers of closed and open sites in the study area are respected and protected;
- Preparation of interpretation should reflect the contrasting long history of the Noongar occupation and the continuing history interlinked with recent settlers along the rivers;
- Preparation for interpretation of historic heritage places should include consultation with relevant community groups and the local authority. Interpretive material should be prepared and checked by an interpretation professional to ensure that it is historically accurate and culturally appropriate;
- Trails involving any form of infrastructure (e.g. signage, pathways) must be environmentally friendly and sensitive to Aboriginal cultural issues understood through consultation and research; and
- Any infrastructure or physical works for trails and other interpretation proposed should be subject to Section 18 applications under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* in order to minimise risk of cultural conflict or legal action during or after construction.

Recommendations in the Regional Recreation Path Development Plan of relevance included to:

- Refer this report to key Aboriginal groups and engage with key Aboriginal stakeholders in the ongoing implementation of the proposed riverside path network and ongoing development of the interpretation plan; and
- Consider the recommendations of the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance when implementing this report in relation to Aboriginal consultation and the development of an interpretation plan.

The SHRMF Steering and Officer Working Group members prioritised the need for Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines to assist in improving the current planning and consultation processes through section 18 applications under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. This would enable more consultative and respectful engagement whilst also streamlining current processes.

DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES

Information was collated from a desktop assessment and stakeholder consultations to identify the key issues in Indigenous consultation and processes.

Desktop assessment

Current information, research and resources were identified and reviewed through online search engines and searching of international, national and state government agency and stakeholder websites. Other local government approaches and experiences were also reviewed.

Stakeholder consultation

Interviews were conducted with member Council officers from the Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG) and other relevant member Council staff to outline the project and obtain information regarding current activities, guiding documents, consultation processes, and issues experienced. In addition, external stakeholder groups were interviewed to provide their points of view and to seek clarification on current Aboriginal consultation processes and practices. This included regulatory and administrative agencies involved with Aboriginal matters (the Department of Indigenous Affairs, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and Perth Region NRM) and other local government agencies (City of South Perth, City of Fremantle and City of Armadale).

A stakeholder workshop was held with representatives from local government authorities, regulatory and administrative agencies and private companies. The workshop provided information on current Aboriginal engagement and consultation practices, issues faced by local governments, the current regulatory framework and the role of the native title representative bodies. This information was then explored through a facilitated discussion and used in the development of the guidelines.

OVERVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been developed to support member Council Officers to undertake appropriate and meaningful engagement with local Noongar people and communities. To ensure the guidelines are a useful and effective document, they have been structured under four headings:

- Why Engage?
- When to Engage?
- Who to Engage?
- How to Engage?

WHY ENGAGE?

There are two key reasons why local government should engage with Noongar people and communities:

1. To improve project outcomes; and
2. To ensure legal requirements for consultation are met.

IMPROVING PROJECT OUTCOMES

Engagement is a process that involves people and communities in problem solving and decision-making to build trust and relationships. The input of Noongar people in project planning can improve project outcomes and ensure that projects are developed that respect Noongar culture and heritage. Early engagement of Noongar people in the initial planning process will help identify relevant heritage protocols and any social, cultural or environmental needs. Early engagement can also assist with the identification of community needs and the development of relevant projects, programmes and policies.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT 1972 (WA)

The purpose of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (the AH Act) is the preservation of places and objects customarily used by or traditional to the original inhabitants of Australia on behalf of the community. This is achieved by making it an offence under Section 17 of the AH Act to excavate, damage or destroy Aboriginal sites. Where an owner of the land may want to use their land in a way that might damage or destroy an Aboriginal site/s, consent to use the land in a particular way may be applied for under Section 18 of the AH Act through the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA). Authorisation can also be obtained to use land under Regulation 10 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974* if the use is considered non-deleterious.

In Western Australia Aboriginal consultation is not a statutory requirement, however, it is required as part of applications made under section 18 of the AH Act and under regulation 10 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974*. Whilst there is a legal obligation upon owners of land to obtain authorisation to use land that may be significant, there is a lack of guidelines and standards to assist land owners make decisions about appropriate consultation levels, payments and the scale of works needed to be undertaken.

In cases where there is little or no recorded information relating to the site/s that may be impacted upon, a full heritage survey is highly likely to be requested to allow the application to be appropriately assessed. This process can become both costly and time consuming and as such needs to be considered early on in the planning stages of activities and projects. Early engagement with the Noongar community can assist with identifying and assessing the importance of sites to the community.

Section 18

Under Section 18 the proponent must lodge a completed Section 18 notice to the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) where it will undergo initial assessment by DIA Officers. When the application is complete and all requests for further information by the DIA have been satisfied, an assessment by the Aboriginal Cultural and Material Committee (ACMC) is conducted. If the works are deemed acceptable, then a recommendation is made to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs who provides approval in writing.

A process flow chart of the Section 18 approval process can be downloaded from the Department of Indigenous Affairs at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Application-process/>

Key details regarding the Section 18 authorisation process¹ are as follows:

- Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee - meets the first Wednesday of every month except January². Deadlines for Section 18 application submissions to Registrar to be forwarded to committee for meeting;
- Have to provide a Heritage Consultant's details for:
 - Ethnographic survey
 - Archaeological survey
 - Aboriginal Consultation;
- Informant - a person who provides information about his or her culture to an anthropologist, archaeologist or other heritage consultant;
- Length of time valid - can be for the "proposed lifetime of a project" e.g. including future maintenance requirements if known such as that required for infrastructure upkeep;
- Section 18 remains open as long as there are no changes in landowner (otherwise new landowner must reapply) or changes in the type of works to be undertaken as part of a project; and
- Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance (2009) can be used as supplementary information for a Section 18 application.

The most common issue identified with the Section 18 notice application process was the amount of time they can take to be approved and the costs involved in order to meet the consultation requirements and undertake Aboriginal Heritage Surveys.

Regulation 10

A Regulation 10 authorisation is referred to the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites for approval of activities that may be considered non-deleterious rather than the Section 18 notice application process of going through the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC)

¹Information on Section 18 approval process and forms are available from the DIA website at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Application-process/>

<http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Heritage-and-Culture/Resources/Forms-and-publications/>

² The ACMC meeting schedule is available on the DIA website at:

<http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Boards-And-Committees/ACMC/Meeting-Schedule/>

and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs for approval. Approval time for a Regulation 10 authorisation is usually shorter than applying for a Section 18 notice approval. It is not clear when a Regulation 10 authorisation may be obtained instead of a Section 18 approval being applied for without seeking advice from the DIA.

Key details regarding the Regulation 10 authorisation process are as follows:

- The Registrar has the discretion to issue approvals for work that is non-deleterious and aimed at enhancing the heritage values of the site. The Registrar will still need details of the site, the nature of the activity and a clear outline of Aboriginal community views. However the Regulation 10 application does not have to be considered by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee. If all the necessary information is provided and is clearly not detrimental to the site, approval will usually be issued within a few weeks of being submitted. It is still recommended that this, like any other approval, is sought well in advance of the planned commencement of works.
- Examples of non-deleterious activities may include:
 - Maintenance
 - Restoration
 - Interpretation
 - Removal of material (non-preferred option)
 - NRM work - revegetation, interpretation
- Form for a non-deleterious purpose³:
 - need to show consultation
 - send to Registrar of Heritage Places
 - officers process - can request more or less time
 - usually shorter turnaround time (few weeks or months).

Section 18 and Regulation 10 applications require:

- Communication between the party proposing the works and the Aboriginal people who have connection to the significant site(s);
- Investigating and recording the level of significance of the site, the impacts of the works and any agreement reached by both parties;
- Providing the records, along with a completed application form, to the Department of Indigenous Affairs.

³ A Regulation 10 form can be obtained by contacting the Department of Indigenous Affairs.

WHEN TO ENGAGE?

Engagement should occur as early as possible in any consultation process and any project planning activities to ensure relevant engagement and to increase opportunities for good outcomes to be achieved for everyone involved⁴.

Generally speaking there are a number of situations when consultation should occur including:

- pursuing general engagement of the Noongar community (Ask First Consultation Framework);
- for project specific activities that occur on or near Aboriginal cultural and heritage sites that may require legislative compliance (Section 18 or regulation 10 approval under the AH Act); and
- when undertaking cultural and heritage management activities.

LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT

The level of consultation required will depend on the type of activity to be undertaken and whether the location of the activity is listed or not listed as an Aboriginal heritage site on the DIA site register or if it is unknown whether it may be a heritage site or not. The consultation matrix provides a decision-making tool in regard to actions required; risk assessment and the initial level of consultation. Activities that may be undertaken by local governments have been summarised in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Consultation Matrix for assessing required level of engagement

Type of Activity	Level of Discussion (see below)					
	Non site specific	Not Listed as a Heritage Site (see Level of Risk below)		Heritage Site – Listed (see Heritage Site below)		
		Low Risk	High Risk	Information Assessed (IA) (Insufficient Information, Lodged Data)	Registered Site (R)	Stored Data
Planning and Development						

⁴ Refer to *Consulting Citizens: A Resource Guide*, Government of Western Australia, 2002, for detailed consultation information. The document can be downloaded from:

http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/icele/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=948

Type of Activity	Level of Discussion (see below)					
	Non site specific	Not Listed as a Heritage Site (see Level of Risk below)		Heritage Site – Listed (see Heritage Site below)		
		Low Risk	High Risk	Information Assessed (IA) (Insufficient Information, Lodged Data)	Registered Site (R)	Stored Data
New concepts and ideas	Engage	Engage	Engage	Support	Support	No action
Programme development and planning	Engage	Engage	Engage	Support	Support	No action
Project planning and development	Engage	Engage	Engage	Consult	Consult	No action
Building and Construction						No action
Excavation	No action	Feedback	Support	Consult	Consult	No action
Demolition	No action	Feedback	Support	Consult	Consult	No action
Hard engineering (eg: foreshore stabilisation techniques)	No action	Feedback	Consult	Consult	Consult	No action
Soft engineering (eg: survey and enhancement works))	No action	No action	Feedback	Support	Support	No action
Earthworks	No action	Feedback	Consult	Consult	Consult	No action
Enhancement and Maintenance						No action
Revegetation	No action	No action	Inform	Inform	Support	No action
Weed control	No action	No action	Inform	Inform	Support	No action
Ripping (mechanical)	No action	Feedback	Support	Support	Consult	No action
Interpretation	No action	Feedback	Support	Feedback	Support	No action
Removal of material (non-preferred)	No action	Feedback	Support	Support	Consult	No action
Monitoring (eg water monitoring or plant survey)	No action	No action	Feedback	Support	Support	No action

*Adapted from Department of Water - Aboriginal Heritage and Native Title Guidelines for On-Ground Works, Pilot Document, March 2008.

LEVEL OF DISCUSSION

The matrix should be used to determine the initial level of discussion that may be required. It may become necessary to progress through the different levels after the initial discussion depending on the situation and outcomes of the initial discussion.

Engage	Initiate and establish contact and communication channels with the Aboriginal community to determine if any Aboriginal cultural and heritage matters should be considered/included/developed. Ask first.
No Action	No discussion required as no Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites identified and no implications for Aboriginal heritage matters.
Inform	A heritage site may exist, however, there will be no disturbance of the site from the activity. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. Advise the appropriate Aboriginal people in writing of the activity to be undertaken. No feedback is requested. Seek advice from DIA as to whether a regulation 10 approval will be required. If approval is required the level of discussion will progress.
Feedback	A heritage site may exist and there may be limited disturbance of the site from the activity. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. Advise the appropriate Aboriginal people of the activity to be undertaken in writing and through the Metro Claim Working Party Group and request feedback. Seek advice from DIA as to whether a regulation 10 approval will be required. If approval is required the level of discussion will progress.
Support	A heritage site is likely to/does exist and there will be limited disturbance of the site from the activity. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. Advise the appropriate Aboriginal people of the activity to be undertaken in writing and through the Metro Claim Working Party Group and obtain written support. Seek advice from DIA as to whether a section 18 or regulation 10 approval will be required. If approval is required the level of discussion will progress.
Consult	A heritage site is likely to/does exist and there will be disturbance of the site from the activity. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. Involve the appropriate Aboriginal people throughout the planning, development and implementation of the proposed activity, project or programme through the Metro Claim Working Party and/or by writing to the appropriate people. Invite the appropriate Aboriginal people to provide professional advice throughout the planning, development and implementation of the

proposed activity, project or programme which may include on and off site meetings. The aim is to allow opportunities for involvement, collaboration and empowerment to achieve consensus on the proposed activity, project or programme. Document involvement and obtain written support on what is agreed to. This level of discussion may necessitate a Section 18 application under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

Heritage Survey	A heritage site exists, there is no previous heritage information or there is insufficient information in previous heritage surveys and the activity will disturb the site. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. A heritage consultant (anthropologist/archaeologist) should be contracted to undertake a full heritage survey ⁵ (anthropological and ethnographic research and Aboriginal community consultation) to fulfil the requirements of a Section 18 application under the AH Act.
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LEVEL OF RISK

Risk level should be assessed in terms of the type of activity to be undertaken in areas where there are no listed heritage sites or the heritage and cultural value is unknown or there is limited information available about the site.

Low risk	Artificial drains, dams (off-stream), sumps, developed land.
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High risk	Natural waterways (river, creek, stream, brook), swamps, lakes, estuaries, springs, dams (in-stream), uncleared/undisturbed land, sites that have limited aboriginal cultural and heritage information available that may be considered significant by local Noongar community.
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HERITAGE SITE

The DIA Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS) can provide information on the status of a site and access to survey reports. The AHIS site definitions can be found on the Department of Indigenous Affairs website⁶:

⁵ Information on heritage surveys is available on the DIA website at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Heritage-management/Aboriginal-heritage-surveys/>

⁶ Site definitions are available at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Heritage-and-Culture/Resources/Policies-and-procedures/Site-Assessment-Policy/>

WHO TO ENGAGE?

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

It can be difficult to ensure that all the appropriate individuals and family groups are engaged in the consultation process. Local government officers are advised to check with SWALSC and the DIA as to having the correct people and that these people are representative of the correct family groups with heritage connections to the project area. Getting this right is very important as it maintains integrity. It is also important to demonstrate as wide as possible consultation with the Noongar community. There are existing databases of information held at SWALSC and the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)⁷. Local government officers are advised to contact these organisations for the most current information.

Identify Who Speaks For Country

A respectful protocol is firmly entrenched in the lived experience of Aboriginal people throughout Australia. In establishing and maintaining good relations with traditional owner groups, it is imperative to speak to the correct people who have heritage connections to certain areas in Perth's Eastern Region.

Noongar are made up of fourteen different language groups which correspond to different geographical areas with ecological distinctions. Language groups within Perth's Eastern Region include the Yued, Whadjuk, Binjareb/Pinjarup and Wardandi associated with the Swan Coastal Plain and the Whadjuk, Binjareb/Pinjarup, Balardong, Wilman, Ganeang/Goreng associated with the Jarrah Forest (SWALSC, 2011).

The majority of Noongar people and in particular other Aboriginal people living in Noongar Country acknowledge when an area is not their country to talk about. Ask the following questions to help determine who speaks for country;

Are your people from Perth?

Is this your country?

Do you have heritage connections to this area?

Are you from this Country?

Are you Whadjuk?

Consultation Fees

There are no obligations under Western Australian legislation for payment to be made to Aboriginal people for consultation, however, it is standard practice that when Aboriginal consultation is undertaken payments will be made to the representatives at an agreed

⁷ City of Swan officers should also contact the Swan Indigenous Reference Group

rate and/or per representative. Payments may be made for services including but not limited to:

- Welcome to Country expenses
- Consultation fees
- Meeting expenses (on and off-site meetings)
- Site monitoring
- Administration support
- Catering
- Travel reimbursement costs
- Special events

It is recommended that local government authorities include Aboriginal engagement and consultation activities into their daily operations and as such should allow for any associated costs in their financial planning processes. This may include budgeting in capital works programmes, environmental management and community development areas.

Table 2 outlines a recommended payment fee for different types of consultation/services which may be provided*.

Table 2 Consultation Payment Schedule

Subject	Service Provided	Hourly	Daily	Flat Rate or one off payment
Metro Claim Working Group Party Meeting	Feedback and input into project/development proposals.	No payment required as a function of the Native Title Representative Body under the <i>Native Title Act 19 (Cmth)</i> .		
Elders and/or community members	Welcome To Country or Special Events			\$400.00-\$500.00
Dance Group	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) event			\$500-\$1,000

**Disclaimer – Whilst all care has been taken in the compilation of this information, these prices are a guide only and may vary between different organisations and Aboriginal people and groups. Payment is based on an Elder consulting. Where a senior or junior community member is consulted prices may be subject to negotiation. Prices may be subject to negotiation between parties dependent on financial resources and service/s to be provided.*

STAKEHOLDERS

South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council – Metro Claim Working Party Group

The Metro Claim Working Party Group is representative of family groups who have traditional and custodial rights to the Perth metropolitan region.

Government, government agencies, developers, archaeologists, anthropologists, Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people have an opportunity to present information and seek input into project development, planning and preparation. Presentations should provide precise information on what they would like advice/input on and, where relevant, on project location including maps, land tenure, scope of works and include heritage site information.

In following protocol, all local governments should present all projects for approval to the Metro Claim Working Party Group.

The Metro Claim Working Party Group meet every eight weeks⁸ and require notification at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting for any agenda items. Meetings are co-ordinated by the SWALSC Regional Development Manager who should be contacted with any requests.

There are a number of traditional owner groups who do not attend these meetings. In preparation stage of consultation and planning contact should be made with SWALSC and DIA for a list of the relevant people who should be consulted.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)

The DIA can provide guidance and advice in the following areas:

- Register of significant sites;
- Access to site survey information;
- Informants list;
- Section 18 requirements;
- Regulation 10 requirements;
- Heritage consultants;
- Site visits;
- Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee.

The DIA Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS) can provide information on the status of a site in relation to whether it is a significant site and access to survey reports. The AHIS can be accessed from: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS/>.

⁸ The Metro Working Party meeting schedule can be downloaded from the SWALSC website at: <http://www.noongar.org.au/meetings.php>

Heritage Consultants

Consultants such as anthropologists, archaeologists and historians may be required to provide assistance where site survey reports are required and to liaise between different organisations and the community.

Local government officers should use internal processes such as tender and contract specifications to ensure that requested services can be delivered in a timely and appropriate manner that will benefit everyone and comply with regulatory requirements.

Contact the DIA for a consultant list or use the link below to access professional bodies:
<http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Heritage-management/Aboriginal-heritage-surveys/Archaeological-surveys/>

Other Groups/Organisations

There may be other mechanisms in place to assist with the process of consultation through reference groups and advisory groups within your local government area.

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HOW TO ENGAGE?

Best practice in regard to engagement of the Noongar community is to ensure Noongar interests are being addressed through the active involvement of local Noongar people with heritage connections to the region where activities may be undertaken and early engagement. Where possible include a Noongar person in your project planning and implementation. This may require working with an Aboriginal staff member or a staff member from another organisation linked to the project via a partnership with your local government. Partnerships with Aboriginal organisations, reference groups and committees can facilitate achieving the desired outcomes.

Having Aboriginal people seeing the benefits of being involved in a programme or project is subject to believing and knowing they are helping drive the concept. Motivation of people is a prerequisite to any programme or project development.

PRINCIPLES FOR ENGAGEMENT

These guidelines are based on fundamental principles developed by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) that ensure Noongar people's participation in decision making⁹ and support an acceptance and understanding that Noongar culture lives through the people who are descendants of the original inhabitants. Principles for engagement include:

1. Prior informed consent
2. Mutual Respect
3. Nation Building/Relationship Building
4. Equal partnerships between Noongar and non-Noongar communities
5. Acknowledgement of Noongar Country
6. Acknowledgement of Noongar Culture
7. Acknowledgement of Noongar Knowledge and Expertise
8. Understanding that Noongars live their culture
9. Women/Mens Business

⁹ See SWALSC "*Final Report Swan and Canning Rivers Iconic Trails Project*" available on the SWALSC website at: <http://www.noongar.org.au/news.php>

PROTOCOLS

Protocols can be classified as a set of rules, regulations, processes, procedures, strategies or guidelines. Protocols are the ways in which you work with people, and communicate and collaborate with them appropriately. Principles for developing protocols between parties include:

- Relationships built on respect and trust
- Information
- Education
- Legislation and regulations
- The need to negotiate decisions/agreements
- Acknowledging different cultural values

The SWALSC protocols document “Living Culture – Living Land and its people”¹⁰ has been developed by SWALSC under the direction of and in collaboration with Noongar Elders and the Traditional Owners of the Perth Metropolitan Region and encompass:

- Early Engagement
- Realistic Timeframes
- Cultural Protocols
- Resources
- Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement of Country
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Confidentiality
- Showing Results

These protocols should be used by local governments to engage with the Noongar community and in relation to activities involving Aboriginal culture and heritage matters.

PROCESS FOR CONSULTATION

Engagement and consultation is an ongoing process from the planning phase to implementation to monitoring and feedback. Consultation should involve all relevant parties/organisations and allow input to be sought, information to be provided and shared throughout the stages and the processes involved with a project including feedback from traditional owners and representatives members from family groups. A consultation process is outlined below.

1. Planning and development should consider all factors involved with the proposed idea, programme, activity or project including research, location, scope of any works, approvals required for works, benefits, potential issues or impacts and any other relevant information to assist with the consultation process. Be clear on why you are consulting; the aim of the consultation and what needs to be achieved by the consultation. Other factors to consider include:
 - Co-ordination and management of the consultation;

¹⁰ The document can be downloaded from the SWALSC website: <http://www.noongar.org.au/news.php>

- Identifying resources required to undertake the consultation such as timing, people and budget;
 - Choosing a method of consultation;
 - Analysis;
 - Feedback;
 - Response to Recommendations; and
 - Monitoring and Evaluation.
2. Identify the relevant stakeholders by contacting SWALSC and the DIA and any other relevant groups that may have an interest in the proposed activity. Once the relevant people have been identified, arrange an initial meeting to outline the scope of the proposed activity and/or works. Information should be clearly set out and include maps, data, technical information, benefits, issues, impacts and any other relevant facts related to the proposed activity.
 3. Ensure that Noongar groups are allowed enough time to consider the information. You may also need to allow for further consultation. Noongar governance and time processes may differ from local government processes and schedules so flexibility may be required.
 4. At the initial meeting establish an ongoing communication process/method for consultation and level of involvement of the Noongar community for the proposed activity/project. This may include establishing a specific working group or more broad consultation. Consider any employment opportunities for local Noongar people.
 5. Ensure ongoing involvement of interested Noongars in the project (establish a communication method/process). It is critical to actively illustrate that Noongar comments, concerns and suggestions have been taken into consideration.
 6. Where Section 18 approval is required for the proposed activity, this may require Noongar involvement in monitoring, management and rehabilitation activities. Ensure that appropriate processes are undertaken to identify appropriate people to carry out these activities, recognising that time may be needed to reach a consensus on both appropriate methods to be used and the individuals to carry them out (consider during step 2 and 3).
 7. Where a Regulation 10 approval is required for the proposed activity, this may require Noongar involvement in planning the activity and site visit/s. Ensure that appropriate processes are undertaken to identify appropriate people to carry out these activities, recognising that time may be needed to reach a consensus on both appropriate methods to be used and the individuals to carry them out (consider during step 2 and 3).
 8. Ensure ongoing feedback and review of the activity/project with relevant Noongars. This is particularly important if there is a significant impact on culturally sensitive/significant areas (establish as part of communication method/process).
 9. Undertake and document/record consultation process in line with cultural protocols (see Protocols section of guidelines).

Table 3 Consultation checklist for local government officers.

Have we...	
Undertaken research into Aboriginal heritage and cultural matters and/or the Aboriginal community to be engaged?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified a need to engage/consult with the Aboriginal community? Have a clear purpose?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undertaken planning and development of proposed activity (considering all factors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allocated resources to undertake consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allowed adequate time for consultation to be built into project timelines (including local government, statutory approvals processes, meeting schedules, Noongar governance processes)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified who needs to be involved in the consultation (all stakeholders)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified a method of consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified a communication process/method to allow input and feedback between participants?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified potential risks in the consultation and appropriate strategies to minimise the risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provided the community with information about the level of involvement expected of them throughout the consultation process and any future actions that may be required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed mechanisms to monitor the consultation process that allow for flexibility to make changes if required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed an evaluation of the consultation process built into project timelines?	<input type="checkbox"/>

TIMEFRAMES

Local governments, State government agencies, regulatory processes, and peak organisations are procedurally governed by deadlines and meeting schedules. Local government officers should be aware of time differences as Aboriginal people are not as guided by deadlines. This situation is not easily managed however consideration and flexibility should be allowed for in preparation and planning to ensure that time considerations will be manageable.

Be open and clear that the proposed activity has got a beginning and end. Always revisit this important point during feedback sessions as part of your consultation.

Be aware that a 'no show' at appointments does not necessarily mean a lack of commitment to a project or programme. Aboriginal people may have unavoidable family commitments or harsh economic circumstances. These may include:

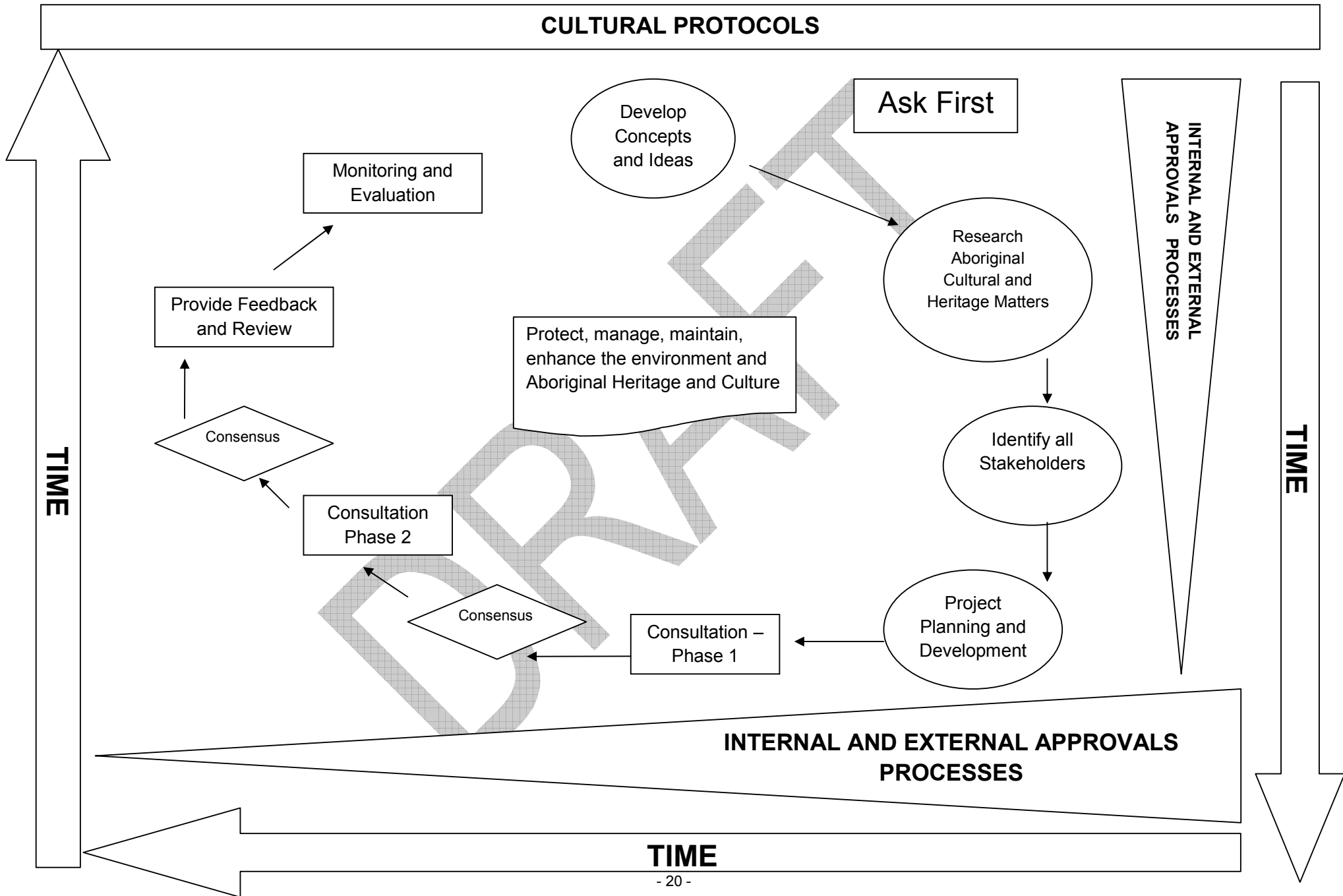
- Transport – not readily available or difficulty using public transport;
- Telephone – no access to a telephone to cancel and change appointments;
- Family responsibilities – these can take priority;
- Housing – homeless or highly mobile;
- Death – funerals take precedence over everything else in an Aboriginal community and relatives will travel a great distance to be with grieving family;
- Births – families and relatives gather together for births and care of the baby; and
- Finances – if finances are low, money will go towards food for the family rather than transport to an appointment.

Timeframes should allow for internal local government processes (budgeting, tender and contract requirements, works programme schedules); consultation activities that may need to be undertaken; liaison and feedback from the Metro Claim Working Party Group; liaison with the DIA; research, preparation and planning for Section 18 applications and the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee meeting schedule.

Figure 1 illustrates the components of engagement and consultation.



Figure 1 – Components of Engagement and Consultation



RESPECTING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Aboriginal people live within a different world view to non-Aboriginal people and these differences may not be immediately apparent. Take your time to observe, listen and learn. Some important points include:

- When meeting someone and establishing a rapport, ask about who their family is – not are you Aboriginal or where they work;
- Be who you are. Maintain your integrity and remain firm in your intent to include Aboriginal people and foster good relations. This will be one of the first things Aboriginal people perceive; and
- Do not get involved in community politics.

Touching	Touching is used as an expression of acceptance, welcoming or direct communication
Discipline	Adult members of the family have rights to discipline the children
Eye Contact	Aboriginal people may avoid eye contact. It is not polite to gaze into another's eyes
Plain Talk	Plain talk is the best way to communicate. Too many explanations may confuse the issue
Yes	Yes, does not always mean 'yes' as a direct answer to a question
Quiet Time	A pause in the conversation does not reflect avoidance – just thinking time
Family Business	Family business means all the family including children and elders

Communicating with people from another culture is often difficult. While it is not necessary to be an expert on a culture or linguistics to communicate effectively with others, it is essential to be aware that these differences may exist.

A number of communication difficulties are commonly encountered when dealing with Aboriginal people. Several are outlined below. Keep in mind, however, that there is huge diversity in the Aboriginal community.

“Are we speaking the same language?”

- Aboriginal people seek information by hinting at an issue rather than discussing it directly. A common example is Aboriginal people make a statement then wait for you to either confirm or refute it.
- Time to think is essential for Aboriginal people, especially when important decisions are to be made. Don't always expect immediate answers, you may have to wait until another time.

- Nodding does not always mean 'yes'. Nodding is a cultural norm which encourages smooth social relationships. So an Aboriginal person may nod but may not agree with you or understand what you have said.
- 'I don't know' may have more to do with your inappropriate communication rather than the Aboriginal person's lack of knowledge. It may also be due to a lack of an appropriately developed relationship.

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GLOSSARY

Consensus	<p>A group decision (which some members may not feel is the best decision, but which they can all live with, support and commit themselves not to undermine), arrived at without voting, through a process whereby the issues are fully aired; all members feel they have been adequately heard, in which everyone has equal power and responsibility, and where different degrees of influence by virtue or individual stubbornness or charisma are avoided so that all are satisfied with the process.</p> <p>(M Scott Peck, <i>The Road Less Travelled</i>, 1978)</p>
Consultation	<p>A tool of engagement used to gather and provide information and obtain feedback from people and communities through clearly defined channels.</p>
Elder	<p>The person or persons designated as the keepers of cultural knowledge in family and community. They are usually elder people but the responsibilities may be given to a younger person by some families. Family groups determine who the elder/s will be within their family group (SWALSC 2011).</p>
Engagement	<p>A process that involves people and communities in problem solving and decision-making to build trust and relationships. The level of engagement can range from the provision of information, to involvement through consultation, collaboration, decision-making and implementation.</p>
Informant	<p>A person who provides information about his or her culture to an anthropologist, archaeologist or other heritage consultant.</p>
Non-deleterious	<p>Refers to types of activities which may be carried out on land that may require approval under Regulation 10 of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974</i>.</p>
Noongar	<p>Refers to and is inclusive of all Aboriginal people in the South West region of Western Australia. Alternative spellings include Nyungar, Nyoongar, Nyoongah, Nyungah, Nyugah, Yunga (SWALSC, 2011).</p>
South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC, 2011).	<p>The native title representative body of the Noongar people who are the traditional owners of the South West of Australia (SWALSC, 2011).</p>

Traditional Owners Aboriginal representatives of the traditional language group that inhabited an area prior to European settlement and are recognised as traditional owners by local Aboriginal communities (SWALSC, 2011).

Whadjuk One of the fourteen Noongar language groups associated with the Swan Coastal Plain and Jarrah Forest geographic areas. Alternative spelling Wadjuk (SWALSC, 2010).

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Tools for Engagement

There are a number of different engagement strategies and activities that local government can undertake to strengthen relationships with the Noongar and Aboriginal community.

1. Cultural Awareness

Local government will benefit from providing staff with Cultural Awareness Training. Training in this field will allow local government officers to gain a greater understanding of interaction between non-aboriginal and aboriginal Australian individuals, families and groups. Staff will also learn about Australian society from Aboriginal perspectives within the history of Australia.

Benefits of cultural awareness training include being able to recognise cultural differences and to see where these differences may cause conflict or difficulty in communication; recognising the similarities that makes us all human and to help in identifying ways to communicate and be inclusive.

2. Significant Dates

Getting to know your community also includes attending, participating in and supporting Indigenous events. These events can be included in local government community event calendars.

DATE	EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE
26 January	Australia Day Day of Mourning Invasion Day Survival Day	A day to remember and celebrate. What made our nation what it is today – the landing of the first fleet at Sydney Cove and the loss of sovereign rights for Indigenous Australians.
21 March	Harmony Day	To create and promote harmony within communities that embraces cultural diversity and addresses racism. Opportunity to support and encourage Noongar and other Aboriginal people's participation.
25 April	ANZAC Day	Aboriginal men and women fought alongside other Australian heroes. Fighting for a free world.
26 May	National Sorry Day	<i>I am Sorry you were taken away from your family. I feel sorry that this happened.</i> Established a year after the "Bringing them Home Report" was tabled in Federal parliament (19997)

DATE	EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE
		<p>after the inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.</p> <p>A National Sorry Day Committee maintains a web-site with an events calendar at: A National Committee maintains a web-site with an events calendar at: http://www.nsd.org.au/</p>
27 May to 3 June annually	National Reconciliation Week	<p>To acknowledge and celebrate the culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and to discuss reconciliation and consider ways to address disadvantage faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.</p> <p>The Reconciliation WA website http://www.reconciliationwa.org/</p>
27 May	1967 Australian Referendum anniversary	<p>90% of eligible voters supported changes to the constitution related to Section 51 giving the Commonwealth parliament the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Section 127 to ensure that Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders would be counted in the census.</p>
3 June	Mabo Day	<p>This day marks the anniversary of the 1992 High Court of Australia's decision in the Mabo case. The decision recognised the Native Title rights of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by legally dismissing the doctrine of "Terra Nullius".</p>
1 July	Coming of the Light Festival	<p>Let the light begin. Celebrates the day that the London Missionary Society first arrived in Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island on 1 July 1871, introducing Christianity to the region.</p>
First Week of July Each Year	NAIDOC Week	<p>National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC week is a way of celebrating and promoting a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our culture. Visit the following website for details: http://www.naidoc.org.au/</p>
4 August	National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day	<p>A day for the Kulungars (the children) observed since 1988. http://www.snaicc.asn.au/</p>
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	<p>Recognises the first United Nations (UN) Working Group on Indigenous Populations meeting in Geneva in 1982. A celebration of culture and diversity and to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous peoples.</p>
10 December	Human Rights Day	<p>Celebrates the anniversary of the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The declaration can be</p>

DATE	EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE
		viewed at: http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml

3. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management

Aboriginal cultural heritage management can encompass the protection and enhancement of Aboriginal heritage; the assessment of threats to Aboriginal heritage and to help fulfil heritage survey requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

Aboriginal cultural heritage management plans can be used to guide activities for the protection and enhancement of Aboriginal cultural heritage and to engage Aboriginal people and incorporate their traditional knowledge as part of the planning, implementation and operational processes when developing projects and management plans¹¹.

Heritage management is also used to assess the threats to a heritage site(s). Threats can include natural processes such as erosion, present-day practices such as road building or mining and the risk that people will pilfer artefacts if they find out about the site. The protection of a site can be supported by demonstrating how significant a site is through significance assessment. Significance assessment is carried out by heritage professionals who can carry out detailed field research, but it is often done because of the work of other people in the community.

A heritage assessment is a process by which Aboriginal heritage values within a local government area may be identified. These values may be tangible, that is associated with particular objects—or intangible, including places where no physical evidence remains but that have particular meaning for the Aboriginal community.

Heritage assessments are a strategic and proactive way for a local government to improve its planning and service delivery to include the Aboriginal community. They provide an opportunity to involve Aboriginal people early in the planning process to identify any cultural issues or important places which can reduce the chances of lengthy project delays due to discovering Aboriginal cultural heritage values late within the project planning process. Through heritage assessments, a better understanding can be gained of the important Aboriginal heritage places within a local government area that it may wish to protect and maintain culture. Heritage assessments can also assist with decision-making on development and location of services and infrastructure.

Cultural mapping is inclusive of family groups who have heritage connections to areas and regions. Importantly this process is inclusive of other Aboriginal people living in the municipality.

¹¹ An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan Template has been developed by Perth Region NRM for local government. The document can be downloaded at: <http://www.perthregionnrm.com/pr-nrm-programs/indigenous-cultural-heritage-program/resources.aspx>

4. Reconciliation Action Plan

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP trademark pending) is a tool developed by Reconciliation Australia that organisations can use to build relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The purpose of a RAP is to develop actions for organisations to engage within their sphere of influence in the national effort to close the 17-year gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and other Australians (Reconciliation Australia, 2006). Reconciliation Australia provides access to a toolkit and resources where organisations choose to sign up to develop a RAP.

Local governments are in an excellent position to champion racial harmony between all groups in their respective regional boundaries and in particular to celebrate Noongar and Aboriginal culture.

5. The Aboriginal Flag – A Symbol of Recognition

Flying the Aboriginal Flag on commemorative days is a strong symbol of recognition. The Australian Aboriginal Flag was designed by artist Harold Thomas, an Elder from the Northern Territory, in 1971 to be a recognisable symbol of unity and identity for Aboriginals.

The flag was first raised in Adelaide's Victoria Square on National Aborigines Day, 12 July 1971. It was recognised nationally by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities after it was flown above the "Tent Embassy" outside Parliament House in Canberra in 1972 when Aboriginal people were seeking national justice, including land rights, education, legal rights and health. On 14 July 1995 the flag gained official recognition 'as the flag of the Aboriginal peoples of Australia and a flag of significance to the Australian nation generally' under the *Flags Act 1953 (Cmth)*.

*The **black** is often said to represent the Aboriginal people of Australia*

*The **red** to depict the earth, ochre and the spiritual relationship to the land*

*The **yellow** to represent the sun, the constant giver of life*

The Aboriginal flag should be flown or displayed with the black at the top and the red at the bottom.

In 1997 the Federal Court recognised Harold Thomas as the author of the flag and as a result the Australian Aboriginal flag is protected under copyright and may be reproduced only in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968 (Cmth)* or with the permission of Harold Thomas. Mr Thomas has awarded a licence for the manufacture and marketing of the Australian Aboriginal Flag to Carroll and Richardson Flags where flags can be purchased.

Permission is not required to fly the Australian Aboriginal Flag.

More information on flag protocols can be found on the Australian Government website It's An Honour (See Resources List Section 9).

6. Noongar Languages/Dual Naming - Noongar Place names

Local government can play an important role in the promotion of Aboriginal languages. This role in creating broader community awareness of Aboriginal languages is recognised in other regions and States.

Local governments are encouraged to consider the appropriate use of Noongar names for newly proclaimed public places and roads or if upgrading. In new land developments it is important that the use of Noongar names is carefully negotiated with the Noongar community.

Local governments are also encouraged to consider dual-naming already European named geographical features such as rivers, creeks, waterfalls, islands, hills and caves. This is especially important for those cultural and environmental features of significance to the local Aboriginal community.

Local governments place-naming policies should include procedures for identifying and selecting the names of local places and features in the local Aboriginal language and consultative mechanisms to verify the appropriateness of suggested names.

7. Local Government Council Policy and Processes

Local governments can recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal community through Council policy and processes which can be incorporated in operational activities. This may include :

- Conducting ceremonies such as Traditional Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment of Country¹²;
- Developing Statements of Commitment and Memoranda of Understanding;
- Setting Indigenous employment targets; and
- Providing cultural awareness training for staff.

Local government policy that acknowledges, respects and promotes Noongar and Aboriginal culture can create racial harmony in the community and provide guidelines and raise awareness for local government officers and elected members.

¹² Refer to SWALSC protocols document "Living Culture – Living Land and its people" available at: <http://www.noongar.org.au/news.php>

8. Resource List

Organisation	Resource Name	Source
Australian Heritage Commission	Ask First - A Guide to Respecting Indigenous Heritage Places and Values (2002)	http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/publications/commission/books/ask-first.html
Department of Indigenous Affairs (WA) ATSIS (Aust Govt)	Consulting Citizens - Engaging with Aboriginal Western Australians	http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/Documents/ReportsPublications/ConsultingCitizensSept2005.pdf
Department of Premier and Cabinet (WA)	Consulting Citizens: A Resource Guide	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/icele/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=948
Perth Region NRM	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Template	http://www.perthregionnrm.com/pr-nrm-programs/indigenous-cultural-heritage-program/resources.aspx
Local Government Association of NSW	Engaging with local Aboriginal communities: A Resource Kit for Local Government in NSW document (2007) Examples of a Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Commitment	http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_Documents/Ind ex.asp?documenttype=10&sectionid=1&actionid=1&next=y&irecx=4&mi=31
Reconciliation Australia	Promote and build reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for the wellbeing of the nation. Administer Reconciliation Action Plans	www.reconciliation.org.au
Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) - Local Government Consultation and Engagement	Consultation and engagement with Indigenous and Aboriginal People	http://www.vlga.org.au/Resources/Consultation_and_Engagement/Engaging_Hard_to_Reach_Groups/Indigenous_and_Aboriginal_People.aspx
South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council	Final Report, Executive Summary Report and Consultation Protocol Guidelines - Swan and Canning Rivers Iconic Trails Project – Living Culture – Living Land and its people.	http://www.noongar.org.au/news.php
Australian Government. Department of Families,	Engagement with Indigenous Australians (2010).	http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/engagement/engagement/Pages/default.aspx

Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs		
It's An Honour Website	Federal Government Recognition and Awards website Information on flags, Australian symbols, coat of arms, national anthem, protocols for using, flying symbols and flags etc.	http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/otherflag.cfm

9. Contact List

Organisation Name	Contact	Information/Services	Telephone/Fax	Email	Address	Web
South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council	Regional Development Manager (Metro Working Group Co-ordinator)	www.noongar.org.au	(08) 9358 7400 Fax: (08) 9358 7499	reception1@noongar.org.au	HomeTown Centre 1490 Albany Highway Cannington WA 6107	www.noongar.org.au
Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Land Approvals and Native Title Unit		Native title	(08) 9222 9613 Fax: (08) 9222 9877		Native Title Level 2, Governor Stirling Tower, 197 St Georges Terrace, PERTH WA 6000 Postal address Locked Bag 10 Cloisters Square PERTH WA 6850	http://www.native.title.wa.gov.au/Pages/Default.aspx http://www.native.title.wa.gov.au/Pages/Links.aspx

Organisation Name	Contact	Information/Services	Telephone/Fax	Email	Address	Web
Department of Indigenous Affairs	Heritage Officer (Southern) Heritage and Culture Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access, advice and information on Heritage sites in Southern region • DIA Informants List • <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> compliance 			<p>Street address:</p> <p>Level 1, 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth, Western Australia</p> <p>Postal address:</p> <p>PO Box 7770, Cloister's Square Perth, Western Australia 6850</p>	www.dia.wa.gov.au
Department of Indigenous Affairs	Executive Officer: Camille Kirby	Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC)	(08) 9235 8059 Fax: (08) 9235 8088	acmc@dia.wa.gov.au	As above	As above
Department of Indigenous Affairs	Dr. Kathryn Przywolnik	Registrar of Aboriginal Sites	(08) 9235 8000	registrar@dia.wa.gov.au	As above	As above

Organisation Name	Contact	Information/Services	Telephone/Fax	Email	Address	Web
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SWAN AND HELENA RIVERS FORESHORE TRAIL INTERPRETATION PLAN

Final Report

**Prepared For Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council
August 2011**

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Jetty at Hinds Reserve and Garratt Road Bridge, Bayswater © 2010 Savagely Creative

“Sit by a river. Find peace and meaning in the rhythm of the lifeblood of the earth”

Anon

Executive Summary

Introduction

Rivers have always been vital to human beings. They are a guiding factor when choosing a place to live. They provide a food source, vital watering for livestock and an important resource for the development of industry. Rivers are vital to all cultures and in many cultures they are sacred places.

The Swan and Helena Rivers were key factors in the decision to develop the Swan River Colony. Along the length of the foreshore trail there are remnants of early pioneering heritage as well as more recent development. The importance of the rivers, however, stretches back long before the time of settlement. For thousands of years Noongar people have camped along the banks, performed ceremonies and told tales linked to its creation by the Waugal.

The Swan Helena Rivers Foreshore Interpretation Plan provides guidance on the development of interpretation along the proposed foreshore trail. It links the strands of Aboriginal heritage, European heritage and natural heritage and weaves them into the stories of the river.

Background

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) is a regional local government authority that works on behalf of six member Councils to achieve outcomes for Perth’s Eastern Region. The member Councils cover approximately one third of the Perth metropolitan area and include the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Kalamunda, Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan.

The EMRC has supported member Councils and industry stakeholders to achieve tourism outcomes since 1998. Tourism is identified as a priority area in the EMRC’s Strategic Plan for the Future 2010/11 to 2013/14.

The EMRC's regional tourism initiatives have ranged from investigating the feasibility of developing a sector (e.g. Cycle Tourism); co-ordinating implementation of a regional event promotion campaign (e.g. Avon Descent Family Fun Days) through to production of marketing collateral (e.g. PerthTourism.com.au).

Themes

The central theme answers the question, "What is the one thing that the visitors must know by the time they finish this experience?" Whilst facts are important, research shows that visitors do not retain many (if any) of the facts presented to them. If this is true it is important to be clear about what message you want your visitors to engage with and how you will present that in your interpretation. This central message will often not be stated outright but is implied in the sub themes and incorporated into the written and verbal communications along the proposed trail

The research undertaken into this project has identified a huge number of stories along the length of the proposed trail. It became increasingly clear that the Noongar, European and environmental stories are all so closely linked that they cannot now be separated. It was also evident that linking these elements and creating a single response that incorporated Noongar, European and environmental messages would create a much stronger experience for the visitor. In addition the large number of stakeholders and interested parties linked to the rivers meant that there was potential for a number of interpretation approaches to be undertaken in isolation and potential duplication of effort.

With this in mind the suggested central theme identified for this project focuses on the importance of working together and understanding each others stories to ensure the survival of river and the growth of Western Australia. This has been condensed into a shorter statement that embodies this message:

"Together we are stronger"

This central theme is the one message that we want our visitors to gain from their experience of the proposed trail, whether they are looking at a European or Noongar heritage site or a site of environmental importance. The central theme is the underlying message in all of the interpretation media that is proposed in this project.

Sub Themes

Under this theme there are number of sub themes that reinforce the message whilst conveying additional messages. Considerable work was undertaken through previous consultancies so the recommendation is that the original meta themes are taken and built on.

1. River of Life – Lifeblood of the People

The river forms the vital artery that keeps communities alive and connected. The rivers define Perth and its character is influenced by their location. The Noongar and settler communities both see the river as a sacred place to be protected and nurtured. Weaving together the stories of Noongar, European and environmental heritage shows how they view the river differently depending on perspective but all see the river as vital to Perth's survival.

2. Power of Landscape - Listening to Nature

The rivers have created the landscape and dictate the activities and uses that can happen on their banks. Listening to nature has been important to Noongar and settler communities for food, industry and ultimately for survival. The river, viewed individually from a Noongar, European or environmental viewpoint, tells a strong story but when you

combine, compare and contrast these perspectives you get a stronger story and a more complete understanding.

3. Sustainability – Living in Harmony

We are interconnected with nature and our actions have an impact on us all. Noongar and European peoples live with the river differently but communities are working together to ensure the long-term sustainability of the rivers. Through this co-operative approach the environment has a greater chance of being improved and protected.

Interpretation Methods

The central proposal for the trail is to develop one trail focussing on Noongar and European stories, weaving in their environmental perspectives and using the same infrastructure. The trail would encompass the Swan and Helena Rivers, use Noongar and European names and provide recognition of Noongar and European uses.

By looking at the trail in this way it is possible to allow people to compare and contrast the way that all Western Australians view the river. It will also show the collaboration that is being undertaken in the care of the river and the focus on ensuring sustainability.

Rather than building a static interpretation centre that will be costly to develop and operate, it is recommended that four major interpretation nodes be developed along the trail one in each of the precincts. It is envisaged that some kind of shelter and seating would be provided at these nodes. They would also provide a venue for written interpretation panels, storytelling and a place where people could meet.

Traditional methods of signage, waymarkers, art and providing venues for face-to-face experiences will be the main focus for interpretation. In addition to this it is suggested that more high tech methods be investigated such as smart phone applications and podcasts to provide interpretation in places that are prone to flooding, difficult or too expensive to access and maintain.

Recommendations

- Four major interpretation nodes to be identified and developed.
- A range of interpretation methods to be investigated and developed.
- Consultation to be undertaken with the community to identify stories. This consultation will include the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) with a view to linking into the Swan Canning Iconic River Trails Project (SCIRTP).
- Additional funding to be sourced for the delivery of the interpretation.
- Liaison with stakeholders outside Perth's Eastern Region to encourage the adoption of the same messages and a similar or complementary approach to interpreting the rivers through the Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails Master Plan Project Steering Group.



Swan River looking west from Garvey Park, Belmont © City of Belmont and EMRC

“When we try and pick out anything by itself we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.”

John Muir

Introduction

The Swan Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan provides guidance on the development of interpretation along the proposed foreshore trail. It links the strands of Aboriginal heritage, European heritage and natural heritage and weaves them into the stories of the river.

In 2007 the EMRC commissioned a report by Hassell Ltd – the Swan and Helena River Management Framework¹. This report identified a framework for the development of a Regional Recreation Trail, which would provide continuous, accessible, interpreted and signed access along each side of the river.

The project area has been divided into four precincts each with a range of points of interest and sites of significance.

1. **Precinct One:** Windan Bridge (East Perth) to Black Swan Island (Ascot);

¹ Hassell Ltd (2007) Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework for the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council.

2. **Precinct Two:** Black Swan Island (Ascot) to the Helena River Confluence (South Guildford);
3. **Precinct Three:** The Helena River Confluence (South Guildford) to Whiteman Bridge (now Swan River Bridge) (Middle Swan); and
4. **Precinct Four:** Kings Meadow (Guildford) to Roe Highway (Bellevue).

A second report was undertaken by the EMRC in 2009, which provided a Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance for the four precincts along the rivers. Latitude Creative Services, Heritage and Conservation Professionals and the National Trust of Australia (WA) undertook this report. In addition to identifying sites of significance to the natural heritage, European settlement and Noongar heritage the report also identified three meta themes that have been used throughout this planning process to guide interpretation theme development:

1. River of Life;
2. Power of Landscape; and
3. Sustainability.

Linked to these themes are the three broad topic areas of Noongar heritage, European heritage and natural heritage. This plan has taken the original reports and built on this work to identify themes, methods of delivery and proposed stories.

“The Rivers define the landscape, in which we live, take us physically from the scarp to the ocean and spiritually from the beginning of time to the present. The significance of the rivers includes values associated with spirituality, geology and biodiversity as well as individual and shared histories of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people.”²

Scope of Work

This report constitutes Stage One of this project and considered the following actions:

- Review of the research already undertaken;
- Review of sites identified;
- Identification of messages, themes, experiences;
- Consultation with the SWALSC project team and development of linkages where appropriate;
- Consultation with stakeholders;
- Mapping the project using the Heritage and Tourism Interpretation Framework (HATIF) to identify linkages between tourism and interpretation across Perth’s Eastern Region;
- Identification of potential tourism experiences at and between the four precincts in the study area;
- Identification of challenges to delivery;
- Identification of potential funding sources.

The outputs of stage one are:

1. Determine the themes for the Swan and Helena Rivers foreshore trail interpretation;

² Latitude Creative Services, Heritage Conservation Professionals, National Trust of Australia (WA) (2009). Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework - Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance for Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council.

2. Identify the sites to be interpreted;
3. Determine the messages to be communicated; and
4. Determine the methods of interpretation.

Site Description

This has been a very complex project to undertake due to the extensive area covered and the variety of the sites identified along the river foreshore. Many of the locations identified already have significant amounts of infrastructure and there is a need to complement rather than duplicate what is already in place. There are also significant environmental issues in many of the locations including acid sulphate soils, locations being in floodplains and private ownership of land.

Each of the four precincts has been investigated for stories and sites that will engage visitors and create a cohesive story linking the proposed trail from Windan Bridge all the way to the Swan Valley. This area covers four member Council jurisdictions: Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont and City of Swan.

Another challenge has been the identification of Noongar sites that could be developed. Much of the river is considered closed³ so a great deal of sensitivity is required in the identification and development of sites. Closed sites may be considered to be of particular significance due to cultural reasons, gender restrictions, physical danger of site and the site condition; information regarding these sites, including location is restricted in recognition of their culturally sensitive nature.

More work is required in this area and it is proposed that sites are developed in conjunction with the Swan Canning Iconic River Trails project (SCIRTP) currently being undertaken by the Perth Region Natural Resource Management (PRNRM), the South West Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and the Swan River Trust (SRT). EMRC is a member of the SCIRTP advisory group. Site development can also be identified through the Swan River Trust's Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails Master Plan Project Steering Group of which the EMRC is also a member.

It is proposed that once broad agreement has been obtained for the interpretation direction, consultation will be undertaken with the SCIRTP group and the community to agree on sites for the interpretation nodes. This report provides recommendations based on available information and initial discussions.

³ The term "closed" refers to level of access allowed to information on an Aboriginal site as defined in Section 4 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. Aboriginal site information is located in the Department of Indigenous Affairs Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System.

Interpretation Approach

What is Interpretation?

Interpretation can be defined in many ways but for the purposes of this project the definition from Freeman Tilden, the modern day founder of interpretation is used. Tilden first published his seminal work on interpretation in 1957, the fact that it is still a central text in many interpretation courses stands testament to its continued relevance. Tilden defines interpretation as:

“An education activity, which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information.”⁴

Tilden identified six principles relating to effective interpretation:

1. Any interpretation that does not somehow relate what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.
2. Information, as such, is not interpretation. Interpretation is revelation based upon information. But they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information.
3. Interpretation is an art, which combines many arts, whether the materials presented are scientific, historical or architectural. Any art is in some degree teachable.
4. The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction, but provocation.
5. Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part, and must address itself to the whole man rather than any phase.
6. Interpretation addressed to children (say up to the age of twelve) should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program.

Interpretation had its origins in the United States National Parks system with ranger talks, park signage and guided tours. The concept has been developed over the years to provide a means of relaying information to visitors to encourage them to stay longer, spend more and create an ongoing connection with places.

By creating this ongoing connection with visitors it is possible to create long-term relationships and advocates for the conservation and management of an areas most important natural and cultural heritage assets.

Good interpretation also creates a strong sense of place for visitors and the local community. It provides a context for visitors to identify with and also creates points of reference for them when discovering the location's significance.

All too often however, our attempts at interpretation aim more at educating and less at inspiring connection. The result is prolific signs and panels, packed with text that merely overload the reader with facts rather than engaging them in the story and significance of the place.

Thematic Interpretation

This project has used a thematic approach to interpretation. Professor Sam Ham of the University of Idaho⁵ is responsible for making thematic interpretation popular. This approach

⁴ Tilden, Freeman (1957) *Interpreting Our Heritage*.

⁵ Ham, Sam (1992) *Environmental Interpretation – A Practical Guide for People with Big Ideas and Small Budgets*

sees interpretation as a means of creating an experience for the visitor. The main idea behind thematic interpretation is that visitors are unlikely to remember a stream of facts and figures but will be able to remember a central theme or message.

The theme answers the question – “What is it that the visitor must know when they leave here?” It is the answer to “so what?” Once this message has been identified and expressed as a sentence the rest of the interpretation is developed to support this message. The theme itself is often not expressed outright in the interpretation but is implied by the stories told and the interpretive media used.

Themed, Organised, Relevant, Entertaining (TORE)

Professor Ham’s model (TORE) states that for interpretation to be effective in its goal of engaging the visitor and affecting behavior it needs to meet the following criteria:

- **Themed** – it makes a strong point that the visitor can take away that will influence their behaviour in the future. A theme should not be confused with a topic, which is a subject area.
- **Organised** – it must be presented in a way that is logical and easy to follow. In most instances the audience for interpretation is non-captive, i.e. they have a choice about being there. If your interpretation is hard to follow, too wordy or uninteresting they will simply not pay attention to it.
- **Relevant** – interpretation that is relevant has two qualities: it is meaningful and it is personal. If the audience cannot relate to the information, they will not engage with it.
- **Entertaining** – All good interpretation is entertaining, that is it can hold the audience’s attention. This may not necessarily be the prime objective but without it the interpretation will fail to convey its message.

This model is the basis of this interpretation plan and presents a central theme, which conveys the main message, and a series of sub themes that support this central theme.

Methodology

Research and Concept Design

A great deal of research had already been undertaken for this project and rather than undertake more research the framework developed by the EMRC consultants, Hassell Ltd, and the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance from Latitude Creative et al were taken as the basis for this project. In addition a number of site visits were undertaken along the proposed trail to identify what experiences already existed and what other experiences could be developed to complement these.

The magnitude of this site presented its own issues and also provided a significant number of opportunities to develop a range of experiences. The overarching thought with the proposed trail was the possibility of providing an insight into a number of stories from a range of different perspectives. The rivers are significant to both Noongar and European cultures and more recently environmental issues have become of key importance. All of these issues have been used to guide the development of themes and the identification of stories linked to the proposed trail. Design concepts will be developed as part of stage two.

Heritage and Tourism Interpretation Framework

Savagely Creative has developed a framework for assessing heritage themes and tourism linkages based on the Heritage and Tourism Interpretation Framework. This framework was originally developed in response to the “Going Places” Strategy developed by what was the Federal Department of Environment and Heritage in 2004⁶.

Since its original development the model has been further developed and tested by Professor Jane James from Flinders University in South Australia. Savagely Creative has added to the framework to make it more comprehensive and include a number of additional variables that create a broad picture of where a project sits in a national context and the issues relating to tourism linkages and the management of the interpretation.

The information is presented in a Table One below and the headings are defined as follows:

Table One: Heritage and Tourism Interpretation Framework Explained

Heading	Definition
<p>MESSAGE</p> <p>Framework Levels and Interpretation Themes</p>	Identifies themes at a National, State, Regional, Local and Site level. The National Themes relate to the National Historic Themes and the State themes refer to the heritage themes as produced by the Heritage Council of Western Australia.
<p>STAKEHOLDERS</p> <p>Potential Partners & Stakeholders</p>	Identifies those organisations and people that have an interest in the project or could be approached to form partnerships for the delivery of the project. These people and organisations may be able to provide funding, assistance, support or patronage.
<p>MEDIA</p> <p>Interpretation Processes and Outcomes</p>	Identifies methods that could be used to deliver the interpretation at a range of levels. This provides suggested options for interpretation delivery but it is by

⁶ NTHT [National Tourism and Heritage Taskforce] 2003, *Going Places: Developing Natural and Cultural Heritage Tourism in Australia*, Environment Protection and Heritage Council, Adelaide, <http://www.ephc.gov.au/taxonomy/term/65>

Heading	Definition
	no means an exhaustive list.
<p>STORIES Potential Stories</p>	<p>Identifies stories that could be developed for delivery through a range of interpretive media. What finally gets delivered will depend on what the community views as being the most important stories to tell as well as how the stories illustrate the central message or theme.</p>
<p>MARKETS Markets</p>	<p>This identifies the markets at the various levels of interpretation. By identifying the markets it is easier to target the messages and modes of interpretation delivery.</p>
<p>TOURISM Tourism Linkages</p>	<p>One of the main differences with this model from other interpretation planning tools is that it actively looks for linkages between heritage, interpretation and tourism. This section identifies other tourism attractions and activities that could be leveraged or linked to the site in some way. This is particularly useful when planning marketing and promotional activities.</p>
<p>MANAGEMENT Mission, Goals, Objectives of the Managing Organisation</p>	<p>Whilst it is easy to generate interpretation ideas it is important to ensure that an analysis has been made of the management issues that will be faced by the interpretation owner. There is also a need to ensure that the planned interpretation meets organisational goals and objectives.</p>
<p>MECHANICS Physical Practicalities – Design, Space, Accessibility etc</p>	<p>Having identified what interpretation will be delivered both in terms of content and form, practical issues will then need to be addressed. These cover everything from health and safety concerns to flooding, drainage and maintenance issues.</p>

The full and completed framework is provided as a separate document to this report.



Fishmarket Reserve, Guildford © 2010 Savagely Creative

Themes

Topics

The three main topics, identified in the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance⁷, provide an excellent framework for the development of an interpretive experience along the proposed trail. They are:

- Noongar heritage
- European heritage
- Environmental heritage

Central Theme Statement

The central theme answers the question: “What is the one thing that the visitors must know by the time they finish this experience?” Whilst facts are important research shows that visitors do not retain many (if any) of the facts presented to them. If this is true it is important to be clear about what message you want your visitors to engage with and how you will present that in your interpretation. This central message will often not be stated outright but is implied in the sub themes and incorporated into the written and verbal communications along the proposed trail.

The research undertaken into this project has identified a huge number of stories along the length of the proposed trail. It became increasingly clear that the Noongar, European and environmental stories are all so closely linked that they cannot now be separated. It was also evident that linking these elements and creating a single response that incorporated Noongar, European and environmental messages would create a much stronger experience for the visitor. In addition the large number of stakeholders and interested parties linked to the rivers meant that there was a potential for a number of interpretation approaches to be undertaken in isolation and potential duplication of effort.

⁷ Latitude Creative Services, Heritage and Conservation Professionals, National Trust (WA) (2009). Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework – Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance for Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC).

With this in mind the suggested central theme identified for this project focuses on the importance of working together and understanding each others stories to ensure the survival of the river and the growth of Western Australia. This has been condensed into a shorter statement that embodies this message:

“Together we are stronger”

This central theme is the one message that we want our visitors to gain from their experience of the proposed trail, whether they are looking at a European or Noongar heritage site or a site of environmental importance. The central theme is the underlying message in all of the interpretation media that is proposed in this project.

Sub Themes

Under this central theme there are a number of sub themes that reinforce the message whilst conveying additional messages. Considerable work was undertaken through previous consultancies so the recommendation is that the original Meta themes are taken and built on.

1. River of Life – Lifeblood of the People

The river forms the vital artery that keeps communities alive and connected. The rivers define Perth and its character is influenced by their location. The Noongar and settler communities both see the river as a sacred place to be protected and nurtured. Weaving together the stories of Noongar, European and environmental heritage will show how they view the river differently depending on perspective but all see the river as vital to Perth’s survival .

2. Power of landscape - Listening to Nature

The rivers have created the landscape and dictate the activities and uses that can be carried out on their banks. Listening to nature has been important to Noongar and settler communities for food, industry and ultimately for survival. The river, viewed individually from a Noongar, European or environmental viewpoint, tells a strong story but when you combine, compare and contrast these perspectives you get a stronger story and more complete understanding.

3. Sustainability – Living in Harmony

We are interconnected with nature and our actions have an impact on us all. Noongar and European people live with the river differently but communities are working together to ensure the long-term sustainability of the rivers. Through this co-operative approach the environment has a greater chance of being improved and protected.

Along with the central theme these messages will be woven through the interpretation. Figure One shows the relationship between the central and sub themes.

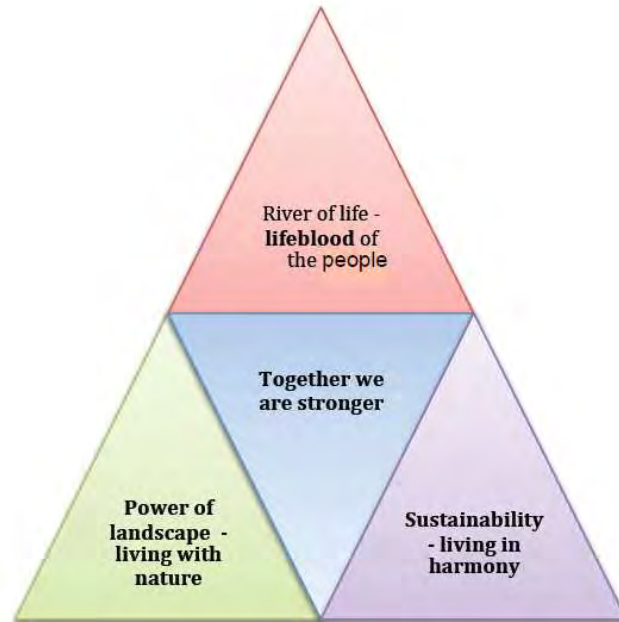


Figure One: Central and Sub Themes

Interpretive Methods

The central idea for the proposed trail is to develop a trail which focuses on European and Noongar stories, weaving the environmental them throughout from the Noongar and European perspectives and using the same infrastructure. The trail will incorporate traditional Noongar names and would provide recognition of Noongar uses and European uses of the river and foreshore. The naming and development of the proposed trail would be done in conjunction with SWALSC, Perth Region Natural Resource Management and the Swan River Trust as part of the Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails Project (SCRITP).

By looking at the proposed trail in this way it is possible to allow people to compare and contrast the way that all Western Australians view the river. It will also show the collaboration that is being undertaken in the care of the river and the focus on ensuring sustainability.

The proposed trail would create a cultural corridor encompassing the Swan and Helena Rivers. It is understood that the EMRC project will concentrate on the areas contained within their member Council jurisdictions, however, the opportunity exists to create a landscape scale cultural experience providing a seamless journey along the rivers to visitors.

Rather than building a static interpretation centre that will be costly to develop and operate, it is recommended that four major interpretation nodes be developed along the proposed trail, one in each of the precincts. It is envisaged that some kind of shelter and seating would be provided at these nodes. They would also provide a location for written interpretation panels, storytelling and a place where people could meet.

Traditional methods of signage, waymarkers, art and providing venues for face-to-face experiences will be the main focus for interpretation. In addition to this it is suggested that more high tech methods be investigated such as smart phone applications and podcasts to provide interpretation in places that are prone to flooding, difficult or too expensive to access and maintain. By creating these high tech responses it is also possible to create promotional activities along the proposed trail as well as a means of changing and refreshing the interpretation at a relatively low cost.

One of the growing trends is the development of user-generated content. In line with the Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails Project that is currently being undertaken on the river there is an opportunity to gather additional stories from Perth residents that could be included either in the high tech interpretation forms or through a trail website. Local residents of Perth's Eastern Region could be encouraged to send in their stories and images to complement the on ground interpretation that will be developed and maintained by the individual Councils. There would need to be a commitment to the ongoing maintenance of the site but this could be included in the maintenance of the EMRC's Perth Tourism site (www.perthtourism.com.au) which has a dedicated trails section.

In early 2010 the local Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio station, 720ABC, commenced the "Storycatcher" project⁸ to gather, preserve and share the lifestories of Australians from all walks of life. The project invited people to come and tell their stories by providing access to a mobile recording studio and ABC staff to provide advice and support. A similar approach could be taken with this aspect of the project. By encouraging user-generated content you can further engage the local community and ultimately the tourism markets by creating relevant and personal accounts of what the rivers mean to Western Australians.

⁸ More information is available on the 720 ABC Perth website at: <http://www.abc.net.au/perth/storycatcher/>

Media Descriptions

- **Panels** – designed to reflect the central theme providing stories and images that engage and inform the visitors.
- **Storytelling Nodes** – at four sites along the proposed trail a major story telling node would be developed. This would provide seating, shelter and interpretation panels. These shelters provide a passive interpretive experience, an opportunity to relax and enjoy the river and also a place where the community and commercial tour operators can provide interpretive experiences. Table Two lists a number of sites that could be used as major nodes – the precincts and the local government areas do not quite match up which means some of the precincts and Councils may have more than one site as a major node – this would have to be negotiated and agreed with the various parties.
- **Smartphone Applications or Podcasts** – provide a means of telling the more in depth story and showing more images. This gives people the opportunity to find out about the proposed trail before they come and to gain a greater insight into the stories. Using this kind of technology also allows for the development of new content or the removal of sites without the cost of reprinting brochures. This should also include maps.
- **User-Generated Content** – calling local residents to submit their memories of the river and images to support them. This could be included in the high tech interpretation or as part of an evolving website.
- **Art and Sculpture** – could be commissioned for the major nodes to reflect the central or sub themes.
- **Wayfinding** – consideration will need to be given to a cohesive design for the wayfinding markers along the proposed trail. This should incorporate the branding of the proposed trail.
- **Brochure/booklet** – A DL booklet should be developed with additional information relating to the sites to complement the on ground interpretation and to provide good maps for users. This could be an item to provide a means of generating income for reprinting and updates saleable throughout Perth's Eastern Region through visitor centres, book shops and other outlets. Information about where to buy them could also be included on the proposed trail website.

Funding

The exact amount of funding required will depend on the methods chosen for interpretation, delivery and the locations finally agreed to. Design concepts have not been developed as part of this stage of the project but have been allocated funding in stage two. It is envisaged that the funding for the interpretation would come from a number of sources. It is also recommended that grant opportunities be investigated linked to Noongar employment and heritage as well as tourism, European heritage and the environment.

National Sources

Funding is available under the Federal Government Tourism Quality (TQUAL) funding program to support projects that contribute to addressing key tourism industry development issues including innovation, quality, sustainability, productivity, collaboration and strong industry leadership. The aim of the funding is to help address the low levels of investment in the tourism industry by supporting the development of tourism products and services so that they remain fresh, innovative and relevant, as well as economically competitive.

State Sources

Potentially the best source of funding for heritage and interpretation projects is Lotterywest. There are two dedicated programs that can be considered – Trails and Heritage Interpretation. In addition there would be significant merit in collaborating with other organisations such as the Swan River Trust and SWALSC on the SCRITP to create joint funding opportunities.

Local Government

There would be a need to source funding from local government budgets for development, installation and management. The projects would need to be aligned to local government goals and objectives. In addition to attracting tourism to the local areas the proposed trail will also provide an experience for local communities by providing information to encourage people to stay longer and to create a connection to the trail.

Other

There is a range of grants available at the State and Federal level and by local government, private sector and not for profit organisations. No attempt has been made to provide an exhaustive list of funding sources here but some links to an internet list has been included as a starting point for funding searches for later stages of the project.

- Grants Link is a directory of government funding available to individuals, businesses and communities – <http://www.grantslink.gov.au/>
- The Parliament of Australia's parliamentary library provides links to commonwealth, state and territory grant funding programs – <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/sp/spgrants.htm>
- The Australian Government site provides a link to various sources of culture, history and sport funding – <http://australia.gov.au/topics/culture-history-and-sport>
- Our Community provides links to grants and other kinds of assistance with a view to strengthening communities – <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/>
- The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities provides a directory of a range of funding sources – <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/programs/index.html>
- The Government of Western Australia provides a directory of grant funding – <http://wa.gov.au/governmentservices/lifestyleenvironment/yourcommunity/grantsfunding/>
- The Community Arts Network provides information about grant funding sources for arts projects. This may be used to access funding for the sculptural aspects of the project – <http://www.canwa.com.au/what-we-do/funding/funding-resources/>
- Rio Tinto has a community development fund which may be accessed for the Noongar and other community aspects of the project – <http://www.ciwa.riotinto.com/>
- Funding may be sought for the creation of universal access to the proposed trail through Disability Services – <http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/action/homepage>
- The Australian Arts Council provides a link to projects that encourage philanthropy and may be accessed for various projects including the incorporation of art works by disabled artists or other arts projects – <http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/philanthropy>
- The Department of Culture and the Arts has funding available for the development of art and may be accessed for Noongar contributions as well as other art installations – <http://www.dca.wa.gov.au/funding/grants>
- Philanthropy Australia has a list of grant funding organisations including businesses and foundations – <http://www.philanthropy.org.au/>

- Funding may also be available for Aboriginal and youth employment and training programs in relation to tourism activities.



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Site Recommendations

The Swan and Helena Rivers travel from the Avon Valley to the ocean. They join the scarp to the city and then onto the sea. On their journey they pass through a range of habitats and landscapes and provide a rich source of environmental stories. They also pass through a number of local and state government jurisdictions, making the management of the proposed trail an ambitious undertaking. The rivers are considered unique to all parts of the Western Australian community so involvement and engagement will be vital when the plan moves into the implementation phase⁹.

Many of the locations identified already have significant amounts of infrastructure and it is important to complement rather than duplicate what is already in place. There are also significant issues in many of the locations including acid sulphate soils, locations being in floodplains and private ownership of land.

Each of the four precincts has been investigated for stories and sites that will engage visitors and create a cohesive story linking the proposed trail from Windan Bridge all the way to the Swan Valley. This area covers four Councils: Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont and City of Swan.

The proposed trail starts at Windan Bridge – this is in the City of Perth, outside the EMRC Council areas, however, as the start of the trail there needs to be some trailheads introducing the proposed trail and to orient trail users. This site also links to the East Perth power station site being developed, Claisebrook Cove (East Perth) and Point Fraser (Perth city) trails.

Appendix One provides a full analysis of the four precincts; identifying sites that have significance from a Noongar, European or environmental heritage point of view. The framework maps these locations based on the headings listed in the Heritage and Tourism Interpretation Framework (HATIF) detailed under the methodology section and provided as a separate document to this report. The HATIF provides a useful reference for the EMRC in the future development of interpretation projects and maps the Swan and Helena Rivers

⁹ In 2004, as part of the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Western Australia, the State Government initiated the Australian Heritage Icons project where the people of Western Australia were asked to nominate the defining features that they considered to be uniquely Western Australia. The Swan River was the first heritage icon to be nominated under the project. See <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=122821>

In 2007 the Swan River Trust commissioned research to find out what the community aspirations and values were for the Swan and Canning Rivers. A key finding was that overall (>89% of respondents) the Swan and Canning Rivers are considered “iconic” – an important community asset valued as a key feature of Perth’s recreation, social and cultural landscape (Research Solutions for the Swan River Trust. 2007. *Community Survey of Future Values and Aspirations for the Swan and Canning Rivers Community*).

Management Framework against stories, interpretation methods and tourism opportunities at a site, local, regional, state and national level.

For the purposes of creating a more accessible list of interpretation recommendations Table Two suggests locations for interpretive nodes although a range of interpretation methods will be used. It should be noted that these suggestions are a starting point and the EMRC and its member Councils will make the final decisions about where the most appropriate locations are based on their own project priorities, proposed projects and available funding.

It should be noted that the suggested methods of delivery below are merely suggestions for simplicity. There is an infinite number of ways of presenting interpretation and suggestions from the community may also be sought. Methods that could be utilised include:

- Art and sculptural pieces
- Meeting areas with shade, seating and interpretation panels
- WiFi, smartphone applications, podcasts and other electronic media
- Maps and brochures
- Guided tours
- Books and stories written specifically for the proposed trail
- Canoe trail
- Brochures and booklets for self guided activities
- Global Positioning System (GPS) tours
- Art and photography competitions
- Websites and social media
- Commercial tours – walking, cycling, canoeing
- Souvenir guides and histories
- Events
- Re-enactments
- Nature tours, outreach programs
- Education programs and children’s activities linked to European, Noongar and environmental heritage.

Table Two: Interpretation Site Recommendations

City of Bayswater	
Recommended site:	Maylands Yacht Club Precinct – Bardon Park to Berringa Reserve – Major Node Precinct One
Reasoning:	Good parking and amenities already in place Aboriginal site of significance Bush Forever Site European settlement – Mercy Hospital, Albany Bell Castle, Tanner Farm
Story:	Noongar stories to be confirmed Early industrial operations Sisters of Mercy Bush Forever - environment
Method	Panels, Podcast or WiFi Trail
Message text:	Sustainability – Living in Harmony
Challenges:	Limited public transport; floodplain, any new interpretation would need to fit with existing interpretation.

City of Bayswater	
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Maylands Peninsula
Reasoning:	There are already a number of attractions including Maylands Waterland and Tranby House (heritage and food) as well as a number of lesser well-known attractions such as Maylands Brick works, aerodrome and Hutton Farm.
Story:	European settlement and industry
Method	Panels, Podcast or WiFi Trail
Message text:	River of Life – Lifeblood of the People – creating a community through industry
Challenges:	Considered a closed site under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)</i> so limited access to information available - consultation will need to be undertaken. Floodplain.
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Riverside Gardens Precinct
Reasoning:	A significant number of trails and recreation areas and other amenities already exist here including rowing club, swimming club, scouts etc, Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary, Ellis House (community art gallery), Halliday House heritage centre (museum).
Story:	Environment – bird watching, rehabilitation Early recreation spot for Western Australians
Method	Panels, Podcast, WiFi
Message text:	Power of Landscapes – Listening to Nature – play and rehabilitation
Challenges:	Existing community use, floodplain, needs to fit with existing interpretation
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Claughton Reserve
Reasoning:	Amenities already exist at this site. Good link to other trails.
Story:	Noogar stories – scarred tree Cattle landing site Environment through the Riverpark precinct
Method	Panels, sculpture (cow exiting the water), Podcast/WiFi trail
Message text:	Power of Landscapes – Listening to Nature – taking time to be with nature
Challenges:	Floodplain
Funding:	National, State, Local

City of Belmont	
Recommended site:	Black Swan Island
Reasoning:	Transition point between the precincts, there are already existing trails and amenities and some basic interpretation at this site. The amenities are limited currently, the site has walking trails, some bins, some gazebos with seating and tables and limited parking. The site has a single entrance sign explaining the site briefly, however, this remains the only interpretive signage on the island. Bird watching opportunities.
Story:	Environment - river rehabilitation Brickworks and industrial history
Method	Panels, Podcast/WiFi trail
Message text:	Sustainability – Living in Harmony – story of environment and rehabilitation
Challenges:	Closed site for Noongar people, floodplain, high environmental significance. Owned by Western Australian Planning Commission. The site was previously a contaminated site – refuse site for clean fill and household solid waste (inert).
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Balbuk Way
Reasoning:	Already existing amenities, significance to Aboriginal people, some interpretation signage already in place and existing recreational site for local residents.
Story:	Noongar heritage including habitation and mythology, European heritage, Burswood canal and the story of transporting goods up the river. Environment through stories of flooding and engineering solutions to issues.
Method	Panels, Podcast/WiFi
Message text:	River of Life – Lifeblood of the People – Noongar stories and impacts on the river.
Challenges:	Floodplain, small site, limited parking, likely to be a site people traverse rather than a starting point.
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Hardey Park
Reasoning:	Already existing interpretation with the sister city park – Adachi Park (Japan).
Story:	Noongar habitation, Hill 60 story – many of the miners at Hill 60 came from WA, St John of God Hospital – religion and health, linked to Mercy hospital.
Method	Panels, Podcast/WiFi Trail
Message text:	Relationships - within and outside WA
Challenges:	Limited parking, floodplains, steep banks along the river in the section.
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Gould Reserve
Reasoning:	Existing parking, barbecue, water fountains, access. Next to Ascot Inn site currently being redeveloped.
Story:	Horse racing (linked to Ascot Race Course), recreation, Noongar heritage – hunting.
Method	Panels, Podcast/WiFi Trail
Message text:	Recreation and Noongar stories
Challenges:	Public usage, riverbank erosion (although less significant in this area), acid sulphate soils.
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Garvey Park – Major Node Precinct Two
Reasoning:	Existing amenity and recreation facilities, good parking, café and other amenities.
Story:	Recreation, environmental rehabilitation
Method	Panels – major destination so could use a larger trail head type sign.

City of Belmont	
Message text:	Power of landscape – Listening to Nature- rehabilitation, quiet time, family connections.
Challenges:	Public use, vandalism (potentially), riverbank erosion with trees falling in the river.
Funding:	National, State, Local

Town of Bassendean	
Recommended site:	Sandy Beach Reserve/Ashfield Flats – Major Node – Precinct Two
Reasoning:	Good facilities toilets etc, parking, playgrounds, existing trail, jetty, some interpretation in place.
Story:	Environmental rehabilitation, recreation, wetland reserve, Bush Forever site, some Noongar heritage.
Method	Panels, WiFi/Podcast trail
Message text:	Sustainability – Living in Harmony – rehabilitation, playing in nature
Challenges:	Local amenity, floodplain
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Pickering Park
Reasoning:	Existing amenities including parking, boat launching ramp.
Story:	Historical recreation days – galas etc
Method	Panels
Message text:	Recreation and playing in nature
Challenges:	No existing trail along the foreshore, floodplain
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Point Reserve Foreshore
Reasoning:	Parking, amenity and playground facilities. Plans for a future café site, boat launching. Near Pensioner Guard Cottage (heritage).
Story:	Noongar site, recreation
Method	Panels, WiFi/Podcast
Message text:	River of Life – Lifeblood of the People – Noongar stories, linking to the river.
Challenges:	Floodplain, river bank erosion
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Success Hill Reserve
Reasoning:	Some parking and existing amenities. Links to recreational trails.
Story:	Environmental story, Engineering – Guildford Road bridge, Success Hill Lodge – hotel and girls’ school and private hospital.
Method	Podcast/WiFi trail
Message text:	River of Life – Lifeblood of the People – Noongar, linkages to the river, mythology (may use Fishmarket Reserve as the site to tell this story)
Challenges:	Closed site, floodplain
Funding:	National, State, Local

City of Swan	
Recommended site:	Lilac Hill – Major Node Precinct Three
Reasoning:	Parking, amenities
Story:	Cricket and recreation
Method	Panels, WiFi/Podcast
Message text:	Power of Landscape – Listening to Nature - recreation and playing in nature
Challenges:	Floodplain, no trail along the foreshore
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Woodbridge Riverside Park
Reasoning:	Parking, amenities, some redevelopment already happening, walk trail already through here (John George Trail), new infrastructure in place.
Story:	Woodbridge House story – Governor Stirling, farming and early settlement, National Trust property.
Method	Panels, Wifi/Podcast
Message text:	Sustainability – Living in Harmony
Challenges:	Closed site
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Reg Bond Reserve/Woodbridge Riverside Park
Reasoning:	Parking, amenity – barbecues, John George Trail, proposed canoe launching facilities at Woodbridge Riverside Park and Reg Bond Reserve.
Story:	Environmental rehabilitation
Method	Panels, WiFi/Podcast
Message text:	Power of Landscape – Listening to Nature – bush setting at Reg Bond Reserve.
Challenges:	Floodplain
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Middle Swan Foreshore
Reasoning:	Parking, amenity, reserve, some points of interest.
Story:	Brickworks, industrial heritage, Swanleigh – orphanage – Noongar story, Gregory brothers – explored WA.
Method	Panels, WiFi/Podcast
Message text:	Sustainability – Living in harmony – industry, settlement, rehabilitation
Challenges:	Steep banks, foreshore access difficult but some potential for acquiring land from the brickworks.
Funding:	National, State, Local
Recommended site:	Kings Meadow Polo Ground – Major Node Precinct Four
Reasoning:	Amenity and parking in place.
Story:	Recreation
Method	Panels, WiFi/Podcast- possible trail head, as this is the end of the trail/or start.
Message text:	Power of landscape – Listening to nature – peaceful site – a place to relax and reflect.
Challenges:	Closed site.
Funding:	National, State, Local

Market Analysis

The study area falls within the Experience Perth Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) area. Experience Perth RTO is the body charged with the promotion of the Perth region. This region covers the Perth metropolitan area and surrounds; more details can be found at: www.experienceperth.com.au.

Tourism Western Australia provides a range of visitor statistics both for the RTOs and also for individual Councils. Specific figures are only available for the City of Swan so the following visitor analysis is based on the broader Experience Perth figures¹⁰.

Intrastate

Within the Intrastate market there is a relatively even split between male (47%) and female (53%) visitors and the travel party description category – couples (29%), travelling alone (26%) and family groups (24%). Holiday and Leisure and Visiting Friends and Relatives are the predominant reasons for travelling. The two predominant age groups are 25-44 years (33%) and 45–64 years (36%).

Interstate

The Interstate market has a higher proportion of males to females and business is the predominant reason for travel with a higher number travelling alone. This suggests that a larger number of interstate visitors are coming to Perth on business. There is still a significant proportion of holiday and visiting friends and relatives.

International

International travellers also have a slightly higher proportion of male to females with a large number travelling alone (53%). A high number were also travelling for holiday and leisure. By far the largest market is the UK followed by Singapore and New Zealand.

Amongst the activities identified by domestic tourists are Visiting Friends and Relatives. The proposed trail and interpretation is likely to rely on the local domestic market to promote it to friends and family during visits. There are a number of accommodation precincts along the river, which would afford access to international visitors and promotion through concierge and visitor centres may be the best avenues for raising awareness of the proposed trail's existence and the activities on offer. One of the biggest markets for Aboriginal tourism experiences is the international market and this should be considered in the development of products and experiences.

Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR)

All of the markets have a high proportion of VFR visitors making it important that the local community sees this proposed trail as worthy of taking their friends and family to. By providing a range of visitor experiences it will be possible to attract local visitors to undertake repeat visits to the proposed trail and the identified nodes as well as bringing others and recommending the experience.

Fully Independent Travellers (FIT)

The breakdown of international visitors by age group and travel party description suggests that there are a significant number of 25-44 (39%) age group visitors and the high proportion travelling alone could suggest a strong backpacker market. Perth, as the gateway to WA is

¹⁰ Experience Perth Overnight Visitor Figure Fact Sheet Years Ending December 2007/08/09 accessed from: http://www.tourism.wa.gov.au/Research_and_Statistics/Latest_Visitor_Statistics/Documents/Experience_Perth_Overnight_Visitor_Fact_Sheet_-_Year_Ending_December_2009.pdf

a key destination on the backpacker circuit and it makes sense that they will spend some time in the city before travelling to other tourism destinations in the state. This group is in search of new experiences and there is a possibility of exposing visitors to the experiences being offered through the proposed trail. Cycling, walking and water based trails linked to the Swan Valley and other locations along the river provide a great opportunity to promote Noongar, European and natural heritage along the rivers.

Potential User Markets

The high proportion of VFR travellers means that this market is a major source of potential tourism visitation by providing recommendations to visitors. Many of the domestic market are likely to be visiting friends and relatives potentially as part of a major trip around Australia. This group is called the '**Grand Tour**' market. Many of these people travel in couples, are self-sufficient and have a strong interest in Australian heritage. This group is likely to have a strong interest in European and Noongar heritage and potentially the environment or natural heritage¹¹.

Whilst the backpacker market is often characterised by a younger demographic, they also have a higher representation of international visitors. Research by Tourism Research Australia shows that 51% of international visitors to Australia undertook cultural or heritage activities. It also states that these international cultural and heritage visitors are more likely to be aged between 20 and 29¹². For this reason the backpacker market may also be a good potential market for the proposed trail.

A potential user market is likely to be local Western Australians. Findings from Swan River Trust community survey research¹³ indicated that the Swan River and its foreshore is used for the following recreational and social activities in order of predominance:

- Walking
- Attending picnics/barbeques
- Driving past or along the river
- Cycling
- Fishing
- Events on the river foreshores
- Children's activities
- Motor boat cruising
- Dining out/having coffee overlooking the river
- Other

People living closer to the river (5 kms or less from river foreshore) tend to use it more frequently for everyday activities like walking and cycling whilst those residing further away are more likely to visit for special events, picnics or barbeques (more of a destination experience or day trip)¹⁴. The proposed trail will provide an opportunity to engage the local community (regular river users) and the wider Western Australian community by attracting tourism, providing a trail user experience and providing information and a way to connect to the trail.

¹¹ In 2009, Australia's cultural and heritage tourism market was predominantly domestic visitors. Cultural and heritage visitors participate in activities that may include visiting an Aboriginal site or community and visiting historical/heritage buildings, sites or monuments (Tourism Research Australia. Snapshots 2009. *Cultural Heritage Tourism in Australia*).

¹² Tourism Research Australia. Snapshots 2009. *Cultural Heritage Tourism in Australia*.

¹³ Research Solutions for the Swan River Trust. 2007. *Community Survey of Future Values and Aspirations for the Swan and Canning Rivers Community*.

¹⁴ Ibid

Targeting the Markets

- Intrastate – Visiting Friends and Relatives
- Interstate – Visiting Friends and relatives
- Domestic – Grand Tourer
- International – Visiting Friends and Relatives
- International Backpackers
- Western Australian community
- Perth's Eastern Region community

Tourism Linkages

Part of the analysis looks at the proposed trail as it relates to other tourism experiences close by. The rationale for incorporating this information is to guide the development of experience clusters. A larger number of experiences will make it easier to attract tourism funding for development of additional infrastructure and will also make it easier to leverage the existing visitor markets.

Regional Tourism Opportunities

Location	Tourism Offer	Opportunity
Adjacent to Precinct One		
Perth, City	Accommodation, retail, amenities, activities, Bell Tower, Barrack Square, Kings Park, other cultural centres.	Linkages from the city to the proposed trail persuading visitors to explore East. This could be promoted through existing boat activities such as boat tours heading east up the Swan River.
Perth, City	Proposed Indigenous Cultural Centre	Opportunity to link the Noongar story from the proposed trail precinct, through the city and potentially on to Fremantle and Rottnest Island.
Perth, City	River Trail through the City	Linkage back to the city with existing recreational trails around the river.
South Perth	River Trail, Amenities, Perth Zoo	Potential to link back to the South side of the river. The Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails project is identifying a number of sites of interest and important stories, which can be linked to the proposed trail.
Burswood	Casino, Accommodation, Events, River Trail, Sculpture Park	The Burswood precinct is just outside the study area but is nonetheless an important part of the Noongar story as well as the settlement and development of Perth. The Burswood peninsula was a Noongar camping area, an European settlement area and activities on the site have included sewerage treatment, rubbish tip, cement productions, golf course and horseracing track.
East Perth Power Station	Potential future use	The East Perth Power Station is set to become a mixed-use waterfront precinct with a range of urban living, working and leisure opportunities. It will capitalise on the exceptional accessibility benefits presented by the site's proximity to major arterial roads, rail networks and the river.
East Perth, Claisebrook	Amenity, interpretation, foreshore trail	There is already a significant amount of trail and interpretive infrastructure in place in the East Perth area. A great deal of amenity has also been put in place and this is already a popular destination during the summer period. The development of a significant amount of higher density housing also provides an opportunity to

Location	Tourism Offer	Opportunity
		develop the VFR market and engage the local community with the proposed trail.
City of Vincent	Wetlands Heritage Trail	The City has recently developed the wetlands trail which links from the edge of the wetlands by the Charles Veryard Reserve on Albert Street to the Swan River near Banks Reserve following the route of the Claise Brook drain. The trail highlights the social and natural history of the area through a recreational trail which includes interpretation.
Precinct One		
Maylands Waterland – Maylands Peninsula	Water Playground	Family attraction – overlooking the Swan River and has four pools and a mini golf area.
Tranby House	Heritage attraction, Tea Room	National Trust property that is open to the public. The tearoom is open daily.
Belmont Race Course	Attractions, activities	Public racecourse used during the winter racing season.
Precinct Two		
Ascot Race Course	Attractions, activities	Public racecourse – used for summer racing.
Great Eastern Highway	Accommodation, amenities	This is the main route into the city from the airport. There are a significant number of hotels, car hire, and van hire and food outlets here.
Black Swan Island	Activities	Walk trails, bird watching.
Ellis House Community Art Centre	Attractions	Art gallery
Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary	Attraction	Bird watching opportunities.
Precinct Three		
Bassendean Oval	Attraction, heritage	Football matches, concerts, grandstands and entry gates are heritage listed.
Heritage Trail	Activity	Trail around the heritage buildings in Bassendean.
Bassendean Town Centre	Amenity	Access to a variety of amenities including public toilets, cafés, banks, retail outlets.
Guildford Town	Attractions, activities, amenities, accommodation, heritage attractions.	Guildford is a heritage town listed by the National Trust. There are a range of activities many linked to heritage places including the courthouse, gaol and Taylor's cottage. There are a number of events that take place throughout the year including the craft market. There are also shops and restaurants and a significant number of antique shops. The Swan

Location	Tourism Offer	Opportunity
		Valley Visitor Centre is located here. The Swan Valley Heritage Cycle Trail commences here.
Sandalford	Attraction	Winery and restaurant. This is also a function centre so provides an opportunity to link with the business community.
Caversham House	Amenity	Function centre
Mulberry on Swan	Amenity	Function centre
St Mary's Church & Swanleigh	Attraction	Heritage sites
Woodbridge House	Heritage attraction	Heritage House
Swan Valley	Attractions, accommodation	Wineries, restaurants, galleries – this is a very popular destination for visitors both domestic and international.
Whiteman Park & Caversham Wildlife Park	Attraction, amenities, activities	Transport museum, family amenities (barbecues etc), native animal park, bushwalking trails, wildflowers, children's forest.
Precinct Four		
Midland Railway Workshops	Attraction	Heritage interpretation, Midland Atelier (design workshop/studio space)
Midland Town Site	Amenities	Shops, restaurants etc.

The sites listed are suggestions and could be amended following discussions with stakeholders. The intention is to give a range of experiences that could be incorporated into the proposed trail.

Phasing Recommendations and Cost Estimates

The exact phasing of the delivery would depend on agreement with stakeholders on the exact locations and methods of delivery.

The next phase of this project will be the development of concepts for delivery and then additional funding could be sought through a range of funding sources.

It should be noted that this stage would need to be undertaken in conjunction with stakeholders and partners to ensure that there is a minimisation in the potential for duplication of effort.

It is suggested that the major interpretation nodes be the immediate focus for interpretation delivery with other suggestions – smartphone applications, etc, being developed as funding is identified.

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Acknowledgments

Savagely Creative acknowledges the following organisations and stakeholders for their assistance in the development of this report.

Town of Bassendean

City of Bayswater

City of Belmont

City of Swan

Committee for Perth

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council

South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC)

SWALSC Metro Working Party Group

Swan River Trust

Appendix One

Existing Interpretation

A significant amount of interpretation media can already be found throughout the proposed Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail precincts. Listed below are some of the locations that have been suggested for the positioning of major nodes and some of the interpretation that already exists.

Adjacent to Precinct One	
East Perth – Claisebrook to Banks Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is some interpretation related to Noongar history in the form of panels, stones and artwork. ● There is also industrial history commemorating gas works, power stations, bridges etc.
Precinct One	
City of Vincent & City of Bayswater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At Banks Reserve there is some early European history interpretation. ● Banks Reserve – Aboriginal art as part of the Wetlands Heritage Trail. ● Banks Reserve - Maylands Yacht Club Precinct – some environmental interpretation related to rehabilitation works along the pathway to Bardon Park. ● Some European historical panels in Bardon Park.
City of Bayswater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maylands Yacht Club Precinct – Maylands Peninsula, Beringa Reserve has some environmental interpretation along the path. ● European history at Old Aerodrome near the golf course.
City of Bayswater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brick Kilns – industrial heritage ● Chase Farm - Aboriginal sculptures and early European history panels. ● Tranby House – European settlement and built heritage.
City of Belmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some environmental interpretation at Hardey Park. ● Adachi (Japan) sister city interpretation at Adachi Park. ● Some European History in precinct, near Hill 60 and other housing settlement panels. ● Black Swan Island some environmental panels/trails. ● Bristle kilns and clay pits European heritage.
City of Belmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Balbuk european history with canal Interpretation.

Precinct Two	
City of Bayswater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Riverside Gardens Precinct – some environmental interpretation. ● Environmental interpretation and birds. Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary, river rehabilitation.
City of Bayswater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panels on the boardwalk, walkway between Ellis House and Hinds Reserve. ● Interpretation at Riverside Gardens.
Town of Bassendean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ashfield Flats – some old environmental interpretation along the boardwalk and in wetlands. ● Sculpture and some panels at Sandy Beach Reserve. ● There is some signage at Point Reserve; link to Bassendean Town Heritage Trail.
City of Swan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kidman St some environmental panels.
Precinct Three	
City of Swan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Success Hill Reserve – many Aboriginal Interpretation panels under shelters in the park. ● Environmental and European history told in other signage in park area and near the river, bushland reserve. ● Fishmarket Reserve - a few panels, linked to Guildford Heritage Trail. ● Barkers Bridge (North Side) - some panels. South side Moulton's cottage, historic European panels linked to Guildford Heritage Trail and sculpture.
City of Swan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lilac Hill – interpretation linked to Swan Valley Trail. ● Woodbridge Riverside Park – some panels near the shelter. ● John George Trail and links Guildford Heritage Trail. ● Reg Bond Reserve – some environmental interpretation linked to John George Trail. ● Swan and St Mary's Church. ● Some European history panels and signage, part of the Swan Valley Trail.
Precinct Four	
City of Swan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some interpretation near Midland Railway Workshops. ● European history (in park with lake). ● Sculpture boardwalks signage features in lake. ● Riverside walk trail near Bushmead Road crossing over Helena River. ● Some environmental and Aboriginal interpretation on trail.



12 FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on **22 November 2011 (informal)** at The RISE, 28 Eighth Avenue, Maylands WA 6051 commencing at 12.30pm with lunch at 12noon.

Due to a number of apologies for this meeting it was requested that an alternative date be arranged.

Chief Executive Officers' Advisory Committee (CEOAC) meeting commencing at 12noon:

Tuesday	7	February	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	13	March (informal)	at	City of Bayswater
Wednesday	10	April	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	15	May (informal)	at	Shire of Mundaring
Tuesday	12	June	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	10	July (informal)	at	Town of Bassendean
Tuesday	14	August	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	11	September (informal)	at	City of Belmont
Tuesday	9	October	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	27	November (informal)	at	City of Swan

13 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1:26pm.