



SERCUL

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

*Community improving the health of our land and waterways*



# WELCOME

**Welcome to the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare's (SERCUL) 2023-24 Annual and Financial Reports to our stakeholders, members and the community.**

We are very proud of this year's achievements, which were undertaken in partnership with State and Federal Government agencies, Local Governments, businesses, schools, community groups and volunteers. Through these partnerships we have been working together to improve the health of our land and waterways.

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE STEPHEN JOHNSTON

As I finish my term as chair of SERCUL I am very pleased to reflect on the progress that has been achieved towards fulfilling the commitment I gave at the 2020 annual general meeting to strengthen the organisation's financial and corporate capability.

In 2012 the SERCUL executive committee under Pat Hart's leadership recognised that deficiencies in grant funding meant SERCUL had to develop a business arm to fill the income gap. What we came to recognise over the ensuing years was that if SERCUL was to continue to fulfill its environmental objectives it would not just need to have a business arm but rather need to become a successful not-for-profit business and that this would in turn need major changes in our approach to, and our performance of, governance and administration.

At last year's AGM and in the annual report I summarised the major initiatives and changes that had taken place in this regard. There has been no let-up over the past 12 months and I would particularly note the following:

- We achieved our first fully effective and timely budget planning organised by the Finance manager, Jeba Jeyabalan with great support from his team, Farina Gandadjaja and Jose Alcala, in close collaboration with the managers and CEO under the watchful eye of our treasurer.
- After three years of deliberation, excessive inexplicable delays, negotiation and high-level lobbying we have finally signed a new five-year lease with a five-year option for our Beckenham headquarters with the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). We greatly appreciate the intervention on our behalf by:
  - the Member for Cannington, the Hon Bill Johnston, which resulted in the WAPC taking responsibility in the lease for structural repairs to the property, and
  - the Chair of the Swan River Trust Board, David McFerran, who arranged a meeting for us in April this year with the Director-General of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Anthony Kannis; the Chair of the Western Australian Planning Commission, David Caddy and their senior colleagues which ended a nine-month wait for a revised draft of the lease for further negotiation.
- We have adopted a detailed description, prepared by our deputy chair, Harry Sunarko, of the skills and aptitudes required of SERCUL board members for them to be able to competently carry out their governance responsibilities. A commitment to conservation and restoration of the natural environment is obviously a fundamental prerequisite for all board members. But that passion alone is not enough to govern a growing organisation that this year had up to 47 employees and is budgeting for more than \$4 million of income in 2024-25.
- We undertook a comprehensive review of, and adjustments to, staff salary levels to both better reflect the high performance of our staff and to bring their salaries closer to the industry standards so that we have a better chance of retaining staff skills and experience in a very competitive market. But we still have a way to go and this will continue to be SERCUL's single biggest challenge – to generate sufficient surpluses to enable us to pay really competitive salaries for all staff while also putting aside significant funds into reserve for future capital expenditure.

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE STEPHEN JOHNSTON CONT.

So, having looked down the dark barrel of possible insolvency some five or six years ago, after a lot of hard work by the staff and leadership by the board it now gives me great satisfaction to say that SERCUL has never been as financially and administratively strong as it is now. That should never be taken for granted. SERCUL boards will always need to have a major focus on continually strengthening the organisation's corporate capability. If you take your eye off that ball, you risk going backwards very quickly. But, I would hope that after all the hard yards we have put in, this would not have to be the all-consuming focus for the board that it has necessarily been for us over the past four years. I would hope the board would have a little more time for pro-active consideration of how SERCUL should go about fulfilling its environmental and community objectives, identifying possible new initiatives; and improving and expanding on what we have to offer to the southern region of Perth and beyond.

On a final reflective note, I am going to miss this role a lot. It's been one of the highlights of my life working with a great bunch of people to strengthen an organisation that under Pat's leadership had developed a very high standing with the community and government - which I believe we have maintained - and getting so many prompt and varied returns on the work that we have invested. Occasionally I have fleeting regrets that my term has finished and that I ever introduced into the constitution a four-year limit on the terms of SERCUL's chair and deputy chair. But they are fleeting regrets because I recognise that ensuring there is scope for new people to come in and bring new ideas, new perspectives and energy to the board is imperative for the organisation's future.

I don't have time or space to thank everyone who has contributed to our achievements while I have been chair. But among the staff I would like to particularly acknowledge the CEO, Amy Krupa; Landcare Services manager, Matt Grimby; Community Landcare manager, Cat Williams; and Education and Promotion manager, Natasha Bowden who have done such great work throughout the past four years, both

in their own fields, and as a management team to implement the organisational changes determined by the board. Among our board members, I particularly acknowledge the massive contribution by our treasurer, Fiona Audcent-Ross, who was for some months also our finance manager, in completely reorganising our financial administration and ensuring its compliance with Australian Accounting Standards following the recommendations of a former finance manager, Serena Williamson. Among our many stakeholders I acknowledge the support and will miss the friendship of Glen McLeod-Thorpe, Peter Adkins, Alison McGilvray, Debbie Besch and Michelle Crow in the Rivers and Estuaries Branch of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - the agency that through various name changes has been SERCUL's principal government stakeholder since its inception.

And thank you to everyone else I haven't space to mention among our staff, our board, our member organisations and stakeholders for supporting and working with us to achieve so much for our natural environment. I look forward now as a representative of a member organisation to observing SERCUL's continuing progress.



**Stephen Johnston**  
Chairperson



## CEO'S MESSAGE AMY KRUPA

As another AGM comes around it is time once again to reflect on the last year. I am extremely happy to report that SERCUL has had another very successful year, both in achievements and financially. For the second year in a row and for four out of the last five years we have made a profit. It is heartening that all the hard work that has gone into securing grants and contracts is paying off and that we are in a secure financial position. As you will read in the Financial Report for the first time ever we have generated more than \$4 million in income. This is an incredible figure and the board and staff have all contributed to achieving this outcome.

Not only are we in a secure financial position but we are now in a secure housing position. After three years, many negotiations and high level lobbying on our behalf we have a signed five year lease with our landlords, the Western Australian Planning Commission. This security will allow us to invest more into the property, specifically the shed compound area, which will then allow us to further grow our business and support the community groups that we work with.

This report highlights the many on-ground achievements and projects that have been worked on over the last year and is a credit to the staff, volunteers and community groups involved. What is not reflected, mainly due to not being able to speak about it for most of this financial year, is all the work that has gone into the \$10 million Australian Government Urban Rivers and Catchments Program funded Cleaning Up the Canning (CUtC) Project. This project is highlighted in our New Projects section later on in this report but the CUtC Steering Committee have been working on this project for the entire financial year. A big thanks to all the project partners and in particular the staff from the Rivers and Estuaries Branch of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) who have ensured that all the hoops we needed to jump through to get this funding have been jumped through! Roweena Hart has been appointed to the CUtC Coordinator position, which is based at SERCUL, and she will be working with the project partners to achieve the outcomes of their projects and will be implementing two projects with support of SERCUL staff.

This year also saw well deserved recognition for Cat Williams who was awarded the Women in Landcare Award as part of the WA Landcare Awards. Cat has worked in the landcare industry for many years with over ten years with the not-for-profit environmental group APACE WA, before joining SERCUL in 2017 as the Canning Community Landcare Officer. After a short stint working with the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council to further extend her experience, Cat returned to SERCUL in the Community Landcare Manager role in June 2020. Cat works with local community groups and supports them with technical advice and seeks funding and sponsorship on their behalf. She has also implemented her own projects, most notably the restoration of the Horley Road Basin. Cat will represent WA in this category at next years National Landcare Awards and we wish her all the best.

I would like to say a huge thanks to the funding bodies and partners that provide us with grants and funding that allow us to implement some amazing projects and outcomes. The Rivers and Estuaries Branch, DBCA and the City of Canning provide funding for salaries for a number of staff members at SERCUL which allows us to support many community groups in our region. This core funding then allows us to apply for grants such as State NRM; Swan Alcoa Landcare Program and DBCA Community Rivercare where we support even more community groups and achieve amazing onground outcomes.

Last but not least, as Stephen has mentioned in his Chair's Report his four year term as Chair has come to an end. Stephen had big shoes to fill when Pat Hart retired but he well and truly filled those shoes. His approach to the running of the board and the initiatives he has implemented during his term will have lasting effects on the organisation and staff. Thank you Stephen for your support over some ups and downs but you are definitely leaving SERCUL on an upward trend.

**Amy Krupa**  
Chief Executive Officer



## STAFF EMPLOYED DURING 2023-24

Jose Alcala – HR, Payroll and Administration Officer  
 \*Matthew Barbour – Community Rivercare Officer  
 Natasha Bowden – Education and Promotion Manager  
 Elbert Curtin – Environmental Services Supervisor  
 Dr Gun Dolva – Ecologist  
 Farina Gandadjaja – Administration and Finance Officer  
 Matthew Grimby – Environmental Services Manager  
 Jeba Jeyabalan – Finance Manager  
 Amy Krupa – Chief Executive Officer  
 Jayson Sekhon – Community Landcare Officer  
 Melinda Snowball – Promotions and Graphic Design Officer  
 Dr Rose Weerasinghe – Ecologist  
 Catherine White – Canning Community Landcare Officer  
 Cat Williams – Community Landcare Manager  
 Niamh Williams – Environmental Education Officer, Water Quality Officer  
 Odin Yorke – Assistant Environmental Services Manager

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TEAM LEADERS

Daniel Batty  
 Richard Camilleri  
 Ben Fenu  
 Muhammad Umar Mujahid  
 Jordan Murfit  
 Aixin Oppelaar  
 Aisher Stewart  
 Stephen Stockwell  
 Thomas Wachter

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FIELD TECHNICIANS

*Hannah Anthony	Owen Last
Amelie Bachir	Vincent Leek
Lochlan Brackley	*Marco Lombard
*Seth Capon	Harriet Lynch
*Warin Chotirosniramit	*Nathan Marecic
Patrick Clune	*Luann Nilsson
Katie Coker	*Marcus Palandri
Brychan Dickinson	Tia Peterson
*Kezang Dema	Haylee Porter
*Riley Dennis	*Melaine Segers
*Bethany Driscoll	Bradley Smith
Lydia Fenu	*Nora Steinruecke
*Bryony Glass	*Elliot Stewart
Raymond Grenfell	George Tabain-Hoogland
Harry Gualter	Abbie Tucknott
Samuel Gustin-Craig	*Silvia Vezzani
Anisah Ilmenstein	Michelle Welch
Amber Izydorski	*Justine White
Faye Jarvis	

\*No longer working - left the organisation during the 2023-2024 financial year.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Stephen Johnston  
 Deputy Chair: Kobi Bradshaw-Chen\*  
 Deputy Chair: Harry Sunarko  
 Member: Diane Dowdell\*  
 Member: Felicity Bairstow  
 Member: Fiona Audcent-Ross  
 Member: Hans Geers\*  
 Member: Dan Friesen  
 Member: Damian Shepherd

### AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WA CHAPTER STAFF

\*Megan Mentz – Little Green Steps WA Program Manager  
 Jennifer Pearson – Little Green Steps WA Program Manager  
 Niamh Williams – WasteSorted Schools Officer and Little Green Steps WA Education Officer

### HONORARY STAFF MEMBER

We would like to make special mention of Doug Murphy, our long term volunteer, who has contributed over 200 hours each year to SERCUL. Doug volunteers every Tuesday, rain, hail or shine and keeps the grounds around the office mowed and tidy. He also is very handy at fixing broken down equipment and completing what ever odd job that needs to be done. Thank you Doug!



# 2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

**43** Friends of groups supported

**LANDCARE**

**239** Landcare events

**118 190** Seedlings installed

**284 HA** Weed management

**4286** Volunteers contributed

**15 217** Hours of volunteering labour

**\$688 410**  
total value of volunteering

*Value of volunteering: \$20/hr for children under 16 and \$50/hr for adults.*



**MEMBERSHIP**

**39** Full members

**14** Associate members



**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

**88** Education workshops, presentations and displays

with over **5900** people engaged

**6579** Education resources distributed

**SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT**

**203** School presentations

**57** Schools engaged in on-ground activities and environmental education

**4626** School students

**MEDIA**


**1946** Facebook page likes

**2241** Facebook page followers

**89 209** Facebook page reach

**123** Facebook posts

**1004** Newsletter subscribers



## OUR CONSTITUTION

SERCUL, as an incorporated, independent community environmental organisation, is able to bring together the community, State and Federal Government agencies, Local Governments, businesses and educational institutions to plan for, develop and implement projects that will improve the natural environment using a strategic and integrated approach.

SERCUL is a sub-regional organisation that operates within the metropolitan and peri-urban areas of the Canning River Catchment. The area covered takes in most of the southern and eastern suburbs of Perth and includes Djarljarro Beeliiar (the Canning River), the Southern-Wungong River and parts of Derbarl Yerrigan (the Swan River).

## VISION

To have the Natural Resources of the South Region of Perth managed in a healthy and sustainable manner by all stakeholders for future generations.

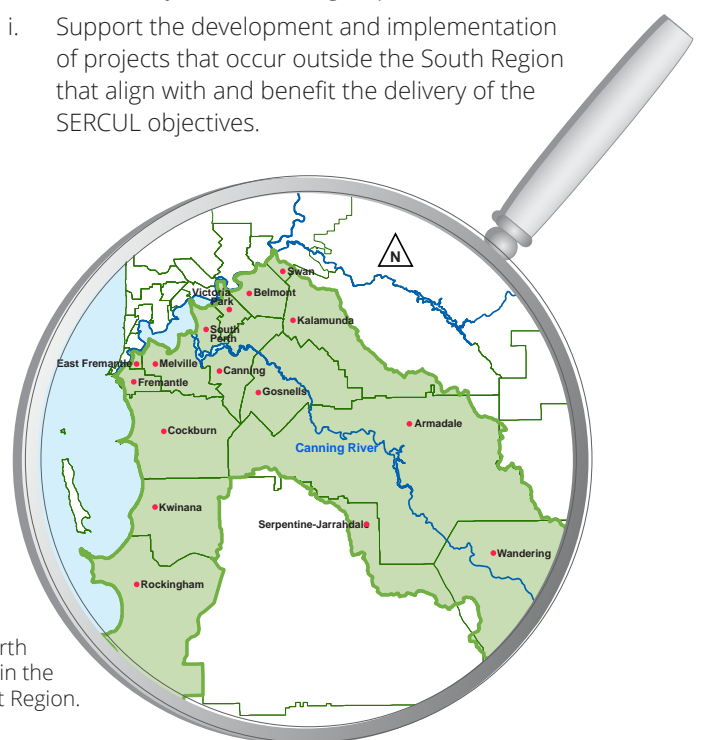
## MISSION

To use integrated natural resource management to foster cultural change in how the community perceives and interacts with the environment, whilst promoting and actively participating in the improvement of the health of waterways and other ecosystems within the South Region.

The South Region is defined as consisting of those parts of the Cities of Armadale, Belmont, Canning, Cockburn, Fremantle, Gosnells, Kalamunda, Kwinana, Melville, Rockingham, South Perth and Towns of East Fremantle and Victoria Park which fall within the boundary of the Swan Natural Resource Management Region.

## OBJECTIVES

- a. To identify priority Natural Resource Management issues in the South Region in partnership with Community Groups, Local Government, State Government and Industry.
- b. Administer the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Inc. funds to promote the objectives and outcomes of the Association.
- c. Assist Community Groups, State and Local Government in the coordination and delivery of Natural Resource Management in the South Region.
- d. Support and encourage the implementation of best management practice of Natural Resources within the South Region.
- e. Recognise and embrace cultural and natural heritage.
- f. Foster research on matters relating to the South Region's natural and cultural heritage.
- g. Work in partnership with Community Groups, Local Government, State Government and Industry to educate the wider community to protect our natural resources.
- h. Support and encourage the formation and training of community environment groups.
- i. Support the development and implementation of projects that occur outside the South Region that align with and benefit the delivery of the SERCUL objectives.







## PROJECT LINKS TO OUR OBJECTIVES

PROJECTS	Objectives								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION</b>									
Phosphorus Awareness Project									
Mozzie Wise Program									
Little Green Steps WA									
WasteSorted Schools Program									
<b>COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM</b>									
Building Community Capacity (CSGL20026)									
Supporting the Landcare Community (CSGL21001)									
Protecting Rockingham Lakes Regional Park (CSGL22001)									
Rehabilitation of the Canning-Yule Brook Confluence									
Gabbiljee Reserve									
River Health Improvement Program									
Northeast Beeliam Wetlands Program (CSGL22002)									
Iconic Project North and South									
DBCA Community Rivercare Program									
Keep Carnaby's Flying - Ngoorlarks Forever									
Canning Community Landcare									
<b>MONITORING AND RESEARCH</b>									
Water Quality Monitoring									
Horley Road Wetlands – Biomonitoring									
Adenia Saltmarsh Research Program									



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

ALGAE BUSTER



# PHOSPHORUS AWARENESS PROJECT

COORDINATED BY: Natasha Bowden

The Phosphorus Awareness Project (PAP) is an education campaign that aims to educate the general community about the impact of too many nutrients entering waterways, in particular the Swan (Derbarl Yerrigan) and Canning (Djarlgarro Beelier) River systems and wetlands, and how to reduce those levels. It includes the Fertilise Wise campaign.

### SCHOOLS

**187 SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS** to 4273 students from 44 Primary and 5 High Schools.

**32 PLANTING SESSIONS** during which 1452 plants were planted by 942 students and 127 teachers, contributing 838 volunteer hours.

*Plants were used for revegetation projects, to beautify school gardens and to create frog habitat and Noongar Use (or 'Bush Tucker') Gardens. Planting events were tied in with classroom learning objectives.*

### COMMUNITY

**10 DISPLAYS** at workshops/fairs/open days/festivals held by various community groups, governments and not-for-profit organisations, which were interacted with by at least 2005 people.

*Displays consisted of Phosphorus Awareness Project, Fertilise Wise and associated information available as pamphlets, stickers and on display boards.*

**59 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS** to OSHC, Bush Ranger, River Ranger, teacher, garden, local government, community and homeschooling organisations, groups and clubs, that were attended by 1335 people.

### EVENTS

One Fertilise Wise Training session held and attended by 33 participants from the Shire of Northam, Cities of Swan, Kwinana, Belmont, Nedlands, Vincent and South Perth.

Hosted annual Canoeing on the Canning Professional Development Day, attended by 15 teachers and community members.



Bletchley Park PS Year 2's learning about Bush Tucker

### NUTRIENT SURVEY

The 2023 Local Government Authorities (LGAs) Annual Nutrient Survey was sent to all 30 LGAs in Perth. Responses were received from 26 LGAs with a report and scorecards published.

### VOLUNTEERS

One Murdoch University intern contributed over 93 volunteer hours supporting SERCUL and the PAP program.

### RESOURCES AND MEDIA

Supported groups with resources on 14 occasions, distributing over 1272 of the five Grow Local Plants brochures, 282 of the Fertilise Wise brochures and 4059 general Phosphorus Awareness Project brochures, stickers and other resources, to nurseries, community and school groups.

PAP has been promoted in the media on at least 44 occasions via newsletters, websites, Facebook, YouTube, and the Education Departments Connect.

PAPs YouTube Channel received 1147 views.

*This project is funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Rivers and Estuaries Branch and SERCUL.*



Wattle Grove PS learning about Macroinvertebrates



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

# MOZZIE WISE PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Natasha Bowden and Dr Rose Weerasinghe

The Mozzie Wise Education Program was developed as a key component of SERCUL's integrated mosquito management approach within the Perth Region. SERCUL produced the Mozzie Wise Education Program and associated resource materials with the support of the Department of Health WA.

The aim of the program is to educate local communities and school children on all aspects of mosquito breeding prevention and personal protection and to increase children's scientific knowledge to help them understand the effect of their actions on the environment. Informed communities that act upon their knowledge play a critical role in preventing mosquito-borne diseases, providing mosquito control and reducing the use of chemicals.

The Mozzie Wise School Educational Program is linked to the relevant Science Learning Area of the National Curriculum and provides a Teacher's Guide for levels from kindergarten through to high school.

*This program is funded by SERCUL and the Cities of Bayswater, Belmont, Kwinana, Town of Bassendean and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.*

### OUTCOMES

Five Mozzie Wise stalls involving interactions with approximately 2500 people:

- Margaret River Agricultural Show for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.
- Two at Bassendean Markets for the Town of Bassendean.
- Maylands Waterlands for Envirohouse and the City of Bayswater.
- Alcoa Children's Festival for the City of Kwinana.

Sixteen 'Being Mozzie Wise' incursions delivered to 353 students:

- Four incursions to Year 9 – 11 students from Baldivis Secondary College, John Tonkin College, Morley Senior High School and North Lake Senior Campus at the AAEEs Biology, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES) Day.
- Three incursions to Year 1 – 3 students from Cloverdale Education Support Centre for the City of Belmont.
- Four incursions to Year 3 – 5 students from Carlisle Primary School (PS) for City of Belmont.
- One incursion to Year 10 students at Belmont City College for the City of Belmont.
- Four incursions to Year 2 - 5 students from Bertram PS for the City of Kwinana.

Two volunteers contributed 27.5 hours of volunteer work by assisting at Mozzie Wise events.

Assisted a Murdoch University Masters of Sustainability student with information about the Mozzie Wise program for a project they were completing.

Approximately 966 Mozzie Wise brochures, 24 posters, 12 Teacher Guides and countless Mozzie Wise stickers were distributed.



Mozzie Wise stall for the City of Kwinana



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

# LITTLE GREEN STEPS WA PROGRAM

COORDINATED BY: Dr Jennifer Pearson and delivered by Niamh Williams.

Little Green Steps WA (LGSWA) supports Education for Sustainability (EfS) in the early years sector. This includes childcare centres, family day care, primary schools, preschools, kindergartens, and out of school hours care services for children aged 0-8 years. LGSWA provides professional development workshops, resources, newsletters, ideas, expo demonstrations and networking opportunities to anyone that would like to improve their understanding of sustainability and link these practices with the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standard. LGSWA is a program of the Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter with HR management provided by SERCUL.

*This program is funded by the City of Cockburn and the Waste Authority.*

### OUTCOMES:

#### PARTNERSHIPS

- Entered the fifth and final year of the 5 year partnership with the Waste Authority through WasteSorted Schools.
- Commenced an ongoing new three year partnership with the City of Cockburn.

#### WORKSHOPS

- 12 workshops delivered attended by 107 participants including Cloth Nappies in Childcare; Closed Loop Gardening; Energy, Air and Transport with RAC; Protecting and Conserving Water; Cultural and Social Diversity and six Reducing Waste workshops across Perth, with one in the Geraldton region.

#### RESOURCES

- Economic and Built Environment Audit Tool.
- Two case studies - Red cycling and Community garden connection.
- Two fact sheets developed on Compost tube and Seed balls.
- Bin Sprites Book - LGSWA through the AAEEWA Chapter received funding from the Waste Authority community grants to produce an early year focussed waste education book and a teacher's guide to extend the learning opportunities.
- Two Way Science – LGSWA through the AAEEWA Chapter received funding from the Inspiring Western Australian STEM National Science Week funding to produce three video vignettes of Noongar cultural practices and a teacher's guide to extend the learning opportunities.

#### PRESENTATIONS/EVENTS

- Presented at the Early Childhood Education WA Conference and the Cockburn Early Years Network.
- Delivered activities at National Science Week at CREEC, Ground Water Festival, City of Canning Parent support groups Sustainable Christmas, Teddy Bear's Picnic and Cockburn FDC Playgroup.

#### INCURSIONS/VISITS

- On-going partnership with the Ascolta Coogee and Southern River centres since February has delivered incursions to kindy aged children on a weekly basis.
- Five visits to early year services within the City of Cockburn with short incursions and activities delivered.

### MEDIA

1800 people subscribed to our mailing list,  
982 Facebook followers.

### VOLUNTEERS

8 volunteers have contributed 520 hours of volunteering with the value equating \$26 000.

94 MEMBERSHIPS



*Bin Sprites book for early years developed by LGSWA and AAEEWA Chapter*

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

# WASTESORTED SCHOOLS SOUTHERN METRO

COORDINATED BY: Niamh Williams

The WasteSorted Schools (WSS) south metro program is run by the Australian Association for Environmental Education WA Chapter (AAEE WA) in partnership with the Waste Authority, which provides schools in the southern suburbs of Perth with WSS programs and support. HR for this program is provided by SERCUL.

The WSS programs and support includes:

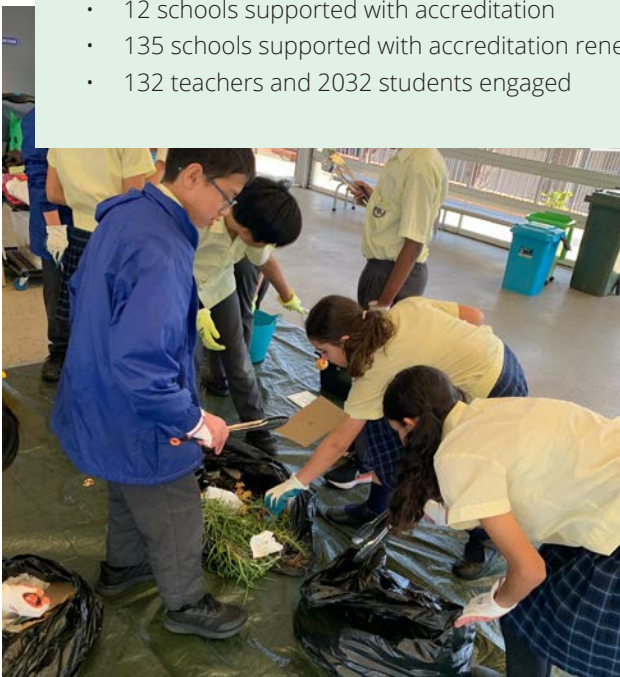
- Incursions on correct waste management behaviours, educating on where our waste goes, sorting waste correctly and using the right bin for different rubbish items. Incursions include Waste Audits and the WasteSorted Race.
- Assisting with the WSS accreditation process and renewal.
- Support with grant applications and planning.
- Assisting teachers with any inquiries or waste related questions.
- Attending and presenting at staff workshops run by the Waste Authority.

The aim of the program is to educate and assist teachers, students and schools through engaging in hands-on incursions. The focus is on developing a greater knowledge and understanding of waste, including strategies on avoiding/reducing waste, how to sort waste correctly, information on the different waste streams for each school and relevant council, waste recovery and discussing the waste hierarchy and how landfill should be a last resort. Additional support and information are offered to teachers when needed, as they work towards achieving permanent waste management behavioural changes.

*This program is funded by the Waste Authority and partnered with WasteSorted Schools and SERCUL.*

### OUTCOMES

- 27 schools supported with a Waste Audit
- 10 schools had a WasteSorted Race incursion
- 12 schools supported with accreditation
- 135 schools supported with accreditation renewal
- 132 teachers and 2032 students engaged



Photos - Left: Students conducting waste audit, Top right: Students playing waste sorting game, Bottom right: Waste audit set up.



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# SERCUL COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

**This has been another busy year, with SERCUL’s Community Landcare Program supporting 42 active projects restoring a range of different urban habitats in the SERCUL region.**

We provided support to the regions community landcare groups in a variety of ways, including through loan of tools and equipment, provision of technical advice and assisting with on-ground works. However, one of our key services remains in providing grant sponsorships, with 20 groups utilising this service from SERCUL through FY2024.

24 individual grants were hosted, supporting 42 discrete projects. These include four large Community Stewardship Grants funded by the Western Australian Governments State NRM program. These grants while supporting capacity building and on-ground action also provide a rare opportunity for SERCUL to obtain vital project coordination funds, which in turn helps to maintain staff in the community landcare team.

We continued three key partnerships, with funding from these allowing us to provide officers to support projects and community. We very much appreciate these partnerships and the contributions our partners make to the environment through these arrangements. Partnership programs were as follows:

DBCA – Community Rivercare Officer supporting DBCAs Community Rivercare Program and implementing two iconic waterway projects in Armadale and Bayswater.

City of Canning – Community Landcare Officer supporting environmental programs and landcare groups within the City of Canning.

DBCA – River Health Improvement Program Officer monitoring and reporting on health of designated constructed wetlands.

We give our thanks to the many volunteers who we have worked with throughout the year, whether with a formal community group, or as an individual at a school event. Our environment is a better place thanks to your efforts! Here we make a special mention of the Friends of Paganoni Swamp, who continue to demonstrate excellent management of their sponsorship projects. The group managed several projects with SERCUL through the 2024 financial year. They undertake a large body of work and are always accurate and timely with their reporting, in turn helping us report to funding bodies. Exceptional Work!

And finally, I thank my team. Despite our small number we continue to underpin a huge body of environmental work in our region. I extend these thanks to other SERCUL officers who contribute directly or indirectly to our projects, whether it be through a research focus, or in our finance department, or as a member of our field team delivering fee-for-service weed control work to one of our projects.

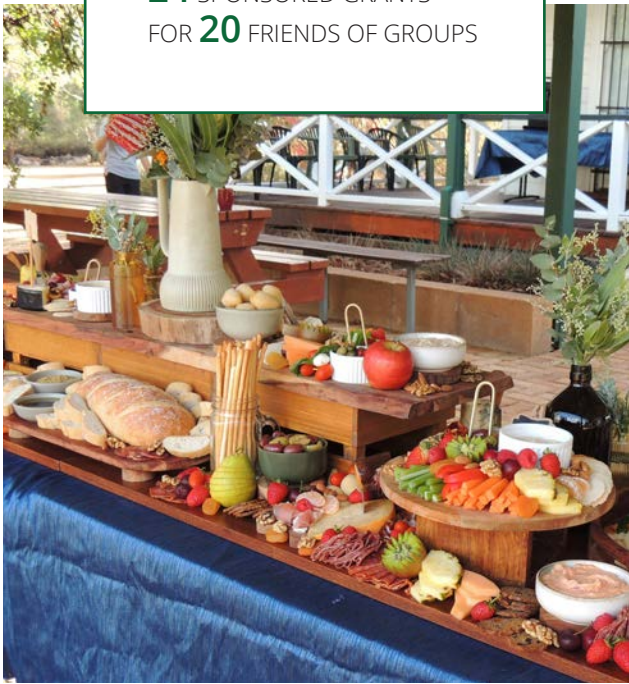
Every contribution counts!

*Cat Williams  
SERCUL Community Landcare Manager*

**43** FRIENDS OF COMMUNITY GROUPS SUPPORTED

**42** ACTIVE PROJECTS

**24** SPONSORED GRANTS FOR **20** FRIENDS OF GROUPS



*Volunteer celebration and networking morning tea*



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY THROUGH VOLUNTEERING IN PERTH'S URBAN NATURAL HABITATS

WA STATE NRM CSGL20026, YEAR 3 OF 3

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

This grant is a three year project and will complete at the end of July 2024. The grant provided sponsorship of eight individual community group projects, ranging from riparian restoration at Bickley Brook in the Perth Hills, to the removal of Victorian Tea-Tree at a limestone outcrop reserve in Mosman Park. Two groups focussed on providing a series of community workshops, offering a wide range of subjects for volunteers to build skills and knowledge in land restoration and associated activities.

Most of the groups sponsored under this grant have arrangements in place to continue their work with new grant sponsorships. The Friends of Jirdarup have become incorporated, and it is pleasing to see groups building in strength and capacity to be able to take this next step to self-determination. We wish them every success with their own WA State NRM application submitted in May 2024.

*This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.*

### FRIENDS OF GROUPS AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED:

- Bickley Brook & Reservoir: watsonia and woody weed control, riparian revegetation
- Jandakot RP – Acourt Bushland: woody weed control and revegetation of conservation category wetland
- Jandakot RP – Harrisdale Swamp: woody weed and wetland couch grass removal, with revegetation
- Jirdarup: series of community workshops and bird monitoring cameras for watering station
- Mosman Park Bushland – Buckland Hill: limestone outcrop woody weed control and revegetation
- Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group: weed control and banksia woodland restoration
- Samson Park: series of community workshops and signage for staged management zones
- Wilson Wetlands Action Group: weed control and revegetation at Wilson Lagoon.

**186 HA** WEED MANAGEMENT

**9** WORKSHOP EVENTS

**10** LANDCARE EVENTS

**10 083** PLANTS INSTALLED

**585** VOLUNTEERS

**3380** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$148 550** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



Planting at Samson Park



Friends of Jirdarup Djerup bird walk



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# SUPPORTING THE LANDCARE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT IN PERTH'S SOUTH EAST

WA STATE NRM CSGL21001, YEAR 2 OF 3

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

This grant commenced in July 2022 and will run for three years with the project currently in its second year. The grant supports eight sub-projects, implementing three SERCUL-led landcare projects alongside five group sponsorship projects. Funds support a diverse range of sites within the SERCUL region, including a coastal site and three significant wetlands.

There are two projects working with significant stakeholders providing in-kind support towards meeting project outcomes. At Fremantle Beaches – Leighton, the friends group we were working with disbanded, leaving SERCUL with the responsibility to see the project through. We have been assisted by Perth NRM's Coastcare Program to continue with the project as planned. Perth NRM have contributed community engagement and support, as well as joining with us to install the allocated plants during the main winter revegetation event.

At the City of Canning, we are working together to remove weeds at the Yagan Wetland. City officers have participated in weed and revegetation works alongside SERCUL officers and partnerships like this contribute to better relationships and knowledge sharing between government and community-based organisations.

We thank sponsored groups and partners for their ongoing support, and we especially thank the City of Fremantle, whose small but dedicated environmental team assisted at several landcare events this financial year.

*This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.*

**20.5 HA** WEED MANAGEMENT

**9** LANDCARE EVENTS

**3** WORKSHOP EVENTS

**15 282** PLANTS INSTALLED

**470** VOLUNTEERS

**2334** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$108 510** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

### OUTCOMES:

- Booyembara Park: limestone track installation and revegetation
- Fremantle Beaches: partnership with Perth NRM to implement community revegetation at Leighton Beach
- Hollis Park: community revegetation of habitat corridor in South Fremantle
- Horley-Yule floodplain: weed control and multiple community revegetation events for schools and corporate groups
- Jirdarup: weed control in Banksia woodland protecting orchid habitat
- The Spectacles: weed control and Banksia woodland restoration with a Welcome to Country for annual NAIDOC event
- Yagan Wetland: City of Canning partnership project providing weed control of blackberry, woody weeds and other target species with in-kind stems for revegetation provided by the City.



Baseline monitoring at Yagan Wetland





## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# PROTECTING THE BUSHLANDS OF THE ROCKINGHAM LAKES REGIONAL PARK

WA STATE NRM CSGL22001 YEAR 1 OF 3

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

This three-year sponsorship grant provides funding for two projects being implemented by Friends of Paganoni Swamp and Friends of Point Peron. Both groups carry out regular workdays which is reflected in the large number of hours contributed.

Point Peron is a coastal bushland suffering infestation by the exotic plant Italian Buckthorn. This is a dioecious woody shrub that has spread throughout the 29ha site. The land is owned by DBCA and joint efforts are underway to remove the buckthorn from the site. This project is a huge undertaking, but the group is slowly chipping away at the population with support from Greenskills chainsaw operators to support the work of the volunteers.

Paganoni Swamp volunteers complete annual revegetation targeting reserve edges and old vehicle tracks to build resilience to the bushlands. Much of the work has been along an area of limestone outcropping, providing a challenging environment to work having steep slopes and loose soils. SERCUL has assisted with revegetation and weed mapping works.

*This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.*

### OUTCOMES:

- Paganoni Swamp: rehabilitation of old vehicle tracks using local provenance tubestock
- Point Peron: mapping and control of woody weeds, predominantly *Rhamnus alaternus* (Italian Buckthorn)

**3** LANDCARE EVENTS

**4052** PLANTS INSTALLED

**2343** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$117 160** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



Purple enamel orchid at Paganoni Swamp



Donkey orchid at Paganoni Swamp



Bush cockroach at Paganoni Swamp



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# REHABILITATION OF THE CANNING-YULE BROOK CONFLUENCE

DBCA COMMUNITY RIVERCARE, YR 2 OF 4

COORDINATED BY: Cat Williams

Riparian revegetation is being supported with weed control at this site, which is located near the SERCUL office in Beckenham. As a SERCUL-led project, community involvement features in all aspects of project implementation, with some very enthusiastic students from Yule Brook College contributing to our winter 2024 landcare program completing litter pick-ups, revegetation and woody weed removal works.

The project occupies an area of Canning River palusplain which is frequently inundated after rain events. At times these changing water levels can be challenging, and careful timing of activities must be undertaken to get plants into the ground at the right time whilst not being washed away. Target weeds include *Schinus terebinthifolius* and *Rubus sp.* with a range of different grass weeds being targeted as well. Many of these weeds are literally situated on the Canning riverbank.

Revegetation is tracking extremely well, and the heavier soils at this site assist Summer survival rates. Plants are installed with no fertilisers or additives and are not watered through Summer. One season of revegetation remains for this project which will see another 2000 stems installed.

We held our second Nightstalk event at the Beckenham Open Space, hosting a large contingent of children from the Liddelow Scout Troop in October 2023. Despite being a large group, bats, possums and frogs were observed during the stalk and participants enjoyed a tasty sausage sizzle while we waited for the night to darken.

*This project is funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Community Rivercare Program.*

<b>3</b> LANDCARE EVENTS
<b>6 HA</b> WEED MANAGEMENT
<b>65</b> VOLUNTEERS
<b>277</b> VOLUNTEER HOURS
<b>\$12 025</b> VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



School groups helping with woody weed removal, planting and litter removal.



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# COMMUNITY RIVERCARE PROGRAM: GABBILJEE RESERVE

DBCA COMMUNITY RIVERCARE, YR 1 OF 2

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

PROJECT LOCATION: Gabbiljee Reserve, Bull Creek

The purpose of this project is to work with the Friends of Gabbiljee to create a continuous managed area connecting Gabbiljee Reserve in Bull Creek with Yagan Reserve on the other side of Leach Hwy.

We have so far been successful as we reach the halfway point of this 2-year project. By removing invasive weeds from this section and revegetating them with natives, we hope to prevent weeds spreading downstream while creating habitat for the local wildlife that call this site home.

*This project is funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Community Rivercare Program.*

*Project partners – DBCA, Friends of Gabbiljee, City of Melville.*



<b>1588</b> PLANTS INSTALLED
<b>9 HA</b> WEED MANAGEMENT
<b>49.5</b> VOLUNTEER HOURS
<b>\$2475</b> VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

*Community volunteers planting native wetland species at Gabbiljee in November 2023.*

## RIVER HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – RHIP

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

The River Health Improvement Program is an ongoing partnership between DBCA and SERCUL in which we monitor the ongoing maintenance and condition of the RHIP sites within the cities of Canning and Gosnells, as well as liaise with project stakeholders and report to DBCA. The sites are Wharf Street Wetland, Anvil Way Wetland, Liege Street Wetland, Manley Basin and Bickley Basin. As of July 2024, Anvil Way, Manley Basin and Bickley Basin will be removed from the monitoring program to be replaced by Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary in the City of Bayswater.

*This project is funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Rivers and Estuaries Branch.*



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# SERCUL NORTHEAST BEELIAR WETLANDS AND SURROUNDS COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

WA STATE NRM CSGL22002, YR 1 OF 2

COORDINATED BY: Jayson Sekhon

FRIENDS OF GROUPS SUPPORTED: Booragoon and Blue Gum Lakes, Gabbiljee Reserve, Ken Hurst Park, North Lake and Wireless Hill Park.

This large State NRM Community Stewardship Program funded project involves five community groups which look after their local wetland and bushland habitats. Running for a little over a year, the majority of the project activities were completed in the 2023-24 financial year, with the remainder set to wrap up by the end of September 2024.

*This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.*

### BOORAGOON AND BLUE GUM LAKES

At Booragoon and Blue Gum Lakes, we've continued our restoration of the formerly highly degraded Blue Gum western lakebed which struggled with long-lasting flooding and vandalism by the local wildlife. To combat this, we've shifted our planting location and trailed a method of containing the plants in easy to construct mesh cages with the hopes that this can give the plants some time to establish before facing the resident birds. Despite this, we've seen many species of native waterbird make great use of the lakebed including swans, spoonbills and many species of duck.

To provide a baseline condition of the health of the lakebed, a community macroinvertebrate surveying workshop was carried out in the western lakebed by SERCUL staff last year.

In addition, we've controlled the woody weeds growing on the Blue Gum Island which sits between the two lakebeds and revegetated with native plants. This island provides the native birds with a nesting site that terrestrial predators would struggle to reach. Finally, ongoing restoration at the dryland revegetation sites at Blue Gum and Booragoon have seen thousands of additional native plants installed to create additional habitat for the local wildlife, including frogs, birds, turtles and possums.



*Blue Gum Western Lakebed full of water.*



*Volunteers preparing to plant at a community planting day.*

### GABBILJEE RESERVE

In a different section of Gabbiljee from our Community Rivercare Project, this State NRM project seeks to extend the managed area.

The focus of this project has been the removal of a section of very dense woody weeds including Brazilian Pepper, Sydney Golden Wattle and Blackberry. With these weeds gone, we can continue to revegetate these sections next year as we have continued funding through the State NRM Community Stewardship Program.

A macroinvertebrate surveying workshop was held for the community at Gabbiljee as part of this project.



*Happy to be out of the office at a corporate planting day at Gabbiljee Reserve.*



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# SERCUL NORTHEAST BEELIAR WETLANDS AND SURROUNDS COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

CONTINUED

### KEN HURST PARK

A newcomer to SERCUL's community projects, the Friends of Ken Hurst Park had a large amount of native seed collected from the reserve this year as part of this project. In addition, a few hundred local provenance seedlings were produced and installed by the group and a round of weed control was done to remove some priority weeds which were establishing.



*Plants bagged and staked at Ken Hurst Park to protect from damage by the local kangaroos.*

### NORTH LAKE RESERVE

Another group which we're working with for the first time is the Friends of North Lake. They have worked closely with SERCUL to restore two restoration sites along the northern edge of North Lake. As this project has ongoing funding with an upcoming State NRM project, the primary focus in this first year has been removing the perennial grasses from the revegetation sites to allow planting to begin in spring 2024 and beyond. This project has also supported the group in removing some other significant weeds beyond the revegetation sites.

### WIRELESS HILL PARK

Finally, this large State NRM project supported the Friends of Wireless Hill with maintaining a large 7.4 ha area as a chemical free zone. While this funding has not been approved for future years, we thank the Friends of Wireless Hill for all the incredible effort they've put in over the many years we've worked with them and wish them the best of luck going forward.



*Dozens of bags of weeds which SERCUL staff removed from Wireless Hill Reserve over the duration of this project.*

**TOTAL FIGURES FOR ALL 5 PROJECTS**

- 153** LANDCARE EVENTS
- 27.2 HA** WEED MANAGEMENT
- 245** VOLUNTEERS
- 2595** VOLUNTEER HOURS
- \$129 750** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# ICONIC PROJECTS NORTH AND SOUTH SUB-REGIONS OF PERTH

COORDINATED BY: Matthew Barbour

PROJECT LOCATIONS: City of Bayswater and the City of Armadale

A key role of SERCUL’s Community Rivercare Officer is to develop and implement DBCA’s Iconic Projects in the north and south sub-regions of Perth. These projects aim to improve riparian habitat by identifying priority sites, undertaking any site-specific measurements to determine project suitability and work with relevant stakeholders to develop and deliver the project implementation plan. The City of Bayswater has been consulted to help implement the project in their council for the North sub-region and the City of Armadale has been identified for the South sub-region.

The South Iconic Project is based along the Wungong River in the City of Armadale. This project is working to improve and restore a degraded section of the Wungong River through planting, weed control, riffle installation and community engagement. It has been an exciting year for this project as it is now in the implementation stage, and we have seen a lot of work happen on-ground in the past financial year. This has included the planting of 38,462 native seedlings, 4700 of which were planted by Sathya Sai community group. There is still plenty of work to be done with a riffle construction currently being planned for installation in the next financial year. We are looking forward to watching this site continue to transform.

The North Iconic project is still in the planning phases, with a number of challenges arising in the past twelve months. The original plans for work at Rudlock Reserve has been withdrawn. DBCA and SERCUL are now exploring options for another project within the City of Bayswater. There are also plans to allocate some funding to a devolved grant process, to allow for smaller scale projects within the North sub region. We are looking forward to working on implementation in the next financial year.

*The Iconic projects are funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Rivers and Estuaries Branch.*

<b>38 462</b>	PLANTS INSTALLED
<b>29</b>	VOLUNTEERS
<b>141.5</b>	VOLUNTEER HOURS
<b>\$7075</b>	VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

## COMMUNITY RIVERCARE GRANTS

COORDINATED BY: Matthew Barbour

SERCUL’s Community Rivercare Officer works alongside DBCA to assist in implementing the Community Rivercare Program. DBCA have delivered the program since 2018 and have so far funded 89 projects to restore sites along the Swan and Canning River. This has resulted in revegetation of the foreshores, increased habitat for fish, native birds and other species dependent on waterways.

Over the 23-24 financial year SERCUL’s support has included assessing grant applications and assisting with successful project implementation and delivery. Assistance has included on-ground support at planting day events, site visits, administering progress reports, and assisting in the development of collaborative agreements.

In the next financial year, the Community Rivercare Officer will be assisting in Round 8 assessment and delivery of these future projects, as well as continuing support for existing projects. For the current active grants, community groups have achieved some incredible outcomes, with the total plants installed being 298 692, and over 24 000 hours of volunteer hours logged. A huge thank you to all the community groups involved in delivering the DBCA Community Rivercare Program.

*The Community Rivercare grants are funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Rivers and Estuaries Branch.*



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

### KEEP CARNABY'S FLYING - NGOORLARKS FOREVER

COORDINATED BY: Matt Barbour

PROJECT LOCATION: City of Kwinana,  
Town of Cambridge

This project is funded by Lotterywest and coordinated by Murdoch University to engage the community in revegetation with native species to provide foraging habitat for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos. Sites for revegetation were chosen using roosting site and flight path data supplied by Murdoch University and Birdlife Australia to maximise the benefit of planting species to provide food for Carnaby's.

The project involved installation of advanced trees and seedlings at ten sites in the local government areas of Cambridge, Kwinana and Swan.

*This program is funded by Lotterywest through Murdoch University's Keep Carnaby's Flying program.*

#### CITY OF KWINANA

**4** LANDCARE EVENTS

**2600** PLANTS INSTALLED

**160** ADVANCED TREES INSTALLED

**88** VOLUNTEERS

**264** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$13 200** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

#### TOWN OF CAMBRIDGE

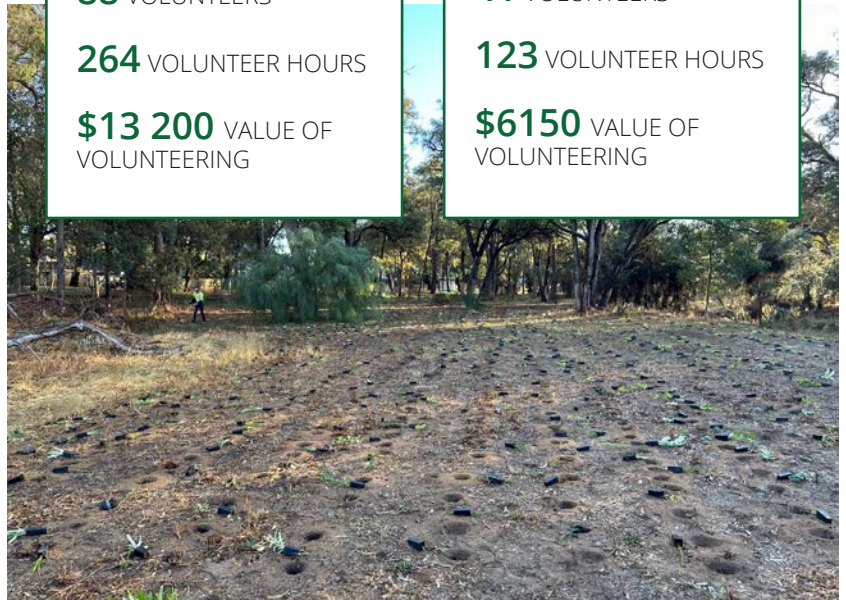
**4** LANDCARE EVENTS

**9160** PLANTS INSTALLED

**41** VOLUNTEERS

**123** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$6150** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



Before and after planting, staking and bagging at Kwinana



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE

COORDINATED BY: Catherine White

The City of Canning has had a long-term relationship with SERCUL and currently funds the Canning Community Landcare Officer position. To deliver this role the officer assists with landcare projects and works alongside environmental groups within the City of Canning to help in delivering the City’s Local Biodiversity Strategy. This role also works closely with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group, to write and implement grants across the Bannister Creek Catchment.

In the past financial year, the Canning Community Landcare Officer has worked with five community groups within the City of Canning. This has included a range of support, depending on the individual needs of the group. From on-ground work such as seed collection, manual weed control, planting day assistance, site preparation, and watering; to grant applications and administrative assistance. The City of Canning and SERCUL have also been involved in the Saving our Snake Necked Turtle Program, which is focused on protecting turtles as they leave the wetlands to nest. The tracking location is at Wilson Lagoon and will be continuing in 2024. SERCUL looks forward to supporting more groups within the City of Canning in the future.

*This project is funded by the City of Canning.*

- 5** COMMUNITY GROUPS SUPPORTED
- 3** LANDCARE EVENTS
- 13** SCHOOLS SUPPLIED PLANTS FOR BUSH GARDENS
- 510** PLANTS INSTALLED
- 46** VOLUNTEERS
- 156.5** HOURS
- \$6745** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



*Planting with the City of Canning and Castlereagh School at Kennon Park*





## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROJECTS

## CLIMATE RESILIENT CATCHMENT PROGRAM - BANNISTER CREEK CATCHMENT

WA STATE NRM CSGL21007, YEAR 3 OF 3

COORDINATED BY: Catherine White

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Bannister Creek Reserve, Portcullis Park and Adenia Park

This project is in the third year of a multi-year project running from 2022-2025 and focuses on sites not only at Bannister Creek, but across a much broader area within the Bannister Creek Catchment. On-ground works include revegetation and weed control across three sites: Bannister Creek Reserve, Portcullis Park and Adenia Park. It has been a very challenging year for revegetation, but despite the harsh summer conditions we have seen some transformative results at project sites. Good species selection and utilising provenance seed seems to have been key in assisting native seedlings through the summer months. The extended summer created an uncertain start to the revegetation season. Across all sites seedlings struggled through April-May, and established plant deaths were also above a 'normal' year. When it did start raining the ground was still highly hydrophobic. We are certainly noticing new challenges managing sites with a changing climate.

In the last financial year a total of 13978 native seedlings were planted across 11 community landcare events. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have assisted with the works over the past financial year. This project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group and the City of Canning.

*This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.*

- 11** LANDCARE EVENTS
- 13 978** PLANTS INSTALLED
- 6.4 HA** WEED MANAGEMENT
- 1387** VOLUNTEERS
- 1244** HOURS
- \$39 790** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



Top left: Assoc Planting at Portcullis, Top Right: Gladly Grab with Trinity College Teachers at Portcullis, Bottom: Rosssmoyn River Rangers at Adenia Park



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROJECTS

## MAINTAINING THE CONFLUENCE OF BANNISTER CREEK AND THE CANNING RIVER

COORDINATED BY: Catherine White

PROJECT LOCATION: Bannister Creek Adenia

This project is in the first year of a multiyear project running from 2023-2026. It focuses on the area of the Bannister Creek Reserve located between Hybanthus Road and just past the Adenia footbridge. The project area encompasses two different landholders, DBCA and the City of Canning. The aim of this project was to reduce invasive weeds, especially woody weeds and vines, and bolster the native plant coverage. The first year of work was focused primarily on weed control works. One benefit of the extended dry, was the opportunity to access areas usually inundated and remove weed species. This project is running slightly ahead of schedule, with some of the second-year seedlings already being planted. Currently 884 seedlings have been planted through a big school planting event with Lynwood Senior High School. Lynwood Senior High School have had a very long relationship with Bannister Creek and have been helping with planting events for over 20 years. A big thank you to the school, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

*This project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group, DBCA and the City of Canning.*

*This project is funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Community Rivercare Program.*

**1** LANDCARE EVENT

**884** PLANTS  
INSTALLED

**5.5 HA** WEED  
MANAGEMENT

**81** VOLUNTEERS

**162** HOURS

**\$3600** VALUE OF  
VOLUNTEERING

## OLD RIVER CHANNEL: WILCOCK ST RIPARIAN RESTORATION

WA STATE NRM CSGL23057, YEAR 1 OF 3

COORDINATED BY: Canning River Regional Park Volunteers and Catherine White

PROJECT PARTNERS: Canning River Regional Park Volunteers, DBCA and the City of Canning

LOCATION: Lambertia Creek

This year is the first of a three-year project being undertaken by the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers (CRRPV) as part of a large State NRM Project. SERCUL, through the Canning Community Landcare Officer, have helped CRRPV by writing the submission and assisting in delivery of this grant. The project area adjoins the sites previously revegetated by the CRRPV and is aiming to transform a stretch of the Canning River where the riparian zone is narrow and degraded. Works will include weed control (of species such as kikuyu, morning glory and blackberry) and extensive planting of local native species. In addition to this, works are also being undertaken to help prevent the incursion of Polyphagous shot hole borer into the Canning River Regional Park. This will include removal of a grove of weedy willows, and replanting with native, non-reproductive host species.

CRRPV are already underway with weed control works. The group have done an incredible job removing morning glory from the project area, painstakingly handweeding and removing runners. Weedy willows have been removed, and native plants are already starting to naturally regenerate across the site. We can't wait to see the project site transform over the next three years.

*This project is funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.*



## COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROGRAM

# CANNING COMMUNITY LANDCARE PROJECTS

## FLOODPLAIN MAINTENANCE AND ENRICHMENT

SALP01S23

COORDINATED BY: Catherine White

PROJECT LOCATION: Bannister Creek, Bywood Way, Lynwood and Vellgrove, Parkwood

This project was a one-year project undertaken from March 2023 - March 2024. This year of funding was extra special as it also celebrated 25 years of SALP funding. Bannister Creek Catchment Group have been lucky enough to receive SALP funds every year since the commencement of the funding program, and together have achieved some great results along the creek.

The Bannister Creek Catchment Group have done a lot at work at Bywood and Vellgrove over the past 20 years. Both areas are established living streams now, with good canopy cover from mature trees. The primary aim of this project was to increase the density of lower and mid-storey plants to create more habitat. The second aim was to reduced erosion and sediment entering the waterway by planting sedges along the riparian zone. The nature of Bannister Creek is that it is highly susceptible to weed outbreaks, due to being such a wet and dynamic site. Weed control was included to reduce weed density, and to address any new infestations. This project saw 5624 seedlings being planted by four community groups. Thank you very much to all the volunteers that assisted. This project was completed in collaboration with the Bannister Creek Catchment Group and the City of Canning.

*This project is funded by the Perth NRM Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.*

- 4** LANDCARE EVENT
- 5624** PLANTS INSTALLED
- 3.9 HA** WEED MANAGEMENT
- 63** VOLUNTEERS
- 228** HOURS
- \$11 220** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



*Left and Middle: Treemission planting at Bannister Creek Bywood project site, Right: Planting sedges with St Norbets and St Josephs Teachers in the Creek.*



## MONITORING AND RESEARCH

# WATER QUALITY MONITORING

COORDINATED BY: Dr Gun Dolva

In 2023-2024, SERCUL coordinated Water Quality Monitoring Partnership Programs in the Swan-Canning river system (South Perth Catchment), and the Bennett Brook Catchment (City of Swan, City of Bayswater and Whiteman Park). These projects, supported by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), relevant local government authorities (LGAs), and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage/West Australian Planning Commission (Whiteman Park) promote a cooperative approach to water quality monitoring. For each program, SERCUL prepared a sampling and analysis plan (SAP); conducted the sampling, collated, and analysed data to produce a report highlighting important findings and provide recommendations. Data generated by these programs was submitted to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) Water Information Reporting (WIR) database for use by DBCA Rivers and Estuaries Branch to implement local Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIP). Furthermore, SERCUL, with collaboration from DBCA, also undertakes surface water, groundwater, and sediment sampling at up to three sites that form part of the River Health Improvement Program (RHIP) (formerly the Drainage Nutrient Intervention Program - DNIP). This program is funded through DBCA Rivers and Estuaries Branch as part of the Healthy Catchments Program, whose aim is to reduce nutrients and contaminants entering the Swan and Canning Rivers.

SERCUL also undertakes independent water quality monitoring programs for several local governments in areas where water quality is of particular local interest.

*This program is funded by the Cities of South Perth, Bayswater, Kalamunda, Belmont, Kwinana and Swan; Towns of Claremont and Cambridge; Whiteman Park (DPLH) and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - Rivers and Estuaries Branch (DBCA).*

### OUTCOMES:

DBCA/LGA Water Quality Partnership Programs:

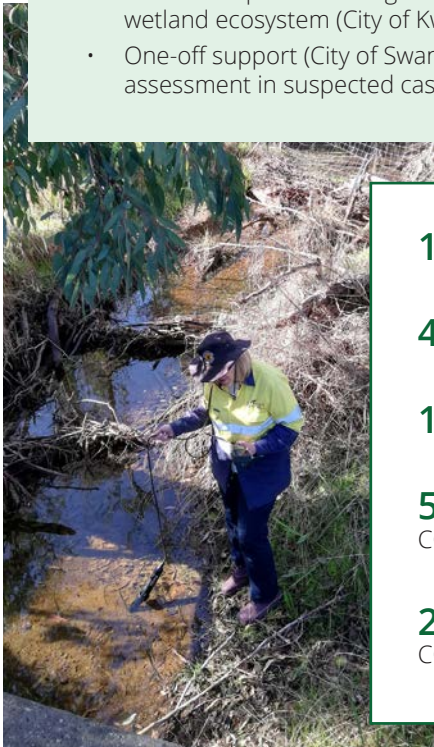
- City of South Perth catchments (City of South Perth);
- Bennett Brook catchment (City of Swan, City of Bayswater and Whiteman Park);

River Health Improvement Program/Healthy Rivers:

- Undertaking surface water, groundwater and sediment monitoring at three RHIP (DBCA) projects: Anvil Way Compensation Basin, Liege Street Wetland and Wharf Street Constructed Wetland.

Independent water quality monitoring programs for LGAs:

- Ongoing sampling at Cygnia Cove Estate and constructed wetlands at McDougall Park (City of South Perth);
- Ongoing sampling at Lake Claremont (Town of Claremont).
- City of Kalamunda ongoing twice yearly sampling.
- City of Belmont monthly sampling.
- Lake Monger (Galup) and Perry Lakes water quality sampling (Town of Cambridge)
- Assessment of the Tumulus Springs wetland at Cordata Reserve as part of management of a threatened wetland ecosystem (City of Kwinana).
- One-off support (City of Swan) re; water quality assessment in suspected case of botulism.



Gun Dolva, SERCUL Ecologist water sampling

**10** PROJECTS

**46** SAMPLING EVENTS

**120+** SAMPLE SITES

**560** WATER SAMPLES COLLECTED/LOGGED

**25** SEDIMENT SAMPLES COLLECTED



## MONITORING AND RESEARCH

# HORLEY ROAD WETLAND

## BIOMONITORING PROJECT

COORDINATED BY: Dr Rose Weerasinghe

Systematic bio-monitoring and rehabilitation at the wetland has been conducted by SERCUL and volunteers on an in-kind basis since 2016. The aims of this project are to track and record ecological changes that may be occurring in the wetland as a result of wetland rehabilitation and to collect ecological data that will contribute to a better understanding of mosquito breeding in relation to other ecological factors in this system and similar systems.

The information obtained from this project can be used to assist wetland managers with restoration activities, and for managing wetland mosquito populations for human health and environmental purposes.

*This project is supported by SERCUL In-kind.*

### OUTCOMES:

- Continued rehabilitation and investigations;
- Native vegetation cover increased by natural regeneration from seed bank, in run off basin and the wetland;
- Increased frog breeding, bird sightings, diversity and abundances of macroinvertebrates, and decrease in mosquito breeding in runoff basin and the wetland;
- The wetland provided opportunity for University and TAFE students to participate and learn skills relevant to wetland rehabilitation, ecological monitoring, and analysis;
- Wetland provided in situ learning opportunities for school students to embrace wetland education and
- Provided macroinvertebrates for SERCUL's educational programs: school incursions/excursions and community workshops.

### EVENTS:

- Wetland Education and Rehabilitation Field Day: 22 Participants-Conservation and Ecosystem Management students, Joondalup campus, North Metropolitan TAFE.

### PRESENTATIONS TO SHARE HORLEY ROAD WETLAND PROJECT KNOWLEDGE:

- Presentations at WA Wetland Conference - Connecting with nature to improve management of wetlands- Case study -Horley Road Wetland
- Presentation at Catchment Officers Support Network (COSN) meeting - Habitat Rehabilitation and Mosquito Management in TEC saltmarshes and freshwater wetlands- case studies: Adenia saltmarsh and Horley Road Wetland.

**20** VOLUNTEERS

**144** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$7200** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



*Teaching TAFE students at Horley Road Wetland*



*Horley Road Wetland full of water*



## MONITORING AND RESEARCH

# ADENIA SALTMARSH RESEARCH AND RESTORATION AT THE CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK

COORDINATED BY: Dr Rose Weerasinghe and Matt Grimbley

The Canning River Regional Park (CRRP) contains one of the few remaining areas of estuarine saltmarsh vegetation in the Swan-Canning River system. The Adenia saltmarshes are located in the CRRP. They are representatives of temperate saltmarshes which are recognised nationally as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). Saltmarsh vegetation complexes are also listed as a Priority III Ecological Community in Western Australia. Saltmarshes, such as these, are critical blue carbon sinks, because they remove carbon from the atmosphere at a higher rate than tropical forests. When these habitats are degraded, an enormous amount of carbon can therefore be emitted back into the atmosphere.

The project aims were to learn saltmarsh ecology, rehabilitation techniques, enhance the quality of this TEC and to help mitigate climate change by increasing carbon sequestration services by saltmarsh plants and ecosystems which name as one of the important blue carbon systems.

*These projects are funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Community Rivercare Grants.*

**PROJECT 1.**  
**Improving water quality, habitats, and bank stability by restoring degraded Canning River riparian zone in Ferndale - Threatened Ecological Community, Temperate Saltmarsh.**

The rehabilitation activities undertaken in 2.23ha, at this site meet most of the biodiversity and ecosystem enhancement of TEC protection and City of Canning priority area management requirements through removing threats and collecting necessary scientific information for future management.

**PROJECT 2.**  
**Enhancing water quality, blue carbon habitats and bank stability by restoring degraded Canning River tidal flats in Adenia - Threatened Ecological Community, Temperate Saltmarsh.**

The restoration activities undertaken in 0.9ha, at this site meet all objectives of the Rivercare program being the improved habitat for native fauna, foreshore condition and water quality, and to prevent erosion along the waterways in the Swan Canning Catchment.



*Ferndale project area - after couch control*



*Ferndale saltmarsh-natural regeneration after weed control*



## MONITORING AND RESEARCH

# ADENIA SALTMARSH RESEARCH AND RESTORATION AT THE CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK *CONTINUED*

### OVERALL OUTCOMES:

- Completed vegetation survey in project areas: 2.23ha estuarine saltmarsh in Ferndale and 0.9ha in Adenia tidal flats of Canning River Regional Park;
- Collected baseline ecological data in Ferndale and Adenia management areas;
- Removed aggressive weeds: salt water couch, *Paspalum vaginatum* and other weeds in project areas;
- Propagated provenance halophyte species and
- Reduced mosquito breeding habitats.

### EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Saltmarsh Rehabilitation and Education Field Day: 22 Participants - Conservation and Ecosystem Management students, Joondalup campus, North Metropolitan TAFE.
- Presentation at Catchment Officers Support Network (COSN) meeting - Habitat Rehabilitation and Mosquito Management in TEC saltmarshes, Canning River Regional Park
- Field presentations at Ferndale and Adenia Saltmarsh for Environmental Engineering Research students, Curtin University - Importance of tides to maintain TEC saltmarshes to continue Blue Carbon services to mitigate climate change.

**3** EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

**3.13 HA** WEED MANAGEMENT

**2245** PROVENANCE HALOPHYTES PROPAGATED

**27** VOLUNTEERS

**233** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$11 650** VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING



Ferndale tidal flats



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

MANAGED BY: Matt Grimby and Odin Yorke

This financial year has seen SERCUL deliver many weed control, bushland maintenance, revegetation and erosion control projects for a wide range of clients.

We have installed 855,000 seedlings including urban revegetation and large scale wheatbelt revegetation projects.

We have completed over 1500 hectares of weed control in sensitive bushland and aquatic environments, helping to maintain biodiversity and protect our precious natural areas from the threat of weeds.

Our skilled team of Field Technicians has grown to 28 staff who are passionate about the protection and rehabilitation of our unique landscapes.

### CLIENTS INCLUDED:

- Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group
- Bannister Creek Catchment Group
- Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
- City of Armadale
- City of Cockburn
- City of Canning
- City of Fremantle
- City of Gosnells
- City of Melville
- City of Nedlands
- Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Doral
- DPIRD
- Friends of Clontarf Hill
- Friends of The Spectacles
- Insite Landscapes
- Murdoch University
- Murdoch University Environmental Restoration Group
- Nativ Carbon
- Perth NRM
- Serpentine Jarrahdale Landcare
- SUEZ
- Trillion Trees



*Environmental Services Team*





## NEW PROJECTS COMMENCING 2024-25

### CLEANING UP THE CANNING PROJECT

The Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program has committed \$10 million over four financial years to better protect and preserve the Canning (Djarlgarro Beelie), Southern and Wungong Rivers through the Cleaning Up the Canning Project.

SERCUL will work with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), the Cities of Canning, Gosnells, and Armadale, the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group (AGLG) and the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation to support the delivery of ten Cleaning Up the Canning restoration and drainage retrofit projects commencing in the 2024/25 financial year. SERCUL will deliver two of these key projects.

#### PROJECT 1 - CANNING RIVER TIDAL FLATS WEED CONTROL AND REVEGETATION PROJECT

This project will receive \$234,700 over four years to protect the Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) near Kent St Weir and Adenia Reserve within the Canning River Regional Park. Weed control and revegetation will improve the TEC's condition and integrity, promote tidal connectivity, ensure bank stabilisation, improve habitat and water quality, and promote blue carbon storage. SERCUL Ecologist Dr Rose Weerasinghe will coordinate this project with support from the Cleaning Up the Canning Coordinator, Roweena Hart (SERCUL).

#### PROJECT 2 - CANNING, SOUTHERN & WUNGONG RIVERS WEED CONTROL & REVEGETATION

This project will receive \$383,000 over four years to improve vegetation condition across the Canning, Southern and Wungong Rivers. This cross-tenure project offers a unique opportunity to target weed control in priority areas determined through collaboration between the Cities of Canning, Gosnells, and Armadale, the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group (AGLG) and the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation. The project will focus on mapping and removing target aquatic weeds from the Canning, Southern and Wungong Rivers and their major tributaries. Approximately 1.5 hectares of terrestrial weeds will also be removed from priority areas and consolidated through revegetation over the project. SERCUL's Environmental Services Manager, Matt Grimby and the Cleaning Up the Canning Coordinator, Roweena Hart (SERCUL) will coordinate this project.

### CHAMPIONING COMMUNITY LANDCARE IN PERTH'S URBAN BUSHLANDS

(STATE NRM CSGL23001, 3 YEAR PROJECT)

Commencing in July 2024 this sponsorship project provides \$59.9k in Yr1 towards:

- Friends of Jandakot RP – Acourt: plant stocks and weed control contractors
- Friends of Jandakot RP – Harrisdale Swamp: plant stocks and weed control contractors
- Friends of Paganoni Swamp: weed control and feral animal control
- Friends of Samson Park: revegetation plant stocks and bird watering station.

### COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RESTORATION OF THE NORTH-EAST BEELIAR WETLANDS REGION

(STATE NRM CSGL23002, 3 YEAR PROJECT)

Commencing in July 2024, this project will provide \$112.8k support in Yr1 to the following groups:

- Friends of Booragoon and Blue Gum Lakes: weed control and revegetation
- Friends of Gabbiljee: weed control and revegetation
- Friends of North Lake: weed control and revegetation
- Murdoch Environmental Restoration Group: weed control, revegetation and dieback treatment.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANK YOU

The achievements of the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare's project delivery are due to the financial and in-kind contributions from Federal, State and Local Governments and income generated by SERCUL's Environmental Services team through its contract work. We sincerely thank all our partners and the local community across the South Region for their continuing support which has allowed us to achieve the outcomes highlighted in this report.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work alongside our project and industry partners, government agencies, local government, Aboriginal organisations, community groups and volunteers in the delivery of natural resource management and landcare in the South Region. We share our achievements with this positive and supporting network.

As we commence the 2024–25 financial year, we look forward to continuing to work together to achieve many more positive environmental outcomes for the South Region.

## FUNDING BODIES AND PARTNERS





# SERCUL

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