



## Annual Report for 2021

### Summary

Despite some interruptions due to covid-19 the Wetlands Conservation Society continued to maintain a high level of activity in 2021. There was some progress on several long standing objectives of the WCS and the outlook for 2022 is promising.

### Highlights

- The 17th Wetlands Management Conference was held at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on 15/16 March 2021 and was attended by 200 delegates. It was deferred from World Wetlands Day because of the covid lockdown.
- Revegetation work continued on the land damaged by the previous Government for the Roe Highway extension (Roe 8).
- The City of Cockburn completed the extensions to the wetlands precinct at Bibra Lake and a celebration was held on site on Saturday 28 August to mark the handover.
- The State Government succeeded in passing its legislation to remove the Roe 8 reserve from the MRS and the land was rezoned Parks and Recreation.
- During the State Election campaign the Government promised \$3 million for infrastructure in the North and Bibra Lake reserves.
- The WAPC completed the acquisition of the remaining private lots in the Anstey-Kearr reserve in Forrestdale.
- The WAPC released the long awaited draft State Planning Policy 2.9 Planning for Water and this was available for public review.
- The WCS received a grant of \$9200 from the Feilman Foundation to fund the design and production of two booklets, one on Bushwalks in the Beeliar Regional Par and the other on Experiencing Perth's Biodiversity.

### Disappointments

- The State Government failed to complete any new Ramsar nominations and the updated State Wetlands Conservation Policy was not released.
- The WA Planning Commission has deferred the release of the draft wetland buffer guidelines until after the SPP2.9 is finalised.
- The State Government appears to have abandoned the Strategic Assessment of the biodiversity and land use in the Perth and Peel Regions that was commenced by the previous government.

## Activities

Amongst the many activities that members were involved in this year were:

- The Beeliar and Jandakot Regional Park Community Advisory Committees.
- The Jandakot Groundwater Community Advisory Committee, the Roe 8 Rehabilitation Committee, Rethink the Link and the Bibra Lake Wetlands Precinct Committee.
- The Wetlands Coordinating Committee, the Australian Wetlands Network and the TEC19 and TEC33 Recovery Plan Committee.
- The WCS assisted with the planning and running of the 17th Wetlands Management Conference held at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on 15/16 March 2021.
- One General meeting and three Committee Meetings were held.
- Submissions were made on the native vegetation strategy, the draft SPP2.9 Planning for Water, the Alfred Cove and Attadale Foreshore Master Plan, the proposed limestone quarry within the Yalgorup National Park, the proposed clearing of remnant vegetation adjacent to Lake Yangebup, cat control in regional parks.
- An excursion was held to Harrisdale Swamp on 26 September 2021.
- Work continued, in collaboration with the City of Cockburn on the upgrading of the Woodland to Wetland Trail at Bibra Lake.
- The WCS supported the Friends of Southbank with their conservation project at Bibra Lake.

## Ongoing Issues

Some of the unfinished business that the Society will be working on in 2021 includes:

- Updating of the State Wetlands Conservation Policy
- Further Ramsar nominations of WA wetlands (Lake McLeod, tributaries of the lower Blackwood, Fortescue Marsh, Lake Carnegie, Greater Brixton Street Wetlands)
- Proposals to expand the Regional Parks System (Lower Serpentine, Gngangara, Peel and Yule Brook)
- Completion of the wetland buffer guidelines
- Planning for the new harbour in Cockburn Sound
- Implementation of the Beeliar Regional Park Management Plan
- Further revegetation work at North and Bibra Lakes

## Acknowledgements

- I would like to thank all members for their support last year. It was a difficult year, but we maintained a high level of activity due to a good team effort.
- The Committee Members for 2021 were Philip Jennings (President), Robyn Pickering (Vice President), Felicity Bairstow (Secretary), Rex Sallur (Treasurer), David James, Jeff Mengler, Mark Hutchison.

Philip Jennings  
President  
April 2022