



March 2016

WESROC call for community to help protect native animals

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) is reminding residents to report fox sightings and to ensure they register their dogs and cats with their local Council.

WESROC engaged Greening Australia to conduct a feral animal monitoring and control study in November 2015.

Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said, "The study area covered a total area of 6,332 ha largely composed of residential development with small fragments of remnant and revegetated bushland. The study was undertaken to specifically identify areas inhabited by the red fox and rabbits to prioritise a separate feral control program in 2016."

Motion sensor cameras identified both species at 38 sites within the study area during November and December 2015. Cats were also found to be a significant problem with 73 sightings during the study, of which only three had collars.

Mayor Hipkins said, "The *Cat Act 2011* requires all cats that have reached six months of age to be microchipped, sterilised and registered with the relevant local government. Cats must wear a collar and registration tag to ensure they can be easily identified and returned to their owner if they become lost."

The City of Nedlands is hosting an online feral animal observation sheet on behalf of WESROC where the community can directly report any sightings.

Dr Vincent Cusack, WESROC Project Officer coordinating the study said, "Only one community member reported a fox sighting online in November but with the recent media focus we are hopeful that the community will help us protect our native animals by using the online reporting sheet."

Foxes usually sleep during the day and are mainly active at night preying on ground-nesting birds, quendas, long-neck turtles, lizards, rabbits and suburban chickens to name a few.

Foxes were confirmed at 10 sites across the study area and were recorded via motion camera on five occasions. There are foxes at Kings Park, Bold Park, Peasholm Dog Beach, City Beach, Wembley Golf Course, North Swanbourne Reserve, Swanbourne Beach, Point Resolution, Lake Claremont and Buckland Hill.

Coordinated rabbit control will occur in April and a detailed report by Greening Australia is anticipated in May 2016.

The report will provide a better understanding of the distribution and relative abundance of foxes, cats and rabbits in the western suburbs and guide future feral animal management.

To report sightings online, see: <http://www.nedlands.wa.gov.au/wesroc>
[See over]



About WESROC

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) comprising the Towns of Claremont, and Cottesloe, the Shire of Peppermint Grove, the Cities of Nedlands and Subiaco with the Town of Cambridge work on a voluntary partnership on cross-boundary regional projects.

About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

For further information please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500