



31 March 2017

Protecting our coast and rivers: being climate smart

The need to protect our coast and rivers now and into the future – as a result of urbanisation and adapting to climate change – was the main message highlighted at a community event in the Grove Library last month.

About 60 people attended the Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) event “Protecting our coast and rivers”.

Peppermint Grove Shire President Rachel Thomas told the community and presenters: “The aim of WESROC’s climate smart project is to highlight the need for us all to prepare for, and adapt to, Perth’s changing climatic conditions”.

Coastal engineer and geomorphologist Tanya Stul provided a summary overview of WESROC’s river foreshore management plan, developed by Seashore Engineering for western suburbs river councils.

Using a vulnerability framework over three timeframes:

- A one to five-year period considers the present state of the foreshore focusing on the risk mitigation of acute events.
- A medium five to 25-year period looks at planning, identifying trends and developing management options.
- For more than 25 years, an adaptation strategy considers different scenarios with the aim of improving foreshore resilience, taking into account predicted sea level rises.

Department of Parks and Wildlife river systems manager Mark Cugley presented on key pressures and challenges involved in managing the Swan Canning Riverpark.

Some of the pressures include excess nutrients, algal blooms and fish deaths, shoreline setbacks, loss of vegetation development and recreation and reduced rainfall and stream flow.

DPaW’s Healthy Catchments Program aims to reduce nutrients in priority catchments, fund on-ground restoration work by the community and phase out highly water-soluble phosphate fertilisers.

Coastal adaptation coordinator Craig Perry provided an overview of the collaboration with the Peron Naturaliste Partnership, as well as the methodologies and outcome to date of the partnership’s award-winning coastal adaptation project.

Cardno coastal and ocean engineer Daniel Strickland presented on the long-term monitoring of Cottesloe’s beaches, highlighting the importance of coastal monitoring with local data serving as invaluable information in improving local knowledge of the area for the future.

GHD senior planners Colleen Thompson and Rachel Marie concluded with a presentation on the Port, Leighton and Mosman Beach Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP).

The CHRMAP process involved extensive consultation with the community, emphasising the importance of community feedback in informing priorities and recommendations when managing coastal hazards.

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About WESROC

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC), comprising the Towns of Claremont, Cottesloe and Mosman Park, Shire of Peppermint Grove and Cities of Nedlands and Subiaco with the Town of Cambridge, works 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 more than 21,000 lives in the suburbs Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

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