



Environmental Protection Authority



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Strategic Advice – Dawesville to Binningup

The coastal strip between Dawesville and Binningup has important international, national and regional environmental values. There are increasing development and land use expectations for the area. This presents a unique set of planning and environmental challenges. The EPA considers that a strategic approach that takes account of both the environmental and planning issues needs to be developed for this area.

The EPA is undertaking a review to clarify the environmental values of the region and the state of current knowledge and scientific data about these values. This information is necessary to identify additional areas of conservation significance, and areas that may have potential for development and land use that are compatible with the environmental values. This review will result in strategic advice from the EPA to guide future directions for both environmental protection and planning for development in the area.

Study boundary

The study area is located within the City of Mandurah, Shire of Waroona and Shire of Harvey. The study area is largely bound by Tim's Thicket Road in the north, the Old Coast Road in the east, Buffalo Road to the south and the coastline (A map of the study area is in attachment 1).

Issues

Environmental values in the area include the Yalgorup National Park, the only coastal national park between Lancelin and Bunbury. The park surrounds the Yalgorup Lakes system that is recognised as a 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention, as well as being important for protecting migratory birds under several international agreements.

The Yalgorup Lakes system is one of only a few places where living rock-like structures known as thrombolites occur. These thrombolites, listed by the State as a 'critically endangered' threatened ecological community, face an extremely high risk of total loss in the immediate future.

The study area also contains other important wetlands, native fauna, vegetation and flora many of which are protected under State and Commonwealth environmental legislation. Examples of these include; Conservation Category Wetlands, the Baudin's Black Cockatoo and the iconic tuart trees. It also contains valuable links between different types of habitats.



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Other matters requiring consideration are the coastal landforms and landscape values, hydrology and hydrogeology, geoheritage, limestone karst systems, acid sulfate soils, and the impacts of climate change and the resultant potential for a rise in sea levels.

The EPA's review will consider the land use pressures from both existing and proposed developments, the supply of basic raw materials, agriculture, tourism, fire management and the provision of infrastructure and services.

While the review is under way, the EPA will, as required under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, continue to consider proposed developments on an individual basis. However, the significant values of the area will be considered in any proposals or scheme amendments put forward. Where the EPA considers a significant risk to these environmental values results from proposals/scheme amendments in this area, they will either be formally assessed or considered environmentally unacceptable.

Informing the Review

The EPA is aware of existing information that outlines some of these environmental values, identifies potential threats and provides guiding policy to inform decision makers, development proponents, Government and the community. Examples of these include; the EPA's *Guidance Statement No. 28 Protection of the Lake Clifton Catchment* (1998), the Western Australian Planning Commission's *Coastal and Lakelands Planning Strategy (Dawesville – Binningup)* (1999) and the *Ecological Character Description for the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site, Report to the Department of Environment and Conservation and Peel-Harvey Catchment Council* (2007).

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is currently co-coordinating a series of environmental studies within the area. These studies address vegetation and flora, fauna, hydrology, geoheritage and coastal landform. They are being undertaken in partnership with the Western Australian Planning Commission, the Department for Planning and Infrastructure EnviroPlanning, DEC SwanBioplan and the South West Catchment Council.

The EPA will consider the results of these, and previous studies, along with other planning and policy documents in formulating its advice. The EPA will also conduct its own research, including consultation with various government and non-government organisations, industry and community representatives.

The EPA is expecting its advice to the Minister for Environment to be released in December 2009. The advice will also be publically available so it may be considered by the general community, industry, Commonwealth, State and Local Government, and other stakeholders.



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Call for information

The EPA invites people to provide any scientific or other environmental information relevant to the study area to assist the EPA in the formulation of its strategic advice.

Information can be provided:

- by email to kathryn.schell@dec.wa.gov.au; or
- posted to Chairman, Environmental Protection Authority, Locked Bag 33, CLOISTERS SQUARE WA 6850, Attention: Kathryn Schell; or
- delivered to the Environmental Protection Authority, Level 4, The Atrium, 168 St Georges Terrace, Perth, Attention: Kathryn Schell; or
- faxed to (08) 6467 5562.

Information should be provided by 8 June 2009.

Further information is available from EPA assessment officer, Kathryn Schell on 6467 5426.



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ATTACHMENT 1 – Study Boundary

