



Behaviour Change for Natural Diversity Project



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Australian Government



swan catchment
council



GOVERNMENT OF
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There are many natural areas set aside to conserve the unique flora and fauna in the Perth Metropolitan Region, a region that is part of Australia's only internationally recognized hotspot for biodiversity conservation. Local governments manage many of these natural areas, often addressing management problems resulting from human behavior.

The *Local Nature Spot Project* or *Behaviour Change for Natural Diversity* was designed to address some of the natural area management issues associated with community attitudes and behaviour that can be threatening to the conservation values of these areas.

Management issues commonly affecting local nature reserves, addressed by the Local Nature Spot Project include: garden waste dumping; household rubbish and building material dumping; vandalism; arson; littering; horse-riding; use of informal tracks/trampling; motor-bike riding/unauthorised access; weeds and a poor response to previous efforts for community involvement in bushcare. Six common gaps in understanding/awareness assumed to be linked to the above management issues were addressed through this project:

1. Lack of understanding that local nature reserves provide habitat to fauna
2. Lack of understanding that urban bushland requires management
3. Lack of understanding of local flora and fauna
4. Lack of understanding of impacts caused by altered fire regimes
5. Need to keep to the paths
6. Impacts of inappropriate disposal of garden waste

The aim of the *Local Nature Spot Project* or *Behaviour Change for Natural Diversity* was to develop a methodology that would assist natural area managers in designing strategies to increase the appreciation of local natural areas by local community and increase their involvement and support for management of public natural areas in their neighbourhoods.

The project was run by the WA Local Government Association's Perth Biodiversity Project, with funding from Natural Heritage Trust through the Swan Catchment Council in partnership with five local governments:

- [City of Armadale](#)
- [Town of Cambridge](#)
- [City of Canning](#)
- [City of Swan](#)
- [City of Wanneroo](#).

Each local government chose 3 Local Nature Spot sites to be included in the pilot project. **Click on the above-listed local governments for more information about the Local Nature Spot sites.**



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