



NAMN Forum: Habitat Creation and Wildlife Corridors

Date: Tuesday, 2 May
Time: 9:30am – 1:00pm (Registration from 9:00am)
Venue: WALGA Boardroom, ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville
Cost: \$66.00 (Incl GST)

ABOUT THE FORUM

Please join us for this fantastic opportunity to hear from organisations and land managers undertaking projects to create green spaces in the urban environment and assist wildlife move through the landscape. Speakers for the day include representatives from the WA Biodiversity Science Institute, UWA, Perth NRM, DPaW, the Water Corporation and the City of Perth.

The event will include the opportunity for Q&A with each presenter, and the morning tea and lunch break will provide opportunities for attendees to meet and network with others in their field.

PROGRAM

- 9.00am** **Registration**
- 9.30am** **Welcome and Introduction**
Melanie Davies, Biodiversity and Sustainability Project Officer, WALGA
- 9.35am** **Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute: Shaping research priorities to enhance biodiversity outcomes from urban habitat creation**
Dr Guy Boggs, Restoration Node Leader, WA Biodiversity Science Institute
- 10.00am** **Bridging the Gap: Crossing structures facilitate the safe passage of fauna across roads**
Roberta Bencini, Associate Professor, UWA School of Agriculture and Environment
- 10.25am** **Habitat creation at Point Fraser to enhance biodiversity in an inner city location**
Shelley Smith, Environmental Officer Parks, City of Perth
- 10.50am** **Morning tea**
- 11.15am** **Living Landscapes Project and the creation of wildlife corridors**
Toni Burbidge, Environment Program Manager, Perth NRM
- 11.40am** **Drainage for Liveability Program: Creating green open spaces in the urban environment**
Suzanne Brown, Manager Drainage and Liveable Communities, Water Corporation
- 12.05pm** **Habitat and nest box requirements of WA's endangered Black cockatoos**
Rick Dawson, Senior Wildlife Officer, Department of Parks and Wildlife
- 12.30pm** **Lunch and Close**

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Dr Guy Boggs, Restoration Node Leader, Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute, (WABSI) will discuss some of the key research activity being undertaken by WABSI partners in urban restoration research and will introduce some of the research priorities being identified through consultation with industry and research partners. Given WA's location in the globally recognised south west biodiversity hot spot and the challenges from urban expansion, Guy will discuss why it is vital that we effectively facilitate shared learning and adaptive management models in urban habitat creation. Guy will also focus on the importance of integrating learnings into decision making processes to ensure habitat creation leads to optimal biodiversity outcomes.

Roberta Bencini, Associate Professor, UWA School of Agriculture and Environment, will discuss research that investigated the use of crossing structures for terrestrial and arboreal fauna. Case studies will include how western ringtail possums are successfully using a rope suspension bridge installed near Busselton, how kangaroos use a large fauna underpass built under Mandjoogordap Drive to move within their home ranges, factors that facilitate the movement of quendas and bobtail skinks in a series of underpasses along the Kwinana Freeway and Forrest Highway, and how woylies are using underpasses that reconnect fenced reserves at Whiteman Park. Roberta will conclude with remarks on what still needs to be done to clarify the conservation significance of crossing structures for native fauna.

Shelley Smith, Environment Officer Parks, City of Perth, will discuss how the City of Perth converted an underutilised area of turf at Point Fraser to a 'functional' landscape. In 2003, the area was developed to include a stormwater treatment wetland, riverbank vegetation and a series of infiltration swales. Shelley will outline the maintenance requirements over time and results of a five year program by Edith Cowan University that monitored the increase in biodiversity following the creation of habitat. Shelly will also outline a new Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Study the City of Perth are undertaking, which will help better manage key areas of habitat.

Toni Burbidge, Environment Program Manager, Perth NRM, will discuss the Living Landscapes Project, delivered under the National Landcare Program, which protects and enhances threatened species and ecological communities in the Swan Region. Toni will focus on two Living Landscape Projects; enhancing regionally significant remnant vegetation along the Perth Hills heritage trail, and creating habitat corridors in the Ellenbrook to Walyunga threatened biodiversity landscape linkage project. Toni will outline the on-ground works that partner organisations are implementing in these areas and the management of unexpected challenges along the way.

Suzanne Brown, Manager Drainage and Liveable Communities, Water Corporation, will provide an overview of the Drainage for Liveability program, launched in August 2016. A collaboration between the Water Corporation, the Department of Water and local government authorities, the program invites local authorities to identify Water Corporation drains and basins that may have potential for biodiversity enhancement. Suzanne will provide case studies of projects implemented, and innovative ideas such as the creation of living streams and wildlife corridors.

Rick Dawson, Senior Wildlife Officer, Department of Parks and Wildlife, has recently completed five years of research that monitored the use of natural and constructed breeding hollows for Carnaby and Forest Red-Tailed Black Cockatoos. Rick will report on the outcomes of the study, including suitable locations and site considerations for the greatest chance of successful use of constructed nesting hollows.