

WALGA Workshop: Prioritisation of Natural Areas for Management



Date: Tuesday, 11 December 2018
Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm (Registration from 9:30am)
Venue: Canning River Eco Education Centre
Corner Kent Street and Queens Park Road, Wilson

FORUM OVERVIEW

Please join us to hear about effective bushland management practices, and explore opportunities for improved project planning and monitoring of natural areas in Local Government.

A workshop session will be held as part of the day to help WALGA target its assistance to Local Governments in managing their natural areas.

PROGRAM

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| 10:00am | Welcome
<i>Melanie Davies, Biodiversity and Sustainability Project Officer, WALGA</i> |
| 10:05am | A review of the capabilities and limitations of existing reserve management tools
<i>Renata Zelinova, EPT Business Development Officer, WALGA</i> |
| 10:30am | Prioritising reserves for management investment and potential improvements
<i>Linda Metz, Roe 8 Rehabilitation Project Manager, City of Cockburn</i> |
| 10:55am | Tools and factors used to prioritise reserves for pathogen management
<i>Heidi Khojasteh, Senior Environmental Project Officer, City of Joondalup</i> |
| 11:10am | Using modern technology in baseline weed mapping and restoration actions
<i>Jo Taylor, Senior Conservation Officer Natural areas, City of Stirling;</i>
<i>Murray Woods, Environmental Officer Natural Areas, City of Stirling</i> |
| 11:35pm | Black-Cockatoo roost sites: how to identify and protect them
<i>Adam Peck, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Project Coordinator, BirdLife Australia</i> |
| 11:45am | Lunch |
| 12:20pm | Outlining the case for improved biodiversity data aggregation to improve on-ground outcomes for management
<i>Dr Bruce Webber, Program Director, Ecosystem Processes and Threat Mitigation, WABSI</i> |
| 12:45pm | Sharing plant disease information for better biodiversity and community outcomes using the Dieback Information Delivery Management System (DIDMS)
<i>Tilo Massenbauer, Dieback Spatial Information Officer, South Coast NRM</i> |
| 1:15pm | Workshop |
| 2:00pm | Close of Workshop |

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW



Renata Zelinova, Environmental Planning Tool Business Development Officer, WALGA, will set the context and outline the questions participants are asked to consider over the course of the day in preparation for the afternoon's workshop component. WALGA wishes to assist the sector with the tools and processes required for improved reserve management planning and monitoring. Renata will outline the capabilities and limitations of WALGA's Environmental Planning Tool and the Natural Area Initial Assessment process, with the view to further develop and improve each based on land managers needs.

Linda Metz, Roe 8 Rehabilitation Project Manager, City of Cockburn, will discuss how the city has been using the Natural Area Initial Assessment (NAIA) templates over the last ten years to assist with prioritising reserves. The assessment process allows for an effective means to allocate management resources and levels of activity. It also informs staff resource allocations as well as being a valuable way of identifying threats and assets within the City's reserves and their changes over time. This presentation will focus on how the NAIA template is applied and potential areas of improvement in its application.

Heidi Khojasteh, Senior Environmental Project Officer, City of Joondalup, will discuss the process undertaken to prioritise reserves for the management of pathogens, including what tools were used and the different variables considered to develop priority rankings. Heidi will demonstrate how all reserves in the City were prioritised and how multispectral aerial imagery and mapping were used to determine specific locations for on-ground sampling and treatment. Chosen variables, such as the presence of irrigation and priority flora formed part of the matrix used to rank reserves for sampling and treatment. Since the baseline assessment, the City has monitored pathogen activity in priority reserves to inform ongoing management and Heidi will outline the learnings from this.

Jo Taylor, Senior Conservation Officer Natural areas and Murray Woods, Environmental Officer Natural Areas, City of Stirling, will discuss the city's journey so far integrating quantitative bushland analysis into the NRM decision making process. Jo and Murray will outline the methods trialled and lessons learnt, together with the opportunities going forward. They will discuss the development of a functional geographic information system (GIS), and its use in identifying priority weed species for treatment within individual reserves. Jo and Murray will also outline a trial that measured the ecological and economic effectiveness of restoration actions to determine value for investment. However, technology is only part of the solution, and community involvement, collaboration and information sharing amongst local governments are all necessary inputs in decision making across the reserves the city manages.

Adam Peck, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Project Coordinator, BirdLife Australia, will discuss how Birdlife Australia has a database of over 800 Black-Cockatoo night roost sites throughout the southwest of Western Australia. Adam will outline how to access this database, with the goal of considering and protecting critical habitat for these threatened species as part of the reserve management process.



Dr Bruce Webber, Program Director, Ecosystem Processes and Threat Mitigation, the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI), will discuss insights into the benefits of information sharing via data aggregation for more efficient natural resource management. Bruce will present a case study on an aggregated weed database for the Pilbara, as well as provide an update on WABSI-led initiatives for improved biodiversity data sharing in Western Australia. Bruce will also discuss the benefits of collaboration on program delivery amongst government, community groups and private landholders for more effective on-ground management of threats.

Tilo Massenbauer, Dieback Spatial Information Officer, South Coast NRM, will discuss protocols for the collection dieback information, and how land managers can use the Dieback Information Delivery Management System (DIDMS) to inform operational decisions for reserve management. Tilo will provide a live demonstration of DIDMS, including how to view and understand the data, as well as add data and create maps.