



Annual Report for 2025

Summary

2025 was an excellent year for the Wetlands Conservation Society. We made considerable progress on many of our priority issues and the Society increased its membership numbers and the scope of its activities. We recruited many new members of the Walliabup Wildlife Warriors who are active in wildlife conservation especially in the Beelihar wetlands.

Highlights

- State Planning Policy 2.9 on Water Resources was released in December 2025 after many years in preparation. This will provide integrated, contemporary advice to planners about developments affecting wetlands, rivers and groundwater.
- The proposed mining plan for Lake Disappointment was abandoned after the Minister set strong conditions on the project to protect the wildlife.
- A draft Management Plan for the Fortescue Marsh was released for public comment. This plan is a potential prerequisite for a Ramsar nomination.
- A 340-page book about the Anstey-Keane Dampland was launched at the Wetlands Conference in February 2025. The book was prepared by WCS members Bryony Fremlin and David James and published by the WCS with financial support from the Feilman Foundation. The book proved to be very popular and quickly sold out.
- The Walliabup Wildlife Warriors obtained a grant of \$12,000 from the State Government to purchase cameras for fox monitoring at Bibra Lake.
- The State Government allocated \$3 million to DBCA for an improvement plan for North Lake and initial work commenced.
- The City of Melville allocated \$2 million to an improvement plan for the lowlands area at Goolagatup (Heathcote) which will include restoration of the original wetland.
- More than thirty new members joined the WCS during 2025, including more than 20 members of the Walliabup Wildlife Warriors.

Disappointments

- More than 100 snake-necked turtles were predated by foxes at Bibra Lake over the 2024/2025 summer as the lake dried out.
- The State Government failed to progress the water supplementation plans for Bibra Lake and Lake Forrestdale.

Wetlands Conservation Society Inc. ABN 92 833 482 446

Email: wetlands.conservation.society@gmail.com

Web site: <https://wetlandswa.org.au>

- The Polyphagus Shothole Borer was found in exotic trees at North Lake and Melaleuca Swamp. These trees were removed by DPIRD contractors.
- A severe fire in the Brixton Street wetlands devastated the biologically unique Alison Beard Reserve.

Activities

Amongst the many activities that members were involved in this year were:

- The Beeliar and Jandakot Regional Park Community Advisory Committees.
- The Jandakot Groundwater Community Advisory Committee; the Roe 8 Rehabilitation Committee; the Westport Terrestrial Impacts Advisory Committee; the Wetlands Coordinating Committee; the Australian Wetlands Network; and the TEC19 and TEC33 Recovery Plan Committees.
- The WCS assisted with the planning and running of the 21st Wetlands Management Conference held at the Wetlands Centre Cockburn on 2-3 February 2025.
- One General meeting and three Committee Meetings were held.
- Our Vice-President, Robyn Pickering, maintained our web site and uploaded relevant images and documents. This site is located at <https://wetlandswa.org.au/>. It has been very popular and has helped to spread our message to the wider community.
- Submissions were made on the Fortescue Marsh Draft Management Plan; the proposed widening of Anketell Road; a vision for Southbank at Bibra Lake; Water supplementation for Bibra Lake; the state government's draft Urban Greening Strategy. and the revised City of Melville Cat Law.
- The WCS developed Terms of Reference for the WWW.
- The WCS adopted a policy on donations from the Wetlands Trust Fund and donations were made to the Wetlands Centre for a bat night and to Professor Rod Giblett to facilitate his attendance at the 2026 Wetlands Conference.
- An excursion was held to Tomato Lake in Kewdale in October 2025.
- Members were encouraged to donate the deposits from used beverage containers to the WCS via the Containers for Change scheme.
- At the 2025 AGM members approved a constitutional amendment to address changes to Commonwealth legislation regarding Gift Funds held by registered charities.
- The WCS supported the Friends of Southbank with their conservation project at Bibra Lake.
- We maintained liaison with other Wetland groups including the Mandurah Environment and Heritage Group, The Wetlands Centre Cockburn, the Friends of Lake Forrestdale, the Waterbird Conservation Group and the Baigup Wetland Interest Group.

Ongoing Issues

Some of the unfinished business that the Society will be working on in 2026 includes:

- The water supplementation plans for Bibra and Forrestdale Lakes
- Fox control in the Beeliar Wetlands
- Updating of the state's Wetlands Conservation Policy

Wetlands Conservation Society Inc. ABN 92 833 482 446

Email: wetlands.conservation.society@gmail.com

Web site: <https://wetlandswa.org.au>

- Further Ramsar nominations of WA wetlands (Lake McLeod, tributaries of the lower Blackwood, Fortescue Marsh, Lake Carnegie, Greater Brixton Street Wetlands)
- Proposals to expand the Regional Parks System (Lower Serpentine, Gnangara, Peel and Yule Brook)
- Completion of the wetland buffer guidelines now that SPP2.9 has been released.
- Planning for the new harbour in Cockburn Sound (Westport)
- Assisting the Wetlands Centre with education and landcare work.
- Revegetation of the Roe 8 reserve and future land use for the Roe 9 reserve.
- Offsets from the Westport project and the Anketell Road widening.
- Reactivation of the state Wetlands Coordinating Committee.
- Completion of the Tramway Reserve Trail and the Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor.

Acknowledgements

- I would like to thank all members for their support last year. It was a busy year and we maintained a high level of activity and achieved great success, due to a good team effort.
- Special thanks to the many new members who have brought additional energy, enthusiasm and expertise into our group.
- The Committee Members for 2025 were Philip Jennings (President), Robyn Pickering (Vice President), Felicity Bairstow (Secretary), Mark Hutchison (Treasurer), David James, Jeff Mengler, Nandi Chinna, Joyce Gadalon, Carrie Russell and Paul Markendale. Thanks also to Simone Finlay who joined the Committee as our new Membership Officer in September 2025.
- I wish to acknowledge the exceptional contribution of Rex Sallur who retired from the Committee after nearly 40 years as a member and office bearer.

Philip Jennings
 President
 April 2026