

What's New?

Interpretive Signage for Cockburn Sound

The CSMC is currently working towards developing an interpretive signage trail along the shores of Cockburn Sound and Owen Anchorage. It aims to educate the community on the marine life and processes that occur in the area, which will hopefully promote a greater understanding and respect for the waters of Cockburn Sound and Owen Anchorage. A public art component will also be a part of the trail and will consist of bronze sculptures of marine wildlife that will be semi-submerged in shallow water near popular public jetties. It is hoped that these sculptures will become a part of Cockburn Sound's heritage and act as a tourist and recreational attraction for the communities of Rockingham, Kwinana and Cockburn. It is expected for this project to be completed in 2008.

Multiple – Use Framework

The CSMC began work on stage one of a journey toward the development of a multiple-use framework for Cockburn Sound and Owen Anchorage in March 2007. Stage one is based around the preparation of the Multiple-use and Resource Assessment Report. This report will include a compilation of all available and relevant information necessary to inform the CSMC, the public and decision-makers when development proposals are being assessed, or when issues arise that require a response. It is the first time a comprehensive assessment of information has been undertaken for Cockburn Sound and Owen Anchorage and the Report will provide an interesting overview of past and current development and research.

It is expected the Multiple-use and Resource Assessment Report will be completed by December 2007 and be available to the public in early 2008.

Cockburn Sound Environmental Report Cards for 2007

The CSMC has prepared annual Environmental Report Cards for Cockburn Sound every year since 2001. This year's Report Cards draw upon the largest number of monitoring programs ever used for the Cockburn Sound Report Cards and provide stakeholders and the community an excellent overview of the environmental health of Cockburn Sound in 2006-07. The CSMC prepares the Report Cards by comparing monitoring data against established Environmental Quality Criteria (EQC). EQCs are environmental benchmarks and can be used to determine whether the Environmental Values and quality objectives for Cockburn Sound are being protected. The Environmental Values for Cockburn Sound are:

- Ecosystem Health;
- Fishing and aquaculture;
- Recreation and aesthetics;
- Industrial Water Supply.

The CSMC plays an active role in coordinating investigations and management actions as a result of exceedances identified from its monitoring and Report Cards. The Report Cards act as an early warning system and allow the CSMC to focus management action on areas or issues of possible concern.

In addition to the CSMC's annual monitoring programs, the 2007 Report Cards use data collected by a range of stakeholders, including the Kwinana Industries Council, Department of Defence, Department of Environment and Conservation, Department of Industry and Resources, Landcorp, Department of Health, Department of Fisheries, Fremantle Port Authority, WA Mussel Producers Association, Alcoa, Water Corporation, City of Cockburn and City of Rockingham.

The 2007 Report Cards will be released at the CSMC's community forums, which are to be held on the 17th and 18th of September. Please see next page for details.



Palm Beach Jetty at sunset

New Mooring Controls for Mangles Bay and Cockburn Sound



Seagrass damage at Mangles Bay

The CSMC welcomes the recent announcement by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to declare a Mooring Control Area (MCA) in Cockburn Sound and place a temporary moratorium on new moorings in the area.

CSMC Chair Kateryna Longley said the CSMC had held long-term concerns over uncontrolled moorings in the Sound and their environmental impact on sensitive seagrass beds. "When placed in seagrass meadows, the older style swing moorings are highly destructive, usually killing all seagrass within the mooring swing area," Professor Longley said. "The gazettal of a Mooring Control Area means future loss of seagrass caused by improper moorings will be greatly reduced."

Professor Longley said minimising seagrass damage caused by moorings had been a key goal of the CSMC. "It's essential for us to ensure future loss of seagrass in Cockburn Sound is minimised and the Council is pleased that a close collaboration by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) and CSMC has led to this action being taken."

Professor Longley praised members of the CSMC and its staff, who she said have been a pivotal factor in keeping this issue a high priority and providing ongoing support to reach this outcome.

For information on the newly created Mooring Control Area, call DPI on 9216 8966 or go to www.dpi.wa.gov.au/manglesbay. Information sheets are also available at the CSMC office.

What's New continued...

Environmental Values and Quality Objectives for Owen Anchorage

Following the completion of the State of Owen Anchorage Study, the CSMC, through its Owen Anchorage Sub-Committee, has begun work on formally establishing Environmental Values (EVs) and Quality Objectives (EQOs) for the waters of Owen Anchorage.

The CSMC has convened a working group to develop a discussion paper on the proposed EVs and EQOs and areas where they are to be applied.

Further information on this project will be presented at the Cockburn/Fremantle Community Forum. A formal community consultation process will follow where community members can have input into the project.



Coogee Beach Jetty

Feedback Forum

If you would like to provide comments on the newsletter please write to Jessica Davis, Cockburn Sound Management Council, PO Box 5161, Rockingham Beach or email to Jessica.davis@dec.wa.gov.au



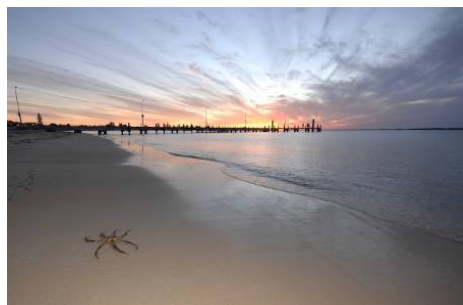
State of Owen Anchorage: Pressure State Response Report

A new CSMC report on the environmental health of Owen Anchorage has been completed. *The State of Owen Anchorage* report was commissioned to assist in CSMC's expanded management role within Owen Anchorage. The report provides vital information on the pressures facing the marine environment, the state of the environment and the management responses in place. CSMC Chair Kateryna Longley said the study investigated a wide range of information for the area and the good news is that overall the environment is in pretty good condition.

The study confirmed that Owen Anchorage did not undergo the level of environmental degradation that occurred in Cockburn Sound between the mid 1950s and early 1980s. However, it was still adversely affected by domestic and industrial waste discharge and physical changes to the seabed and foreshore. Also, unlike Cockburn Sound, Owen Anchorage has not undergone a major loss of seagrass meadows due to nutrient enrichment. Some seagrass loss has occurred, but was mainly due to shipping channel and shell sand dredging activity.

The study revealed that dredging and associated activities, the Port Coogee marina development, shipping, fishing and nutrient input were all current pressures on Owen Anchorage. It also identified future pressures such as increased coastal development, increased recreational use and climate change. The State of Owen Anchorage study will be used by the CSMC to guide the development of an Environmental Management Plan for Owen Anchorage.

2007 Report to the Community Health of Cockburn Sound and Owen Anchorage



You're invited to attend one of two public meetings on the health of Cockburn Sound and Owen Anchorage

Cockburn/Fremantle
Monday 17 September, 2007
7.00 – 9.30pm
Fremantle Sailing Club
151 Marine Tce Fremantle

Rockingham
Tuesday 18 September, 2007
7.00 – 9.30pm
The Cruising Yacht Club
2 Val St Rockingham Beach

Both meetings will include presentations on the 2007 Environmental Report Cards for Cockburn Sound. The Rockingham meeting will include a special presentation on Mussel Farming in Cockburn Sound.

For further information please contact the Cockburn Sound Management Council office on 9591 3837 or visit csmc.environment.wa.gov.au