



Wednesday, January 18, 2006

## *Media Statement*

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### **Take care of the riverbanks on Australia Day**

Around 300,000 people will be heading to numerous spots along the Swan and Canning rivers this Australia Day to enjoy the celebrations.

According to Swan River Trust General Manager Rod Hughes, the high number of people converging on the riverbank had the potential to degrade the rivers and shorelines.

“Shorelines are fragile and easily damaged by people trampling vegetation to get in or closer to the water,” Mr Hughes said.

“If it is a hot day then the number of people wanting to be near the rivers will be even higher.

“The rivers are to be enjoyed by everyone and the Trust encourages the community to enjoy the amenities, but also to take care to avoid damaging the rivers and riverbanks.”

Mr Hughes said that the vegetation played an important role in the health of the rivers.

“They provide a habitat and food source for fish and other fauna, as well filters out nutrients that would otherwise contribute to algal blooms,” he said.

“Everyone benefits by looking after and caring for our rivers.

“We have beautiful rivers that we all need to care for so future generations can enjoy the same benefits that we do today.”

Mr Hughes reminds the community that it is an offence to cause damage to any tree, shrub or plant on the shorelines, or to cause erosion or damage of the riverbanks.

“On the spot fines of \$100 can be issued, as well as penalties up to \$5000.”

The Trust encourages the community to report any activities which may be harmful to the rivers and shorelines by calling the office on 9278 0900 or the emergency after hours hotline on 0419 192 845.

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