



Monday, February 23, 2009

Media Statement

Boating strategy sets sail

New short-stay swing moorings are being installed at popular river sites to kick-start a boating management strategy for the Swan Canning Riverpark.

The Swan River Trust has spent the past 18 months consulting river users to develop the strategy, which covers issues such as dinghy storage on foreshores, boat wash and noise, launching facilities, and anchoring and riverbed damage.

Swan River Trust acting chairman Jim Freemantle said the new moorings were indicative of the Trust's commitment to ensuring boaties could continue to enjoy the Riverpark while sharing it equitably with other users.

"Boat registrations have increased by around 25 per cent, from around 70,000 in 2002 to more than 88,000 in 2007, with research showing there is also a trend towards owning larger vessels," Mr Freemantle said.

"This places increased demand on launching facilities, pens and moorings. It also increases the need for public education, compliance and environmental protection.

"It was clear we needed a 'road map' to coordinate boating sustainably into the future, since there is an art to balancing the desires of groups that enjoy the Swan Canning Riverpark.

"Through consultation we believe we have developed the best possible strategy to ensure everyone can still enjoy the benefits of the rivers 50 years from now.

"Forty-one individuals and groups lodged more than 200 comments on the draft strategy early last year during the three-month public comment period, each of which has been carefully considered."

This month two moorings are being placed on either side of Stirling Bridge in Fremantle, and one each at Mosman Bay, South Perth foreshore near Mends Street jetty, and near Canning Bridge in Applecross.

"We are looking into installing up to 15 more moorings by summer next year, through the Department for Planning and Infrastructure's Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme," Mr Freemantle said.

"These moorings improve safety and protect the health of the rivers by preventing vessel anchor chains from coming into contact with environmentally sensitive riverbed areas."

Copies of the strategy are available on the Swan River Trust's website - www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au, or by contacting the Trust on (08) 9278 0953.

Contact: Swan River Trust media manager Amy Kimber 9278 0953 or 0434 603 684