

The Swan and Canning Rivers

Protecting, Valuing and Enjoying



The Swan and Canning rivers are central to Perth's identity and are among the city's most picturesque assets.

The rivers have significant ecological value, are renowned for their natural beauty, hold cultural and heritage significance, perform important transport and floodplain functions and are a focus for tourism and recreation activities.

With a growing population and more entertainment precincts along the river, there are new opportunities to make better use of the river for transport and tourism while ensuring the health of the Swan and Canning rivers is protected and improved.

Under the Liberal-led Government, the management of the Swan and Canning rivers has been refocused and energised. Our rivers, like all urban waterways, are under pressure, but independent scientific research has confirmed they are in good health.



River Health

- The Swan and Canning rivers are the most regularly monitored waterways in Australia.
- Since 2008, more than \$35 million has been invested by the Liberal-led Government in river protection projects. This includes:
 - \$12.5 million in new and upgraded oxygenation plants to help prevent algal blooms and fish kills;
 - \$16 million under the Riverbank restoration program.
 - \$7 million building six large-scale nutrient stripping wetlands that are reducing nutrient loads from urban and rural catchments;
 - more than \$950,000 a year on volunteer programs, such as River Guardians, that support the protection and health of the Swan and Canning rivers.
- The Swan and Canning river system provides an important habitat to more than 300 species of birds and 130 species of fish. There is also a resident population of 25 bottlenose dolphins.
- The Swan and Canning river system receives runoff from a catchment twice the size of Tasmania.
- Recent research has shown that the quality of the water in the rivers has improved substantially over the past few years and there is a greater diversity of fish dispersed over more habitats.

Our Commitment

The Liberals will continue the work and investment undertaken since 2008 to ensure the health of the Swan and Canning rivers.

- A Liberal Government will invest \$4 million over four years to continue that Riverbank restoration program. This builds on the more than \$16 million invested – in partnership with local government – since 2008 in 192 Riverbank projects to improve the accessibility and safety of the foreshores while protecting and enhancing their ecological values.

River Ferries

In the earliest days of the Swan River Settlement, the river was used as the main transport route between Perth and Fremantle transporting cargo, building equipment, livestock and passengers.

This continued until the establishment of the railway between Fremantle and Guildford via Perth.



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While ferries have always operated on the river, there have been challenges in maximising the opportunities for efficient passenger transport. However, new technology, enabling low-wash, high-speed ferries that will reduce travel times with minimal impact on river banks, coupled with big investments in residential and tourism developments around Burswood and Ascot, and a growing population means there are now new opportunities to expand Perth's ferry network.

Fast Facts

- Ferries are an essential part of the Liberal-led Government's balanced transport plan to provide more transport options and reduce traffic congestion.
- Tourist ferries and charter boat services operate widely on the river with a commuter service operating between Perth and South Perth.
- The ferry service to South Perth is operated by private operator Sealink for the Public Transport Authority.
- Since the South Perth ferry service moved to Elizabeth Quay in January 2016, patronage during the first 11 months of operation increased by 90 per cent compared to the same period the previous year.



The Liberal-led Government has been working with private operators to investigate a fast ferry service between Perth and Fremantle and continue to investigate other services to destinations such as Melville, Canning Bridge and Matilda Bay as well as a hop-on hop-off ferry loop service linking Elizabeth Quay, Waterbank, Claisebrook Cove, Belmont Park, South Perth and Burswood Peninsula. These services could be operated as public transport or by private providers.

Our Commitment

A Liberal Government will:

- Build a **public jetty at Burswood Peninsula** to be constructed north of the Swan River Pedestrian Bridge, alongside the Perth Stadium.
This will be available to service a public transport ferry service, charter boats and private craft on both event and non-event days.
Funding of \$5 million has already been allocated from the Burswood Park Board and approvals are being finalised with works on this jetty expected to commence in April 2017. It is intended that it will be operational in 2018.
- Allocate \$3 million to **build a jetty and landside facilities at Guildford**.
This will open heritage tourism opportunities to the region by giving passengers on ferries already servicing the Swan Valley route the opportunity to disembark at Guildford.
- **Allocate \$3 million for the purchase of a third public transport ferry** to provide the capability for a public ferry service to the Perth Stadium during special events.
This ferry will also provide the capacity to expand other services when patronage demand increases with special events at Elizabeth Quay.



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