The Water and Rivers Commission

The Water and Rivers Commission is a new State Government agency that came into being on 1 January 1996 with responsibility for managing and protecting Western Australia’s water resources.

The Commission works through regional offices. These support community-based Management Authorities which oversee and plan the development and protection of waterways.

The Commission has also appointed a number of community-based advisory committees to help manage the use of water from rivers and streams.

The Water and Rivers Commission can advise you about:
- development approval procedures
- policies to guide riverside land use
- ways in which you can help to protect the waterways
- use of water
- water flow and quality
- water conservation
- pollution of waterways
- flood levels

Other Agencies

If you have questions about other, more specific aspects, contact the agencies below.

- Boating regulations and structures over the water - Department of Transport
- Conservation reserves, wildlife - Department of Conservation and Land Management
- Crown Land - Department of Land Administration
- Drainage, sewerage and water supply - Water Corporation
- Environmental issues and pollution control - Department of Environmental Protection
- Fishing and fisheries regulations - Fisheries WA
- Land use and development, foreshore facilities and management (eg public toilets, picnic areas) - Local Governments
- Regional planning and development assessment - Ministry for Planning

Where to Find Out More

If you wish to find out more about how you can protect our waterways please contact the Water and Rivers Commission.

Water and Rivers Commission
Level 2, Hyatt Centre
3 Plain Street
East Perth WA 6004
Telephone: (08) 9278 0200 Facsimile: (08) 9278 0301

Swan Goldfields Agricultural Region
7Ellan Street
Victoria Park WA 6100
Telephone: (08) 9355 554 Facsimile: (08) 9472 1309

North West Region
Chiraka Road
PO Box 836
Karratha WA 6714
Telephone: (08) 9144 2600 Facsimile: (08) 9144 2610

Mid West / Gascoyne Region
Pass Street
 Geraldton WA 6530
PO Box 4109 Bunbury WA 6230
Telephone: (08) 9964 5973 Facsimile: (08) 9964 5983

South West Region
Also for the Leschenault Inlet Management Authority
U2 Leschenault Quays
Austral Parade
Bunbury WA 6230
Telephone: (08) 9721 0660 Facsimile: (08) 9721 0600

South Coast Region
Also for the Albany Waterways Management Authority and the Wilson Inlet Management Authority
5 Bevan Street
Albany WA 6330
Telephone: (08) 9842 5780 Facsimile: (08) 9842 1204
WEBSITE: http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au

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Let's do the right thing by the waterways

- Make sure that your use of the land will not pollute or harm the waterway, for example by damaging foreshore vegetation or by pollution from stormwater runoff, fertilisers, pesticides, or herbicides. Remember that the care you take in your land use and lifestyle can help to protect the environment.

- You should contact the regional Water and Rivers Commission office before commencing any foreshore works. If your foreshore includes a reserve, you will also need approval from the vesting authority.

- Contact the Water and Rivers Commission or your local waterways management authority for advice when planning any landscaping, building, drainage or other works that may affect the foreshore or river.

- Jetties must be licensed by the Department of Transport. If you wish to construct a jetty or ramp, obtain approval from your local waterways management authority first.

- Advise the Water and Rivers Commission regional offices promptly if you notice any pollution of the water or any destruction or erosion of the bank.

Living with our waterways - some helpful hints

- Use water wisely

- Protect and replant local native vegetation

- Take care to reduce nutrient runoff and pollution

Rivers, estuaries, harbours and their foreshores are public resources. People living nearby have special opportunities to enjoy them, but also play a vital role in making sure that our waterways remain healthy and their foreshores attractive and functioning as wildlife habitats.