



# REGIONAL ESTUARIES INITIATIVE

Regional Estuaries Initiative budget overview

Managing estuaries for the long term: Regional Estuaries Initiative

April 2016

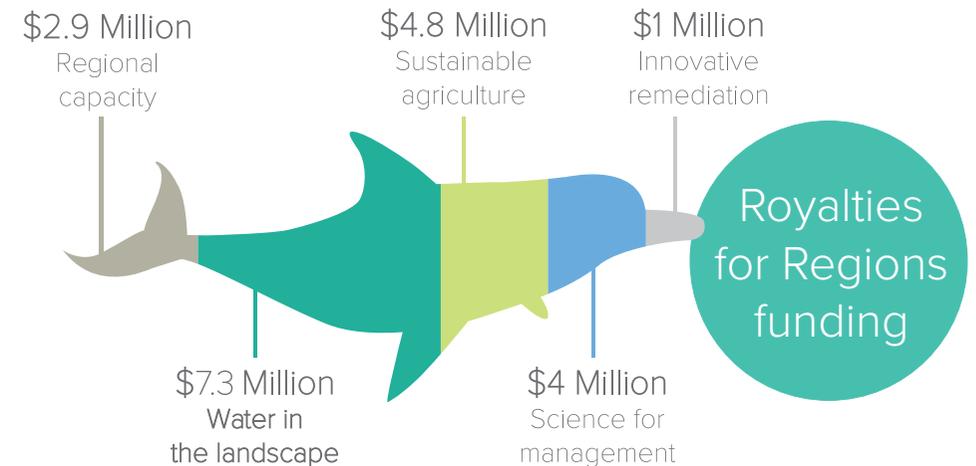
Estuaries are the unique and vibrant places where rivers meet the ocean. They house diverse ecosystems, support businesses, recreation and tourism and are central to our valued way of life.

A combination of environmental factors, historical land use and a growing population is placing pressure on our estuaries.

The Regional Estuaries Initiative is a four-year \$20 million Royalties for Regions funded state government program to restore the function and improve the health of estuaries in the South West and Great Southern regions.

By building resilience in our estuaries and their catchments, they can continue to support the long-term economic development and wellbeing of Western Australians.

Combined with the \$715 million Royalties for Regions funded Revitalising Geopraphe Waterways project, and the work of the Vasse Taskforce, this is the single biggest investment the state government has ever made in managing our regional estuaries. Further investment will come from contributions and in-kind support from partners including state and local government, catchment groups, industry and landholders.



The Regional Estuaries Initiative will build on existing work with state and local government, catchment councils, industry, farmers, research groups and the community to improve estuary health through the five integrated strategies below.



### Regional capacity:

- Strengthening partnerships with industry, landowners and the community through joint project delivery.
- Long-term investment and funding strategies to support the continuation of projects beyond the lifespan of the initiative.



### Sustainable agriculture:

- Reducing nutrient inputs from the dairy industry through catchment-wide adoption of best practice, and industry self-regulation.
- Nutrient testing and advice on effective fertiliser application in agriculture, improving soils and reducing nutrient run-off.



### Water in the landscape:

- Waterway fencing for stock exclusion.
- Revegetating fringing zone to reduce soil erosion and improve biofiltering.
- Optimising drainage management.
- Water sensitive urban design.
- Upgrades for waste water treatment plants and infill sewerage in areas close to sensitive waterways.



### Innovative remediation:

- Soil treatments to improve soil condition and reduce nutrient losses.
- Phosphorus-binding clays to reduce nutrients already in the water.



### Science for management:

- Expanding monitoring and public reporting of estuary conditions.
- Developing catchment and estuary models to identify problem areas and test different management strategies.
- Building a scientific base for interventions.

The Regional Estuaries Initiative will improve the condition of our estuaries to ensure that regional estuaries continue to support regional development, tourism, recreational and commercial fishing and port activities in the future.

This is much more than a grants program for on-ground works. It aims to build regional capacity and a firm basis for interventions and partnerships that will last into the coming decades.

*#waestuaries*



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