



Landcare Checks In - Monday 37 August 2020 at 2.00 – 3.00 pm

Discussion Topic: - WA Marine and Coastal Network

- What is the WA Marine Coastal Community Network all about and where did the idea come from?
- What has happened to this point?
- What do grassroots coastcare groups need and want from a network?



View the recording here - <http://www.landcarewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Recording-17-August-WA-Marine-and-Coastal-Community-Network.mp4>

WA Marine and Coastal Network Overview by Carmen Elrick-Barr

- Initially evolved from discussions amongst community groups involved in CoastSWaP Forums in the south west led by Jo Ludbrook.
- Discussions held at the last State NRM and coastal conference about coastal engagement. Lack of coordination across the sector identified. People were asked if they had an interest in the development of a coastal network and what they thought the priorities might be.
- Outcome was a list of people that would like to be involved and 3 core ideas and themes have been identified for network – coordination, capacity development, and advocacy and outreach. View the outcomes of this Conference discussion here <http://www.landcarewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2019-Conference-Coast-SwaP-WA-Coastal-and-Marine-Networking-Session.pdf>
- 1st Forum in February 2020 – more detail about what the network might look like setting of goals, vision, priorities for core areas and what success might look like. Read the summary of this meeting

here http://www.landcarewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/WA-CMCN_Feb2020_Meeting-Summary_160220.pdf

- Online gathering in July hosted by Perth NRM. Key activities presented. Outcome was to broaden the network working group. Looking for volunteers to sit on main working group or key theme groups. View the recording of the Forum here <https://youtu.be/hMNW0oc8Jgk>
- Most interest – work being undertaken in the coordination theme. Work generated by Ralph Talbot Smith, Department of Transport looking at ways we might be able to gather and share information across the network.

Discussion Points

- WALN working with the network players. Great potential for collaboration. WALN has secured state funding for core business and there are some funds to assist the coastal network to develop.
- Is it appropriate to have government involved if the network is to have an advocacy role? Need to debate issues with the community before talking with Government.
- Large coastal developments are a risk to the coastal environment – Goode Beach, Gnarabup, Redevelopment of the Ocean Reef Marina site. Is there a role for the network to advocate for best practice community consultation and coastal protection?
- NACC and other regional NRM groups are not able to provide financial support to coastcare groups. Brokering relationships between coastcare groups and land managers is important. Many coastcare groups are dysfunctional so bringing coastcare groups up to the same level by bringing people together and demonstrating good relationships is important.
- There is potential to separate the different themes of the network or for the main working group of the network not to do advocacy but instead to provide resources, connections and information to enable groups to advocate on their own behalf.
- Establishment of data hub is becoming a priority for the network – helping community groups to store and access their own information.
- Coastal coordinators are needed to support coastcare groups. Enormous benefits for communities and coastal groups.
- The network is looking to identify people within the different coastal regions as contacts however this is challenging.
- Groups are often very locally focussed and don't necessarily understand the bigger issues such as climate change, politics etc.
- Useful for the network to put in an appearance in the regions and more than just the south west.
- Data Hub – driver from the community out of the conference. Information and effort coordination. Ralph Talbot Smith then presented proposal. Interest from over east. Probably will gain the quickest momentum. Data management is coming across in all biophysical areas and lots of interest in coordination.
- Landcare Australia interested in who to connect with in WA for coastal grant funding. WALN can provide contacts.
- Anyone wanting to keep in touch with the network email Carmen Elrick-Barr celrickbarr@outlook.com
- Engaging young people into coastcare is important and challenging.