

We can all do our part

Worsening oxygen conditions, algal blooms and fish kills demonstrate the Swan and Canning rivers are showing the same signs of stress as other waterways around the world.

Reducing high levels of nutrients from fertilisers and other sources is a priority to keep our rivers healthy. Other environmental problems include erosion, sedimentation, decreased river flows and loss of foreshore vegetation.

Less rainfall and a growing population increases pressure on the rivers and foreshores, and the risk of algal blooms. We all need to do our part to help.

Contact the Swan River Trust to find out more about how you can keep our rivers healthy.

Below: More boats increases pressure on the rivers and foreshores



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Caring for the Swan and Canning rivers



Boating to Keep our rivers healthy

The Swan and Canning rivers are showing signs of stress. Read inside to make sure you are doing your bit to protect the health of the rivers.



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Boating to Keep our rivers healthy



Caring for the Swan and Canning rivers

1 Enjoy the rivers, but remember that wash from your boat can cause problems. Slow down to avoid damaging shorelines and other boats, disturbing wildlife and endangering people.

2 Tenders, dinghies and boats left on the foreshore damage vegetation and prevent access to shorelines. Take them home with you.

3 Keep your engine serviced to prevent fuel and oil spilling into the rivers. This will save you money and protect the rivers' health.

4 Report activities which may be harmful to the rivers and foreshores by calling the Swan River Trust on (08) 9278 0900 or after hours 0419 192 845. There are penalties for polluting the rivers or damaging foreshore vegetation.

5 If you need to drop the anchor, check the riverbed first. If you can see seagrass, try another spot.

6 Remember to avoid damaging native vegetation and riverbanks when launching your boat, dinghy or tender, or bringing it in. This prevents erosion and protects wildlife.

7 We sometimes forget to take our rubbish home with us. Let's help each other by picking up rubbish and old fishing tackle and throwing it in a bin.

8 Boat maintenance and disposing of used chemicals properly is important. Spend a couple of minutes checking that solvents, residues and cleaning agents can't run into the rivers. Absorbent pads can be used when refuelling.

9 Four-wheel drives can chew up foreshore vegetation. Leave your vehicle on the road and protect habitat for fish and other wildlife.

10 Contact the Swan River Trust for a free Boating Guide. It includes maps of the Swan and Canning rivers, boat launching sites and other useful information.

