



Department of Planning,  
Lands and Heritage



# Western Australian Coastal Awards For Excellence 2022





The Western Australian Coastal Awards for Excellence are proudly coordinated by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission's Coastal Zone Management Program and CoastWA.



Department of **Planning,  
Lands and Heritage**



Western  
Australian  
Planning  
Commission

140 William Street  
PERTH WA 6000

Locked Bag 2506  
Perth WA 6001

Tel: 61 8 6551 8002

Email: [coastal@dplh.wa.gov.au](mailto:coastal@dplh.wa.gov.au)

Website: [www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au)



**Hon Rita Saffioti MLA BBus**  
Minister for Planning



**David Caddy**  
Chairman  
Western Australian  
Planning Commission

Thank you to everyone who nominated for the 2022 Western Australian Coastal Awards for Excellence and congratulations to this year's winners.

The dynamic nature of our coastline poses ongoing challenges for its care and management. These Awards for Excellence recognise and celebrate the outstanding efforts and achievements of individuals, community groups, schools, local government, State government agencies and non-government organisations in planning, managing and protecting our diverse and extensive coast.

These invaluable contributions relate to an array of activities and programs, including:

- volunteer programs
- foreshore rehabilitation and revegetation
- management of coastal hazard risks such as erosion
- engaging communities and building capacity in coastal zone management activities
- research projects that assist in protecting the coast
- coastal design initiatives that demonstrates innovation and sustainability.

We acknowledge and thank the Judging Panel, which had the difficult task of selecting this year's winners from the range of high calibre nominations submitted. The Panel includes representatives from the Western Australian Planning Commission, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, the Western Australian Local Government Association, and coastal and marine natural resource management groups.

The support of the Western Australian community for the many coastal initiatives around the State – either as active participants or appreciative users of our unique natural asset – is also commended.



Western Australian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2022  
Coastal Design Award  
Shire of Broom - Coastal Redevelopment

Western Australian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2022  
Education & Engagement  
Perth City - Adopt A Beach Capacity Building Program

Western Australian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2022  
Coastal Champion  
Walter Kolb - Environment

Western Australian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2022  
Science & Research Award  
Conservation Council of Australia - WA Fairy Tern

Western Australian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2022  
Coastal Planning Award  
WALGA - Coastal Planning Management & Adaptation

Western Australian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2022  
Coastal Design Award  
Shire of Broom - Coastal Redevelopment



# Award categories

## **Coastal Champion**

Awarded to an individual or group for outstanding commitment, leadership, stewardship and contribution to the management and conservation of the Western Australian coast.

## **Coastal Planning**

Awarded for an outstanding project, plan, program, policy or strategy that provides for long-term sustainability of the Western Australian coast.

## **Coastal Management and Adaptation**

Awarded for maintaining sustainable use of Western Australian beaches and foreshores, improving coastal environments and natural values and managing risks of coastal hazards, demonstrating adaptation and building resilience to coastal hazards.

## **Education and Engagement**

Awarded for positively engaging, educating and building capacity of Western Australian communities to increase involvement in coastal zone management activities.

## **Coastal Design**

Awarded for a coastal development, built form, landscape, heritage or tourism project of outstanding design quality, that demonstrates innovation, sustainability and positively contributes to the Western Australian coast.

## **Science and Research**

Awarded for innovative applied science or research that assists to protect, conserve and enhance the Western Australian coast.



# Coastal Champion Award

Awarded to an individual or group for outstanding commitment, leadership, stewardship and contribution to the management and conservation of the Western Australian coast.

## Walter Kolb Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare

Walter began as an occasional on-ground volunteer post formation (2004) and moved into a regular member (2007) and later Works Coordinator for Stirling Coastcare as it reformed to Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare (SNEC) in 2009.

With a background in agriculture, horticulture and landcare, and experience in earth moving and grounds management, Walter has steered the restoration and conservation of the diverse, largely degraded City of Stirling coastal foreshore dunes.



Through his initiative and careful on-ground site preparation, and well-thought-through proposals, Walter has gained support from the City of Stirling and successfully written 23 grant applications.

The City of Stirling's coastline has benefited significantly from Walter's dedication. He has successfully completed, monitored and maintained project areas and continually seeks to utilise, support and develop collaborative working partnerships with the City of Stirling and Perth NRM's Marine Support Officers.



# Coastal Champion

## Special commendation

**Don Poynton**

**Coordinator Friends of North Ocean Reef-Iluka Foreshore**

Don has dedicated 30 years to the natural environment and its endearment to the community by involving schools in projects from coast clean ups to planting events.

The list of activities required to care for our natural environment is endless. Don has taken on this commitment as a leader and a champion with many people around him who all contribute to successful projects and events.

Don generously shares his skills and knowledge with others. His professional career has ensured the detail of his coastal care projects are a success. Immersion in learning and advocating for the best outcomes for nature is a daily routine. He is prepared to give stand up deputations and ask questions of his local members.

Grant writing and acquitting grants is an onerous task that Don does not shy away from as it is the way forward for a better outcome for wildlife and future generations enjoyment and quality of life.

He has a great understanding of the connectedness of the natural world and what is required to make it flourish. He is always thinking ahead to what is needed to make our natural world more resilient even out of this local area.



Don's induction to volunteers



# Coastal Planning Award

Awarded for an outstanding project, plan, program, policy or strategy that provides for long-term sustainability of the Western Australian coast.

## Western Australian Local Government Association Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning Forum

The Local Government Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning (CHRMAP) Forum was established in 2017 by Local Government officers who recognised shared challenges in meeting their CHRMAP responsibilities.

The Forum, driven by its Local Government members with administrative support provided by the Western Australian Local Government Association, provides an opportunity for Local Government officers from across the State to learn, share information, discuss common challenges and opportunities for resolving these challenges.

The Forum meets regularly and consists of:

- presentations from Local Governments, State Government departments and invited experts;
- preparation of issues papers and policy submissions to inform local and State level policy change; and
- round-table information sharing and site visits.

The Forum has grown to support over 40 officers from more than 20 Local Governments across Western Australia. It is an outstanding example of a community of common practice, has increased the capacity of Local Governments to meet their CHRMAP responsibilities and demonstrates the potential for coastal practitioners to work together to resolve complex coastal planning challenges.



Site visit in the Shire of Murray, 2021



# Coastal Management and Adaptation Award

Awarded for maintaining sustainable use of Western Australian beaches and foreshores, improving coastal environments and natural values and managing risks of coastal hazards, demonstrating adaptation and building resilience to coastal hazards.

## Town of Port Hedland

Port Hedland's coast is highly valued as an activity and education centre and has significant ecological and cultural values. Port Hedland faces a number of significant coastal challenges including low lying topography with minimal coastal defences in a cyclone prone area; progressively altered coastline due to port activities; and coastal risk that can be exacerbated by a single extreme weather event.

The Town of Port Hedland has prepared a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP), and ensured its findings were tested, built upon, integrated and understood by stakeholders. The findings of the CHRMAP and other coastal studies have been embedded in the Town's planning frameworks, the Coastal Foreshore Management Plan, communication and education projects for community, and the design of three seawalls.



The Town has collaboratively delivered an engineering assessment of cyclone impacts and adaptive options from Tropical Cyclone Veronica in the context of the CHRMAP; a new Local Planning Strategy and Scheme to integrate the findings of the CHRMAP

and subsequent studies; prepared a Coastal Planning Policy; developed a Foreshore Management Plan to support CHRMAP recommendations. The Spoilbank Marina Masterplan establish strategies for coastal conservation, including partnership arrangements with environmental, community and Aboriginal groups.

The Town has leveraged critical partnership funding from State and Federal Government. They have shared their knowledge of coastal risk management through presentations and participated in coastal forums and studies.



# Coastal Management and Adaptation

## Special commendation

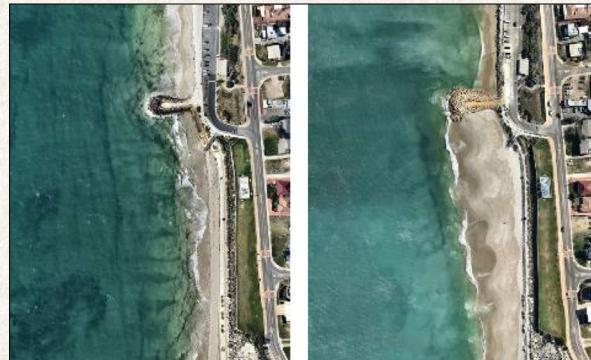
### City of Wanneroo Quinns Beach Long Term Coastal Management

The Quinns Rocks coastline is subject to ongoing coastal erosion and the City of Wanneroo has been actively managing this issue since 1996, ensuring the ongoing protection of coastal assets including infrastructure, beach amenity and the natural environment. The beach forms a strong part of the history and culture of Quinns Rocks and community interest was extremely high and involvement essential throughout the project.

Despite historical coastal protection works, coastal erosion continued, prompting the need for additional coastal management measures. Following completion of a coastal engineering study from 2014 to 2017, construction works including a new groyne, extension/upgrade of existing groynes, beach renourishment and beach access were staged over four years 2017-2021. The project involved a strong partnership with the State Government.

All works were completed successfully in March 2021, resulting in additional protection to public and private infrastructure and natural coastal assets including beach amenity and the dune environment.

These works are expected to reduce future maintenance requirements including beach renourishment and groyne maintenance. The project was strongly supported by the local community and was instrumental in improving community perceptions of the City of Wanneroo and its coastal management actions.



**21 November 2020**  
Pre-construction.

**27 February 2021**  
Post Construction with  
significant natural sand  
accretion to the south.

Stage 4, Groyne 1 upgrade, 2020/21



# Coastal Management and Adaptation

## Special commendation

### City of Cockburn Engineered fringing reef at C.Y. O'Connor Beach

The City of Cockburn, in partnership with ocean engineering company Subcon and the University of Western Australia (UWA), installed the first stage of an engineered fringing reef in early 2022. The reef comprises 135 concrete modules, in 100 metre arrays, around 100 metres from the coast at C.Y. O'Connor Beach.

C.Y. O'Connor Beach has been identified as a coastal erosion hotspot and an area highly at risk of future shoreline loss over the next century. This trial project will test the reef's potential to control erosion while enhancing marine habitat and minimally impacting the beach, unlike more conventional groynes and seawalls.

The City of Cockburn and UWA will monitor the reef over the next few years to understand how it performs and affects the surrounding coastline. The project was selected in response to community feedback that erosion control structures should have minimal detriment to the beach, while providing net environmental and social benefits. The project will help assess and develop a design for erosion control applications throughout Australia.





# Education and Engagement Award

Awarded for positively engaging, educating and building capacity of Western Australian communities to increase involvement in coastal zone management activities.

## Perth NRM Adopt A Beach and Coastal Capacity Building Program

Perth NRM's Coastal and Marine team has been delivering two flagship programs for nearly three years – the Adopt A Beach Program and the Coastal Capacity Building Program.

Cumulatively, these initiatives have supported and facilitated over 260 events, enabling the engagement of over 60 schools; 7,500 students; and at least 1,500 community members and volunteers into coastal conservation activities. Tangible outcomes include planting over 16,000 seedlings into restoration sites and the removal of at least 400 kilograms of marine debris from Perth beaches.

The Adopt A Beach Program has succeeded in introducing students to coastal and marine conservation through curriculum-linked, hands-on activities at their local beach or in the classroom, through our vision of maximising

metropolitan beaches as outdoor learning spaces. This has allowed for real learning experiences with strong conservation outcomes that are linked to both the Perth NRM Coastal Strategy (2020-2025) and WA Coastal Zone Strategy (2021).

The Coastal Capacity Building Program was designed to engage and build capacity in new environmental volunteers, and giving existing volunteers an opportunity to upskill and build capacity to deliver. The program has allowed knowledge sharing and networking around coastal restoration; ecosystem function; flora and fauna; coastal planning and management; and more. The two programs have enabled students, families, volunteers and the broader community to connect and be provided opportunities that are educational, engaging and will make an impact on coastal management into the future.





# Education and Engagement

## Special commendation

### Nature Conservation Margaret River Region 'Adopt a Spot' Program

Nature Conservation Margaret River's 'Adopt a Spot' Program works with schools from Yallingup to Augusta to become custodians of a coastal reserve that their community have a connection with. The program involves more than 200 students in years 4 and 5 from local primary schools. Connected with volunteer friends of reserve groups, schools care for their 'adopted spot', contributing to restoration, environmental management and cultural awareness.

The program fosters future environmental stewards, inspiring students to value, respect and care for the natural environment. Schools adopt a site and the program helps engage student in long term environmental restoration projects, working alongside local community groups, traditional owners and working in an outdoor classroom. Students undertake activities including planting, brushing, weeding and rubbish collection.





# Coastal Design Award

Awarded for a coastal development, built form, landscape, heritage or tourism project of outstanding design quality, that demonstrates innovation, sustainability and positively contributes to the Western Australian coast.

## Shire of Broome Guwarri Town Beach Redevelopment Project

Town Beach holds a special place the hearts of the Broome community. It's idyllic setting overlooks the tranquil azure waters of Roebuck Bay, which make it a highly popular destination for both locals and tourists.

The area is rich in culture and heritage and is home to significant Indigenous and non-Indigenous sites.

Prior to the redevelopment, Town Beach was tired and dilapidated with ageing infrastructure, poor wayfinding and anti-social issues. The pindan cliffs were also subject to severe coastal erosion.

The scope of this project was to set out a visionary approach to address some of these issues, and built upon some of the earlier planning work such as the



Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan.

The Broome Town Beach Foreshore Redevelopment has set a new standard for public open space in the Kimberley and it

has resulted in a regional park as good as any leading parkland in Australia. The vision and design concepts set out to maintain and enhance Broome's status as a world-class tourist destination, provide opportunities to recognise the rich indigenous and historical significance of the site, provide opportunities to share the ecology of Roebuck Bay, protect the Town Beach coastline from erosion and improve amenities and attractiveness of the precinct.



# Coastal Design

## Special commendation

### City of Albany

#### Middleton Beach Foreshore Enhancement Project

The completion of the Binalup Middleton Beach Foreshore Enhancement and Coastal Protection project was the beginning of a staged vision to create regional Western Australia's most iconic and active beach precincts, offering world-class community, commercial and civic amenity on the pristine south coast. 'Binalup' is an important place in Noongar Culture and known as a place of first light or morning light.

This project acts as the precursor to attracting private investment into the DevelopmentWA (ex LandCorp) led Activity Centre supporting a boutique hotel, retail and commercial tenancies, and residential accommodation. The project ultimately aims to preserve and enhance the unique landscape character and natural assets of the foreshore, whilst enhancing lifestyle, tourism and increased values, and attracting private investment for a range of recreational, retail and accommodation development projects.

The project has made a significant contribution to the improvement of Albany and regional Western Australia's coastal landscape.





## Science and Research Award

Awarded for innovative applied science or research that assists to protect, conserve and enhance the Western Australian coast.

### Conservation Council of Western Australia WA Fairy Tern Network

The WA Fairy Tern Network (WAFSTN) was established in 2016 to create a holistic and collaborative approach to the conservation of Australian Fairy Terns in the state. WAFSTN encourages and promotes the conservation, research, education, and sustainable management of Fairy Terns. There are numerous individuals within the network championing the protection and conservation of Fairy Terns within their local area each breeding season.



The WAFSTN works with land and wildlife managers, researchers, coastal groups and volunteers to:

- facilitate the rapid sharing of surveillance information on Fairy Tern movements and behaviour between observers and managers, enabling the protection of breeding colonies, as required
- coordinate conservation actions, including site maintenance and the erection of signage and fencing, between volunteers and managers
- coordinate a science based, mark-recapture project designed to understand the movements and population demographics of Fairy Terns, and lodgement of digital photographic records of banded Fairy Terns, made by the citizen science community to help learn about the birds
- undertake research that contributes to a greater understanding of Fairy Tern behaviour, life history and ecology and informs future conservation efforts.



# Science and Research

## Special commendation

### CoastSnapWA

#### Community Beach Monitoring

CoastSnap was launched in Western Australia in 2020 at nine sites from Rockingham to Busselton, through a partnership between the Peron Naturaliste Partnership (PNP) and the University of Western Australia (UWA).

CoastSnap is a global initiative developed by the University of New South Wales and involves the community contributing to beach monitoring by taking and submitting photos of the beach from fixed smartphone camera stands that ensures photos have the same field of view. In addition to providing useful data on coastal change, beach condition and shoreline positions, this program is raising awareness of coastal processes, hazards and issues.

The PNP and UWA have developed the program further, including a more user-friendly and efficient

process for community members to submit their photos. The results show that CoastSnapWA is building capacity of our coastal communities through their involvement in this citizen science initiative.

In 2022, CoastSnapWA expanded to include a globally unique aspect, the real-time monitoring of coastal community values. After uploading their CoastSnap photo there is an option to participate in a short survey

regarding what is valued on the coast and how this may change over time. The community values data collected complements the physical coastal monitoring data to assist in the protection and management of the coast. This is becoming increasingly important as the risks to our coastline is increasing due to climate change.





## **Thank you to all other nominations in 2022**

- Preston Beach Volunteer Rangers
- Care for Hedland Environmental Association Inc.
- WA Coastal & Marine Community Network
- OzFish Seeds for Snapper – Community Seagrass Restoration Project
- Rangelands NRM – Reducing runoff and silt loads project in Shark Bay
- City of Rockingham – Coastal Facilities Strategy 2021-25
- Shire of Irwin – Surf Beach Stabilisation Project
- City of Rockingham – Mersey Point Granite Seawall Construction
- WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's Beach Emergency Numbers (BEN) signs program
- City of Busselton Coastal Management Plan
- Rottnest Island South Thomson Sea Wall
- Busselton Jetty Environment Foundation
- Priorities for coastal research in Western Australia: paper led by the University of Western Australia