

Cockburn Sound Management Council Communique

February 2024

Latest news

The first meeting for 2024 of the Cockburn Sound Management Council (Council) was held at the City of Rockingham Council office on 2 February 2024.

Presentations provided to the Council included:

- A presentation from representatives of the Australian Submarine Agency and the Department of Defence's Security and Estate Group on the Submarine Rotational Force - West and the operational, training and support facilities and infrastructure planned for Garden Island.
- A summary of the findings of the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) Westport Marine Science Program: Project 2.2 on pressure-response relationships, building resilience and future proofing seagrass meadows by Dr Simone Strydom from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- A presentation on the findings of the WAMSI Westport Marine Science Project 8.3 on the patterns of key habitat use and diets of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins in Owen Anchorage and Cockburn Sound by Dr Delphine Chabanne from Murdoch University.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) provided an aquatic biosecurity update on the Quarantine Area Notice issued for the Australian Marine Complex (AMC) Southern Harbour. DPIRD maintains surveillance for the carpet sea squirt, an invasive marine species that has been detected at AMC Southern Harbour and HMAS Stirling Careening Bay, through the State-wide Array Surveillance Program.

Who is Cockburn Sound Management Council?

The Council is an advisory council to the Minister for Environment - established under section 25 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The Council was set up in 2000 as a Committee of the Water and Rivers Commission's Board.

The Council provides advice to the Minister for Environment on the environmental management of Cockburn Sound, in particular the protection and maintenance of water quality and associated environmental values of the Cockburn Sound marine area set in the *State Environmental (Cockburn Sound) Policy 2015*.

The Council facilitates and coordinates stakeholder and community input into the environmental management of Cockburn Sound. The Council includes representatives from community, conservation and recreation groups, industry and local, State and Commonwealth Government agencies.

More information

Further information on Cockburn Sound, including technical reports, is available at [Cockburn Sound Management Council | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au).

If you would like to contact the Council, please email CSMC@dwer.wa.gov.au.