

Cockburn Sound Management Council Communique

Meeting 95 | 3 July 2026

The Cockburn Sound Management Council (CSMC) has commenced a new one-year term, with a further two-year, option and held its first meeting on 3 July 2026 in Rockingham. The new membership brings together representatives from the community, Aboriginal Corporations, conservation groups, industry, recreation, and local, State and Australian Government agencies, to support the long-term environmental health and sustainable management of Cockburn Sound (Derbal Nara).

The CSMC welcomed Noongar Regional Corporation representation to the CSMC for the first time. The participation of the Aboriginal Corporations strengthens the CSMC's commitment to the Derbal Nara and brings cultural knowledge and Traditional Owner perspectives into environmental decision-making.

Setting a strategic direction

A key focus of the meeting was strengthening the CSMC's strategic role through the development of a shared vision and governance framework to guide priorities and activities over the coming year. To support this work, members agreed to establish an Executive Council under its Terms of Reference.

Governance and environmental stewardship

The CSMC participated in a governance and integrity presentation delivered by the Public Sector Commission, reinforcing principles of accountability, transparency and ethical decision-making.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation provided updates on the review of the *State Environmental (Cockburn Sound) Policy 2015* and ongoing marine ecosystem monitoring and reporting programs that underpin evidence-based environmental management.

Looking ahead

In the coming months, the CSMC will focus on contributing to the review of the *State Environmental (Cockburn Sound) Policy 2015* and developing its Vision and Strategic Governance Framework.

The next meeting of the CSMC is scheduled for October 2026.

More information

Further information on the Derbal Nara, including technical reports, is available at [Cockburn Sound Management Council website](#). Enquiries can be directed to CSMC@dwer.wa.gov.au.