A guide to

COCKBURN CEMENT'S Wetland

THE COCKBURN CEMENT WETLAND

THE COCKBURN CEMENT WETLAND WAS CREATED IN 1996 WHEN THE COMPANY WAS BUILDING ITS NEW LIME KILN AT MUNSTER.

After thousands of tonnes of soil was removed, the area was lined with thick plastic and half a metre of sand to create one of Perth's first artificial wetlands.

The primary aim of the wetland is to provide a clean, reliable water supply to the cement works, ensuring important environmental benefits.

These include:

- Home to a variety of flora and fauna.
- Providing a protective habitat to a variety of wildlife including ducks, several bird species, frogs, lizards and snakes.
- The Billabong Reeds allow filtration and cleanse pollutants from the stormwater. Allowing maximum water catchments during the winter months.

HOW THE WETLANDS WORK

THE WETLAND ITSELF COVERS ABOUT 2 HECTARES AND CONTAINS 16 MILLION LITRES OF WATER WHICH IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THE NEEDS OF COCKBURN CEMENT. MORE THAN 60 SPECIES OF BIRDS NOW CALL THE WETLANDS HOME, INCLUDING THE RUFOUS NIGHT HERON AND THE PURPLE SWAMP-HEN.

4. RIVER

Water from the billabong flows into the river. Large logs have been placed on the river bed as a habitat for insects, frogs and other small animals. Flooded gums and paperbark trees have been planted to stabilise the riverbank, along with more reeds and rushes.

5. LAKE

The river carries water from the billabong to a deep lake, where most of the water is stored. At its centre is an artificial island with a large tree as a roosting site, and a protected area for ground nesting birds.

6. POND PUMPS

In the wetland area to the north of the island, there are two pond pumps which allow excess water to slowly drain back into Cockburn Cement's operation to reduce the overall waste consumption from local aquifers.

1. PRIMARY SUMP

The primary sump collects surface stormwater from the surrounding bush and Cockburn Cement's operations. Larger particles settle in this sump, and the cleaner water naturally flows, via an oil filter, to the secondary sump.

2. SECONDARY SUMP

The finer particles settle to the bottom of the secondary sump while the water flows into the billabong.

CATCHMENT AREA AND VEGETATION RESERVE

The catchment area for the wetland incorporates all the surrounding industrial land and 12.8 hectares of bush land containing mature tuarts, marris, banksias and acacias.

3. BILLABONG

The billabong has been planted with five types of reeds and rushes to slow the water flow down, protecting the banks from erosion and enhancing nutrient absorption.

NORTH

LOOKOUT

SEAT

WALKING TRACK

WHAT IS A WETLAND?

Just as the name indicates, a wetland is an area of land which is wet for at least a part of the year. Wetlands include lakes, streams, billabongs, swamps and bogs. The water in a wetland may come from local rainfall, or from underground springs, or even transported by a river or stream from land some distance away.

WHY ARE WETLANDS IMPORTANT?

WETLANDS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR ENVIRONMENT BY PROVIDING FOOD, SHELTER AND WATER TO BOTH PLANTS (FLORA) AND ANIMALS (FAUNA).

Some animals, such as birds, use wetlands as a refuge as they travel from place to place. Others, such as bandicoots, remain in the bushland close to the water's edge as they live their life. Lots of frogs, insects and other small animals use wetlands as a breeding ground until they become adults.

A wide range of plants live in the water, sustained by its nutrients, growing strong and tall on the banks and in the shallows of the wetland.

Due to the expansion of Perth's suburbs, many wetlands have been filled in or have become degraded. That's why it is important that we create new wetlands where we can.

If you would like to visit the Cockburn Cement Wetland, please call the Community Liaison Officer on (08) 9411 1000 to arrange a tour.

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