

## Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

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*People Working Together for a Healthy Environment*

## Media release

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### Dine on Healthy Crabs



*Image: Stage Door Waterfront Restaurant chef Ellen Rayner with Mandurah Blue Swimmer Crab linguine pictured with Mayor Marina Vergone holding the Home River Ocean fertiliser guides.*

**14 March 2016 ...** A campaign focusing on grass roots lawn care to keep the region’s famous Blue Swimmer Crabs healthy is gaining momentum.

The Peel community will have the chance to get on board with the ‘Save the Crabs, Then Eat Them’ campaign in a partnership between the South West Catchments Council (SWCC) and the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC). The campaign, which kicks off during Crab Fest, encourages residents to think about how and when they fertilise their lawns – for the sake of the waterways and crabs.

Mayor Vergone said making a small change in lawn care behaviour can be one of the most effective actions residents can do to aid fish stocks and protect our waterways.

“Fertiliser leaches into our waterways when it rains, causing algal blooms that remove oxygen. If there’s rain forecast, hold off the fertiliser and go fishing instead! Waiting until Autumn and Spring to fertilise lawns keeps the fertiliser on the lawn where it does its job, it also promotes grass root growth instead of blade growth for healthier lawns,” she said.

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The Home River Ocean campaign has produced free fertiliser guides on how to fertilise at the right time, using the right amount. These are available BCF Mandurah and Ray's Outdoors as well as at Department of Fisheries Mandurah and the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council.

The project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. PHCC's chairman Andy Gulliver said reducing the impact on water quality caused by excessive nutrients entering the Peel-Harvey's waterways, estuaries and ocean is a simple message for all residents who loved their lawns and our crabs.

"The fertiliser guide details how to use the right amount and carefully measure dosages so it stays on your lawn and plants where it's needed and doesn't run off into our precious waterways," he said.

Stage Door Waterfront Restaurant chef Ellen Rayner said holding off when there is rain around and going easy when applying fertiliser would ensure there were more dishes like Blue Swimmer Crab Linguine on the menu for everyone to enjoy.

"Excess fertiliser from lawns and gardens washes into drains and through our sandy soils to our precious waterways where those tasty Blue Swimmer Crabs live, so choose to have garlic butter with your crab, not fertiliser!" she said.

**ENDS...**

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