

Building Community Capacity for Sustainable Ag Practices - Healthy Waterways (Mayfield Healthy Waterways)

Mayfield catchment landholders have a long history of Landcare and provided critical information for the Subcatchment Implementation Plan (SIP) for Water Quality Improvement.

This Healthy Waterways project, conducted in the Mayfield catchment, helped ‘close the loop’ in regard to the landholders’ contribution to the SIP. Workshops, field days and site visits exposed landholders to land management practices aimed at increasing farm productivity whilst reducing nutrient export into waterways.

The project’s evaluation identified that landholders’ priority is clearly farm productivity. There’s strong support for Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping especially as the program offers a comprehensive service and provides independent advice that is easy to understand and implement. The ongoing challenge is to work with landholders on research and actions that drive productivity with the side effect of improved catchment water quality

FUNDING PROGRAM

Caring for Our Country 2013 -2014
Community Landcare Grants

PHCC PROGRAM

*Water Quality – Filtering the Nutrient Storm
(FNS): Mayfield SIP - Subcatchment Water Quality
Implementation Plan*

PHCC PROJECT

***Building Community Capacity For Sustainable Ag
Practices - Healthy Waterways***

FUNDING

CfOC: \$49,000
In Kind: \$27,500

STAKEHOLDERS

- Mayfield Catchment Landowners
- Department of Agriculture and Food WA
- Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Department of Water
- Water Corporation

BENEFICIARIES

Mayfield Catchment landholders/farmers

PROJECT MANAGER

Colleen Archibald supported by Kim Wilson



OUTCOMES

- Improved skills and Knowledge: 111 land managers/farmers attended workshops, field days or site visits
- Landholders undertaking new and innovative farming methods to reduce nutrient export. Mayfield Catchment Evaluation - 19 Landholders surveyed
- Engagement with local Bindjareb Elders and community resulting in improved understanding of protocols

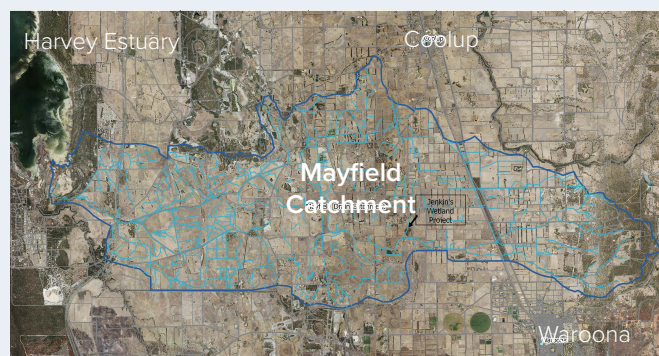
OUTPUTS

- Mayfield Main Drain Reach Maps & Drain Assessment Packages for Landholders
- Workshop - *SIP @ Mayfield*
- Field day - *Slowing the Flow*
- Wildflower Walk - *Bandicoot Brook Wildflower Walk*
- Field Day - *Water and Firewood*
- Event - *Healthy Farms – Healthy Waterways*
- Noongar Engagement
- *Jenkins Wetland case study booklet* – technical draft
- Review of Coastal Drainage Guidelines - *Drainage Policy Review*
- Desktop Analysis of potential future project sites *Mayfield Project sites ID*
- Evaluation - *Mayfield Healthy Waterways Project*

LINKS TO OTHER PROJECTS

- Mayfield Main Drain sub-catchment Water Quality Improvement Plan including Foundational Activities (09058) 2010–2011
- FNSII–2011 to 2013 (Caring for Our Country)

LOCATION:



OTHER BENEFITS

Landholders and the community are aware of the research and investment carried out in regard to production and water quality in an important catchment that impacts on the Ramsar-listed Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary. This raises the awareness of our unique environment and encourages improved management practices to further protect this wonderful asset.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The diversity of the Mayfield landholders created issues when trying to organise workshops and field days. Farmers are traditionally time poor and this is exacerbated by many also working off farm. Providing interesting topics and speakers as well as different timing, duration and venues were tactics used to encourage and enable attendance.