







RESCUING THE LAKE CLIFTON THROMBOLITES

-  Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
-  Lake Clifton
-  June 2022 - June 2024
-  Requesting \$500,000

The thrombolites at Lake Clifton are one of only two thrombolite communities in south Western Australia, listed under the EPBC Act in January 2010 as a critically endangered Threatened Ecological Community. Lake Clifton also supports a unique ecological community, including various unusual species of macroinvertebrates and migratory and resident bird species including the vulnerable hooded plover. The thrombolites at Lake Clifton are a significant tourist attraction in WA, with approximately 240,000 visitors per year.

The greatest contemporary threat to the thrombolites is the increasing salinity of the lake which has increased more than three-fold between 1985 and 2010, probably caused by human induced changes to the hydrology of the superficial aquifer and a reduction in rainfall.

The ecological character of Lake Clifton will be improved by increasing the understanding of the lake's hydrological regimes and evaluating the condition and viability of the Thrombolite Threatened Ecological Community, funds for which have been secured from the Commonwealth Government's Regional Land Partnerships Program. Setting up a pilot scale trial to investigate the effects of increasing flows of fresh groundwater to the condition of the Thrombolites is the next vital step. Without implementation of this activity, there is a high risk that Lake Clifton, including the Thrombolite Threatened Ecological Community, will no longer be ecologically viable.

This project is a pilot scale trial to commence a rescue mission for the Thrombolites from the increasing salinity of Lake Clifton.

Outcomes:

Economy

- 6 FTE jobs will be created during the project.
- Attracts ~240,000 visitor per annum.

Environment

- Understand management options for the on-going health of the Thrombolites.