

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: T15:0032

29 September 2020

Lake's supporters celebrate

Katanning's Lake Ewlyamartup has a brighter future following major engineering works to manage its water quality.

At an event held at the lake on Saturday 26 September, the working group that initiated improvements around the water body was acknowledged for its decade of commitment to the 100-hectare lake.

Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning told attendees that the Commission's involvement began soon after the Lake Ewlyamartup Working Group called a 130-strong meeting in 2010 to initiate action on the condition of the lake.

Mr Manning said the working group and Katanning Landcare were the key bodies in the long-term rehabilitation of the lake.

"This is a great example of sustained community proactivity addressing long-term issues," Mr Manning said.

"Early in the process, following the good work of the working group and Katanning Landcare, we supported planning for engineering and recreation works that informed actions by local landholders and helped to leverage funds for user facilities at the lake.

"Following that groundwork, the State Government provided \$3.7 million in funding for the Living Lakes program, which aimed to improve the water quality of Lake Ewlyamartup and Lake Yealering.

"Those recent works around Lake Ewlyamartup have now established a flushing channel, road culvert and bund to help improve the lake's water quality by removing saline water.

"Along with further improvements for users, the aim is to have a healthier water body that attracts visitors and encourages inland water recreation."

Mr Manning thanked the members of the Lake Ewlyamartup Working Group and they were presented with gifts acknowledging their work to improve the lake.



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

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He also lauded the contribution of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management, which was the project coordinator for the Living Lakes program.

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