



PROJECT 6.3: RECREATION, AMENITY AND AESTHETIC VALUES

What is the project about?

Most people first think of recreational fishing when it comes to Cockburn Sound, but it actually hosts a wide range of recreational activities. This project focusses on non-fishing recreational activities, aiming to:

- 1) Identify the range and distribution of non-fishing recreational activities and associated values in Cockburn Sound;
- 2) Provide an economic valuation for key recreational sites and;
- 3) Identify perceived conflicts that may result from new development and other users in the Sound.

This project is being developed by a team of researchers from Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia.

What are the benefits of the project?

The project provides an opportunity for recreational user groups and individuals to contribute to a better understanding of how Cockburn Sound is used and valued for the range of non-fishing recreational activities that are central to how and why the Sound is accessed and used.

This project will help inform future development in the Cockburn Sound area by providing key data on recreational activity use, values, and perceived conflicts, and how these may be influenced by further development in the Sound.

Need more information?

You can contact the project team at socialvalues@wamsi.org.au to learn more about Project 6.3.

For further information about the Westport Program, please visit www.westport.wa.gov.au or contact enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au

How is the project being developed?

Step 1 Desktop Review

Researchers review publicly available documents to identify recreational activities and key stakeholders, as well as potential values associated with those activities.

Step 2 Stakeholder meetings

Meet with people and organisations associated with key recreational activities to introduce the project and research team, and discuss participant recruitment methods for the online survey.

Step 3 Online survey

The survey targets Cockburn Sound recreational user groups not related to fishing. Questions include:

- 1) Basic demographic information.
- 2) Online mapping of recreational activities and associated values.
- 3) Frequency and mode of access to Cockburn Sound for recreational activities.

Step 4 Data analysis

Researchers identify the range, distribution, and patterns of non-fishing recreational activities and associated values in Cockburn Sound, as well as perceived conflicts that might result from new developments and other users in the Sound.

Researchers also estimate the monetary value, in terms of "willingness to pay" per trip, for key sites where recreational activities are potentially affected by the port development.