



Environmental Health
Association (Australia) Inc.
www.envirohealthaustralia.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Tuesday 8th December

Comment: For immediate release

Perth a drain on Dolphins

The Environmental Health Association (Australia) Inc, Vice President, Peter McKenzie – urgently called today on the Barnett Government to provide additional funding to *all* local governments bordering the Swan and Canning Rivers.

“Money is needed *now* to remove polluting storm water drains which are currently empty directly into both these vital rivers,” he warns.

According to Mr McKenzie funding is also needed to provide suitable areas for settlement ponds to be created, such as Point Fraser near the Causeway Bridge.

“Drains of all sizes are known to deliver wastes from the urban catchment surrounding the rivers, in runoff and oils from roads, bacteria from animal wastes and run off from lawns and gardens,” he explains.

“There are hundreds of drains emptying into the rivers many of them major drains from surrounding areas which can be up to 10 kilometres away, such as the main Bayswater and Maylands Drains”.

In recent months six dolphins have been reported dead in the Swan and Canning Rivers. While post mortem investigations have been inconclusive to date, indications show that these dolphins had suppressed immune systems and were suffering from bacterial, fungal and viral infections at the time of death.

“People should avoid contact with river water where there are dead, dying or erratically swimming fish,” said Mr McKenzie. He recommends anyone finding such fish immediately report the incident to The Swan River Trust on 9278 0900 or after hours on the Incident Response mobile 0419 192 845.

“Pollutant wastes are contributing to the poor health of both these rivers and that in turn may be significantly contributing to the tragic death of dolphins in our waterways,” concluded Mr McKenzie.

To arrange an interview/photograph with Peter McKenzie, please contact Mary Ward – EHAA Media Officer on 041681 3223 or email:

media@envirohealthaustralia.com.au

For further information:

http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/662/2/bacterial_water_quality.pm

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Environmental Health Association (Australia) Inc (EHAA) is a peak professional body seeking to promote excellence in environmental health practice through education, training and professional development at a local, national and international level.

The overlap between care of the environment and the practice of public health is broadly described as environmental health. Members are passionately committed to the delivery of best practice standards to the public and industry.

As a federated, autonomous incorporated organisation, all decision making is undertaken at State Level. Ten special interest groups (SIG) inform members on important issues and seek comment in the development of policy positions.

EHAA SIGs include: Built Environment, Professional Management, Food Safety, Emergency Management, Waste Management, Climate Change, Indigenous Health, Safety & Health, Public Health and Sustainability.

For more information about the Environmental Health Association (Australia) Inc please contact President Llew Withers via email info@envirohealthaustralia or EHAA Media Officer Mary Ward on 0416 813 223.