



“LastSay.”
Communications

MEDIA RELEASE

February 6, 2014

Recfishwest brings prawns back to the river for the community

West Australians will reap the rewards of a project to restock the Swan and Canning River with prawns as early as next summer after the release this summer of hundreds of thousands of prawns into the Swan and Canning River systems.

Recfishwest chief executive Dr Andrew Rowland said “Every year 25 per cent of recreational fishing licence fees are placed in the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) to enable projects and research aligned with enhancing recreational fishing in WA – and this prawn restocking is just one of many projects funded through the RFIF.”

“The prawn restocking project is an excellent example of the recreational fishing licence fees working towards managing and improving recreational fishing experiences. So far more than \$5 million has been invested into RFIF projects since the fund was launched in 2010.

As part of the prawn restocking project the Swan River Trust is today launching a citizen science program called ‘Prawn watch’ to monitor prawn numbers in the Swan/Canning Rivers while Murdoch University will research what happens to the restocked prawns.

Dr Rowland said “We want people to reconnect with the Swan and Canning Rivers which are arguably the most important estuary systems for recreational fishing in WA and we are excited to see licence money going back into recreational fishing to produce tangible benefits for the community.

“The Swan and Canning rivers are popular recreational fishing sites and perfect for families.”

Challenger Institute of Technology director Greg Jenkins said his team at the Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research had developed ground-breaking systems to culture the western school prawn which allows the females to spawn naturally and the hatched juveniles to grow to a size where they can bury themselves in the riverbed, giving the released prawns the best possible chance of survival and large-scale releases were now a reality.

This project was made possible by the Swan River Trust, Murdoch University, Challenger Institute of Technology and the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and is supported by Recfishwest and the WA Department of Fisheries.

Media Contact:

Donna Cole, LastSay Communications 0419 901 229