

Ozfish Fish Friendly Farms

PW080



September 2017



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

PROJECT CLOSURE REPORT

1. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

1. (a) Project Manager

Group or Organisation:	South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.	
Project Contact Name:	Dylan Gleave	Ph: (08) 9076 2210 Fax: (08) 9845 8538 Mobile: 0427 928 400 Email: dylang@southcoastnrm.com.au
Contact Address:	39 Mercer Road ALBANY WA 6330	
Project Officer(s)	Bryn Warnock	Ph: (08) 9845 8537 Fax: (08) 9845 8538

1. (b) Project Description (from the Project Schedule)

Community Engagement, Planning and Implementation of Fish Friendly Farms Program in the South Coast NRM Region of Western Australia.

South Coast NRM will implement with landholders a minimum of two demonstration sites as part of the delivery of the Fish Friendly Farms Programme in the South Coast NRM Region. The demonstration sites will showcase the implementation of environmental restoration and protection works to help restore ecosystem function for the benefit of native fish and the aquatic environment. Demonstration sites will be identified and on ground works planned and implemented after a stakeholder workshop and initial landholder engagement and site assessments. Landholders, project partners and the community will be engaged through project workshops, field days and communication activities to improve landholder and stakeholder knowledge of the native fish, local waterways and NRM issues and activities to protect and improve the aquatic environment. The project is a partnership with Recfishwest and OzFish Unlimited with South Coast NRM implementing project activities in the South Coast NRM Region with the support of project partners.

1. (c) Project Duration

Project Start Date: 15 December 2016

Project Completion Date: 30 September 2017

2. Total Project Funding Details

ORIGINAL Budget, Milestones and Timeframes

Output	Budget Total (\$)	Milestones and Timeframes
Project facilitation, coordination and project management. Project Officer to coordinate and deliver the Fish Friendly Farms Program in the South Coast NRM Region of Western Australia. (4.1 0.15 FTE, operating and on costs). Project facilitation, coordination and project management. Engagement of recreational fishers in the Fish Friendly Farms Project. Additional in-kind from South Coast NRM Coastal, Water and Marine staff and program.	\$15,145	November 2016 – December 2017
Delivery of site identification and on ground works planning workshops	\$500	December 2016
Implementation of two Fish Friendly Farms demonstration sites. On ground works could include riparian revegetation, restoration and fencing, bank stabilisation, invasive species management and the implementation of improved land management practices. Interpretive signage will be implemented at demonstration sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approximately \$10,000 per demonstration site including landholder delivery support and resources Indicative on ground works cost estimates based on South Coast NRM landholder incentive and past projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Revegetation @ \$1,450 per ha ➤ Fencing @ \$2,400 per km ➤ Restoration @ \$2,400 per km / ha ➤ Invasive weed control ➤ Interpretive sign @ \$1,000 Additional in-kind from South Coast NRM Coastal, Water and Marine staff and program.	\$20,000	January 2017 – September 2017
Delivery of Fish Friendly Farms and demonstration sites field day.	\$500	September 2017
Communication activities to promote the Fish Friendly Farms Programme and demonstration sites to the community and recreational fishers.	\$500	November 2016 – December 2017
	Budget Total: \$36,645	Project Timeframe: November 2016 – December 2017

ACTUAL Budget Summary

Budget, Milestones and Timeframes

Item	Budget Total (\$)	Milestones and Timeframes
<p>Project facilitation, coordination and project management. Project Officer to coordinate and deliver the Fish Friendly Farms Program in the South Coast NRM Region of Western Australia. (Casual FTE, operating and on costs). Project facilitation, coordination and project management. Engagement of recreational fishers in the Fish Friendly Farms Project. Additional in-kind from South Coast NRM Coastal, Water and Marine staff and program.</p>	\$15,218.90	November 2016 – December 2017
<p>Delivery of site identification and on ground works planning workshops</p>	\$0	December 2016
<p>Implementation of two Fish Friendly Farms demonstration sites. On ground works could include riparian revegetation, restoration and fencing, bank stabilisation, invasive species management and the implementation of improved land management practices. Interpretive signage will be implemented at demonstration sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approximately \$10,000 per demonstration site including landholder delivery support and resources <p>Indicative on ground works cost estimates based on South Coast NRM landholder incentive and past projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Revegetation @ \$1,450 per ha ➤ Fencing @ \$2,400 per km ➤ Restoration @ \$2,400 per km / ha ➤ Invasive weed control ➤ Interpretive sign @ \$1,000 <p>Additional in-kind from South Coast NRM Coastal, Water and Marine staff and program.</p>	\$11,472.95	January 2017 – September 2017
<p>Delivery of Fish Friendly Farms and demonstration sites field day. Communication activities to promote the Fish Friendly Farms Programme and demonstration sites to the community and recreational fishers.</p>	\$726.66	November 2016 – December 2017
	<p>Budget Total: \$27,418.51</p>	<p>Project Timeframe: November 2016 – December 2017</p>
	<p>Remaining Total: \$9,266.49</p>	
<p>Project Closure Items and to support Demonstration Site</p>		<p>June 2018</p>

Future Project Promotions with OzFish Unlimited and Recfishwest	\$2,500	
Coordination Engagement future Fish Friendly Farms Projects – South Coast NRM	\$1,116	
Follow up weed control 2017 revegetation – South Coast NRM	\$600	
Infill revegetation 2018 3 ha – South Coast NRM	\$4,050	
Engagement event 2018 infill revegetation - South Coast NRM	\$1,000	
	Total: \$9,266	
	Remaining Total: \$0.49	

3. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

3. (a) Provide a brief description of what the project planned to achieve.

1. Improve landholder/land manger understanding of fish habitat requirements and the impact of land management on fish ecology
2. Encourage rehabilitation of fish habitat to improve native fish communities
3. Build capacity within the farming community to assist with the planning and implementation of on-ground works that will benefit the aquatic environment.
4. Develop Fish Friendly Farm demonstration properties
5. Communicate project outcomes to natural resource management bodies, government and the fishing community.

3. (b) Provide a description of what the project actually achieved. Include a list of outputs achieved.

The project achieved all its objectives. List of outputs relating to each objective outlined below.

1. Two community workshops held, along with a community planting day, all of which were attended by local landholders and farmers. During these events the implications of declining river health on native fish and marron were outlined, and a range of practical actions that farmers can undertake on their properties to improve or protect river health were discussed. The Oyster Harbour Catchment Group also attended one of these workshops, where its representative discussed the benefits of nutrient mapping in farm paddocks.

Educational materials produced during the project will support the information provided during the events, and extend the project's reach beyond those who were able to attend the events. Two educational materials were produced, one providing a guide to common freshwater fish and crayfish in the South West, and another guide that includes a list of practical actions landholders can undertake to protect and enhance fish habitat.

2. By advertising the project on social media (SCNRM and RecFish West Facebook pages) and in local newsletters (SCNRM) and newspapers (Albany Advertiser), it is hoped that more local landholders will begin or return to the process of restoring and preserving fish habitat in their local areas or on their properties. It was shown during the project's events that fish habitat protection and enhancement doesn't need to be expensive, and that the creation of small pockets of high quality habitat can be achieved at a low cost, and contributes significantly to local fish habitat.

3. By highlighting the practical steps that landholders can undertake to improve fish habitat through events and educational materials, it can be expected that some landholders in the local area will apply some of these steps on their own properties. Many landholders already have the skills and capabilities to undertake many of the simple actions suggested in the workshops and educational material, and now with an increased understanding of the value of these actions to fish habitat, they will be more likely to undertake on-ground works.

4. Two demonstration properties have been developed.

At demonstration farm 1, a fence line protecting 600 m of remnant riparian vegetation has been installed. The same contractor also complete weed control at the site, removing the invasive Sydney Golden Wattle that is abundant at the site. Herbicide was then selectively sprayed on the site by the landholder in preparation for infill revegetation where Sydney Wattles are removed, to maintain bank stability and cover.

At the second demonstration farm the landholder improved the fence line (replaced damaged posts and installed a gate) and completed weed control over an area of approximately 0.6ha. The first round of weed control spraying was undertaken in preparation for initial revegetation.

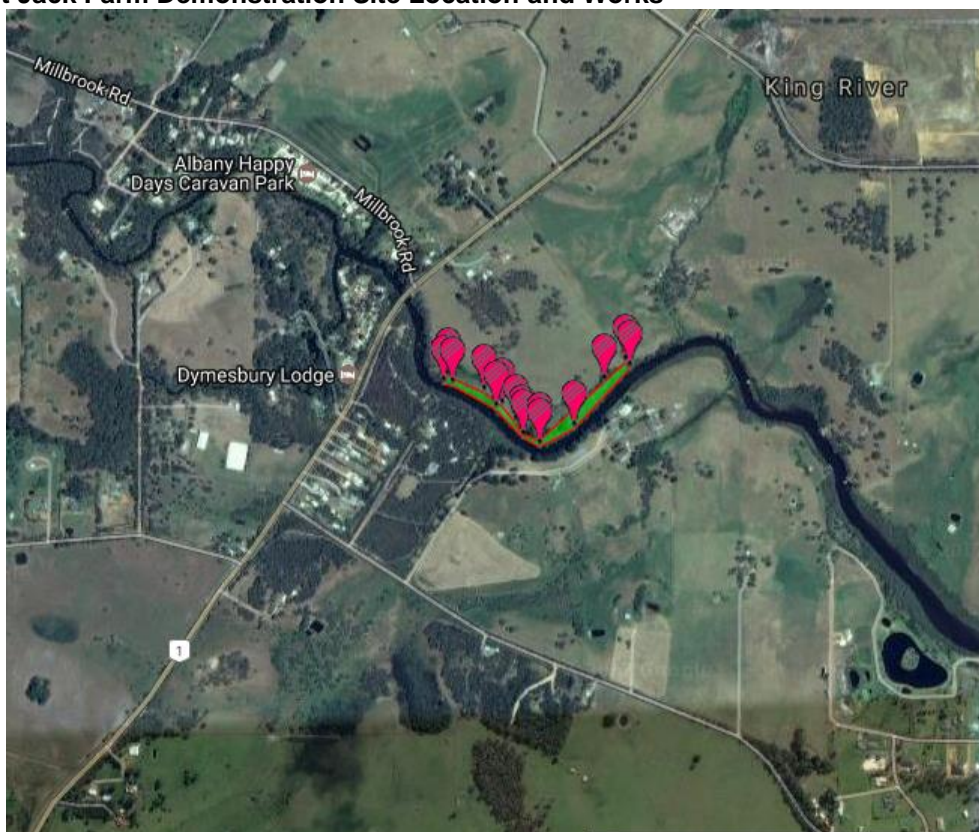
Once the fencing and spraying on the farms was completed, the final stages of on ground works involved a community planting day where 700 seedlings were planted over the two demonstration properties. The program is set up and the landholders have committed to continued maintenance (spraying of planted areas) to ensure the success of investment made by this project. Landholders have committed to facilitating further planting days at the demonstration sites as opportunities arise.

5. During the project the following bodies were engaged.

- Oyster Harbour Catchment Group
- Torbay Catchment Group
- City of Albany
- King River Weed Group
- Dept. Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Dept. Agriculture and Water Resources
- Albany Offshore Fishing and Boating Club
- Broader fishing community through advertisement on Recfish West's Facebook page and their newsletter.

See Appendix Documents, Media/Promotions, Maps and Photos

Site 1: St Jack Farm Demonstration Site Location and Works



Site 1: St Jack Farm Demonstration Site Location and Works – Area Riparian Zone Protected



Site 1: St Jack Farm Demonstration Site Location and Works – Area Riparian Zone Protected

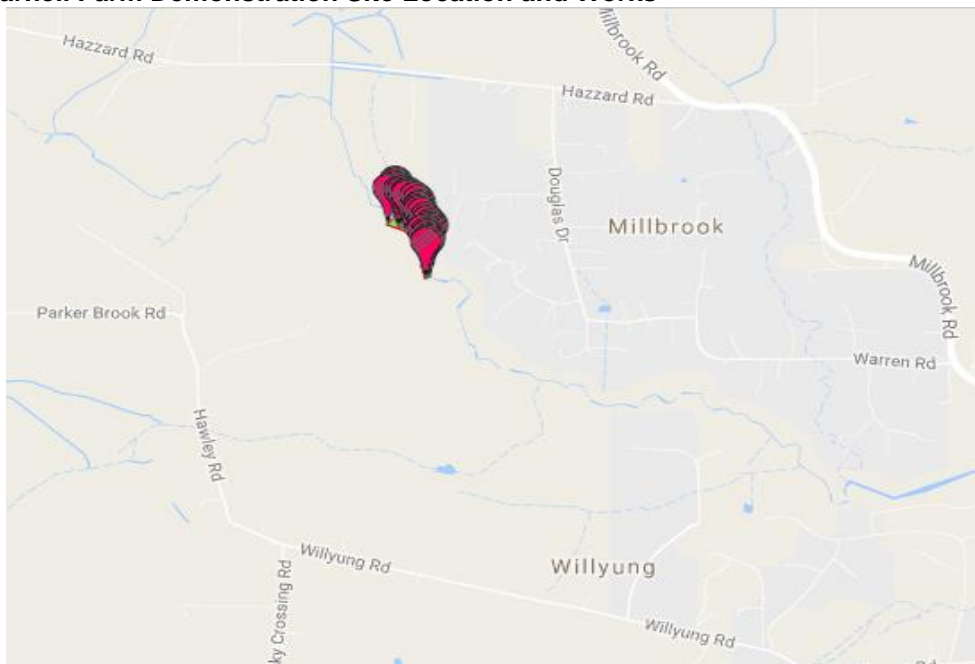


Site 1: St Jack Farm Demonstration Site Location and Works – Weed control area



Site 1: St Jack Farm Demonstration Site Location and Works – Riparian zone fencing and protection

Site 2: Parnell Farm Demonstration Site Location and Works





Site 2: Parnell Farm Demonstration Site Location and Works – Area Riparian Zone Protected



Site 2: Parnell Farm Demonstration Site Location and Works – Riparian zone fencing and protection



Site 2: Parnell Farm Demonstration Site Location and Works – Riparian zone protected

NOTE: If there is a difference between 2. (a) and 2. (b), please provide an explanation under section 3. (b) Effectiveness.

3. (c) How has the project contributed to the Measures and Indicators identified in the Project Schedule

Identify any regional targets supported and/or addressed as part of this project and outline how this project has contributed to those targets. Enter % from Project Schedule.

Measures and Indicators	%	Describe how the project has contributed to each target
NRM Capacity – individuals and communities	10	Provide events and educational materials that enhance community and individual capacity to undertake on-ground works to improve fish habitat.
NRM Capacity – institutions and organisations	5	Develop a link between recreational fishing organisations (Recfish West) and land care organisations in Western Australia to promote shared values.
Sustainable Industries	5	Demonstrating methods that farmers can use to reduce their impact of fish habitat, and enhance fish habitat in their waterways.
Soil		
Specific native species and ecological communities		
Native vegetation	20	Infill revegetation of previously grazed riparian zone vegetation
Inland aquatic ecosystems		
Aquatic environments	20	Protection of remnant vegetation by installation and repair of fence lines, and enhancement of fish and marron habitat through weed control and restoration of natural riparian vegetation.
Water resources	20	Protection of water quality by preventing stock access to the King River, and enhancing bank stabilisation by restoring riparian zone vegetation.
Estuarine, coastal and marine habitat	20	Reduction in sediment supply into rivers due to reduced stock access and stabilised river banks
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (knowledge and places)		
Other Cultural Heritage (knowledge and places)		

3. (d) Participation

How many people have been directly employed in the project?

Full time
Part time
Casual

1

Which stakeholder groups have been involved in the project?

List major groups who contributed to the technical, practical, financial or administrative aspects of the project using the following categories:

Sub-regional groups	Educational institutions
Non-government organisations	Industry groups
Local government	Government agencies
Research and development group/s	Aboriginal groups

Category (as per above list)	Name of Group	Type of Involvement (e.g.: employees, volunteers, equipment, investigations, development of activities)	Number of Participants (Split into full, part time and casual employees and volunteers)
Non-government organisations	Oyster Harbour Catchment Group	Employee	1 Casual
Non-government organisations	RecfishWest	Employee	1 Part Time
Government agencies	Dept. of Agriculture and Water Resources	Employee	1 Full Time
Non-government organisations	Ozfish Unlimited	Employee	1 Part Time 1 Full Time
Non-government organisations	Torbay Catchment Group	Employee	1 Casual
Local government	City of Albany	Employee	1 Part Time
Non-government organisations	King River Weed Group	Volunteer	6 Volunteer
Government agencies	Dept. Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Volunteer	1 Volunteer
Non-government organisations	Albany Offshore Fishing and Boating Club	Volunteer	3 Volunteer

4. Assets

Have you purchased any approved assets with project funding throughout the life of this project? NO

If yes, please list here individual items that cost \$500 or more, the date the item was purchased and a recommendation for disposal (e.g.: community use, transfer to another project, sale/auction etc.).

NB: Income derived from the sale of assets purchased with project funding must be returned to the project funds and utilised for the purpose of the project or returned to South Coast NRM for return to the funding provider.

Asset Description	Date of Purchase	Purchase Value	Asset Disposed	Intended disposal action or if sold, sale details: sale value, date and any other relevant information
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

5. EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT

5. (a) Impact

(The purpose of this is to evaluate what has changed as a result of the project activities and, if the change was as planned. EXAMPLE questions: What, if any, desired/ unanticipated positive/ negative changes or other outcomes have occurred as a result of this project? To what extent were the changes directly or indirectly produced by the project activities?)

Two landholders have been directly supported by the project to undertake on-ground works on their farms to protect and enhance fish and marron habitat.

As a result of this project there is now increased awareness within the local community and the broader fishing community about the role farmers and landholders can have in protecting and enhancing fish habitat. The project has increased community and individual capacity to undertake suitable on-ground works to improve fish habitat.

Importantly the project has strengthened the link between the recreational fishing community, including Recfish West, and NRM groups in Western Australia. Engaging the recreational fishing community to become actively involved in on-ground NRM works with local environmental groups highlights the values that these groups have in common and paves the way for ongoing partnerships.

5. (b) Effectiveness

(The purpose of this is to evaluate whether or not the planned activities and agreed target outcomes have been achieved. Explain any differences between questions 2. (a) and 2. (b).

EXAMPLE questions: To what extent have planned activities and outcomes been achieved? What worked and what didn't work? What other activities might be more effective?)

This project suffered long delays in the early stages due to waiting for final announcement of funding and signing of grant agreements. Once this was completed the project made steady progress and will be completed within the 2017 calendar year.

Turnout for the workshops was lower than hoped, despite promoting the project through a wide range of medias including Radio interviews on regional radio stations RedFM on June 1st and Radio ABC great southern news as well as on metro Radio station, ABC Perth metro and a newspaper article in the Albany Advertiser.

There was also coverage through Recfishwest social media networks including Facebook, fishing reports and through the monthly newsletter, as well as SCNRM social media networks and its newsletter.

The two demonstration sites were identified, and on-ground works completed at both within the allotted time frame. The extent of infill revegetation that could be undertaken this calendar year was limited by the availability of seedlings from the local commercial nursery. By the time the project commenced in Albany, it was too late to place seedling orders at the nursery for planting in winter 2017, as such only excess nursery stock was available for the project. Fortunately, sufficient excess stock was available to achieve project objectives and remaining funds will be used to purchase a second order of seedlings, the planting of which will be undertaken by the landholders at the demonstration sites in winter 2018 to consolidate this year's planting.

Turnout for the planting day was ideal, with a small group comprising of fishers and local community members taking part in the planting. If more seedlings were available, a number of planting days spread over the winter period could have taken place, allowing more community volunteers to be directly involved in the project.

5. (c) Appropriateness (Methodology)

(The purpose of this is to evaluate whether or not the project used the best methodology to achieve the agreed targets. EXAMPLE question: To what extent were the project approach and strategies appropriate in achieving intended outcomes? Are there approaches and strategies that might be more appropriate? What, if anything, should have been done differently?)

The methodology used in this project was appropriate in that it resulted in all project objectives being achieved.

The low turnout for the workshops indicated that promotion of these types of events should be approached in a different way. Engaging recreational fishers in Albany is made difficult by the lack of a single active group. While the Albany Boating and Offshore Fishing Club do have a membership list, many of these members only become involved in the fishing competitions run by the club. Ongoing partnership between SCNRM, Recfish West, Dept. of Fisheries, research institutions and the local fishing community may promote the development of a more cohesive group of engaged recreational fishers. The development of a regular curatorial similar to that run by the Albany Museum, but focusing on fishing and maritime content, may facilitate this process. By strengthening the partnership between NRM and recreational fishing groups, shared objectives (i.e.: riparian and marine restoration projects) may be more effectively achieved.

The limited availability of seedlings prevented a greater area of in-fill revegetation being completed during the project timeframe. It is important that future projects of this type take into account the requirements of the local nurseries - i.e.: to ensure orders are placed in spring to allow seedlings to grow out over summer and be ready for planting in winter.

5. (d) Efficiency

(The purpose of this is to evaluate whether or not the project could have achieved the agreed targets in a more efficient [cost and resource including peoples' time] way. EXAMPLE questions: To what extent has this project attained the best value out of available resources? What other ways could you invest in activities to get a greater return?)

As discussed above, facilitating the development of a more cohesive recreational fishing group in Albany may increase the efficiency of future projects due to reduced effort required to engage sufficient numbers of participants.

Allowing greater time to find suitable landholders for the demonstration sites may have reduced costs related to on-ground works. In particular, finding farmers who are willing and able to complete fencing, rather than relying on the engagement of a contractor, would reduce costs considerably where fencing is required.

Revegetation using seedlings can be achieved very efficiently due to the low cost of seedlings and the availability of suitable volunteers from established NRM and environmental groups. However, the success of these efforts are dependent on suitable site preparation, including weed control, and ongoing management by the landholder to ensure seedlings are not smothered by re-emergent weeds. Ensuring that the landholder has the capability to provide ongoing management of the revegetation site over a number of years should be seen as critical.

5. (e) Legacy

(The purpose of this is to evaluate whether or not the project's impacts continue the desired changes past the end of the project. How will the project's impacts continue over time and after the program ceases? How, and by whom, will the legacy be managed? Did the project use any innovative techniques that may be useful to other NRM practitioners? What else have results of the project been used for? Has the project had any benefits for any other groups? If so, who and in what way?

As the WA pilot of the Fish Friendly Farms program, this project paved the way for the ongoing development of this program in WA. Recfish West and Ozfish Unlimited have identified other locations through the South West where the project may be run, and will use the learning from this pilot to guide those efforts.

Locally the legacy of this project will be maintained by the landholders who own the demonstration sites. These landholders have committed to maintaining the demonstration sites and facilitating further on-ground works if the opportunity arises.

Both of the demonstration sites will have signs erected at locations where the public can read them. In the case of one of the sites, a sign will be erected in Billa Boya reserve opposite an area revegetated during the project. The sign will be located in an area regularly used by marron fishers during the season, and bushwalkers year round. At the other site, a sign will be installed on the river bank near the water's edge. It will be obvious to anyone moving up and down the river on boats and kayaks. Given the site's location just downstream of 2 caravan parks and opposite a kayak launch point, this stretch of river is well used by the public.

As discussed in other sections of this report, the strengthened link between the recreational fishing community and NRM groups represents an important legacy of this project. Continued engagement with this sector and Recfish West should be encouraged in other coastal and marine projects run by SCNRM.

5. (f) Project Learning's

(Useful information for lessons learned and future projects can be identified by asking, what went well, what didn't go so well and what would we do differently next time, in the context of the project's scope, time, quality, cost, human resources, communications, risk, procurement, stakeholders and integration)

- Ensure project timeframes take into account the seasonal limitation of nursery orders (order in Spring for planting the following winter)
- Ensure adequate time is allowed in the project timeframe for weed control (i.e.: when controlling kikuyu, 2 sprays may be required prior to planting seedlings)
- Most of the farmers along the lower catchments of the Albany rivers have already installed fencing, however weed control and habitat enhancement (infill revegetation) within these fenced areas remains an ongoing need.

5. (g) Future Recommendations

- The development of a common database of engaged landholders and volunteer groups to be updated by SCNRM project officers. This may save time in finding suitable sites for on-ground works, and promote synergies between projects (i.e.: expanding previous areas of revegetation, or facilitating ongoing maintenance of fence lines).
- Ongoing facilitation of a more cohesive and engaged recreational fishing community in Albany. At present, it is difficult to effectively engage Albany fishers due to the lack of a core group of engaged fishers. There are many shared values between NRM and recreational fishing groups that could be leveraged through partnerships with Recfish West; however the difficulty in engaging with local fishers represents a barrier. Ongoing engagement of this group that includes coordinated input from Recfish West, NRM groups, Dept. of Fisheries, research institutions and prominent local fishers in the form of monthly information nights may help in the development of core group of engaged fishers within Albany who can be utilised to undertake on-ground 'fish friendly' activities or citizen science activities.

6. Attachments

Please list and attach (e.g. Media releases, brochures, reports, surveys, photos etc.)

FFF Appendix

- Parnell Site Photos
- Planting Day Photos
- St Jack Site Photos
- FFF Contacts
- Fish Friendly Farms Event Invitation
- Fish Friendly Farms Presentation
- Fishes of Fish Friendly Farms
- Key Tips for a Fish Friendly Farm
- Signs
- Weekender Article

7. Group Declaration

This report must be signed by the funding recipient or representative.


In order to maximise the benefits of the Funding Program to other community groups and to the community as a whole, information relating to all South Coast NRM funded projects/programs is regarded as in the public domain and is publicly available on request. Nevertheless, under Commonwealth privacy legislation, personal information cannot be divulged without the consent of those involved, nor can any agreed commercial in confidence information.

Do you consent to the inclusion of contact name and telephone details in response to public information requests concerning this project?

Yes

No

I declare that the information given on this form is complete and correct.

Signature of representative of South Coast NRM			
Printed name of representative of South Coast NRM	Dylan Gleave		
Position in Organisation	Coastal Water and Marine Program Leader		
Date	14/12/2017	Contact Number(s)	90762210 0427928400