

Southern Seawater Desalination Project

UPDATE

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Whale of a program

Earlier this year, the Water Corporation engaged Murdoch University, Curtin University and Western Whale Research to conduct various components of a Marine Monitoring Program off the coast of Binningup and Myalup. Research and monitoring is underway and will continue for the next two years.

The Marine Monitoring Program comprises three components:

- **Looking**

Murdoch University's Cetacean Research Unit (MUCRU) and the Bunbury Dolphin Centre have worked together since 2007 in a dolphin research program at Bunbury. With the Water Corporation's support, MUCRU have now expanded their research area to Binningup and Myalup. MUCRU's work will also provide information about the seasonal presence or absence of whales, penguins, seals, sea lions and turtles covering a stretch of almost 75 kilometres of coastline.

- **Listening**

Curtin University's Centre for Marine Science and Technology have deployed equipment that collects 200 samples of sea noise every 15 minutes offshore at Binningup. This data will be compared with data from MUCRU and onshore monitoring, as well as other nearby noise loggers to provide a regional context.

- **Working with you**

Western Whale Research (WWR) will coordinate an onshore community marine monitoring and training program. Interested community members will be trained to undertake land-based surveying for the long-term. This land-based monitoring will provide some ground-truthing observations for MUCRU's program.

WWR are looking for community participants now. Your commitment can be as large or small as you like and you will receive professional training that you can use for years to come when identifying and recording marine sightings. If you would like to know more please call 1800 810 075.

The marine monitoring program has been initiated to improve the knowledge of the marine environment off the Binningup and Myalup coast, and is in no way related to the project's environmental approvals.

