

DRAINAGE INTERVENTION IN THE SWAN CANNING RIVER SYSTEM

Rachel Spencer
Swan River Trust

Email: Rachel.spencer@environment.wa.gov.au

Poor water quality entering the Swan and Canning rivers has led to a decline in river health with parts of the river system now regularly experiencing algal blooms. Nutrients entering the river from drains in summer and autumn play a significant role in the triggering these algal blooms. Ultimately, effective land use planning and source control will improve the rivers' health, however, until these take effect immediate onground action is required.

As managers of the Swan and Canning rivers, the Swan River Trust has a program to implement immediate onground action in drains to improve water quality, with a focus on reducing nitrogen and phosphorus. The onground works are done in close consultation with community groups and local government. The program also has a strong monitoring and evaluation component with the aim of filling vital knowledge gaps on the performance of best management practices in Western Australia.