

New conservation reserve opened at Gwambygine Pool

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Gwambygine Pool, the best surviving example of a deep, permanent pool on the Avon River, is the focus of a new conservation reserve opened near York today.

Environment Minister Judy Edwards said the Gwambygine Pool Conservation Reserve contained spectacular flora and fauna, including the Gwambygine oblong tortoise, and had cultural links to an Aboriginal heritage centred on cave paintings on neighbouring Cave Hill.

Dr Edwards said this part of the river had been restored with various government grants spanning 16 years, in partnership with the community through the River Conservation Society.

“The society has worked tirelessly to protect the natural resources of the York area,” she said.

“They have worked along the river studying the aquatic fauna, the quality of the water and the effect the broader catchment issues have on the river.

“Gwambygine Pool conservation reserve is an example of how a community with a vision and willingness to work in partnership with Government can achieve results in terms of conserving the native flora and fauna for future generations.

“The River Conservation Society committee, local landholders, and eminent scientists Professor Richard Hobbs, Professor Barbara York Main, Richard Dell and Dr Kingsley Dixon have all worked hard together, with officers from the Department of Environment, to achieve this.

“The society’s partnering with the Department of Environment to make this happen is proof of how successful natural resource management outcomes can be when the community takes a leading role.”

The department completed a management plan for Gwambygine Pool in 2001, along with a river recovery plan for the section from Gwambygine to Edwards Crossing.

More funding has been approved through the Avon Catchment Council Natural Resource Management Investment Plan, with the area receiving a \$100,000 grant this year and further funding in subsequent years.

Dr Edwards said all remnant bush, no matter what the size, was worthy of protection and rehabilitation. Even the smallest patch of bush provided habitat for invertebrates.

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Judy Edwards
Former Minister for the
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