

SEARCH CRITERIA

Model	Model C: Technological Development Model
Industry	Community, business
Focus/Level	Community, industry
Purpose	Testing available knowledge
Outcomes	Development of a management practice
Special Interest Groups	Indigenous, other
Design and Implementation	Designed by researchers/experts managed by farmers/community

1. PROJECT TITLE:

Coastwest Coastcare

Reviewer Dr Fionnuala Frost**2. FUNDERS:**

West Australian State Government – 50 per cent

Commonwealth Government – 50 per cent.

3. PROVIDERS:

Coastwest Coastcare office. Other major providers are the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the West Australian Planning Commission. A number of project officers also receive support from many of the Local Government Authorities and Development Commissions at local levels. Niche projects may also receive support from other agencies, for example, The Marine Community Monitoring Programme is partnered with the WA Museum, the Marine Education Society of Australia, the Australian Marine Conservation Society WA and the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

4. KEY CONTACTS:

Mr Martin Hellar. State Coastwest/Coastcare Coordinator. Department for Planning and Infrastructure. 469 Wellington St Perth
08 9264 7834.

martin.hellar@planning.wa.gov.au

5. INDUSTRY/ISSUE/GEOGRAPHY

Western Australia has an extensive coast line. Stretching some 12,500 km and featuring more than 3,400 offshore islands, including Christmas Island, the coastline is rich in diversity as well as panoramic features and as such, has become an integral part of the lives of many West Australians, and an attraction for those who visit the state.

While these features of the coastline are a strength and source of considerable opportunity for development and income for the state, they are also a threat. The economic as well as ecological capacity of the coastline is under pressure. The increasing demands from tourism, and other industries such as commercial fishing, alongside its recreational use, are placing the coastline under increasing pressure. The impact of this is that the ability of the coast to retain its valuable and indeed valued assets is under some threat. In response to this threat, the state and federal

government have invested in opportunities by which indigenous groups, local communities and local government can become more involved in coast line management.

The boundary for CoastWest/CoastCare projects lies three nautical miles offshore so as enable activities such as local reef monitoring to occur.

6. PROJECT CONTEXT

The CoastWest/CoastCare programme is a joint State and Commonwealth government initiative. The programme has been designed with the view that while the coastline clearly an asset to the state, its vastness and managing its utility, is beyond the means of one organisation or government, but must provide a means by which local people may become involved. Administered through the Ministry for Planning and Infrastructure and involving substantial investment by many local governments, CoastWest/CoastCare is a major component of the Coasts and Clean Seas initiative a programme run under the Commonwealth's Natural Heritage Trust programme. Indeed the administering of CoastWest/CoastCare is guided by the MOU between the Commonwealth, the State of Western Australia and the Western Australian Municipal Association.

CoastWest/CoastCare works with many local coastal management groups and aims to raise awareness of coastal issues of concern, areas that may be improved and how to tell if in fact what is being done is making a difference.

Specifically, the programme enables access to:

- An annual grants programme
- Training and education;
- Technical advice and support; and
- Facilitation and links between organisations who are concerned with coastal management.

7. PROJECT NICHE

There are four areas of particular attention are:

- On-ground works, such as revegetation of dunes and wetlands and controlling access through fencing;
- Planning activities, such as development of foreshore management plans or other components of integrated coastal management plans;
- Monitoring activities such as the monitoring of coastal and marine fauna and flora; and
- Education and training activities that form part of a larger Coastwest/Coastcare project, or provide a direct link to subsequent on-ground activities.

It would seem that particular targets have not been set however in part due to the substantial area being managed and also due to the fact that work in some areas is made difficult due to international law and pressures. For example some issues of concern at Christmas Island have been sourced from Indonesia however international treaties and ways of working make progress difficult.

More specifically, the objectives of the programme are:

- Engender in local communities, including local industries, a sense of stewardship for coastal and marine areas;
- Provide opportunities and resources for residents, schools, volunteers, business and interest groups to participate in coastal management;

- Support community identification of natural and cultural heritage resources; and
- Facilitate interaction between the community and bodies with responsibility for managing coastal and marine areas.

8. PHILOSOPHY/APPROACH:

Community development and empowerment.

This project is underpinned by a commitment to support community groups and individuals who wish to become involved in various coastal activities including marine monitoring and dune restoration. The programme is very much guided by the views and opinions of the community and as such the facilitators work with community groups. Notably, CoastWest CoatCare is having to become increasingly strategically minded and as such has shifted its focus in investment priorities from local projects and indiscriminate activity to strategic planning and implementation strategies that guide investment and activity.

The programme also invests in monitoring and encourages project administration, key aspects leading to self-determination and increased understanding of the coastal issues and their management. The facilitators employed in the programme are keen not to have to continue intense 'works on the ground' rather they are there to enable local communities undertake work in areas deemed as significant and worth resourcing (ie sound investment of time and money).

9. RESOURCES, MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING STRUCTURES

CoastWest/CoastCare is managed by a State Coordinator whose office is in Perth located at the Department of Housing and Infrastructure. In addition to the coordinator the programme also has five regional facilitators/coordinators whose job is to work with local groups to administer and manage local projects of interest. There are five facilitators in the network located at: Albany; Peel; Metropolitan; Central Coast; Greenough; and Karratha. The project is essentially managed on a process of coastal management through local activity, networks and knowledge combined with outside technical expertise and broader project management/administrative skill. In any one year, up to \$1 million dollars has been made available for West Australian projects. Forty seven local governments have made financial commitments to this programme.

Since, 1995, approximately \$12 million dollars has been invested in the West Australian coastline. More than 100 groups have been support and nearly 300 projects funded. Project funding ranges between \$5000 and more than \$20,000. The types of work undertaken by the community groups includes:

- on-ground works, such as revegetation of dunes and wetlands, controlling access through fencing and board walk construction;
- planning activities, such as development of foreshore management plans or other components of integrated coastal management plans;
- monitoring of coastal and marine fauna and flora; and
- education and training activities.

10. PROCESS/METHODS USED

Very broadly, there are five processes or actions applied in the CoastWest/CoastCare programme that applies the principles of self-help, self determination and local activity. These methods are:

1. *Facilitate group activity* – this aspect of the programme appears to be very significant. The group activity is both of a facilitated nature as well as large

'festival' style of awareness and involvement. The funding of coast care activity is mostly to groups who submit projects that show in-kind support and a commitment to undertake the work. In recent times, (1999), the CoastWest/CoastCare programme has supported a local summer festival. In 2001, this festival supported more than 160 events of varying nature designed to increase awareness of coastal issues, and cater for levels of ages, interests, understanding and knowledge of coast management. For example an activity that generates considerable interest are the reef walks, whereby marine experts identify marine sites and creatures of interest. Other topics of interest were the talks on sharks (in this case it was the white sharks), their behaviour, migratory patterns and other areas of interest.

2. *Technical advice.* There is a recognition that technical advice and expertise is very important to support the local activity and goodwill of community groups. People must understand what they are seeing, what they are trying to achieve and know if they are making a difference. The Marine Community Monitoring Programme is an example of the way in which technical expertise is invested in the CoastWest/CoastCare programme. Scientific expertise is introduced to interpret trends, work with community groups to discuss implications and look for new areas of work or how to improve current activity. Access to this type of expertise has proved valuable to CoastWest/CoastCare. For example, in May 2001, more than one thousand volunteers were involved in monitoring beach litter during the Coastal Cleanup project. The event used the beach and underwater litter methods to collect data on litter type and densities. The interpretation of the results, undertaken by marine scientists was used to compare the litter problem between beaches in the metropolitan area and look to ways to manage the problem. Other technical advice is provided in reef monitoring and dune restoration.
3. *Project managers* There is increasing onus on community groups to manage their own programmes. While in the short term this has caused some stress and frustration, most groups have responded to the shift in support and indeed have gained new skills in managing organisations, managing volunteers and project administration. CoastCare Coordinators while providing facilitation support, are also providing skills in project monitoring and evaluation applying outcomes to plans developed by the group.
4. *Strategic planning* – As part of the process, the CoastWest/ CoastCare programme, like the other natural heritage programmes are funding as a matter of priority, strategic plans and investment.
5. *Monitoring and Evaluation:* The capacity to learn and improve decision-making is encouraged in the CoastWest CoastCare programme by supporting means of conducting rigorous and relevant M&E. While this aspect has a long way to go, there remains a commitment to continue to improve the capacity of people to remain involved in local projects.

Overall, the process of this programme is to enable people to become involved, remain involved and invest both time and money wisely. The programme very much supports local groups but has also broadened to recognise the wider public who may not be interested in being part of a group but value the coastline and beach and would like to make a small contribution to its upkeep (through the Summer Festival initiative).

The CoastWest CoastCare website presents the type of work a regional facilitator may be involved in.

Coastal Facilitator Activities

- Coastal rehabilitation workshops
- School talks
- Beach clean-ups
- Field trips – to appreciate the coast and to highlight issues
- Presentations to the community
- Coastcare Week and Sea Week
- Community conferences
- Networking
- Signage promoting communities caring for the coast
- Media skills workshops
- Art and poetry competitions
- School curriculum material
- Coastcare forums
- 4WD workshops on responsible beach driving
- Teacher in-service training
- Greencorps and Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) applications
- Radio interviews
- Fact sheets
- Media campaigns
- Harness local sponsorship
- Fish clinics
- Coastal bike rides
- Assist indigenous groups
- Sand sculpture competitions
- Beach walks
- Newspaper stories
- Beach pollution workshops
- Coastal displays in shopping centres and expos
- Coastal youth camps

11. IMPACTS TO DATE.

The impacts of this programme are substantial. There are, in 2002, 165 groups working in various aspects of coastal management in WA. All of these groups have received funding, either relatively small (< \$5000 and more than \$20,000). The representation of these 165 groups is more than 3,500 people. The summer festival is estimated to attract more than 10,000 people. While there have been less tangible impacts such as improved awareness and knowledge, there has also been very measurable impacts such as improvements in regulation and community support to reduce uncontrolled movement on beaches. There has also been an ongoing improvement in dune restoration and management. There appears to be little doubt that people are becoming more aware.

12. EFFECTIVENESS:

Very high.

The effectiveness of this programme is regarded as being very high. There have been different types of measures used to draw this conclusion.

1. The number of local government authorities who have made financial commitments has increased over the last 2 years.
2. The number of groups applying for and receiving funds has increased from 100 in 2000 to 165 in 2002.
3. The work conducted in coastal areas, particularly beach litter has improved the appeal of the coast line.

The effectiveness of the programme has been further enhanced by locating the coordinators to regional centres, and encouraging links with regional development commissions. This decision has enabled the regional coordinators to gain an appreciation of understanding of strategic planning as well as the broader, regional development context, coastal management and development may sit.

13. PROJECT DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE:

CoastWest/CoastCare Websites:

COASTWEST <http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/about/coast/coastcare.html>
COASTCARE [http:// www.ea.gov.au/coasts/coastcare/index.html](http://www.ea.gov.au/coasts/coastcare/index.html)

Community Monitoring reports: (Jenny Cary and Tim Grubba)

History of Coastwest /Coastcare Grant Funding 1995-2000 and Total Amount Invested in the Western Australian Coast. CoastWest CoastCare.

Mid Term NHT Review 2000. CoastCare.

14. ISSUES:

Moving into the new phase of NHT II is proving to be both difficult and protracted. There is also the perennial issue of funding. As a result of the recent Mid-term NHT review seven coastal management programmes have been merged into one large programme. While this is in fact a logical and sensible decision, the concern is that funding has not been significantly increased to reflect this amalgamation.

A second difficulty is that many of the coastal management programmes are now having to compete with the NRM programmes and not just coastal management programmes. Here the difficulty lies in coastal issues having to compete for funds in environments where agricultural assets are very often the priority. This is compounded by the fact that very few people working on the regional NRM groups have reasonable knowledge of coastal management and so allocation of funds to coastal management is quite difficult. Defining what constitutes NRM is part of the issue here.

15. COMMENTS/CONCLUSIONS:

his programme is very successful. There are many community people engaged in this project in various ways. There are some significant issues to deal with in the future and certainly there will be pressure to retain activity and interest. However, the project is clearly valued in WA and is likely to remain into the longer term. There is a need however for more formal M&E mechanisms to be put into place.

16. REVIEW METHODS:

Personal interview with Mr Martin Hellar. Interviews with members of Regional NRM Groups. Interviews with individuals from selected from a few coastal management groups. Wide reading relevant material.