

Water's a winner

Federal Govt responds to city's plea for help to tackle sea pollution

By **YVONNE THOMPSON**

ROCKINGHAM'S reputation as an aquatic playground will be watertight following a Federal Government grant of \$250,000 to divert stormwater drainage pipes along the beachfront to dissipation tanks.

This is needed because popular swimming beaches along Rockingham foreshore were still affected by enterococci (faecal bacteria from drainage pipes), according to annual report cards from the Cockburn Sound Management Council in September.

Gross pollutant and sediment traps will also be installed to treat excess stormwater before it is discharged.

WA Senator Mathias Cormann was in Rockingham to announce the grants, which were part of a \$488,000 allocation for Brand for initiatives designed to save more than 16,272,728 litres of water locally every year.

He said all the initiatives the council had applied for were aimed at improving the local water quality through practical measures such as reducing pollutants reaching streams, water recycling and efficiency measures.

Several sites where stormwater outfalls reach the sea had registered high levels of bacteria over the past couple of years.

Cockburn Sound Management co-ordinator Dr Tom Rose said the management council fully supported the City of Rockingham's work to improve the drainage into the Sound, which was the start of a program that would continue to improve the water quality in the Sound and other beach areas in the city.



WA Senator Mathias Cormann (right) and Brand Liberal candidate Phil Edman inspect a drainpipe in Churchill Park, one of several to be diverted with federal funding. Picture: Neil Mulligan

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