

# MEDIA STATEMENT



Monday, 22 August 2016

## **Drivers fined for accessing fragile Manea Park**

Six infringements were issued over a two-day period recently to drivers who entered the fragile Manea Park in Bunbury's south.

City of Bunbury Rangers observed the four-wheel-drive vehicles while conducting routine patrols in the park, which is off-limits to vehicles because of the damage they can cause to the environment.

The City has continued its monitoring of reserves following a spate of illegal entries that have resulted in damage to bushland, gates and fences, and potentially spreading the devastating Jarrah Dieback disease.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said it was disappointing that people continued to access bushland and threaten the crucial ecosystems.

"The future of areas such as Manea Park is under threat because of a range of pressures, including off-road vehicles," Mr Brennan said.

"Rangers will continue to regularly patrol these parks to protect their unique environments, which include wildflowers, tuarts and even western ringtail possums."

People are welcome to walk through these parks but vehicles are not allowed because of the damage they can cause.

"In this latest instance in Manea Park, vehicles have created deep wheel ruts in the muddy surface which can have a detrimental effect on the environment," Mr Brennan.

"I urge people to take notice of signage and keep their vehicles out of the parks, but feel free to pull up outside the park and enjoy a walk through these beautiful parks."

Manea Park forms part of the proposed Preston River to Ocean Regional Park, which is currently managed through a collaboration between South West Catchments Council and the City of Bunbury with funding from the National Landcare program through the "Targeted Area Grants".

The Preston River to Ocean Regional Park is twice the size of Kings Park in Perth. It is of state and national significance, due to its diversity of plants and animals. It is home to over 600 species of flora and 180 species of fauna, many of which are listed as endangered.

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer

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Members of the public can report illegal activity such as dumping rubbish and driving in reserves by phoning 9792 7000.

**ENDS**

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