

# WARREN CATCHMENT (Afternoon)

**Location:** Manjimup

**Date:** April 9, 2014

**Time:** Afternoon 1:30pm to 4:40pm

## *Community responses*

### What is changing?

Anecdotal starts the scientific process (if people do not notice then they will not research that area).

- Cockatoos are moving west – Have not seen groups in four years
- Marri trees are flowering early
- March flies are starting earlier and staying through til February
- Farm was burnt. Nothing grew for four years. Then a wet season and Jarrah seedlings sprouted.
- Much wetter than year before
- More birds around than year before.
- Last four years seen unusual things. E.g. Sea Eagle
- Need local observations as this builds a rich picture
- Two of the driest years for Manjimup.
- Local group planting different trees for example Wandoo (species from drier regions).
- Changing crops and plants for example Canola.
- Weeds encroaching – some non-native weeds so bad DAFWA says they cannot keep up
- Has been distinct broom and grass weed fringe in the region (Manjimup worst they have seen).
- Once cotton-brush has invaded it is right across the South West
- Changing Climate and variability will favour – broom – does well after fire
- If broom competes with a native species that's an issue. May not be caused by CC.
- Circling effect: Fire causes a space that Broom and grasses fill leaving fewer opportunities for Native Species. Broom and grasses more flammable so repeats.
- 6 year project – Middle Warren. Natural Dieback. Only effecting blackberry in flooded areas. Flows are flood areas changing. Issues with blackberry.
- Planting in areas where dieback could be an issue
- Changes in flood regimes effects weeds and.
- More extreme weather events – strong winds – inland – ferocious wind storms – affecting trees

- Less rainfall. Greater intensity. Erosion. Lose remnant bush.  
-Enormous damage
- Re-veg belts, water swales.
- Graze at a more moderate level
- Mega-farms – broad acres –
- Mixed diverse family farms. Diversity and more conservation in farming
- Must be many farmers leaving the land as they cannot be moderate or being system that makes money.
- Average age farmer – 65 years – farmers amalgamated
- Farms sold to Chinese and big business
- Foreign owned farmers – use only methods that are more economically viable.
- We need more people that care about land.
- Farmers being paid less with big supermarkets as many people want cheap products
- Farming lifestyle – who wants to do it
- Getting down to less than 7000, hundreds walking off land.
- What happens to the land? If abandoned then weeds and feral animals increase.
- There's an assumption that we are a Food-bowl (Manjimup). People depending on productivity
- Changing Climate will seriously affect. DAFWA getting less money to do more – biosecurity etc.
- Chemical restriction issue soon. Water restrictions
- Over use of antibiotics → resistance strains of bacteria in the community → large companies shandy milk to put levels below critical point. Small producers cannot do this because of Government regulation – Testing dairy cows regular milk
- If too much overuse in milk not being throwing it away.

### **How will climate change affect this system?**

- Drying, changing climate – power usage
- Streetscape maintain mature trees – for shade
- Be dustier
- Depressing when it doesn't rain
- Be over populated – Manjimup is a super town
- NRM is a backdrop but farming is getting harder plus C/C then hard to sustain
- Government can't do everything
- How do we respond or address Climate Change? Increase in political parties and social media might improve the sustainability vote
- If a solution – Mainstream governments won't deliver – People must change
- When Veranus (gas) went down WA got down to only 18 hours of cold food left. Food security is a real issue
- People hold up Cuba as a model because they become sustainable – If we lose the skills and knowledge of farmers. Can't make it up quickly.
- Hobby farmers shouldn't buy land unless they use it. Then issue is land use cost.
- We do have high priority Ag-land. You can't subdivide
- Orchardist rated off the land
- Hard to make comparison from the city and country. Supply chain. Capital cities

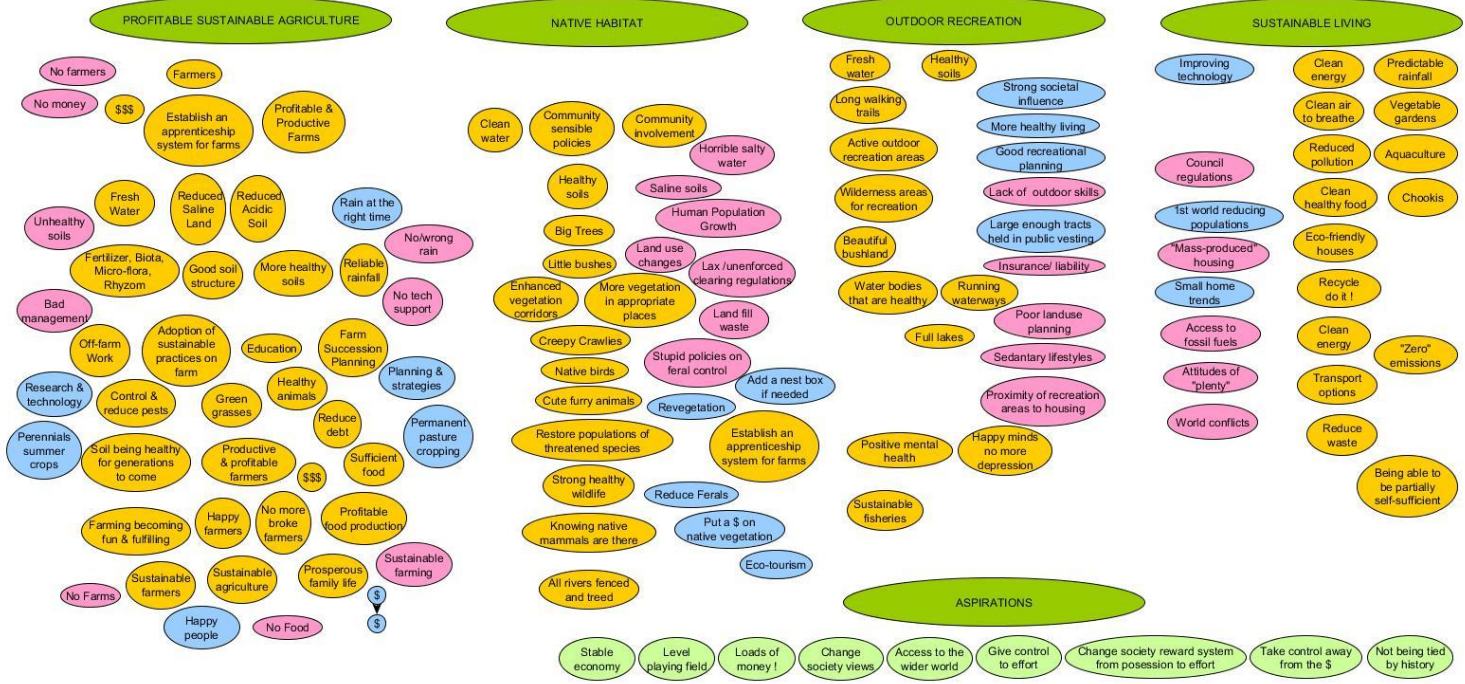
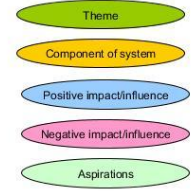
- Farmers can't use water while people in the city are not affected.
- No one wants to farm the land anymore so hobby farmers helps keep people invigorated
- How do you make it attractive for young people?
- Stephanie Carstairs – local program for young people
- Food security is an issue. Especially with C/C
- We need to find good pathways for kids' education, sport and recreation
- Need to change crop varieties, more netted orchards
- What we can and can't grow will change but it will happen over time.
- Don't think it is happening gradually...

### **Why do you love living here and what would make you leave?**

- Love the following:
  - Chose a house for orientation and thermal issues
  - Happy to be self-reliant – age is an issues so need medical services & mobile phone service
  - South West is the land of milk and honey – organics, apples, biodiversity forest, wildflowers
  - Greenery in summer
  - Sense of pride – low food miles for food
  - Productive food nodes wrapped in forest
  - Proud its mine and where you live, fairly benign environment or green.
  - My own water supply – used the same spring for 130 years Gibblets – it usually replenishes within two days.
  - Live close to family – after living overseas
  - Well located for work – close to trial work – Didn't need to be in Perth
  - Has a choice of schools and high schools
  - Vibrant welcoming community
- What would make you leave?
  - Bushfires – designed house to suit so I can enjoy a tree from a distance
  - The projection (risk) map didn't show fire – this is puzzling in our drying climate
  - If it gets too hot here I will move to Northcliffe
  - Fire – I have never had to deal with it in Queensland – it was more floods – so I have a higher focus on fire protection and education
  - DEPAW may not be able to do more to combat fires due to lack of resources
  - Fire - but we are prepared and well equipped

# WARREN SYSTEM DIAGRAM (Afternoon)

UPPER BLACKWOOD  
Wagin March 14, 2014



WARREN INDIVIDUAL SYSTEM DIAGRAM (Afternoon)

