



# SAVING OUR SNAKE-NECKED TURTLE

November 2022 Progress Report



Harry Butler  
Institute



# Acknowledgement of Country



The Saving Our Snake-Necked Turtle Project team acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Western Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to elders both past, present and emerging.



Painting : Long Neck Turtles,  
By: Lenard Thorne Wilman/Wadjuk Tribe, Noongar Nation

# Sponsors & Partners

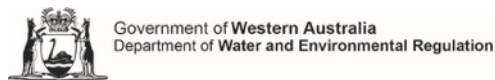


This project would not be possible without the support of major sponsors and our many invaluable partners.

Together we can make a difference.

Thank you!

Sharon Meredith



# Introduction



This document provides a progress report on the Saving Our Snake-Necked Turtle Project from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July to the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 against these deliverables:

- Information & Training
- Establishing Turtle Tracker teams
- Turtle sightings & nest protection
- Effective media presence



## Key Dates:

**24<sup>th</sup> Jun** - Notification of LotteryWest funding

**1<sup>st</sup> Jul** - Official Start of Project

**Jul & Aug** - Liaison with partner Council staff

**Aug & Sept** - Delivery of information & training

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup> to Nov 1<sup>st</sup>** - Turtle Trackers active

# Information and Training Sessions (since August 2022)



**22** Information and Turtle Tracker Training Presentations

**547** attendees

326 @ Community Information sessions, and  
221 @ Turtle Tracker Training Workshops



# Trained Turtle Tracker tasks/responsibilities



- Commit to a 1 or more shifts of 1 to 4 hrs each week for two months (mid Sept – mid Nov)
- Follow all safety protocols
- Patrol designated areas of specified local wetland
- Record observations of turtles and nests using TurtleSAT
- Protect observed nests with mesh squares
- Log and submit volunteer hours



# Turtle Tracker Teams



**11** Turtle Tracker Teams have been actively protecting turtles over the 2022 nesting season



# Volunteer Effort



October – November 2022

**550** Turtles observed

**280** Nest protected

Sue Harper

A bunch of us Turtle 🐢 Trackers had an amazing day at Blue Gum Lake yesterday covering nest sites, and protecting them from bird attacks heading back to the lake

Love Reply Hide 3 w





# Increase in protection for 2022

	2021	2022
Wetlands involved	1	19
Turtle Trackers	20	~98
Nests protected	>50	~280

Reduced vehicle strikes  
Reduced predated females  
Reduced predated nests



# Recording turtle and nest sightings using TurtleSAT



**TurtleSAT**

Map Turtles

Total Records	11,812
Nests Protected	67
Turtles Saved	457

TurtleSAT About

**TurtleSAT**

01/01/2010 to 24/01/2022

Add Data

TurtleSAT About

Nest

Turtle

Predated nest

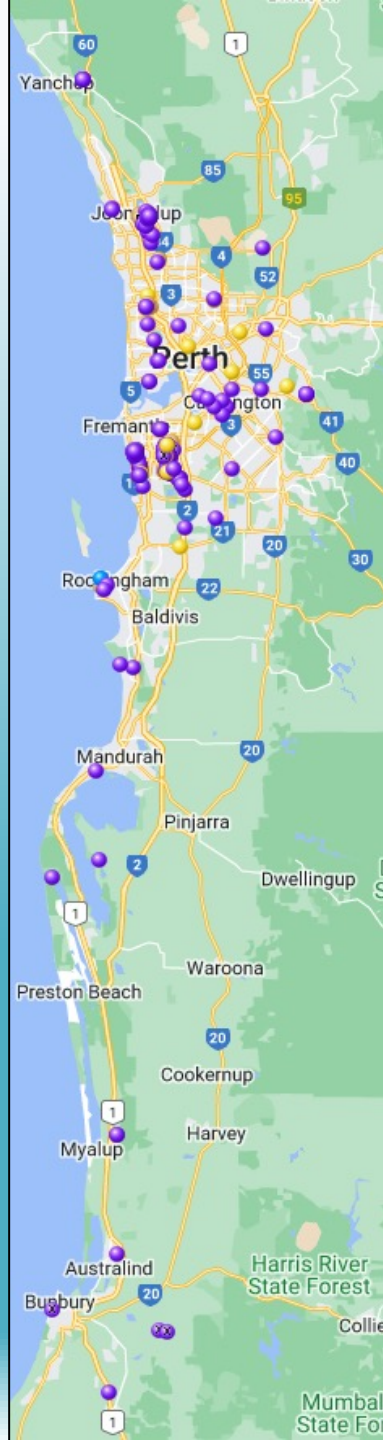
TurtleSAT About

# TurtleSAT records *before* SOSNT



**126** Unique Users Observed Turtles

**42** Unique Users observed nests

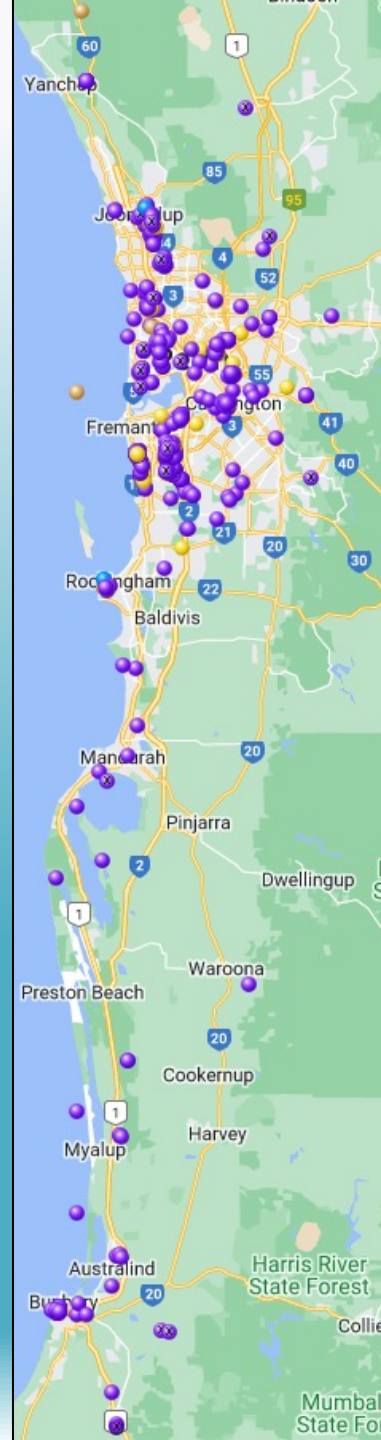


# TurtleSAT records *after* SOSNT

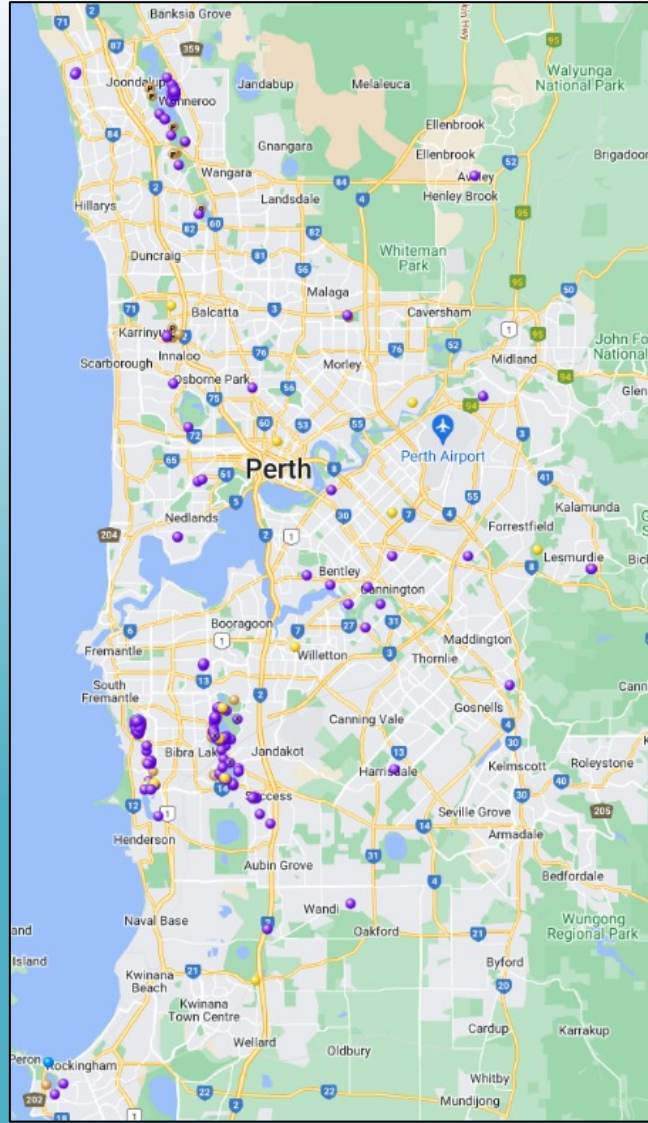


**219** Unique Users Observed Turtles

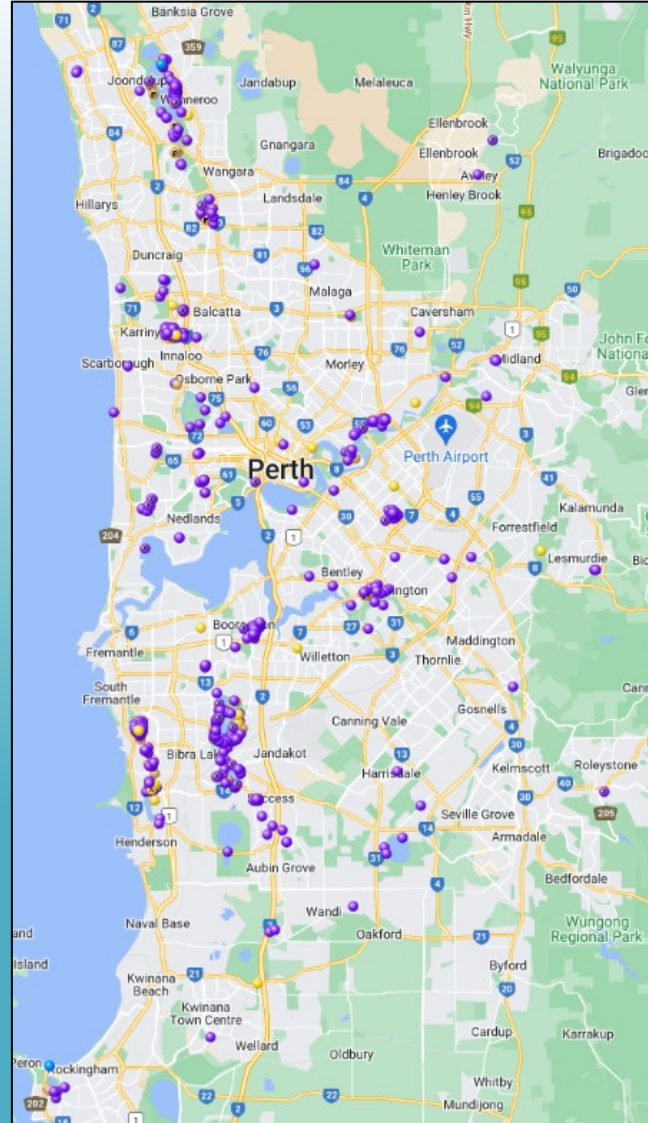
**73** Unique Users observed nests



**TurtleSAT  
Perth Metro  
records  
*before*  
SOSNT**



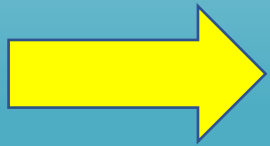
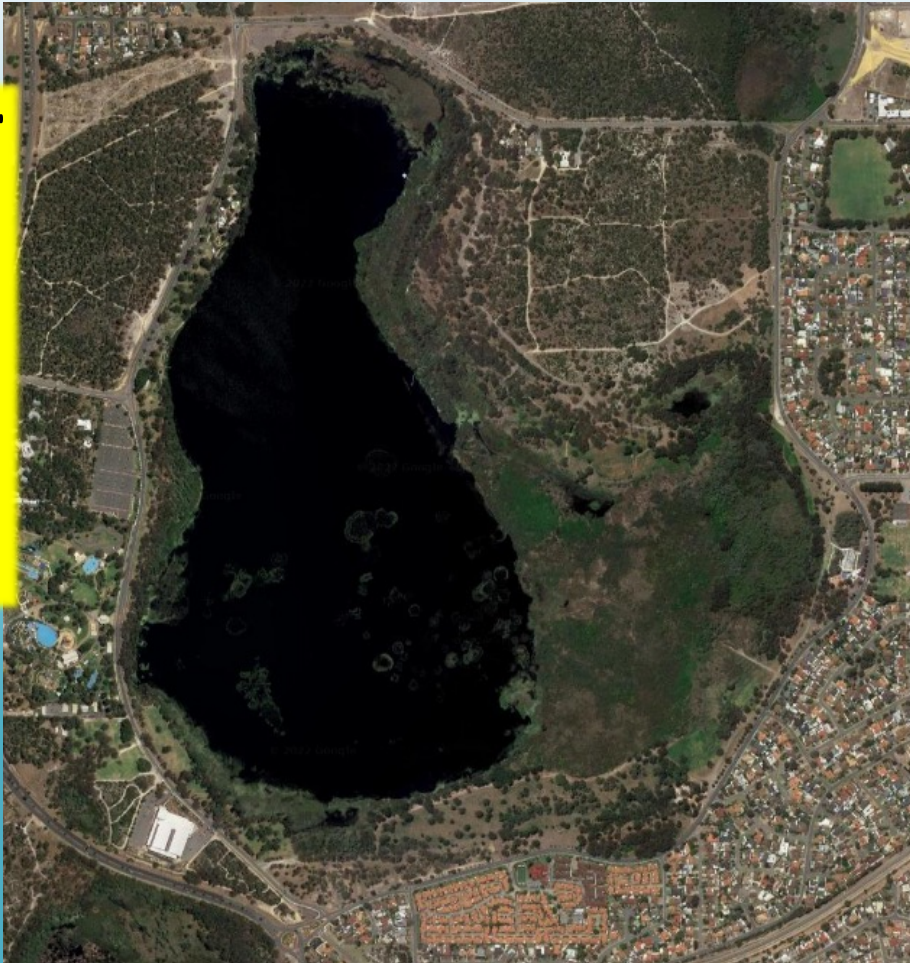
**TurtleSAT  
Perth Metro  
*current*  
records**



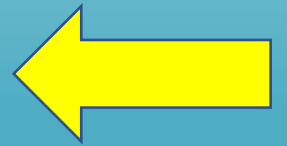
# Bibra Lake



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*before*  
Turtle  
Trackers**



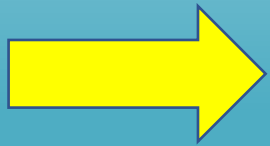
**TurtleSAT  
records  
*after*  
Turtle  
Trackers**



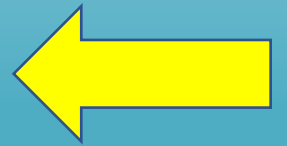
# Manning Lake



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*before*  
Turtle  
Trackers**



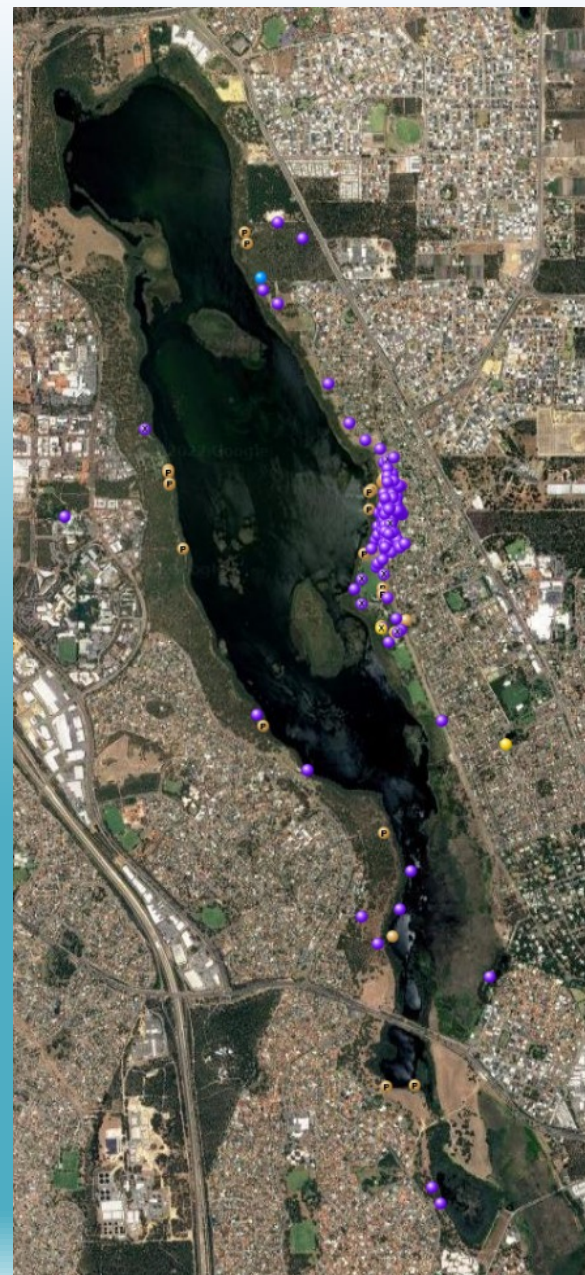
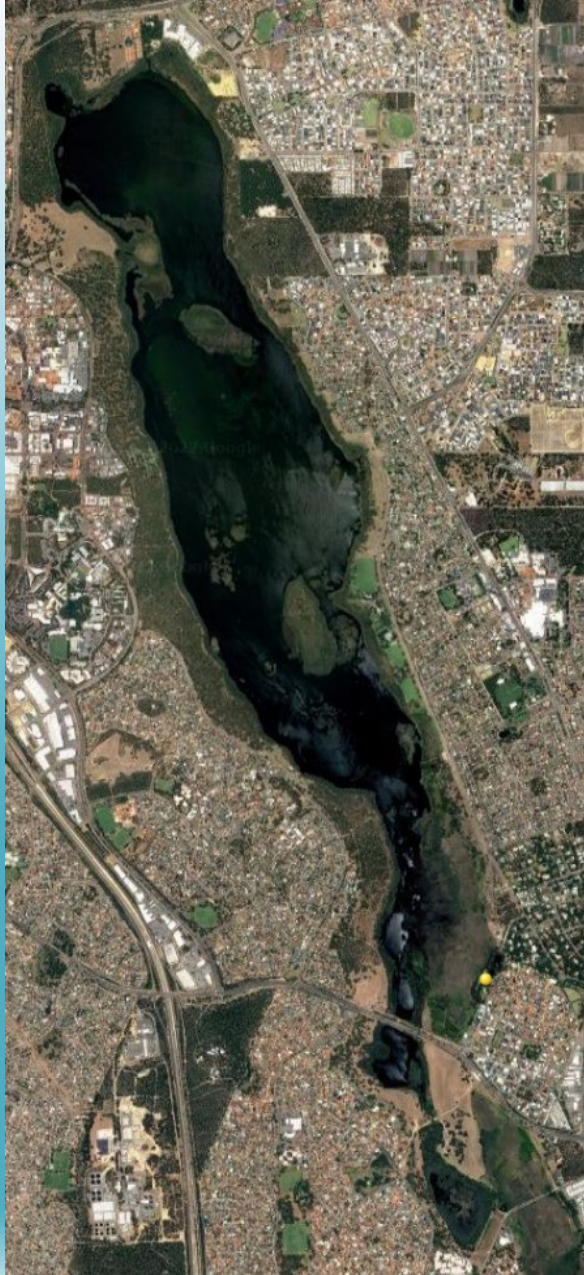
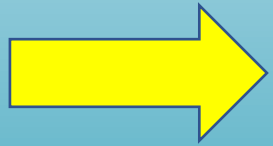
**TurtleSAT  
records  
*after*  
Turtle  
Trackers**



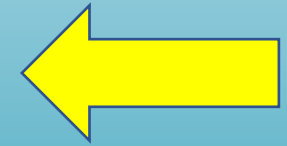
# Lake Joondalup



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*before* SOSNT**



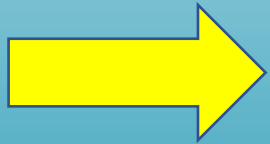
**TurtleSAT  
*current*  
records**



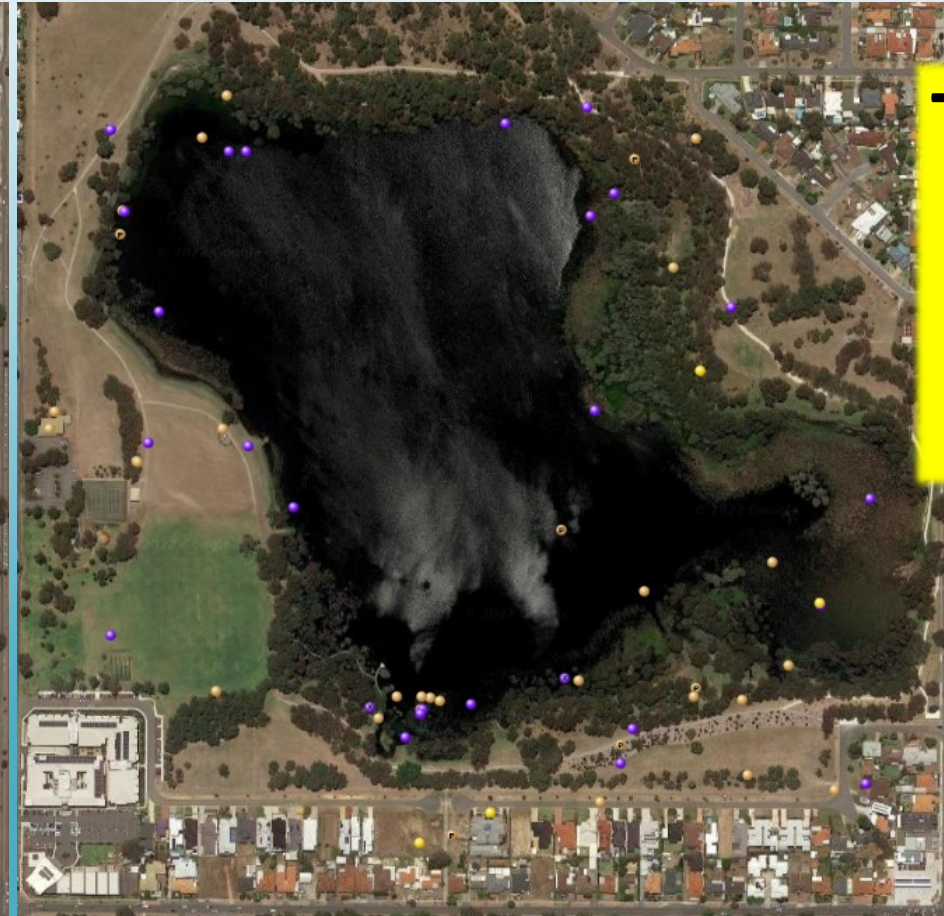
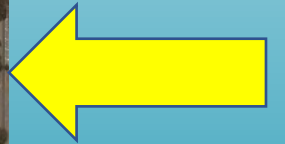
# Lake Gwelup



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*before*  
SOSNT**



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*after*  
SOSNT**

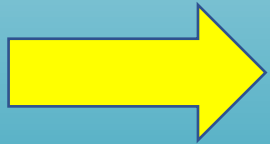




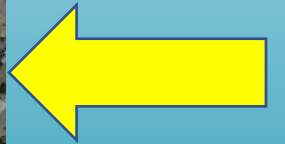
# Tomato Lake



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*before*  
SOSNT**



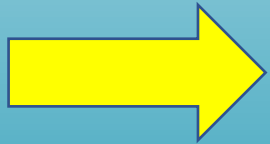
**TurtleSAT  
records  
*after*  
SOSNT**



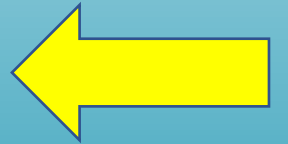
# Blue Gum Lake



**TurtleSAT**  
records  
*before*  
**SOSNT**



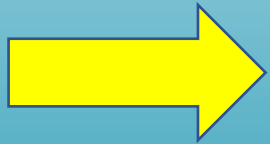
**TurtleSAT**  
records  
*after*  
**SOSNT**



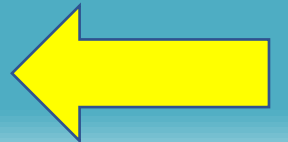
# Wilson Wetland



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*before*  
SOSNT**



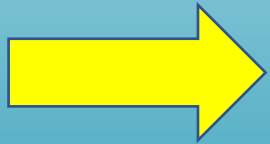
**TurtleSAT  
records  
*after*  
SOSNT**



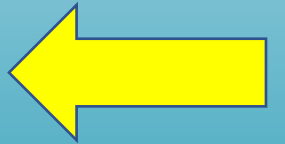
# Big Swamp



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*before*  
SOSNT**



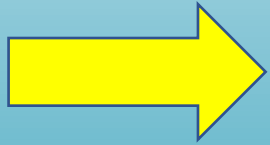
**TurtleSAT  
records  
*after*  
SOSNT**



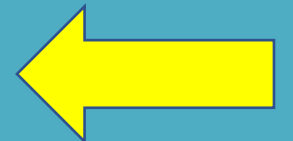
# Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary & Gobba Lake



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*before*  
SOSNT**



**TurtleSAT  
records  
*after*  
SOSNT**



# Nest Protection & Predation

**100%** predated nests reported by volunteers did not have mesh nest protection.

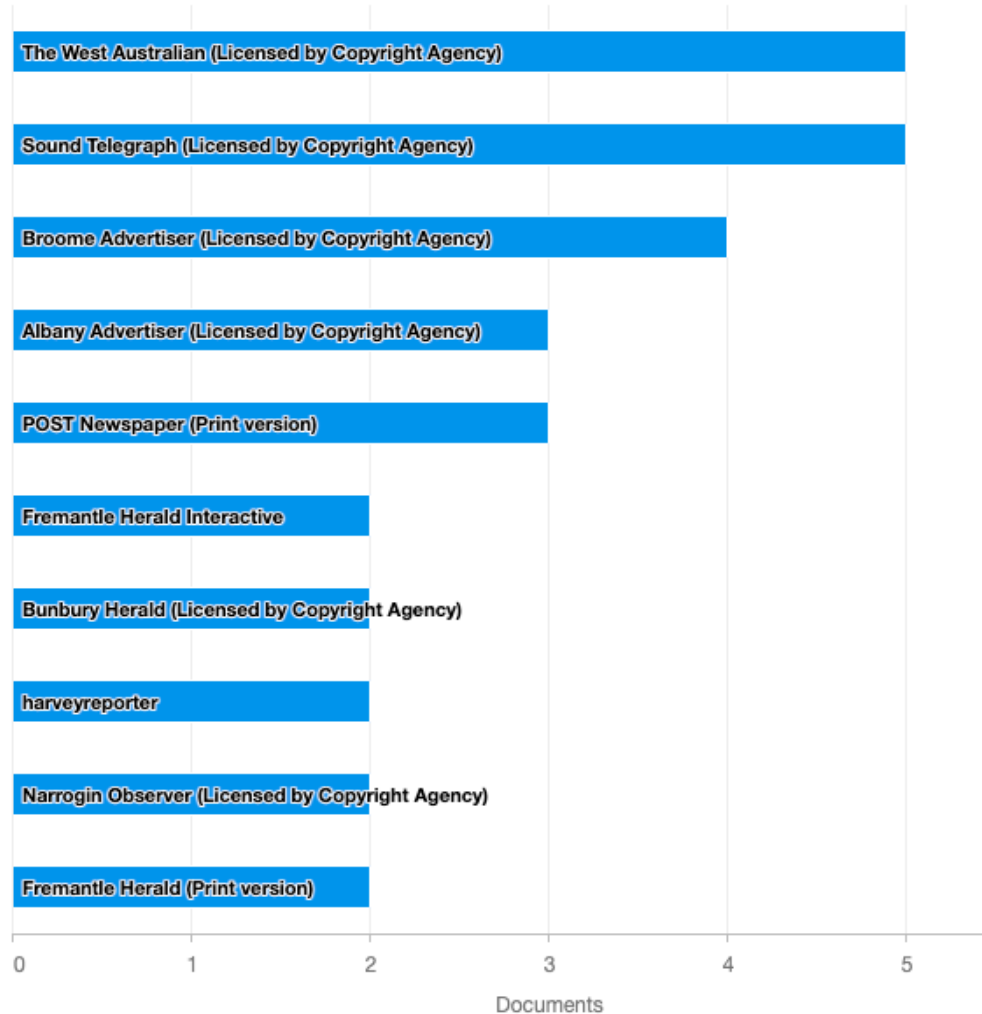
- This early anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that mesh nest protection prevents predation
- To protect more nests we need more volunteers to cover more area, around more wetlands in the region



# Press Release Activity & Media Uptake

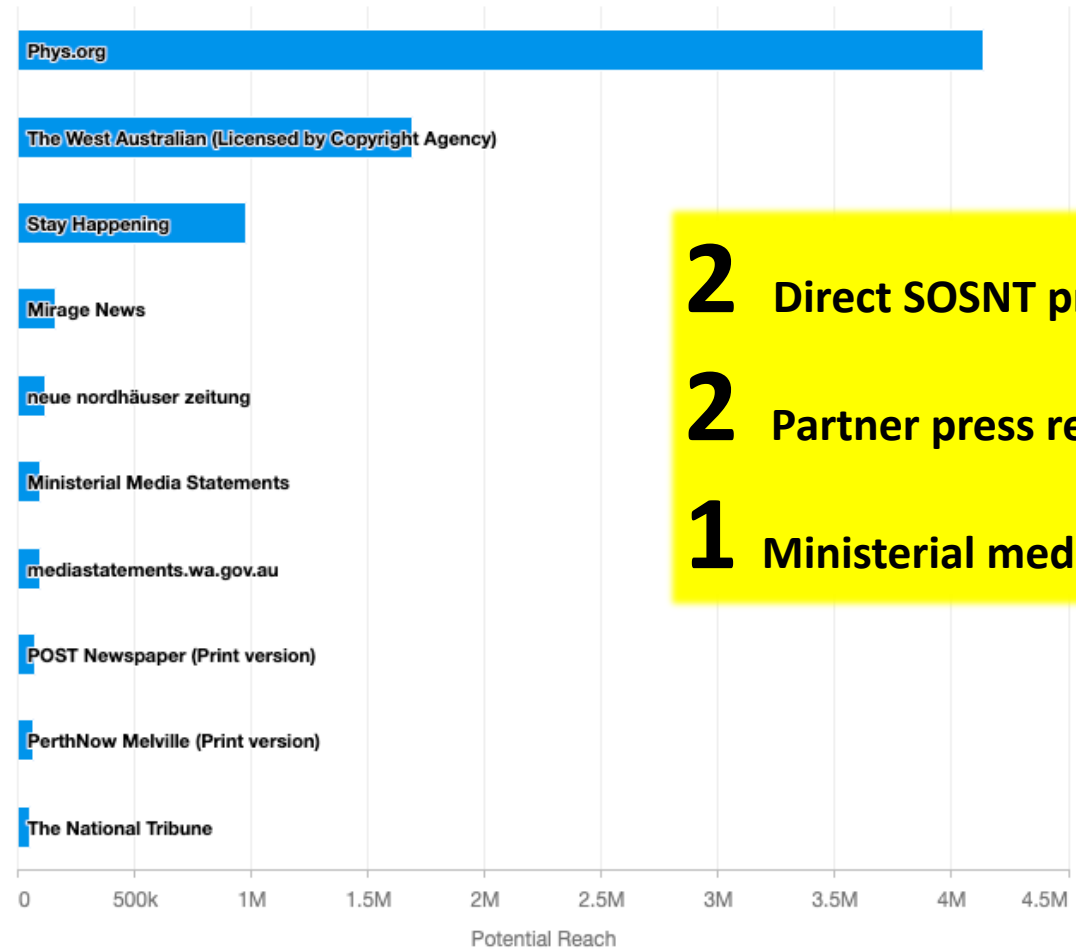


## Top Publications by Volume



## Top Publications by Reach

One or more of your searches are not supported by this news widget



**2** Direct SOSNT press releases  
**2** Partner press releases  
**1** Ministerial media statement

# Media Reach and Value



**70**  
news articles/ broadcast/ pressers,  
worth  
**\$14.6 million**  
Top article  
**'Saving native turtles one hatchling at a time'** had a reach of over  
**4.14 million**  
people



**The West Australian**

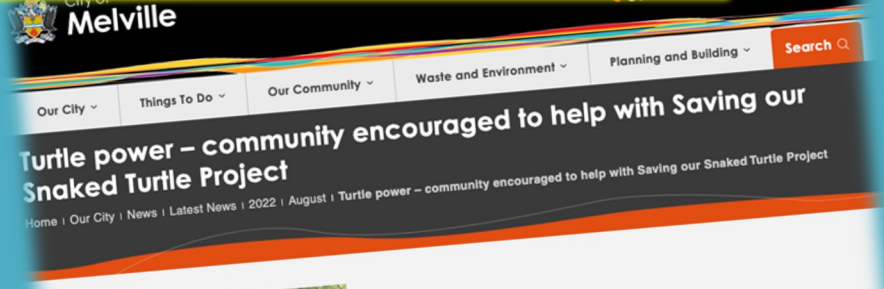


## City partnering to save turtles



19 October 2022

The City of Stirling is partnering with Murdoch University researchers to help conserve southwestern snake-necked turtle populations. The Saving Our Snake Necked Turtle (SOSNT) project is part of a comprehensive 'citizen science' engagement program. The project has been timed to coincide with the migration season when turtles usually travel away from wetlands and predators. Research by Murdoch University researcher A...



26 August 2022  
The City of Melville is supporting the Saving our Snaked Turtle Project.

New project to assist in conservation of snake-necked turtles at Bunbury's Big Swamp



Snake-necked turtles inhabit Bunbury's Big Swamp marshlands. Credit: Anthony Santoro

A new community science initiative is set to take place in Bunbury to help save local fauna. Friends of Big Swamp and the Leschenault Catchment Council have joined forces with Murdoch University and South West Group for a new project to assist with the conservation of snake-necked turtles in the local area, that members say has been "a long time coming."


Funded by Lotterywest, the "Save Our Snake Necked Turtle Project" will look into the current threats to the species living in Bunbury's Big Swamp Marshlands to better understand the current and future...



# Social Media Activity



**Saving our Snake-necked Turtles**  
164 likes · 204 followers




saving\_our\_snakenecked\_turtles [Edit profile](#)

4 posts   50 followers   6 following

Join us and get involved with saving our snake-necked turtles in South-west WA through citizen science!

POSTS   SAVED   TAGGED



**24**

**Facebook Posts**  
(since 1<sup>st</sup> post on 9<sup>th</sup> August)

**4**

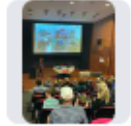
**Instagram Posts**  
(since 1<sup>st</sup> post on 7<sup>th</sup> September)

# Social Media Reach & Engagement



Hello fellow turtle enthusiasts! The first spring storm has been forecast to begin late Tuesday evening and continue throughout Wednesday. As the temperatures have been slowly increasing, it is likely that this storm will trigger female turtles to nest. If you are...  
Mon, 3 Oct

Post reach    Engagement  
**4694**        **251**



Lovely to meet some more people keen to help in Saving our Snake-necked Turtles! Thanks to Lotterywest and Perth South West - a Metropolitan Alliance for finding this project 🌱  
Sun, 25 Sep

Post reach    Engagement  
**84**         **69**



Great News! If you missed the Information session or Turtle Tracker training in your participating Council you can come along to this FREE catchup session THIS SUNDAY at Murdoch University. Councils coordinating turtle tracker teams include: City of Bayswater...  
Mon, 19 Sep

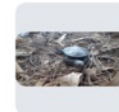
Post reach    Engagement  
**1033**       **124**



Did you know that today is Threatened Species Day? National Threatened Species Day is held across the country on 7 September to raise awareness of plants and animals at risk of extinction. It is a day that commemorates the death of the last remaining Tasmanian Tiger...  
Wed, 7 Sep

Post reach    Engagement  
**1675**

**5935** people saw a SOSNT  
Facebook post at least once  
**204** followers  
**164** Facebook page likes



Hello fellow turtle enthusiasts! The first spring storm has been forecast to begin late Tuesday evening and...  
3 October at 10:27 · 🌐

Post impressions ⓘ  
**5,041**

Post reach ⓘ  
**4,694**

Post engagement ⓘ  
**251**

## Interactions ⓘ

👍  
92

❤️  
12

😄  
0

😲  
0

😞  
0

😡  
0

# Other Engagement



**150** Children engaged at the AAEE WA Earth Day festival

**73** People attended SOSNT Wetland Tours at Murdoch University Open Day

**480** Students attended the SOSNT display at the Whiteman Park Childrens Groundwater Festival

**Awarded** - Turtle Trackers won second place in the 2022 Cockburn Volunteer Organisation of the Year

# Conclusion

- While the project started later than planned the team has achieved all target deliverables to date.
- Positive media coverage of the project and all of its partners has been excellent.
- There is evidence of high engagement and satisfaction amongst the Turtle Tracker communities.
- Local councils need more support to manage volunteer teams and maintain the momentum of this project.
- The SOSNT team is looking forward to the next phase of the project, analysing data and reporting on the impact of the work thus far.

