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War declared on deadly river pest

BY HAMISH HASTIE

Community groups, councils and organisations will come together to tackle the destructive weed hydrocotyle in the Canning River following the release of the Hydrocotyle Weed Management Plan for the upper and middle Canning River last week.

The plan is the first of its kind to tackle hydrocotyle and forms part of the \$1 million Swan Canning River Recovery Program.

It pushes for a collaborative approach to eradicate the weed.

Hydrocotyle is a South and Central American waterway plant that found its way into the Canning River in the early 90s from suspected aquarium waste dumping.

It has established itself up stream of the Kent Street Weir and is smothering the river and displacing native species.

Federal Member for Swan Steve Irons announced the management plan, developed by Perth Natural Resource Management, last Thursday and said it outlined an approach to help eradicate the weed.

“The plan will ensure a collaborative approach to managing hydrocotyle while landholders and stakeholders improve their chance and success of

tackling this aquatic weed,” he said.

Sercul landcare services manager Brett Kuhlmann said one of the long term issues with hydrocotyle was that it crossed so many different boundaries and management zones.

“So the effective control of it needs to be across all of those boundaries,” he said.

“It’s a challenging project but I believe the approach we have at the moment will be highly successful.”

International invasive species expert ecologist Judy Fisher said hydrocotyle was also an issue across Europe and the international community would use this plan as a case study depending on its success. The program was a part of the Federal Government’s National Landcare Program.



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City of Canning natural areas team leader Max Box, SERCUL landcare services manager Brett Kuhlmann, ecologist Judy Fisher, Wilson Wetlands Action Group chairperson Russell Gorton and Federal Member for Swan Steve Irons. Photograph — Hamish Hastie.