



Award-winning port program showcases environmental best practice

Mangrove rehabilitation program – Port of Port Hedland, Pilbara Ports Authority

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Mangrove nursery manual recognised in the WA Environmental Protection Authority’s 2013/14 annual report



3,000 mangrove seedlings currently housed at the port’s nursery

Australia’s ports are committed to understanding our operations on land and at sea and supporting the marine environments in which they operate.

Ports take a proactive approach to ensure environmental best practice and sustainable port development go hand in hand.

The Port of Port Hedland in the Pilbara region of Western Australia is surrounded by seven species of mangroves. Mangroves are an important woody plant that provide habitat for marine and terrestrial fauna and need to co-exist with the port.

Many animals use mangroves for breeding, nursery and feeding. Mangroves also play a key role in soil formation and stabilisation, minimising erosion, and maintaining water quality.





Solution

The mangrove rehabilitation program run by Pilbara Ports Authority is part of a proactive approach to protecting the environment and minimising the impact of port activities.

The program involves breeding mangrove seedlings for rehabilitation, trials and research. Managed by a dedicated team of environmental professionals, the program began in 2010 in a purpose-built nursery in Port of Port Hedland.

In 2013, the program expanded with the construction of a new saltwater nursery which is a better environment for growing the mangroves from seeds.

In 2014, Pilbara Ports Authority delivered a Mangrove Planting Plan for a wider project to rehabilitate a section of the De Grey River, which has experienced significant erosion and increased sedimentation in the last few decades.

This project saw more than 1,000 mangrove seedlings planted at the mouth of the river in an effort to prevent erosion and slow the speed of water passing through the area. Another 200 seedlings were planted in 2015 with a further 1,000 planned for 2016.

The program's mangrove nursery manual, which documents learnings in breeding techniques in an arid zone region, was recognised in the WA Environmental Protection Authority's 2013/14 annual report.

With a focus on education, Pilbara Ports Authority also runs a mangrove school program called *Mangrove Mates*. This unique and interactive initiative aims to educate local students about the important role mangroves play in the marine environment.

Established in 2012, *Mangrove Mates* is aimed at primary school children within the Port Hedland, South Hedland, Dampier and Karratha areas.

Pilbara Ports Authority has also increased awareness of the importance of mangroves as a coastal ecosystem through a series of community seminars as well as field trips to provide community members with the opportunity to see the mangrove rehabilitation program.

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Mangrove seedlings successfully planted at several sites around the port



Outcome

Pilbara Ports Authority's mangrove rehabilitation program demonstrates that environmental best practice and sustainable port development go hand in hand.

This program has been acknowledged through the following state and national awards:

🏆 WINNER – Best Practice in Corporate Social Values.

Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA WA) Achievement Awards, June 2015. This award recognised the program for improving outcomes and service delivery for the community.

🏆 HIGHLY COMMENDED – Environmental Transport Award.

Lloyd's List Australia Shipping and Maritime Industry Awards, November 2015. This award category acknowledges environmental initiatives in the community or with other industry stakeholders.

🏆 FINALIST – Golden Gecko Awards for Environmental Excellence.

Government of Western Australia, October 2015.

The program was up against an outstanding group of seven other finalists, all of which have developed innovative and best practice techniques in environmental management.

Pilbara Ports Authority's mangrove nurseries have grown 10,000 seedlings since 2010.

The mangrove seedlings grown in the port's nurseries have been successfully planted in areas outside the port's inner harbour area including Redbank (6km east), the De Grey River mouth (70km north-east) and Onslow (500km south-west).

Mangrove Mates has been delivered to 755 students across 7 schools.



For more information visit:

www.pilbaraports.com.au/Home/Environment-and-heritage

