

## 1 Sub-Regions

The Avon sub-regional boundaries are principally based on major natural topographical divides formed by the Avon River Basin's river and lake systems (refer Figure 1). However, these boundaries also have a close relationship to environmental, social and industry boundaries, and boundaries between rainfall and land systems. The sub-regional boundaries reflect Interim Biodiversity Regional of Australia (IBRA) sub-regions and cropping zones in the South West of Western Australia (SWWA) and a range of socio-economic differences (Table 1).

Table 1. Physical, Land Use and Demographic Characteristics of the Avon River Basin Sub-Regions

	Avon Arc	Central	Eastern	Southern	GWV
<b>Hydrology</b>	Avon River	Central Lake System	Eastern Lake System	Southern Lake System	Eastern Lake System
<b>Total Area million ha)</b>	1.38	2.71	1.73	2.48	3.42
<b>% Native Veg</b>	9%	6%	13%	17%	98%
<b>Mining (Area under mining tenements)</b>	-	-	11%	-	40%
<b>Population</b>	23,420	12,950	2,360	5,210	(?)
<b>Land use (population %)</b>	Agriculture (13%) Urban (60%) Peri-urban (27%)	Agriculture (36%) Urban (64%)	Agriculture (34%) Urban (66%)	Agriculture (38%) Urban (62%)	Mining (100%)
<b>Population Trend (2000 – 2010)</b>	+10%	- 8%	- 25%	- 5%	No trend
<b>Population density (#/sq km)</b>	1.31	0.37	0.12	0.08	0.05
<b>IBRA sub regions</b>	Avon Wheatbelt (2)	Avon Wheatbelt (1)	Avon Wheatbelt (1)	Mallee (2)	Coolgardie (2)
<b>Cropping zones</b>	H3 / M3	M3 / L3	L3	M4 / L4	-

The Avon Arc is characterised by (relative to the rest of the ARB):

- *Higher rainfall*
- *Higher population density*
- *Rapidly increasing population*
- *Town economies greatly influenced by services industries*
- *Land area dominated by agriculture*
- *Increasing urban and peri-urban land use*
- *Opportunities for alternative industries*
- *Early clearing, high level of local extinctions*
- *Water quality problems and Avon / Swan River impacts*
- *High-quality land use planning*
- *Salinity largely stabilised, with the exception of eastern marginal catchments.*

The Central sub-region is characterised by:

- *Moderate population density*
- *Moderate declining population*
- *Economy reliant on agriculture*
- *Scattered low-level mining activity*
- *Muted structural adjustment in agricultural industry leading to increasing economic stress*
- *Early settlement, high clearing rates, extensive local extinction*
- *Moderate access to essential social services*
- *Salinity well developed and continuing throughout.*

The Eastern sub-region is characterised by:

- *Low population density*
- *Rapidly declining population throughout 2000–2010*
- *Limited access to essential social services*
- *Economy largely dominated by agriculture*
- *The emerging influence of mining on the local economy*
- *Ongoing structural adjustment in agricultural enterprises*
- *Later clearing, moderate clearing rates, important ecological refuges*
- *Salinity continuing to develop throughout.*

The Southern Region is characterised by:

- *Low population density*
- *Moderately declining population*
- *Limited access to essential social services*
- *Economy dominated by agriculture*
- *Ongoing structural adjustment in agricultural enterprises*
- *Very recent clearing, relatively lower clearing rates, important ecological refuges*
- *Salinity continuing to develop throughout*

The Great Western Woodland is characterised by:

- *Limited clearing*
- *Domination of mining, traditional and conservation land uses*
- *Significant areas of UCL (83%) open to future change in land use*
- *Key NRM threats associated with changes to fire management, feral animal control, weed invasion and vegetation disturbance*
- *Limited largely inactive pastoral leases.*

Figure 1. Sub Regions of the Avon River Basin

