

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

