

ESTABLISHING THE PEEL-HARVEY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PHEMC)

BACKGROUND

- There are currently a large number of government and non-government bodies involved in providing advice to Government on the health and management of the Peel-Harvey waterways. These include Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), the Department of Water (DOW), the Department of Food and Agriculture and the Peel Development Commission. The Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC), Greening Australia, the Harvey River Restoration Taskforce (HRRT) as well as Local Governments have front line responsibilities to the community.
- There is currently only *ad hoc* and relatively low level funding available for scientific research and implementation of on-ground activities affecting the health of the waterways making it difficult to fully apply the most effective management.

LIBERAL PARTY COMMITMENT

- A re-elected Liberal Party commits to:
 - Establishing the Peel-Harvey Estuary Management Committee, designed to coordinate governance to oversee management and scientific endeavours within the catchment and estuarine systems. Membership of the Committee would comprise professional, Government and community representatives. Importantly, membership will also include representatives from the Department of Planning who will report to the PHEMC on planning matters which may affect the Estuary.
 - Recognising and supporting the case for the establishment of the Peel-Harvey Catchment as an independent NRM region.
 - \$400,000 over four years to complement scientific and coordination efforts that will be administered directly by the PHEMC.
 - Provide appropriate secretarial and administrative support for the PHEMC through the Peel Development Commission.
 - The PHEMC reporting on an annual basis to the Minister for Regional Development, via the Peel Development Commission, on the status of the environmental conditions, development impact and conservation efforts that have been undertaken.

WHY THIS COMMITTEE

- In contrast to Labor, who will bog down the management of this important waterway by introducing complex and unnecessary legislation, a Liberal-led Government will continue to invest in the science and management needed to improve the health of the Peel Harvey Estuary at a grassroots community level.
- The Liberal-led Government has allocated nearly \$2 million¹ since being elected in 2008 directly to improving water quality in the Peel Harvey Estuary.