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People Working Together for a Healthy Environment

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SUCCESS BOOSTS CULTURAL CAPACITY



Peel-Harvey Catchment Council's Thelma Crook and Chem-Safe's Craig Watt with two of the nine new graduates; Franklyn Nannup and Corey Albert Indich

Two local organisations have reached another milestone in 'caring for country'. An initiative by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council for members of the local Winjan Aboriginal Corporation has boosted cultural capacity with nine local Noongars gaining nationally accredited training in industry applicable skills.

The two day training course, delivered in partnership with local Peel business Chem-Safe, detailed handling and applying dangerous goods and chemical substances, including herbicides. The newly accredited Winjan members can now work on country on projects like weed control managed by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, and in industry roles requiring similar certification.

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council project manager Thelma Crook said Noongar communities had asked for practical, employment-relevant upskilling.

“Our goal was building cultural capacity in a way the Winjan community members identified would benefit them most. They requested skills relative to employment, so we developed this nationally recognised certificate which is applicable to horticulture, mining and other industries. Community representatives stated they are keen to work back on country and our Rivers 2 Ramsar project includes on-ground works which involve applying these skills,” explained Thelma Crook.

Rivers 2 Ramsar is a multi-million dollar natural resource management project being delivered by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government.

The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council also provided the spraying units and personal protection equipment for the course which was delivered by Chem-Safe. General manager Craig Watt said the course contained excellent practical knowledge.

“As well as being a nationally recognised qualification, the knowledge gained on handling dangerous goods is a practical life skill for anyone. We were pleased to participate in this initiative with such a great group of trainees,” said Craig Watt.

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council will continue to offer a range of relevant industry skills training to local Noongar, as well as working closely with the Winjan graduates in the field during on-ground works.

Photo caption: Peel-Harvey Catchment Council’s Thelma Crook and Chem-Safe’s Craig Watt pictured with new graduates Franklyn Nannup and Corey Albert Indich

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