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People Working Together for a Healthy Environment

Media statement

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Peel-Harvey Catchment Council NRM Strategy To Conserve Natural Capital Launched

At the launch of *Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025*, Jan Star AM., Chair of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, said the important strategy maps a framework and investment plan for natural resource management (NRM) in the Catchment over the next decade.

“This will attract investment funding into our region to protect our very special environment because it reflects the essence of what our community is calling for: *Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025* is the result of extensive and significant community consultations throughout the Peel-Harvey,” said Jan Star.

In officially launching the strategy, Federal Minister for the Environment Greg Hunt announced \$3.8 million in funding for *Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025*, a blue print for environmental management of the region, developed in collaboration with the community, land managers, industry, government and their agencies.

Jan Star said the document, supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government, will provide clear pathways for everyone living and working in the natural environment and in the social and economic areas that interact with and are dependent on it.

“The strategy clearly reveals much needs to be done if we want to prevent another ecological collapse. We know continued population growth increases pressure on the health of the Peel-Harvey’s ecology, and that our environment is the economic foundation of the Catchment. Currently, our environment is unstable and unsustainable: we need investment, and this is our community-owned strategy to effect this.”

“Much of the strategy draws on information collected through a targeted community consultation and technical review process. Together, community feedback and the results of the review were used by the project team to develop the strategy’s framework. One lesson learnt over time is how vital the personal and organisational relationships which underpin this work are.”

“The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council is committed to continue to work with the Australian Government and the community in a collaborative and open manner to achieve results for this place, its people and its well-being.”

More on the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council:

Currently, the PHCC is rolling out the multi-million dollar Rivers 2 Ramsar biodiversity project. The Australian Government has committed \$3.6 million to protect and enhance biodiversity of the internationally significant, Ramsar-listed Peel-Yalgorup eco-system during a four year timeframe. PHCC is managing landscape scale restoration, community engagement and planning across six priority sites in the 11,940km Peel-Harvey catchment.

Recently, the PHCC worked with the Bridging the Gap Green Army removing tree guards and keeping control of cotton bush in the Lake Clifton buffer zone. The zone forms an important aspect of the iconic places revegetation strategy undertaken in the region as it interacts directly with the ancient thrombolites’ habitat on the Lake Clifton foreshore.

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