

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

58 Sutton Street
Mandurah WA 6210
P: 08 6369 8800
E: admin@peel-harvey.org.au
W: www.peel-harvey.org.au



People Working Together for a Healthy Environment

Media release

10 September 2015

SEEDS OF FUTURE LANDCARE GERMINATE



Department of Parks and Wildlife Assistant Operations Officer Megan Sheehan with new generation seedlings to be planted at Lowlands, Site 5 of the Rivers 2 Ramsar biodiversity project.

Seed collected as part of a large biodiversity conservation project at Lowlands Nature Reserve in Serpentine Jarrahdale has germinated into seedlings which will be planted out to revegetate large tracts of land at Lowlands Nature Reserve, Serpentine.

The project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) through funding from the Australian Government and the Department of Parks and Wildlife. PHCC Chair, Jan Star A.M. said the reserve's revegetation would connect the Serpentine River between Lowlands and Hymus Swamp Nature Reserves.

“Over 53,000 seedlings will be used for Stage 4 and 5 of the project this year. The entire seed collection process took 36 man-days and all seed is stored at the Parks and Wildlife Threatened Flora Seed Centre for use on future revegetation projects,” said Jan Star.

The 1300 hectare Lowlands Nature Reserve is one of six sites of the Rivers 2 Ramsar biodiversity project. The project aims to re-establish habitats for native fauna across the Peel-Harvey catchment. As well as revegetation, the project’s nature conservation works at Lowlands cover over 50 hectares of weed control along riparian areas, controlling dieback with a hygiene management plan, extensive fencing and feral animal control.

“Fencing will help the project’s biosecurity outcomes including feral animal control, as well as forming barriers to prevent weed regrowth,” said Jan Star.

She added the project is on track and demonstrates the strong partnership between the Department of Parks and Wildlife and Peel-Harvey Catchment Council.

“The Rivers 2 Ramsar project will increase habitat, breeding and food sources for native fauna and address a range of threatening processes within the historic Lowlands Reserve,” said Jan Star.

MORE ON RIVERS 2 RAMSAR...

The Australian Government has committed over \$3.5 million over four years to restore ecological corridors across the Peel-Harvey catchment to re-establish habitats for native fauna. The project, named Rivers 2 Ramsar to reflect the linkage between the region’s rivers and Ramsar-listed wetlands, is occurring concurrently across six priority sites in the 11,940km catchment.

Landscape linkages such as this are significant not only for resident fauna but here in the Peel-Harvey where our rivers flow into the Ramsar-listed wetlands which are an important feeding and roosting site for many of the migratory birds that visit from Siberia, Japan, Korea and China.

Community-based natural resource management (NRM) organisation, the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, is managing the delivery of the over-arching project with no less than seven key partners, numerous stakeholders and community members.

The large scale biodiversity project is on schedule to finish in 2017 and is having significant social, economic and environmental benefits. This project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government.

ENDS

Media Contact: Jane O’Malley, Chief Executive Officer, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, Jane.Omalley@peel-harvey.org.au , (08) 6369 8800