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People Working Together for a Healthy Environment

Media release

27 October 2015

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Finalists In National Banksia Awards



Photo Caption: Members of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council's Ramsar Initiative TAG (Technical Advisory Group)

The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council's role in facilitating a collaborative approach to the protection of our Ramsar Wetlands has been recognised, with the PHCC announced as a finalist in the prestigious national Banksia Foundation Awards.

With the support of 27 Stakeholder groups, the PHCC lead the preparation of the Ramsar Management Plan for our 26,530 hectare Ramsar Site 482. The Plan, and the subsequent investment in on-ground and community engagement projects it has enabled, has collectively raised the awareness of the need to protect these internationally recognised wetlands.

Other finalists in the Natural Capital Category are Birdlife Australia (Gluepot Reserve, South Australia); Dairy Australia (on behalf of the Australian Dairy Industry Council, Victoria);

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Services; and Tweed Shire Council in NSW for their Koala Connection project.

PHCC deputy chair Jan Star AM said the region's peak natural resource management body was one of only four West Australian finalists to contest the Banksia Awards, which will be announced in Sydney on 13 November.

"We are delighted to be a finalist. The Banksia Natural Capital Award recognises demonstrated leadership and innovation in the sustainable management of renewable and non-renewable resources. While having our work recognised at this level is excellent, the important outcome is that the awards provide another vehicle for us to show our decision makers, community and visitors, just how lucky we are to have these wetlands and how important it is that we do everything we possibly can to protect them," said Jan Star.

More on the Ramsar Management Plan:

The Peel-Yalgorup System was listed as a wetland of international significance - Global Site 482 - under the Ramsar Convention in 1990. It is the most diverse estuarine complex in south-western Australia and supports vulnerable and critically endangered species and communities including the Lake Clifton Thrombolites and migratory birds.

In 2004, The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council embarked on a collaborative program to protect and manage the 26,530ha Ramsar Site 482. After advocating to Government the need to better manage Ramsar 482, we secured funding from the Australian and State Government to prepare the Management Plan.

The Ramsar Initiative commenced with the preparation of the Ramsar Management Plan and Ecological Character Description for the Peel-Yalgorup System. These community driven frameworks have been the catalyst for collaborative management. Implementation of the Plan is increasingly gaining momentum with several millions of dollars already invested and many successes celebrated. Funding has primarily been secured by the PHCC, with support from the 27 stakeholder groups that make up the Ramsar Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

The Ramsar TAG, which includes representation by Indigenous custodians, local governments, state government agencies, individual community members, local interest groups and community based organisations, continues to actively collaborate for the protection of the Peel-Yalgorup System under the co-ordination of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council.

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