

Annual Report

2014-15

16 BOARD MEMBERS

18 STAFF

52 PARTNERS



CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

1.17M
HECTARES



50 551
SEEDLINGS PLANTED

33.65 km
FENCING



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

This year has been one of incredible activity. We commenced operations as an Independent Natural Resource Management (NRM) Region. This entailed considerable reorganisation, and an increase in staff, to meet the Commonwealth's obligations. It also included the development of the Region's NRM Plan; Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025, achieved after much consultation and in an amazingly short time.

Our updated Strategic Directions has also guided delivery of projects ranging from our landscape scale Rivers to Ramsar to assisting appropriate horticultural development. Our goal of influencing decision makers has seen a strong involvement in the

Strategic Assessment of Perth and Peel Directions31 planning, and in the Peel-Harvey Estuary Management Committee.

This Report provides a snapshot of the highlights, achievements and on-ground environmental outcomes that have been accomplished with our investment and project partners. As always, these success stories could not have been achieved in isolation. As well as our many partners we have incredibly committed and able staff helping people work together for a healthy environment.

Jan Star AM
Chairman

OUR VISION

The Peel-Harvey catchment is once again a flourishing network of interconnected, productive landscapes, with diverse, healthy and resilient ecosystems, globally and locally recognised, acknowledged and embraced for its environmental significance. It is wisely managed by a community that values it – **people working together for a healthy environment.**



OUR MISSION

We are key agents for change towards a healthier Peel-Harvey catchment. As environmental stewards we will encourage and enable effective catchment management to create a healthier natural environment in the Peel-Harvey by:

- Building community education and capacity
- Influencing and leading critical thought and environmental pride
- Exemplifying and implementing best practice

OUR GOALS

1. Governing, leading and managing the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
2. Securing our Future
3. Influencing key decision-makers for better catchment governance
4. Facilitating collaborative adaptive management
5. Delivering quality environmental outcomes
6. Engaging and enabling individuals and communities

SOME OF OUR HIGHLIGHTS

Jul 2014 - Jun 2015

- ✓ Governing
- ✓ Securing
- ✓ Influencing
- ✓ Facilitating
- ✓ Delivering
- ✓ Engaging



Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

Together with our investment and project delivery partners, we:

- Commenced operations as Australia's 55th NRM Region and launched our Strategy for the Peel-Harvey, Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025
- Welcomed three new Board members
- Met with stakeholders, decision makers and elected representatives to deliver briefings and promote strong advocacy and ambassadorship
- Appointed a Science Advisor to the team
- Explored, then implemented a new project management system and interactive assets register (GRID)
- Facilitated the second in a series of Local Government Stormwater Strategy workshops
- Introduced bi-monthly S.H.A.R.E. events on topics of interest identified by our community
- Provided Chief Scientist of WA, Professor Klinken, tour of Peel-Harvey
- Welcomed EPA Board visit to discuss solutions for the Peel-Harvey
- Were actively involved in the Strategic Assessment of Perth-Peel Region
- Established the Sustainable Agriculture Technical Working Group
- Contributed to the success of Murdoch University's ARC Linkage funding submission
- Reinvigorated the Peel NRM Practitioners Group
- Worked with the PDC to develop their Legacy Projects
- Proposed a joint iconic project with South 32 for the Upper Catchment

RIVERS 2 RAMSAR

Aug 2013 - Jun 2017

\$3.57 million

Investment Partner
Department of
Environment
[Australian Government]

399 Volunteers
998 Volunteer Hours
= \$29 940 in-kind



HEALTHY WATERWAYS

Aug 2013 - Mar 2015

\$53 900

Investment Partner
Community
Landcare Grant
[Australian Government]

101 Volunteers
918 Volunteer hours
= \$27 540 in-kind



Goals 4, 5 & 6

- ✓ Facilitating collaborative adaptive management
- ✓ Delivering quality environmental outcomes
- ✓ Engaging and enabling individuals and communities

We provided support and engaged landholders in undertaking activities to improve productivity on their farms while decreasing the nutrient load leaving their properties and entering our Ramsar listed Peel-Yalgorup System.

With our project partners, Department of Food and Agriculture WA, University of WA, Water Corporation, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, Ironbark Environmental and Matt Giraudo we:

- Improved the skills and knowledge of 111 community members over 6 workshops and field days, including 'Slowing the Flow'; 'Healthy Farms-Healthy Waterways'; 'Water and Firewood' 'Subcatchment Implementation Plans at Mayfield' and 'Bandicoot Brook Wildflower Walk'
- Delivered research findings through a series of presentations from University of WA and the Department of Agriculture and Food
- Worked with Binjareb Elder Harry Nannup to discuss engagement protocols and aspirations
- Evaluated the effectiveness of our engagement process with landholders, to inform future projects
- Undertook a hydrological analysis for future drainage project sites and provided drainage assessments to 18 landowners, including mapping of drainage assessments and surveys and management practice information
- Prepared a case study booklet of the 'Jenkins Weir' project, to help inform land managers



Goals 4, 5 & 6

- ✓ Facilitating collaborative adaptive management
- ✓ Delivering quality environmental outcomes
- ✓ Engaging and enabling individuals and communities

We worked closely with project partners, community and local Noongar groups to undertake cultural and community engagement activities to improve cultural values, wildlife corridors and ecological function of our landscape.

With Birdlife WA, City of Mandurah, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, Landcare SJ and Shire of Murray we accomplished the following key achievements for Stages 3 and 4 of our 8 Stage Project:

- Together with our local Noongar community we designed and implemented a milestone 'caring for country' training program that resulted in 13 community members reaching national accreditation in chemical safety and handling
- We reviewed and updated the lower and mid Murray River Action Plans, comparing past and present foreshore conditions to identify priority areas for future restoration activities
- With the Hotham Williams community we developed a Draft NRM Plan that sets out the future of Landcare across the 573 000 hectare sub-catchment over the next 5 to 10 years
- We supported 10 landowners to co-invest in a range of biodiversity projects, including the creation of riparian corridors for cockatoo iconic species, via the first round of our community grants



We celebrated the success of our R2R partnerships and their delivery of activities, including:

- Installation of 33.65km of fencing, protecting 1 507 hectares for biodiversity values
- Planning and implementation of 283 hectares of weed control
- Revegetation of 130 hectares through the planting of 50 551 seedlings
- Collection of 9kg of native seed over 3 events
- Reduced erosion through 1.9km bank stabilisation along the Serpentine and Murray Rivers
- Undertook pest management (fox and rabbit) across 1 744 hectares
- Facilitated 17 community events involving 210 participants
- Coordinated 17 cultural events involving local Noongar communities
- Protected 700 hectares of native bushland through disease management (Phytophthora control)
- Planted 1 000 Dieback resistant Jarrahs
- Design and delivery of 5 Cockatoo workshops with 82 people attending
- Coordinated 2 Shorebird 2020 Counts across 26 000 hectares with 17 groups and 85 volunteers
- Established 11 monitoring sites to measure and improve the condition and extent of habitats

ICONIC PLACES

Nov 2014 - Jun 2015

\$38 866

Investment Partner
SWCC
[Australian Government]

5 Volunteers
40 Volunteer hours
= \$1 200 in-kind



Goals 5 & 6

- ✓ Delivering quality environmental outcomes
- ✓ Engaging and enabling individuals and communities

We protected and enriched our Ramsar 482 site through weed mapping and control, infill planting to enhance previous revegetation projects and the installation and repair of physical barriers to restrict illegal access.

With our project partners, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Green Army, Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group, Lake Mealup Preservation Society and Growing Towards Wellness we:

- Mapped and controlled over 80 hectares of weeds at Lake Mealup, including Sydney Golden Wattle and Cotton Bush
- Removed 15 hectares of isolated Cotton Bush and Apple of Sodom in good bushland in Yalgorup National Park
- Removed over 2,000 tree guards for re use
- Monitored and watered 20 Ghnias transplanted in 2014
- Controlled illegal access to Lake McLarty, Kooljerrenup and Yalgorup National Park, including installation of gates, new fencing and repairs to existing fences
- Undertook follow up weed control along the Lake Clifton Buffer
- Completed infill planting at Lake Clifton with the Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group and Growing Towards Wellness
- Assisted the Lake Mealup Preservation Society to develop a website

RAMSAR 482

Dec 2012 - Apr 2015

\$152 259

Investment Partner
Lotterywest

215 Volunteers
324 Volunteer hours
= \$9 720 in-kind

Goals 3, 5 & 6

- ✓ Influencing key decision makers for better catchment governance
- ✓ Delivering quality environmental outcomes
- ✓ Engaging and enabling individuals and communities

We identified and implemented communication approaches to raise awareness of the Peel-Yalgorup System Ramsar 482 wetlands through education and participation with the community.

With our project partners, the City of Mandurah, Birdlife WA (Peel Branch) and David Rennie, we delivered the following key communication achievements in the final stage of this 3 year program:

- We formed an Expert Panel and we prepared WA's first 'Wetlands and People Plan'
- With award-winning photographer David Rennie, we raised awareness of environmental issues impacting our Ramsar system through the arts at the 'David Rennie and Friends' evening
- We prepared, published and distributed 2,500 migratory shorebird 'information and education cards'
- We introduced and co-ordinated the 'Pave the Way Clean Up Day' along the Coodanup foreshore to raise awareness of the habitat and food requirements of migratory shorebirds
- We supported the International Kids Teaching Kids Conference with Noongar storytelling linked to Country
- We produced interactive community engagement displays for our offices



The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) is an incorporated, not-for-profit, community based Natural Resource Management organisation that promotes an integrated approach to catchment management and the way we protect and restore the environment.

16 BOARD MEMBERS

COMMUNITY

Jan Star AM Chair
Andy Gulliver Deputy Chair
Marilyn Gray Treasurer*
Paddi Creevey Secretary
Dr Peter Hick
Maxine Whitely
Darralyn Ebsary
Michael Schultz

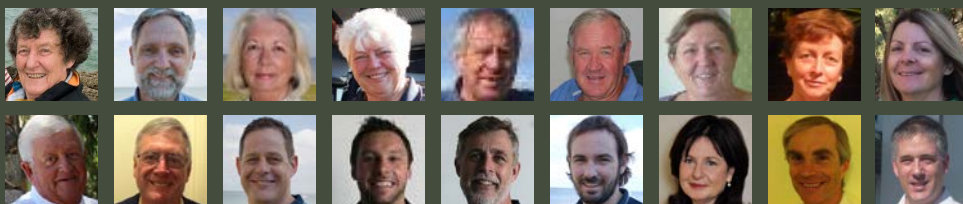
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cr John Allert (Inland)
Cr Caroline Knight (Coastal)
Cr Keith Ellis (Proxy)

AGENCY

Bob Pond Exec Committee* DoW
Leon Brower DoW
Dr Rob Summers DAFWA
Craig Olejnik DPaW
Mellisa Teede PDC
Chris Ryan DER
Scott Haine DoP (observer)

**Member Finance and Audit Committee*

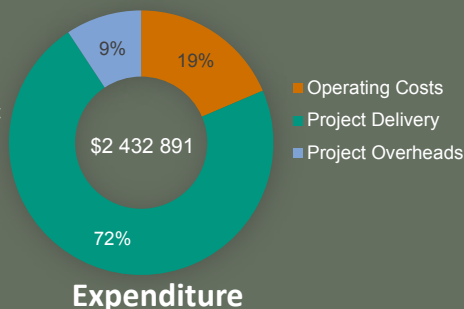
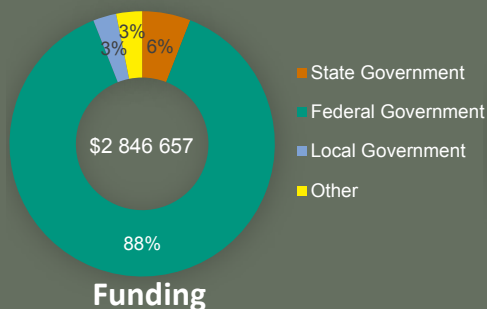


18 STAFF

Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer
Kim Wilson Program Manager
Karen Henderson Finance Manager
Thelma Crook R2R Project Manager
Jo Garvey R2R Officer
Paddy Strano LGSS Officer
Jamie Wright Senior Project Officer
Pat Sutton Office Manager
Julie MacMile Administration Officer

Mel Durack Hotham-Williams Project Officer
Jordon Garbellini Administration Assistant
Ryan Hooper Senior Scientist
Mia Lacy Community Engagement Officer
Annette Brown Communications Co-Ordinator
Michelle Mullarkey Project Support (casual)
Murray Love Project Support (casual)
Darralyn Ebsary Project Support (casual)
Farid Bagheri Project Support (casual)

FINANCIALS



52

ASSOCIATE INVESTMENT DELIVERY PARTNERS

Waroona Landcare
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
Landcare SJ
Andrew del Marco Ironbark Environmental
Matt Giraudo Hydrologist
David Rennie
Australian Government
Government of WA
Lotterywest
Alcoa
Regional Development Australia (Peel)
Shire of Boddington
City of Cockburn
Shire of Collier
Shire of Cuballing
Shire of Harvey
City of Kwinana
City of Mandurah
Shire of Murray
Shire of Narrogin
Shire of Pingelly
City of Rockingham
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
Shire of Wandering
Shire of Waroona
Shire of Wickpin
Shire of Williams
Department of Parks and Wildlife
Department of Water
Department of Agriculture and Food
Department of Planning
Western Australian Planning Commission
Department of Environmental Regulation
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Peel Development Commission
WA Local Government Association
Water Corporation
NRM WA
South West Catchments Council
Birdlife WA (Peel Branch)
Lake Mealup Preservation Society
Friends of Rivers Peel
WA Landcare Network
Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group
Lake Mealup Preservation Society
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation
Murray Districts Aboriginal Association
Green Army
Growing Towards Wellness
Centre for Fish & Fisheries Research
Murdoch University
University of WA

"We acknowledge the sound internal financial control environment present at Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Inc, for an organisation of its size and nature. We believe this is a reflection on the diligence of key experienced management, and administration team members whereby appropriate checks are in place where practicable."

~AMD Accountants~

www.peel-harvey.org.au

