

## MEDIA RELEASE

## Landcare Priorities Set Direction



Image: Board members and staff of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council mark the release of their biennial Strategic Directions update.

23 June 2016....The region's peak natural resource management body, The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC), has released its biennial strategic direction update which builds on the positive gains achieved in leading, influencing and facilitating community Landcare. Speaking at the June General Meeting held in Mandurah this week, Chairman Andy Gulliver said prior strategic planning was paying dividends.

"As we move through our second decade of operations, the PHCC has become a valued and respected contributor to positive outcomes across our whole region. A large team of community members serve as volunteers and board members, our staff are a professional team that continuously improves its performance and we are growing our networks and building connections that provide an essential bridge between government and community. Our Catchment is being wisely managed by a community that values it."

Since being recognised and operating as Australia's 55<sup>th</sup> NRM Region from 1 July, 2014, the PHCC has secured nearly \$9 million in funding for NRM projects and increased its team across the Catchment. The PHCC now directly employs 16 team members and contract partners to assist in delivering projects focussed on protecting biodiversity and Ramsar values, improving water quality and sustainable agriculture. Andy Gulliver said the PHCC is very involved in improving decision making based on science.

"We are embedding science into our activities, fostering adaptive management, and encouraging investment based on scientific evidence," he said. "Our 2016-2026 Strategic Directions update reinforces our goals and the priority actions we will deliver in the next two years towards our ultimate vision for the Peel-Harvey Catchment. We will achieve this by engaging and enabling individuals and communities to deliver quality environmental outcomes. In particular, we welcome and encourage the increasing number of young people engaging with and contributing to our work."

To view the Strategic Directions 2016-2026, go to <u>www.peel-harvey.org.au</u>

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We acknowledge the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to all Elders past and present

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