



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Landholder Engagement Supports Murray River Banks



Image: Landholder Cameron Kay (centre) with Peel-Harvey Catchment Council project officer Jordon Garbellini and fencing contractor Matt Kirkham on the Murray River foreshore.

23 June 2016... Engagement from a new influx of landholders is aiding the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC)'s natural resource management work to protect and improve the foreshore on the Murray River. PHCC Chairman Andy Gulliver said the uptake by landholders had exceeded expectations and enabled a better outcome for the overarching Rivers 2 Ramsar project which aims to create linkages in the landscape to improve wildlife corridors.

"We have had support from key local landholders for many years, and are fortunate to have additional landowners taking up opportunities to work with us to enable even better outcomes along this important section of the river. Every land owner represents an additional link in the long chain across the landscape from our upper catchments to our Ramsar-listed wetlands," he said.

The PHCC is leading a landscape scale riverbank erosion control program as part of their Rivers 2 Ramsar initiative that will protect 360 hectares of foreshore along the Murray River. The project spans 33 land parcels and 27 kilometres of foreshore. The project is supported by the PHCC through funding from the Australian Government and is made possible by a combination of individual landholder grants and in-kind contributions from public and private landholders such as Cameron Kay (pictured) who joined the project this year.

"We were prompted to take up the opportunity as it seemed like a win/win for us and the PHCC. We were hoping to repair our existing fences that were burnt in the recent fires. The grant has given us the opportunity to replace our fences to meet our needs as well as achieve better environmental outcomes," said Cameron Kay.

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“We’re able to contain our stock and restrict access to the riverbanks. It adds value to our property, and meant we could replace wooden fences with steel fence posts which is a safer option after our recent experience with the fires.”

“We are also able to eradicate weeds on the riverbank with the PHCC program. We struggled to control weeds over the last 10 years, especially cottonbush and wild fig. The outcomes benefit the wider community as the weeds will be contained so neighbouring properties will not be affected. We are also revegetating the riverbanks with native plant species which will be beneficial to the ecosystem and the Ramsar-listed Wetlands downstream.”

The PHCC will promote future funding opportunities via Facebook and their website peel-harvey.org.au

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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