

Annual Report 2015-2016



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



PHCC

**Working
Together**

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council



Message from our Chair

In our second year managing Australia's newest natural resource management region we have gone from strength to strength.

With a \$3 million investment we have delivered on-ground and engagement projects in line with our community's priorities as defined in our Natural Resource Management Strategy (Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025).

During the year we contributed to the State Government's Strategic Assessment for the Perth and Peel Regions with an aim to ensuring our environment is protected as the State plans to cater for Perth and Peel's growing population. We have provided an important link between government and the community.

During 2015-16, we were fortunate to work more actively with our Noongar community, delivering insight through participation in on-ground and engagement projects.

We have increased the integration of science into our projects and have worked with academics, the community and school groups. Engagement with the community has been supported by a fresh new look to our logo which you can expect to see more often around the catchment.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of our Board, staff and community, who are working together towards our vision of a healthy catchment for generations to come. We are looking forward to an even better 2016-17, with a focus on increasing the capacity of our many Landcare groups.

Andy Gulliver
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 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



National Landcare Programme

Jul 2015 - Jun 2018

\$3.62 million

Department of the Environment

[Australian Government]

71 Events
962 People engaged
564 New participants

Goals 4, 5 & 6

- ✓ Facilitating Collaborative Adaptive Management
- ✓ Delivering quality environmental outcomes
- ✓ Engaging and enabling individuals and communities

Protecting the Peel-Harvey's Natural Assets

Aim: Improve or maintain the condition of our Ramsar site, threatened ecological communities (TECs), and migratory, threatened and regionally significant species through habitat protection and restoration

- 8 Landcare/community groups and landholders received \$141,813 through inaugural Community Environment Grants for protection of natural assets across the Catchment
- 29ha of weed control at Bandicoot Brook Reserve, home to 3 TECs, 1 threatened and 17 priority species
- Fairy Tern workshop developed skills to assist conservation efforts for improved breeding outcomes
- Shorebird ID training workshop increased the capacity of 12 new volunteers
- 62 volunteers counted almost 22,000 birds across 17 sites towards the national Shorebird 2020 count

Supporting Sustainable Agriculture in the Peel-Harvey

Aim: Work with landholders and Landcare groups to improve current available knowledge, skills and resources to increase and support participation in sustainable agricultural practices

- 14 landholders attended an 'After the Fires' workshop and received support in post-fire recovery and property planning
- \$330,000 State NRM funding was secured to provide capacity building support to Landcare Groups
- 50 people attended and/or participated in 14 events hosted and supported by the PHCC on maximising beef and sheep production, feral animal control, organic food production and community support
- Finalised and launched 'Horticulture in the Peel-Harvey' Guide for Investors and Growers, Local Planning Policy and Soil-landscape mapping with Local Government and Industry (published WA Grower, Spring 2015)

People Working Together for the Peel-Harvey

Aim: Increase community awareness and capacity to participate in Natural Resource Management planning and delivery, including stronger foundations for our Noongar community

- Developed our Community Engagement Strategy, Communications Framework and Toolkit
- Worked with our Noongar communities to develop a draft Noongar Participation Plan
- 130 people attended S.H.A.R.E. events on priority issues identified by the community
- Continued networking, skills development and knowledge sharing meetings with our NRM practitioners
- Supported Landcare groups in training, skills, networking and applying for funding





Rivers 2 Ramsar

Aug 2013 - Jun 2017

\$3.57 million

Department of the
Environment
[Australian Government]
Shire of Murray
Shire of Waroona
PHCC

1042 Volunteers
1673 Volunteer hours
= \$50,190 In-kind

Goals 5 & 6

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

Aim: Protect cultural and ecological values across the catchment and improve land management practices to reconnect wildlife corridors at a landscape scale. Delivery focusses on Noongar, landholder and volunteer engagement leading to onground works, particularly habitat protection for Forest Black-cockatoos.

With key delivery partners Birdlife WA, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, Landcare SJ, Friends of Rivers Peel, Canoe Trail Friends, City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray, Shire of Waroona and Shire of Boddington we accomplished the following achievements across the catchment, including over \$500,000 investment in the Upper Catchment:

- 18 landholders received funding and technical support for fencing, revegetation and weed control in Round 2 of our Hotham-Williams Community Grants
- 24 events including National Tree Day, Feral Animal Workshop, Dog's Breakfast, Dirty Weekend, River Sampling and presentations to school groups to increase community knowledge and capacity
- 26 cultural events to increase capacity, deliver and plan for future works
- 21km of fencing to protect and improve the health of 1222ha of bushland and riparian zones
- 1766ha of feral animal control to protect native habitat and food resources
- 293ha of weed control to protect ecologically sensitive areas including bushland and riparian zones
- 77342 seedlings planted across 139ha to improve wildlife corridors
- 29ha of bank stabilisation and erosion control undertaken along the Murray River
- 12 landholders received grants and support for 27 km fencing and weed control along the Murray River
- 390ha of healthy vegetation protected through Phytophthora vehicle washdown
- 8 tonnes of debris removed across 19 sites to clean up the Peel-Harvey waterways. One activity is a joint project led by the Friends of Rivers Peel and supported by the PHCC with the broader community
- 1.72kg seed collected for future revegetation projects
- 2nd ecological monitoring undertaken at 11 sites across the coastal plain to measure the success of restoration projects
- 3 Cockatoo workshops completed focussing on the importance of landscape scale linkages and corridors, including bushland patches
- 80 R2R signs produced and delivered to project partners and individual landholders recognising the project aims and funding partners
- 12 Noongars and 2 PHCC Officers completed White Card training
- Finalised the Hotham-Williams NRM Plan
- Continued employment of NRM Officer in the Hotham-Williams, based in Boddington





Science Integration

Oct 2014 – Jul 2019

\$440,000+

Department of Regional
Development
[State Government]
City of Mandurah
PHCC

4 Volunteers
200 Volunteer Hours
= \$6 000 in-kind



Goals 4 & 6

- ✓ Facilitating Collaborative Adaptive Management
- ✓ Engaging and enabling individuals and communities

Aim: Provide scientific leadership to inform our scientific, political and local community about the state of the Peel-Harvey Catchment, fostering adaptive management and encouraging greater protection and investment, based on scientific evidence

- Established an identity and reputation for robust and impartial science advice across the catchment
- Facilitated science networking across Universities, Government departments and Industry to stimulate research
- Participation in and influence on the Marine Stewardship Council Certification process to achieve best environmental outcome
- With the help of volunteers, developed content for a web portal to assist future research
- Engaged with the school and teaching community through participation in the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative, Dolphin Forums and Estuary Guardians
- Supported volunteers and work experience students to support research projects
- Commenced Catchment Health Report Card Framework and data collection, including knowledge gap analysis
- 10 presentations to various audiences on the state of the Peel-Harvey Estuary and Catchment

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

- Coordinated applications for 3 Green Army Teams with 13 delivery partners
- We were finalists in the 'Partnerships with Landcare' and our Thelma Crook was a finalist in the 'Landcare Facilitator' category of the bi-annual State Landcare Awards
- Actively involved in the Peel-Harvey Estuary Management Committee and Strategic Assessment of Perth and Peel Region, including coordination of community workshops for awareness and effective submissions
- Supported the State NRM Conference held in Mandurah
- Meetings with our Commonwealth Ministers, staff and colleagues in Canberra
- Signed contract with State Government for delivery of Regional Estuaries Initiative water quality projects
- Actively involved in the Peel Development Commission 'Transform Peel' Project
- Hosted a State "Feral Cat Forum" on behalf of NRM WA
- Spread our message via television, radio, social media and Youtube videos
- Refreshed our brand and launched our new Logo
- Influenced Minister for Environment to remit Lake Pollard limestone extraction proposal back to the EPA for formal assessment

Other Highlights

Jul 2015 - Jun 2016

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



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.

18 Board Members

Community

Andy Gulliver Chair
Jan Star AM Deputy Chair
Marilyn Gray Treasurer*
Paddy Creevey Secretary
Dr Peter Hick
Howard Mitchell*
Darralyn Ebsary
Michael Schultz

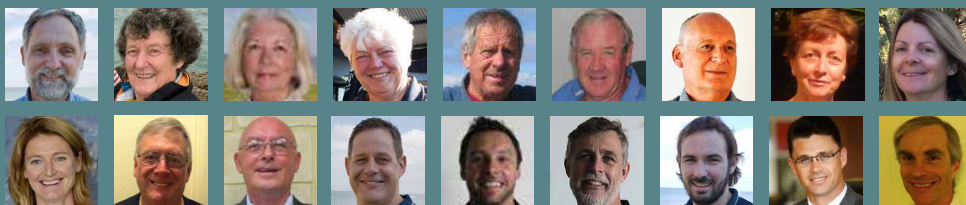
Local Government

Cr John Allert (Inland)
Cr Eliza Dowling (Proxy)
Cr Caroline Knight (Coastal)
Cr Stephen Lee (Proxy)

Agency

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

*Member Finance & Audit Committee

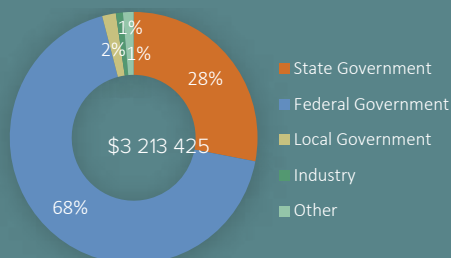


18 Staff

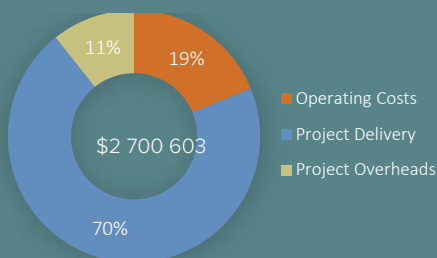
Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer
Kate Barr Project Officer (Hotham-Williams)
Annette Brown Communications Coordinator
Thelma Crook R2R Project Manager
Mel Durack Hotham-Williams Project Officer
Steve Fisher Science Advisor
Jo Garvey R2R Officer
Jordon Garbellini Administration Assistant
Karen Henderson Finance Manager

Mia Lacy Media Officer
Julie MacMile Administration Officer
Luke Rogers Regional Landcare Facilitator
Debra Slater-Lee Operations Manager
Pat Sutton Office Manager
Debra Tyler Administration Assistant
Amanda Willmott Policy Advisor
Kim Wilson Program Manager
Jamie Wright Senior Project Officer

Financials



Funding



Expenditure

"... our audit report for 30 June 2016 is unqualified. We believe this reflects the diligence and pro-active approach taken by Karen and the team in respect to financial processes, procedures and maintenance of documentation."

~AMD Accountants~

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Associate Investment Delivery Partners

Andrew del Marco Ironbark Environmental
Australian Government
Birdlife WA (Peel Branch)
Canoe Trail Friends
Centre for Fish & Fisheries Research
David Rennie
Department of Agriculture and Food
Department of Environmental Regulation
Department of Parks and Wildlife
Department of Planning
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Department of Water
Department Regional Development
Friends of Rivers Peel
Green Army
Greening Australia
Growing Towards Wellness
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group
Lake Mealup Preservation Society
Landcare SJ
Lotterywest
Matt Giraudo Hydrologist
Murdoch University
Murray Districts Aboriginal Association
NRM WA
Peel Development Commission
Regional Development Australia (Peel)
University of WA
WA Landcare Network
WA Local Government Association
Waroona Landcare
Western Australian Planning Commission
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation

16 Local Governments

Shire of Boddington
City of Cockburn
Shire of Collie
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 Wickepin
Shire of Williams