



# Annual Report 2016-2017

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

The 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



**PHCC**

**Working  
Together**

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council





## Message from our Chair

This has been a year of relentless endeavour and outstanding achievement. We are growing a community of interest around the natural resources that support our livelihoods and lifestyles. We improved links to our broader community and welcomed new volunteers, staff and Board members.

We have supported landowners across many projects, are reaching out to the young and are working alongside our Noongar community. We have supported multiple groups in a community with over 4000 volunteers actively working across the Catchment. We gave our community a voice with government and opportunities to contribute to action on the ground.

Much work goes unseen as we engage with politicians and policymakers, investing thousands of hours in professional, science-based, well-reasoned input to government on behalf of our community.

As our vision says, we are 'People Working Together for a Healthy Environment'.

This year we completed our single biggest project ever – 'Rivers 2 Ramsar'. It delivered landscape-scale change through multiple partnerships and set new benchmarks in how success is measured. Accolades abound. We thank many contributors and reserve a special vote of thanks to Thelma Crook. Her quiet dedication and leadership has been an inspiration to all.

We are telling the story of NRM better. Our popular S.H.A.R.E. in the Shed events provide our community access to accomplished presenters. Our team continue to deliver and welcome others into an inclusive and inspiring culture where 'great' happens. Everyone plays their part. Well done to all. Be proud of what you are doing.

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 and Energy  
[Australian Government]

66 Events  
1233 People engaged  
4296 hours  
= \$128,880 in-kind

### 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, and migratory, threatened and regionally significant species through habitat protection and restoration

- 35 grants totalling \$193,380 building community capacity and delivering onground activities
- 3 action plans completed, over 760ha weed mapping and 258ha Dieback assessments to plan future works within Threatened Ecological Communities and Ramsar listed sites
- 36m<sup>3</sup> of debris removed from 19 sites in the Cleanup Peel Waterways Month of March
- Shorebird ID training workshop increased the capacity of 13 new volunteers, leading to the 2017 national Shorebird 2020 count, capturing a count of > 22,000 birds across 17 sites

### 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

- Small grants to 9 farmers across 500ha for weed control, implementation of regenerative agriculture practices and support for farmers impacted by the Waroona bushfire
- 11 workshops focussing on regenerative agriculture, weed control, feral animal control, fire recovery, equine property management and fodder shrubs for more than 170 community members
- Partnered with the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group to host a workshop for key agency stakeholders to look at improving coordinated responses to priority biosecurity issues across the catchment
- Partnered with Department of Parks and Wildlife to support around 40 landholders in feral animal control to complement numbat and woylie conservation in the Dryandra Woodland

### 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

- Noongar Participation Plan completed and endorsed
- 158 people attended S.H.A.R.E. in the Shed events on priority issues identified by the community
- Cultural Training events including at Dryandra, attended by Staff, Board and Landcare Groups
- Accredited chemical handling training provided to 18 Noongars
- Capacity building funding provided to Landcare groups to support events, training and media presence
- Continued networking, skills development and knowledge sharing meetings with our NRM practitioners







## Rivers 2 Ramsar

Aug 2013 - Jun 2017

\$3.57 million

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

65 Volunteers  
396 Volunteer hours  
= \$11,800 in-kind

## Regional Estuaries Initiative

Jun 2016 - Jun 2020

\$2.25 million

Department of Water  
[WA Government]

4 Volunteers  
120 Volunteer hours  
= \$3,600 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 corridors at a landscape scale. Delivery focusses on Noongar, landholder and volunteer engagement leading to onground works, particularly habitat protection for Forest Black-cockatoos

- 11 community events to increase knowledge and engagement in NRM activities
- 6 cultural events, including 2 training workshops
- 50km fencing to protect 451ha of riparian and terrestrial zones
- 20ha feral animal control to protect native species
- 1,126ha weed control across the catchment to remove invasive species
- 107,678 seedlings planted across 155ha to strengthen corridors
- 13km of erosion control actions undertaken to protect 135ha of river
- Installation of 3 riffles
- 7 Cockatoo workshops across the catchment
- Follow up vegetation assessments completed for 9 sites
- 1,055 Noongar, broader community and agency staff participated in R2R events

### Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6

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

Aim: To improve the water quality of our Rivers and Estuary through the construction of drainage management infrastructure at priority sites to reduce organic and nutrient loads, provide multiple benefits to landowners and inform greater understanding of effective drainage management

- Smoking Ceremony to launch the project
- Project plans finalised for both REI programs in line with Delivery Agreement
- Drainage Intervention decision-making framework established for the Mayfield/Drainage program, with the first drainage intervention sites identified and in-principle landowner agreements secured allowing baseline monitoring and design work to commence
- Eight potential water quality sites inspected. Two commenced and six being negotiated
- Signing of Partner Agreement between PHCC, Water Corporation and Department of Water
- Baseline investigations and monitoring, flood modelling, environmental impact assessments and preliminary design reviews underway for the Peel Main Drain off-line water treatment project





## Science Integration

Oct 2014 – Jul 2019

\$440,000+

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

4 Volunteers  
100 Volunteer Hours  
= \$3 000 in-kind

### Goals 3, 4 & 6

- ✓ Influencing key decision-makers for better catchment governance
- ✓ 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

- Developed a Framework for the Assessment of Catchment and Estuarine Health in the Region
- Actively involved in two research projects with 6 universities and 4 partners from local and state government investigating the health of the waterways 'Balancing Estuarine and Societal Health in a Changing Environment' and 'Impacts of Bushfire on Water Quality in the Harvey River Basin'
- On-going expert advice provided to Regional Estuaries Initiative projects, Lake Clifton Recovery Team and Lake Mealup, Lake McLarty and Peel-Yalgorup System Ramsar Technical Advisory Groups
- Engaged in a series of events with the school and teaching community
- Continued participation in and influence on the Marine Stewardship Council Certification process and Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions to achieve best environmental outcomes
- Supported volunteers and work experience students in research projects
- 18 presentations to various audiences on the state of the Peel-Harvey Estuary and Catchment

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

Governing, Securing, Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- \$330,000 secured for 3 new projects (Fire Recovery, Hotham-Williams Officer, Wetlands and People)
- 572 school students planted 20,000 trees and shrubs over 3 weeks in burnt reserves around Yarloop
- Tunbridge Gully Restoration project commenced
- Participated in the initial release of the RHDV-K5 rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus
- 18 participants attended Fire Recovery and Resilience Workshop and follow up workshop
- Commenced 'Fertilising the Farm' soil testing with 20 farms tested
- State Government purchased 960ha of land to be amalgamated into Yalgorup National Park
- Green Army projects delivery with our partners
- \$55,000 State NRM funding secured for 14 fire-affected landholders for onground works
- Launch of Hotham-Williams NRM Plan
- Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain listed as a Threatened Ecological Community
- Biodiversity Conservation Act introduced & PHCC on ECU panel with Environment Minister and others
- Threatened Species Commissioner launched 'Farmers4Fauna' & Feral Cat Control Trial
- Re-opening of the Winjan Aboriginal Corporation

## Other Highlights and State NRM Grants

\$330,000

[WA Government]

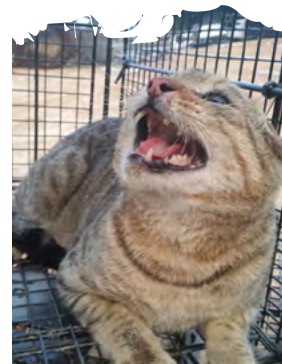
Oct 2016 - Dec 2018

Fire Recovery  
Hotham-Williams

Jan 2017 - Jun 2018

Wetlands and People

942 Volunteers  
3402 Volunteer hours  
= \$102,060 in-kind





# 18 Board Members

## Community

Andy Gulliver Chairman  
Jan Star AM Deputy Chair  
Marilyn Gray Treasurer\*  
Paddi 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  
Brett Fitzgerald DPaW  
Andrew Ward PDC  
Vacant DER  
Scott Haine DoP (observer)

\*Member Finance & Audit Committee



# 18 Staff

Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer  
Kate Barr Project Officer (Hotham-Williams)  
Thelma Crook R2R Program Manager  
Neil Dixon Healthy Waterways Prog Manager  
Mel Durack Hotham-Williams NRM Coordinator  
Steve Fisher Science Advisor  
Jo Garvey Natural Assets Coordinator  
Jordon Garbellini R2R Project Support Officer  
Karen Henderson Finance Manager  
Megan Leroy Fire Recovery Officer  
Julie MacMile Comm Engagement Coordinator  
Sharon Meredith Wetlands and People Officer

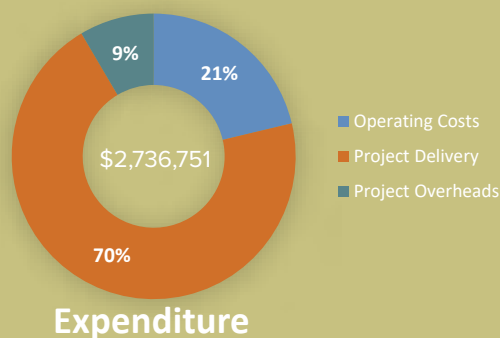
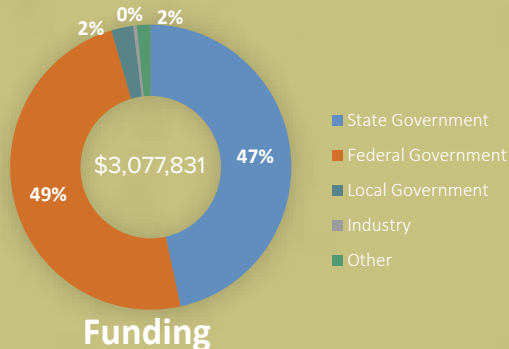
Michelle Mullarkey Field Officer  
Jessica Oakely Administration Officer  
Jesse Rowley Support Officer  
Luke Rogers Regional Landcare Facilitator  
Pat Sutton Office Manager  
Kim Wilson Program Manager  
  
Farewelled during 2016/17  
Avril Baxter Project Support Officer  
Annette Brown Communications Coordinator  
Andrew Del Marco Projects Officer  
Amanda Willmott Policy Advisor  
Kelly Lavell Healthy Waterways Prog Manager

# 15 Professional Volunteers

A big thank you to our regular team of volunteers who help out across the board. A particular thanks to Bart Katarski, Anna Gstaettner, Annette Jacobs, Jesse Rowley and Julie Ophel

# Financials

During 2016/17 PHCC received their ACNC tick of approval



# 49 Associate Investment Delivery Partners

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  
Matt Giraudo Hydrologist  
Murdoch University  
Murray Districts Aboriginal Association  
NRM WA  
Peel Development Commission  
Regional Development Australia (Peel)  
South 32  
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

"PHCC has some very impressive internal financial record keeping processes..."

~Australian Government  
2017 Governance Audit~