

Annual Report 2017-2018



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

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



Message from our Chair

Another year and another moment in time that deserves a pause for reflection.

Groups large and small and young and old, contributed to a great year. The programs with schools and young people have been a delight and will inspire champions of the future. The tremendous community “S.H.A.R.E.” meetings have attracted hundreds of people. Alcoa Foundation funding allowed the PHCC to embark on a transformative project for the Serpentine River.

Partnerships with Newmont Boddington Gold, our upper catchment Local Governments, the City of Mandurah and the Shire of Waroona, as well as an election commitment from the State Government are enabling the PHCC to increase our support for our community, and get work done on-ground, across the Catchment. We thank them for their support.

Launching the Ramsar “People and Wetlands” plan was a highlight – a first for Australia, representing years of sustained, passionate commitment by so many people.

These achievements are built on pioneering foundations that go back to the Landcare movement of the 1970’s. We have built a community that is resilient, has a voice and is delivering results.

June 30 marked the end of our 3 year contract with the Australian Government under the National Landcare Program, which, with the help of our many partners, achieve so much. In December the team commenced the enormous task of submitting a tender for NLP2 – Regional Land Partnerships. A monumental effort has secured funding for a further 5 years and the team is adjusting to a new structure and new business model. Well done team, including our Board and many partners.

As a community please take a moment to reflect on being part of a successful movement of ‘People working together for a healthy environment’. Our community is resilient with an unwavering spirit. We have shown support for each other in tough times. Please pause, take a breath and congratulate yourselves. Tomorrow we start pioneering again.

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 & Energy
[Australian Government]

Goals 4, 5 & 6

Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

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

- \$178,000 across 34 Grants (3 rounds) to protect TEC's and regionally significant areas
- 1220ha protected - 17 km fencing, 35ha revegetation & 154ha weed & 1020ha feral animal control
- Mapping across 26,000ha to establish condition and baseline for the TEC listed Saltmarshes
- 87m³ of debris removed from 14 sites in the Cleanup Peel Waterway Month of March
- 16 volunteers trained for Shorebird Count and 66 volunteers counted 37000 birds across 19 sites
- \$27,870 grant towards an aerial bridge to help conserve the threatened ring-tailed possum

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

- 57 feral pigs caught across 6,000ha with 24 landowners engaged and adopting new practices
- 75 people attended training/field days and workshops
- ~200 attendees at the WA Feral Cat Symposium and targetted 2nd day workshop, including leaders in the field presenting on successes and new technologies around feral cat control
- Sponsored the SJ Food and Farm Alliance to support delivery the SJ Food and Farm Fest
- 13 landowners attended a workshop to access feral cat cages and get support for 1080 bait permits

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

- 197 people attended 7 On-Country visits
- 92 people attended S.H.A.R.E. in the Shed events on priority issues identified by the community
- Peel Youth on Leadership Group members attended an overnight On-Country training event
- 3,500 seedlings were given to over 100 Lake Clifton residents at 2 events
- Networking, skills development and knowledge sharing meetings continued with our NRM practitioners
- 37 people attended training courses

54 Events
1750 People engaged
3500 hours
= \$105,000 in-kind





Science Integration

Oct 2014 – Jul 2019

\$440,000+

Department of Primary
Industries & Regional
Development
[State Government]
City of Mandurah
PHCC

Goals 3, 4 & 6

Influencing, Facilitating, Engaging

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 Report Card for the Assessment of Catchment and Estuarine Health in the Region
- Reviewed Science Strategy for the Peel-Harvey Estuary and developed strategies for knowledge gaps
- Supported formation of 'Peel Bright Minds', as a Regional Hub of Inspiring (ESTEAM)
- 21 presentations including lectures, seminars and radio interviews as well as 2 magazine articles
- 2 Master Classes on the values of the Peel-Yalgorup Wetlands System Ramsar Site to local businesses
- Awarded Peel Bright Minds ESTEAM Communicator of the Year
- Provided expert advice to 10 Technical Advisory Groups, Working Groups, Steering Committees and Project Advisory Teams, Environmental Protection Authority and all tiers of government
- Participated in 4 excursions and 1 incursions with the school and teaching community
- Continued involvement in two research projects with 6 universities and 4 partners from local and state government investigating the health of the waterways

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

Governing, Securing, Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Submitted and were successful in our tender to deliver NLP2 in the Peel-Harvey
- Launched Australia's first CEPA Action Plan, our "Wetland and People Plan" on 1 November
- Sponsored Mill Formby's *Wing Threads: Flight to the Tundra* project
- Supported the establishment of a Fairy Tern Sanctuary in the Mandurah Ocean Marina
- Celebrated the successful conclusion of the Rivers 2 Ramsar project, with our many partners
- Thelma is awarded the 2017 John Oldham Conservation Employee Award
- 14 speakers addressed an audience from 23 organisations at the PHCC Drainage Symposium
- Continued *Farmers for Fauna* project in partnership with DBCA and Project Numbat
- New Partnerships secured and/or commenced, providing funding for project delivery including:
 - *Community Investment Agreement* [5 year partnership with Newmont Boddington Gold to support the Hotham Williams community in NRM]
 - *Three Rivers, One Estuary* [3 years with Alcoa Foundation to improve the health of the Serpentine River] in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and Greening Australia
 - *Restoring River Health* [3 years with WA Government for aquatic habitat]
 - *Water Quality Improvement* [3 years with WA Government to improve health of the Estuary]
 - *Land for Wildlife* in Lake Clifton [5 years with City of Mandurah and Shire of Waroona]
 - NRM [5 year partnership with Shires of Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering & Williams]

Other Highlights





Regional Estuaries Initiative

Jun 2016 - Jun 2020

\$2.25 million

Department of Water & Environment Regulation
[WA Government]

State NRM Grants

[WA Government]

Oct 2016 - Dec 2018

Fire Recovery
\$120,000

Oct 2016 - Dec 2018

Hotham-Williams
\$100,000

Jan 2017 - Jun 2018

Wetlands and People
\$110,000

601 Volunteers
3916 Volunteer hours
= \$117,480 in-kind

Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6

Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

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

- DWER Peel Main Drain flood study accepted and height of diversion weir approved by Water Corporation
- Detailed design of the offline water treatment swales completed
- Planning approval for the Peel Main Drain Project received and construction commenced
- Water Corporation donated \$72,000 towards the construction of the project access track
- Construction of the first small weir complete, holding back 35 million litres of water
- Four additional small weir sites designed and pending approval from Water Corporation

Goals 4, 5 & 6

Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

Fire Recovery

- \$110,000 across 22 properties – 943ha protected - 23ha revegetation, 6,164 seedlings, 907ha weed control, 13km fencing, 25ha pest control, 350m erosion management, 170ha improved soil health
- 45 participants at 2 youth and indigenous engagement events, including “Noongar Walk and Talk”
- 41 participants at “After the Fire” bus tour for farmers sharing knowledge in rebuilding their properties
- 43 participants at 2 sustainable agriculture events, an REI “Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping Workshop” and an “Accu-Spread Field Day”, both aimed at reducing fertiliser run-off on farms

Hotham-Williams

- 70 volunteers planted over 500 seedlings for the Tunbridge Gully restoration project
- 2000 seedlings planted over 2 events with the Wandering Lions Club
- Supporting NRM community including Friends of the Reserves – Boddington on their Camballing Reserve Bridal Creeper project, Ranford Pool Restoration and river health projects
- Assistance to community groups throughout the Hotham-Williams with NRM funding applications

Wetlands and People

- 322 people attended 13 events increasing bird monitoring skills, including ‘Stints are Rad’
- 20 Youth on Leadership members created the “Heal Peel” campaign to reduce single-use plastics, meeting with 300 people and over 24,000 social media interactions
- 52 year 3 students participated in ‘Wetland Yarns’ excursions and art project
- Wetlands from Above competition and Hydrodome event
- Supported the launch of Dolphin Watch and funding for Fin Guides with the Estuary Guardians



19 Board Members

Community

Andy Gulliver Chairman
Jan Star AM Deputy Chair
Marilyn Gray Treasurer*
Paddi Creevey Secretary
Howard Mitchell*
Darralyn Ebsary
Michael Schultz
Sue Fyfe

Local Government

Cr Eliza Dowling (Inland)
Cr David Smart (Proxy)
Cr Caroline Knight* (Coastal)
Cr Stephen Lee (Proxy)

Agency

Bob Pond Exec Committee DWER
Leon Brouwer DWER
Dr Rob Summers DPIRD
Mark Cugley DBCA
Andrew Ward PDC
Scott Haine DPLH (observer)
Suzanne Brown WC (observer)

*Member Finance & Audit Committee



49

Associate Investment Delivery Partners

Australian Government
Alcoa Foundation
Birdlife WA (Peel Branch)
Canoe Trail Friends
Centre for Fish & Fisheries Research
David Rennie
Dept of Primary Industries & Regional Development
Dept of Water & Environmental Regulation
Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
Dept of Planning, Lands & Heritage
Dept of Premier and Cabinet
Friends of Rivers Peel
Greening Australia
Growing Towards Wellness
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group
Lake Mealup Preservation Society
Landcare SJ
Murdoch University
Murray Districts Aboriginal Association
Newmont Boddington Gold
NRM WA
Peel Development Commission
Regional Development Australia (Peel)
South 32
The Nature Conservancy
University of WA
WA Landcare Network
WA Local Government Association
Waroona Landcare
Wing Threads
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation

19 Staff

Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer
Kate Barr Project Officer (Hotham-Williams)
Thelma Crook Program Manager
Andrew Del Marco Special Projects Officer
Neil Dixon Healthy Waterways Prog Manager
Mel Durack Hotham-Williams NRM Coordinator
Steve Fisher Science Advisor
Jo Garvey Natural Assets Coordinator
Jordon Garbellini Land Conservation 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 (REI)
Jessica Oakley Administration Officer
Jesse Rowley Support Officer
Luke Rogers Regional Landcare Facilitator
Pat Sutton Office Manager
Kim Wilson Program Manager

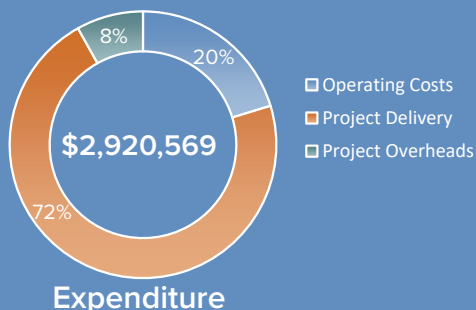
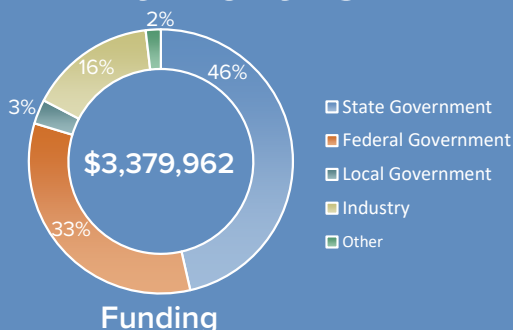
15 Professional Volunteers

A big thank you to our regular team of volunteers who help out across the board. A particular thanks to Bart Katarski.

16 Local Governments

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 Wickepin
Shire of Williams

Financials



"There are few audits undertaken by us which result in no recommendations being raised which is a credit to the PHCC team who were helpful and attentive to our requests for information, which once again enabled us to complete our audit efficiently."

~AMD Accountants~