

# CHAIRMAN REPORT

General Meeting to be held on Thursday 13 December 2018

Firstly I'd like to extend a big thank you on behalf of us all to Andy Gulliver. Andy your warmth and dedication, firstly as a founding Member of the PHCC, and in the last three years, as Chairman, is much appreciated.

I really want to thank the Board for your confidence in electing me Chair of PHCC, it's hugely exciting and also a little daunting. We have so much going on across our organisation I'm currently on a very rapid learning curve.

The more I learn about this organisation the more blown away I am by the incredible staff that we have. People that are extremely passionate about what they do, going that extra mile to make PHCC one of the true standout successes that it is. I feel very privileged to be your new Chair and look forward to working closely with everyone.

Welcome to our new Member, Amanda Wilmott – welcome to the team.

Having only been in the Chair for just a month I have only a few things to report.

## Meetings and Events

With an election looming we've taken the opportunity to vocalize our election wish list.

On the 12 of November Jan Star, Jane O'Malley, Steve Fisher, Neil Dixon, and I met with **Tony Burke the Shadow Minister for the Environment. Melissa Teede, Labor Candidate for the seat of Canning.** We met at Peel Main Drain site to emphasise the scale of the projects we are involved in with Steve and Neil providing the technical details. Discussion topics included;

- The Water Ways Institute (Stage 1)
- Healthy Waterways Infrastructure fund
- Aboriginal Ranger Program
- Thrombolites (reducing salinity in Lake Clifton) and
- Support for an increase in the federal budget for environmental funds to at least 2% from the current 0.23%

We have extended an invitation for a similar meeting to Federal Member Andrew Hastie and hope to meet early in the New Year.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> November Jane, Thelma Crook and I met with **David Templeman, Robyn Clarke** (Member for Murray-Wellington) and **Melissa Teede.** We again discussed our election asks as well as a number of other issues including PHCC being in Manila for the Global Engagement Project, the mid term review of the Forest Management Plan, the State Feral Pig Strategy and a Noongar Ranger Program for the Peel.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> Andrew Delmarco brought together representatives from WAPC, DPLH, DPC, DPIRD, DWER, EPA, Shire of Murray (also representing City of Mandurah), to highlight protection of the Peel Harvey water resources given that **SPP2.1** is under review. I wasn't able to attend but general consensus was the meeting went well. Subsequently, we are in the process of clarifying our 3 major asks, along with several more minor requests. The WAPC has committed to discussing these with the Commission.

7<sup>th</sup> December **Peel Regional Leaders Forum** held their AGM (with no change in Chair or Deputy). The general meeting saw the endorsement of the 2019 Federal Election Commitment requests which includes:

- Healthy Waterways Infrastructure (\$20 million)
- Peel Waterways Institute (Stage 1) (\$1.85 million)
- Aboriginal Ranger Program (\$4.6 million)
- Rescuing the Lake Clifton Thrombolites (\$500,000)

Paul Forden, Chief Officer, South Metropolitan Health Service discussed the bringing together of key individuals across the region to develop a health and wellness plan. PHCC has nominated to be involved in further discussions.

A new vibrant logo was endorsed so we can expect to see that out in print soon.

Collaboration across the Region sometimes comes with challenges but in general the PRLF is progressing well, with the new Executive Officer, Anika Serer.

#### NRM WA

NRMWA has finalised a restructure following the overall reduction in funding across WA NRM Regions. Mariyon Slany of Perth NRM is the interim Chair of Chairs. This will be reviewed in the new year when all AGM's are complete. We are in the process of recruiting for a new Executive Officer (Jane is on the panel for this) to assist with policy, advocacy and strategy. Individual Regions will help with administrative functions of the collaborative group.

Following the release of a fairly perfunctory WA NRM framework by DPIRD and its reluctance to reform an NRM Council, WALN is trying to form a peak body to best respond to this void in NRM at a State level. WALN has invited NRMWA along with CCWA, UBC and others. Mariyon, SWCC Chair (Christine and new Chair Bill Biggs) and Wheatbelt CEO attended on behalf of NRM WA.

There is a combined meeting of Chairs and CEO's planned for 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, and possible teleconference for 14<sup>th</sup> Dec (Chairs).

#### Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group

I would like to acknowledge the great work being done by the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group, who we continue to work with as they progress with the new levy in place. They are achieving some great outcomes working with landowners to assist in the removal of cotton bush, rabbit and fox control, and our emerging problem of feral pigs.

#### CEO and Staff

Welcome to our new staff members, which Jane will cover in her report.

#### News

We are thrilled to receive confirmation that all three of our one-year projects have been extended to five years and the team are madly doing the paperwork associated with securing these additional work orders. We should be very proud of our efforts. A review of RLP project funding across Australia shows that the PHCC secured the 5<sup>th</sup> highest amount across the 56 management units – not bad for a little old community group.

#### The Year Ahead

With another busy year ahead starting with our Strategic Meeting in February it's now time to recharge the batteries and enjoy the holiday season. I look forward to catching up with our partners and community at our end of year function today.

Caroline Knight

**Chairman**