



PHOTO: After the Fire Workshop, Feb 2017, Waroona

Helping local communities recover after fire *Waroona NRM & Fire Recovery Support Project*

The Waroona NRM and Fire Recovery Support Project is a two-year initiative to assist and support those within the Shires of Waroona and Harvey impacted by the massive wildfire of 2016. The fire had a significant impact on a number of local communities and burnt over 72,000 ha of native forest, bushland and farmland, including 426 farms covering 33,000 ha.

The Project has been designed and delivered by the PHCC to support the community to restore farmlands and natural areas damaged in the fires, and increase community skills, knowledge and confidence in fire recovery land management practices. Over 230 farmers, school students and other community members have been directly involved in the Project since 2016. This includes

the project's devolved grant program that has assisted 20 landholders to rehabilitate 1000 hectares of farmland and on-farm vegetation. A further 800 hectares of farmland has received improved sustainable agricultural management through the implementation of regenerative agriculture practices by landholders.

Fire Recovery Workshops and Field Days have been held to provide practical land management advice to fire-affected landholders, complemented by other activities, such as planting days, to engage the wider community in restoration of fire-affected areas. In numerous ways the Project is helping both people and the land recover and heal from this devastating fire, a process which will continue for many years to come.

FUNDING PROGRAM

State NRM Community Capability Grant

PHCC PROGRAM

Supporting Sustainable Agriculture in the Peel-Harvey

PHCC PROJECT

Waroona NRM and Fire Recovery Support

FUNDING

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Community Capability Grant | \$120,000 |
| Community Action Grant 2017* | \$55,000 |
| Community Action Grant 2018* | \$55,000 |

** in partnership with Shire of Waroona via State NRM funding*

REGIONAL COVERAGE



Ramsar Wetlands
Coastal Plain

STAKEHOLDERS

Shire of Waroona, Shire of Harvey, Coolup LCDC, Shire of Murray, State NRM Office, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group

BENEFICIARIES

Landholders (predominantly farmers) within the 2016 Waroona fire scar; communities of Waroona and Harvey shires

PROJECT MANAGER

Megan LeRoy

STEERING COMMITTEE

Andy Gulliver, Jan Star, Marilyn Gray, Darralyn Ebsary, Rob Summers, Jane O'Malley, Kim Wilson, Luke Rogers



'The Shire of Waroona, on behalf of the fire affected community, are grateful of the support received through the PHCC "Waroona NRM & Fire Recovery Support project". This project has enabled us to continue to rebuild confidence and provide the support and guidance needed to rebuild this devastated community and the environment back to its pre fire state. Whilst there is still many years of work to be done to get the community back to a sense of normality, support of these types of initiatives are critical in building community resilience and capability into the future.'

~ Dave Gossage, Shire of Waroona Fire Recovery Officer ~

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- New community networks created that connect people, provide support and foster sharing of experiences and information
- Fire recovery grants for on-ground works awarded to 20 properties (1000ha) with a total of \$110,000 for land restoration
- Improved sustainable agricultural management practices over 800 ha
- *Bushfire Recovery and Resilience Community Workshop*
- *After the Fire* property planning workshop for sustainable agriculture
- *After the Fire* Field Day/Bus tour
- *Wildflower Walk* – Aitken Rd Reserve, Yarloop
- *Great Marri Plant Out* partnership project – tree planting within Reserves surrounding Yarloop burnt in the fire; 500 students from metropolitan Carbon Schools Project planted 20,000 plants over 4 weeks in June 2017
- Engagement of local Noongar people in project events
- Youth engagement in *Bird Nest Building Workshop*

LOCATION

Fire affected localities within the Shires of Waroona and Harvey

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Articles in local media including Harvey Reporter (Students keen to bring back the birds)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Noongar training/engagement in landcare; articles in local newsletters; building community led landcare; supporting sustainable agriculture activities through a workshop and field day.