



REGIONAL GOALS

▢ People P4

≡ Knowledge K1, K3

PHOTO: Technical Working Group members come from a range of local government, state government agencies and PHCC

## Making agriculture sustainable in a sensitive coastal catchment

### *The Peel Sustainable Agriculture Technical Working Group*

Nutrient management is key to ensuring agriculture is sustainable in the Peel-Harvey Coastal Catchment's poor soils. Since 2014, the PHCC and Shire of Murray have led an initiative to support compliance with state government policy on protection of the Peel-Harvey Estuary and nutrient management standards. The PHCC/Shire initiative has enabled the Peel Sustainable Agriculture Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop new information resources and policy guidance for local governments and proponents of horticultural developments. A model local planning policy for new horticultural developments was endorsed by the TWG and PHCC in 2016 and is now in

place in the Shires of Murray, Waroona and Serpentine-Jarrahdale. The PHCC maintains public access to all project information resources, including land capability mapping, to assist growers and proponents of new developments. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is a key partner in the initiative, providing mapping and key technical advice on agricultural systems and nutrient management. The initiative aims to support sustainable agricultural development in the Peel-Harvey, including new enterprises within the Peel Food Zone.

#### FUNDING PROGRAM

Australian Government's National Landcare Program

#### PHCC PROGRAM

*Supporting Sustainable Agriculture in the Peel-Harvey*

#### PHCC PROJECT

*Peel Sustainable Technical Working Group*

#### FUNDING

National Landcare Program	\$15,000
Peel Regional Leaders Forum	\$15,000

#### REGIONAL COVERAGE



Ramsar Wetlands  
Coastal Plain

#### STAKEHOLDERS

- Farmers, horticulturalists
- Shires of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Murray, Waroona, and Harvey
- Peel Development Commission
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- Vegetables WA

#### BENEFICIARIES

Horticultural industry, landowners, catchment community, state and local governments

#### PROJECT MANAGER

Jane O'Malley



PHOTO: Sam Calameri speaking to TWG members at his state-of-the-art greenhouse

*“Peel Sustainable Agriculture Technical Working Group is realising greater collaboration between State and Local Government and the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council. More effective collaboration has the potential to achieve stronger policies for the protection of the Estuary and Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site, and stimulate sustainable agriculture in the region.”*

~ Shire President Cr. David Bolt ~

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Partnership established in 2014 to support the Peel Sustainable Agriculture Technical Working Group
- Consensus built among local and state government and catchment managers on development assessment policies and compliance standards
- Improvements made in the assessment of new horticultural developments, including greater collaboration between local government and agencies
- Model Local Planning Policy for New Horticultural Developments finalised
- Local governments supported to gazette new policies for assessment of horticultural developments
- Guide for Investors and Growers considering new horticultural enterprises developed, published and distributed
- Relationship built with peak horticultural body, Vegetables WA, to facilitate policy implementation
- Greater clarity for investment in Peel-Harvey Catchment

#### PUBLIC AWARENESS

Website hosting of mapping, information and policy templates; Promotion of ‘Horticulture in the Peel-Harvey’ brochure in Vegetables WA magazine

#### COLLABORATION

A collaborative project of PHCC, four local governments, three state government agencies and the Peel Development Commission.

#### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Maintain the TWG to identify future complex issues to address together and develop effective solutions; Preparation of guidance for local governments and proponent of small-medium scale intensive animal keeping enterprises.