



REGIONAL GOALS

▢ People P2, P3

▢ Biophysical B1, B4, B5

▢ Knowledge K2, K3

## Restoration of WA's mighty Murray River *The Lower-Middle Murray Project*

Most river reaches in the Peel-Harvey Catchment are in a poor condition after more than a century of uncontrolled stock access, riverbank erosion and weed invasion. With this in mind as part of its Rivers to Ramsar Project, the PHCC embarked on a new initiative to address the management needs of a large section of the longest river in the catchment, the Murray. Commencing with a major review of the decade-old Murray River Action Plan, PHCC staff built an understanding of the ecological condition of the lower and middle reaches of the River, and identified key management actions to restore it to health. With large parts of the river's foreshores in private ownership the PHCC encouraged landholders from the Darling Scarp to the Delta Islands to participate in implementation of the Plan's recommendations. Twelve landholders came

forward to be involved, representing 27 km of the 46 km of the river's lower and middle reaches. Through a cooperative approach with landholders, the PHCC coordinated restoration works over 301 hectares of riverine habitat. Fifty-four (54) km of riverbank was stabilized and fencing was installed by landholders along 27 km of river corridor to control stock access.

The project's success was due to the detailed understanding of the river's management needs identified in the revised River Action Plans, and the level of respect and trust between PHCC project staff and participating landholders. These factors, together with an adaptive management approach, ensured on-ground works were effective and strongly supported by landholders.

### FUNDING PROGRAM

Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund

### PHCC PROGRAM

*Rivers 2 Ramsar*

### PHCC PROJECT

*The Lower-Middle Murray Project*

### FUNDING

Australian Government	\$333,778
Shire of Murray	\$20,000

### REGIONAL COVERAGE



### STAKEHOLDERS

Department of Water; Murray Districts Aboriginal Association; Local Noongar community; Landholders, Department of Land Administration (Landgate)

### BENEFICIARIES

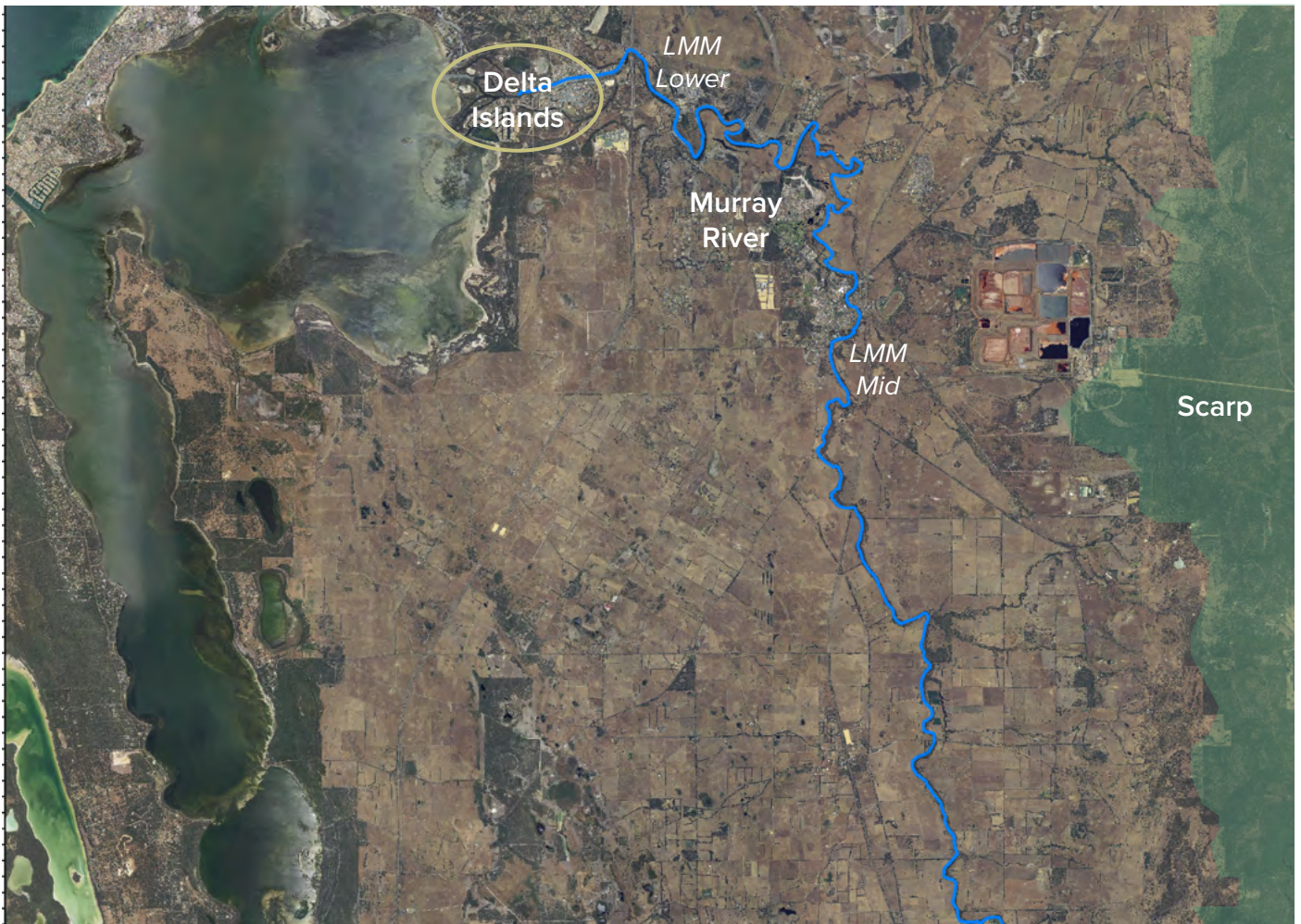
Landholders, local community including Noongar Community, Department of Water, Shire of Murray, Department of Land Administration (Landgate), Ramsar listed Wetlands

### PROJECT MANAGER

Thelma Crook

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Bob Pond, Mike Schultz, Peter Hicks and John Allert, Thelma Crook, Kim Wilson, Jo Garvey



*“ You get some of the more ‘green’ people who are like...oh you have to exclude the cattle from the fenced areas...but the PHCC project staff say...oh at appropriate times you may want to let cows in there...So they are practical, and easy to work with.”*

*~ Participating Landholder~*

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Comprehensive review and update of River Action Plans for the Lower and Middle Murray
- Foreshore assessment of 93 km of riverbank and foreshore
- Engagement of 12 river foreshore landholders, covering 301 ha of riverine habitats
- Fencing to 27 km of river to control stock access
- Stabilised erosion points on 54 km of riverbank
- 20 ha of revegetation of river foreshores with local native species
- 91 ha of weed mapping, and 64 ha of weed control, including Removal of Weeds of National Significance
- Restoration and revegetation of the Pinjarra Massacre Site on the River, a site of great significance to Noongar People

- Restored east-west ecological connectivity over 46 km across Catchment
- Discovered and protected populations of two species of threatened flora (Grevillea sp. and Parsonsia sp.)

#### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Continuation of weed control and support for rehabilitation of the Massacre Site.

#### COLLABORATION

Between the Department of Water, the Shire of Murray, the local Noongar community, PHCC, agencies, DOLA, contractors and the local landholders; Collaboration to share information, undertake planning and agreed activities that led to the development and implementation of a landscape scale project, linkage, to protect the middle and lower Murray River.