

Staff – Movements, Professional Development and more

- **Mike Griffiths** has accepted a contract as our **Wetland Restoration Officer** commencing 11 March
- **Kate Barr** will return to the team 2 days a week as Project Support in the upper catchment.
- **Megan LeRoy** finishes with the PHCC on 1 March to circumnavigate Australia with her family.
- **Sharon Meredith** has temporarily increased her hours to full time (to April).
- **Jessie Fenelon** is providing casual support to the Ramsar Community Engagement team 2 days / week.

Projects

Please refer to the Program Manager reports that provide a summary of project status, highlights etc.

1. National Landcare Program – Core Services

- **Review of NRM Strategy against NLP2 Outcomes** – We plan to commence this process in April (due 19 July, with a further 6 months to update our Strategy)
- **Community Participation (engagement) Plan submitted 18.1.19**
- **Communications Plan [interim] submitted 18.1.19**
- **Fraud Control Plan** – we have contracted AMD to help prepare this and they are waiting for us to prepare a fraud policy to accompany it before finalization (no due date, but if the Australian Government asks to see it, we are required to provide it)
- It has been confirmed that we no longer need to prepare a **Transition Out Plan**
- Communications, Media and general are all in hand

Noongar Participation – Thelma Crook

- Department of Aboriginal Affairs have provided feedback to help inform the review of our **Noongar Participation Plan** (due 19 July). Updates will include links to procurement and Noongar Leadership.
- Thelma is working with the PDC re opportunities for **engaging Noongar businesses** and we have started a Noongar Business Register for procurement purposes
- Meeting pending with the Indigenous Land Council re joint opportunities for **working on country**
- Working with Winjan, DBCA & City of Mandurah to develop an application for a local **Rangers Program** - 4 Rangers & 1 Supervisor (3 years) (due 15 March). Work will predominately be on DBCA land. PHCC is coordinating meetings between the groups and assisting with writing the application.
- Jane and Thelma attended the **Noongar Chamber of Commerce** Sundowner (12 Feb), Executive Group have supported suggestion to join the CCI, and look at modifying our procurement process

2. Regional Estuaries Initiative

Peel Main Drain

- Treatment swales to be completed by March
- Weir continues to be challenging but working through
- Three way agreement (PHCC, DWER & W/Corporation) to continue to 2025 (but with no funding)
- Water Corporation has confirmed it will take ownership of the in drain infrastructure
- Site management plan being prepared
- Reviewing additional staffing resources to assist with e.g. site management plan

Mayfield

- 1 weir constructed; 3 under contract for construction in 2019; 1 historical weir to be rebuilt
- Looking for additional sites (up to 3 more depending on costs)

Strategic Issues

1. Federal Election Campaign

We are continuing to advocate for election commitments for the Peel-Harvey, as described below.

- \$20 million for healthy waterways infrastructure
- \$4.6 million to establish a 10 year Aboriginal (Noongar) Rangers Program
- \$500,000 for a pilot scale trial to reduce the salinity of Lake Clifton (for Thrombolites)
- \$1,850,000 for Stage 1 of the Peel Waterways Institute

Jane met with Melissa Teede again on 12 February particularly re the Labor Party's announcement of \$200 million for Urban Rivers and Waterways. Senator Louise Pratt's office is working with us to prepare a commitment for consideration (our healthy waterways ask against the Urban Rivers announcement).

We have been unsuccessful in securing a meeting with Andrew Hastie, despite personal contact, emailing and written correspondence since December 2018.

NRM WA have also prepared draft election asks for WA, being :

- \$450 million for the S.W. Biodiversity Hotspot (tourism, jobs & agricultural productivity); and
- \$680 million for drought resilience (productivity & profitability)

The drought resilience aligns nicely with the Labor "Drought Resilience Infrastructure" announcement, though only \$100 million p.a. nationally.

2. ACNC – Annual Report

Has been submitted as per previous delegation to the CEO.

3. SAPPR and PHEMC Update – Suspension of SAPPR:

We understand that the SAPPR Review Panel have had their term extended a further 6 months. We have requested a copy of the Review Panel report, and the Governments response.

Other highlights and project updates

1. We have accepted an invitation to the Dwellingup Futures TAG (Andrew DelMarco) and Stakeholder Reference Group (Jane)
2. We were successful with our State NRM Grants, being:
 - **Land for Wildlife** – \$80,032 (across State on behalf of 7 Regions)
 - **Lake McLarty** – \$350,859 - Priority actions as identified in the Action Plan, and continuing discussions with the TAG and FOLM (further meeting scheduled 12 July)
 - Unfortunately **HRRT** were not successfulMassively oversubscribed - 253 projects and \$40.4 million sought (111 successful & \$7.75 million avail.)

3. **Declaration of Feral Cats, Policy to minimise risk to domestic cats** – We have submitted comment into the DPIRD Policy policy (refer correspondence out) and continue to advocate for Declaration, across all land tenures.
4. WABSI is holding a **Stakeholder Workshop on conserving biodiversity in WA by improving feral cat management outcomes** on 12 & 13 March (invite only). PHCC will be represented.
5. We are continuing to work with Department of Communities and DBCA re Feral Pig management at Keralup.
6. **Keralup** remains on our radar, with the ROI's currently open. We have been asked to meet with 2 organisations putting in ROI's.
7. The Mandurah **Water Towers** project is proving challenging with the City of Mandurah considering reducing funding commitment, based on we can only do 2 towers, not 5.
8. **NRM WA CEO's** meeting on 1 February was productive.
9. **Peel Regional Leaders Group** is progressing well with the new EO, Anika Serer. Jane went to the Health and Wellness Plan for the Peel Region on 6 Feb. Some fabulous opportunities for Peel to be trial for an integrated health plan, tackling a range of issues including preventative health to assist so less people get to emergency stages of health care.
10. We are working towards the launch of our **e-newsletter** (hopefully April).

11. PHCC Events – not covered in Project Manager Reports (see events webpage)

- 21 March SHARE – “Managing our Forests – for What?” (on International Day of Forests)
- 28 March Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours (PHCC hosting)

12. Operational Issues

Occupational Health and Safety - There are no incidences to report

Please keep following our Facebook and Twitter accounts for project information, events and more. A huge thank you to the team who are doing a great job.

Jane O'Malley
Chief Executive Officer

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