

Hotham-Williams Project REPORT



PHCC General Meeting August 2019

Melanie Durack, Program Manager, Hotham Williams

RLP – Numbat Neighbourhood

Jul 2018 – Jun 2023 \$2,174,505

- Completed, reported and invoiced all deliverables for Year 2, Quarter 1.
- The annual report for Year 1 was approved on 26 August.
- Community Environmental Grants 2018-2019; all final completion visits for revegetation components completed. Wandering Hotham Declared Species Group which required variation is now complete and acquittal statement received, awaiting final report due mid-October.
- Community Environmental Grant Round for 2019-20; busy two month with site visits to assist landholders to plan their projects and preparing application forms. 11 applications received and to be assessed by the Hotham-Williams Steering committee on 29th October.
- Discussions have commenced with some landholders on linkage projects to Dryandra woodland and future CEG applications. Planning to hold strategic meeting with DBCA and other key stakeholders to discuss previous work completed on potential linkages.
- Farmers for Fauna project ongoing, interest in loaning of cage traps continues with landholders. Increased reporting of feral cats culled which is great to see. Landholders efforts being rewarded with vouchers.
- Incursion with Williams Primary School is scheduled for 24th October. PHCC and Project Numbat will focus on education around threatened species.
- Visit to a significant gravesite near Dryandra woodland occurred Noongar elder, Mr Jock Abraham his niece. Thelma Crook, Mel Durack and Christine Townsend in attendance from PHCC. Spoke to Jock regarding a memorandum of understanding to acknowledge partnerships. Follow up required on potential assistance to restoration activities around the grave site and signing the MOU.
- Mel Durack and Christine Townsend (along with Jordon Garbellini) travelled to Geraldton to speak at the WA Threatened Species conference on the Farmers for Fauna project. PHCC also had a display table over the course of the conference. PHCC provided \$1,000 sponsorship to the event. Mel and Christine visited the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Mt Gibson Sanctuary for the field trip component. Mt Gibson includes a 7,800 feral free enclosure to protect threatened species. PHCC provided \$1,000 sponsorship to the event.
- Mel and Christine attended the Numbat Recovery team meeting on 2nd October. Perth Zoo is planning for the release of Numbats into Dryandra woodland as part of the captive breeding program. Dr Tony Friend is retiring at the end of 2019 and step down as chairperson of the recovery team.
- Christine Townsend continues to assist with this project 2 days per week.

Newmont - Hotham-Williams NRM & Conservation Project

Jan 2018 - Dec 2022 \$500,000

- On time. \$20,000 shortfall which is to be provided by DWER (see next points).
- River Action Plan field work occurred 7th to 11th October. Field work was conducted by Urbaqua, PHCC staff and volunteers, landholders and Newmont Goldcorp Boddington staff. Desktop work will occur shortly after field work.
- Wetland Research and Management will be conducting River Health Studies on the Hotham and Williams rivers at 6 sites week of 21st October. DWER have advised they will provide \$20,000 (GST exc) to the project. This has been agreed in-principle and a letter to secure funding will be provided to DWER week of 14th October. The partnership will involve a DWER staff member attending the field work and short reports being developed for the 6 priority sites. Further potential partnership opportunities with the Science and Waterways team.

- A Newmont PHCC progress meeting was held and improvements to the agreement identified which will be recorded in a variation document.
- Newmont's Environment and Social Responsibility Graduate has been assisting with River Acton Plan work one day per fortnight. This is almost at completion, plan to discuss further opportunities with Newmont.
- Kate Barr assisting with this project 2 days per week and continues to work on River Action Plan and River Health study field work planning.

South32 - Tunbridge Gully Stage 3&4 (South32)

Jul 2018 – Jun 2021 \$78,141

- Final planting event held with Friends of the Reserves Boddington at the end of August. This follows the annual community planting event which was held on 31 July with Boddington DHS and South32. A total of 5,000 seedlings planted.
- Helen Parsons assisting with this project and additional other project support (Newmont, Numbat, Greening Farms) 2 days per week.

Hotham-Williams Shires MOU

Aug 2018 – Aug 2023 \$180,000*

*Subject to annual budget approvals.

- Continue to support the Friends of the Reserves Boddington (Inc.) and Shire of Boddington with the coordination of the Boddington Ranford Pool restoration project. The project is funded by South32 Worley Alumina (and Shire of Boddington). Several busy bee and planting mornings have been held. Planning on an official opening of the project later this year.
- Assisted Friends of the Reserves Boddington (Inc.) with coordination of a control to conduct Bridal Creeper control in Camballing Reserve (Boddington) and other locations in the Boddington Shire. FOR received funding for this project from State NRM.

Other – Greening Farms Support

- Completed all Greening Farms CEG visits over August and September, 23 applications for the Hotham-Williams received. See Andrew DelMarco's report for more information.
- Coordinated an on-farm Water Management workshop for Farmers through a South Coast NRM partnership which was held in Williams on 20th September including farm visit to local farmer.
- Coordinated a workshop with Quindanning farmers on cottonbush control in September. This was completed via a partnership with the Shire of Boddington.
- See Andrew Delmarco's Report for more information.

Events (to October) (and/or PHCC sponsor or presenting) – check website

- Planning for NLP2 Stage 2 events in progress and will advise the board via event calendar of event dates.
- Presented to Boddington Community in August on the NLP2 Projects & other funded projects.
- Presented to Wandering Shire Council on the NLP2 projects and other funded project. Darralyn Ebsary was in attendance.

Communications – See most recent issues of *“Landcare Matters: Hotham Williams” September and October Editions* attached

Work Health Safety

There are no incidences to report.

Melanie Durack

Program Manager, Hotham-Williams

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 35
September 2019



NRM is the management of natural resources such as land, water, soils, plants and animals. It brings together land use planning, water management, biodiversity conservation and sustainability of industries such as agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry.



Landcare Funding Opportunity



Closes Monday 7 October 2019

Funding is available for landholders in the Hotham and Williams Rivers Catchment for eligible on-ground landcare and bushcare works including:

- Fencing to protect bushland & waterways
- Weed control
- Feral animal control
- Dieback disease management
- Restoration and revegetation Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Flora/fauna surveys
- On farm fodder/forage plantings
- Innovative pasture plantings

Interested? Contact us to discuss your project ideas and eligibility against funding priorities - P: 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780 or E: grants@peel-harvey.org.au

EOIs for Rabbit Virus



We are seeking expressions of interest from people who are keen to participate in the release of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus RHDV1-K5 to control wild rabbits.

Please email helen.parsons@peel-harvey.org.au or call 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780 by 20th September if you would like to be involved.

WANTED....Do you have any historic photos of the Hotham and Williams Rivers or any local stories you would like to share (such as what you used to catch in the rivers)? We'd love to hear from you!
Contact Kate Barr on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780 or email nrm.support@peel-harvey.org.au

Managing your On-farm Water

FREE WORKSHOP!

Join us in Williams to discuss different strategies for in-paddock surface and sub-surface water management to improve crop productivity. Includes an afternoon farm visit to see water management practices implemented by local growers.

When: Friday **20th September**

Time: 8:30am to 3pm

Where: Williams Sports Pavilion then farm visit

RSVP: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=543010> or contact Letisha Newman at South Coast NRM on P: 9845 8537 or E: letishan@southcoastnrm.com.au

Can you help?

River Action Field Work planned for October

We are looking for keen volunteers who live near Popanyinning, Pumphreys Bridge (Wandering), Williams, Ranford Pool (Boddington) and Quindanning for field work and potential restoration events into the future.

Contact Kate Barr on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780 or email nrm.support@peel-harvey.org.au

Coming Up...

20 SEP On-Farm Water Management Workshop in Williams

20 SEP Rabbit virus release EOIs wanted

7 OCT Closing Date: Applications for PHCC Landcare Funding Opportunity

OCT Rabbit virus release

*Do you have an NRM event you would like us to promote? Please contact Mel Durack at melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au or 0455 166 780 or **6369 8801***

We have a new office number for the Hotham-Williams office - 6369 8801. The mobile 0455166780 is still available



These projects are supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Newmont Goldcorp and the Shires of Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering and Williams



melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au

www.peel-harvey.org.au



Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



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Woylie and Numbat Recovery in Dryandra

In 2014 there was an estimated numbat population of only 50 in Dryandra Woodland. Their numbers are on the rise and the current upper estimate is 400, however numbat numbers are difficult to estimate. This recovery is due, in part, to the hard work of surrounding landholders controlling feral cats. The woylie population has also recovered to about 8000 after being as low as 350 individuals.

Our Farmers for Fauna Project supports landholders surrounding Dryandra with support to ensure they have the equipment and knowledge needed to safely and successfully control feral cats and foxes on their land. This project is a partnership between PHCC, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Project Numbat and the local farmers with support from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Mel and Christine recently spoke at the Threatened Species Forum in Geraldton about the Farmers for Fauna Project and

the importance of landholder involvement due to Dryandra having 17 discrete blocks surrounded by farmland.

All of this work contributes to DBCA's Numbat-Woylie project which aims to maintain and build a sustainable woylie and numbat population at Dryandra Woodlands.

We are keen to hear of feral animals culled and threatened species seen in your area. Please contact us to report and to obtain information on the support that PHCC can provide.



PHOTO: A Cuballing farmer snapped this little fella in Dryandra within 50 metres of his farm

Controlling Cotton Bush



Through PHCC's Greening Farms project and in partnership with the Shire of Boddington, we have supported a group of farmers with Narrow-leaf Cotton Bush control in the Williams River reserve and adjacent lands.

An information session was held with landholders at the Quindanning Race Club and Mike Clark from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's Narrogin office was able to attend and provide resources on common weeds and control information. The farmers have since held a busy bee to spray and hand pull the cottonbush and there will be more over the coming months. Please contact us for more information.

WANTED....Do you have any historic photos of the Hotham and Williams Rivers or any local stories you would like to share (such as what you used to catch in the rivers)? We'd love to hear to hear from you! Contact Kate Barr on 6369 8801 / 0455 166 780 or email nrm.support@peel-harvey.org.au

October is River Health Assessment Month

PHCC Staff and Volunteers will be out and about in October conducting River Action Plan Field Work and River Health Assessments on the Hotham River in Popanyinning and the Hotham River Nature Reserve (north of Popanyinning), Pumphreys Bridge (Wandering), Ranford Pool (Boddington) and Williams River at Quindanning and Williams.

EOIs for Rabbit Virus

The Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus RHDV1-K5 to control wild rabbits is planned to be released towards the end of October.

If you have issues with wild rabbits on your property and would like to be involved please contact: helen.parsons@peel-harvey.org.au or call 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780 by 9th October if you would like to be involved.

Coming Up...

7 OCT Closing Date: Applications for **PHCC Landcare Funding Opportunity**

11-13 OCT **Wetlands Weekender**
<https://peel-harvey.org.au/wetlands-weekender/>

LATE OCT **Rabbit virus release**

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We have a new office number for the Hotham-Williams office - 6369 8801. The mobile 0455166780 is still available



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