

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

WETLANDS AND PEOPLE – YEARS 1 AND 2 ON-GROUND COMPONENT OF THE NLP2 PROJECT

YEAR 1

Ref. no.	Title	Description	Budget	Progress
OG1	Community Targeted Work Agreements	On-ground works to be carried out on private land at strategic locations adjacent to P-Y Ramsar wetlands. Agreements to be negotiated directly with landholders.	\$76,800 (\$28k year 1 initial funding followed by \$48,800 in year 2)	Process and design developed for Landholder Works Agreements; six LWA's negotiated and signed with landholders Deliverables: 6 agreements Completed.
OG2	Removing Weeds - Initial	Carry out weed control at selected sites targeting priority environmental weeds.	\$106,800	Weed control program targeting Brazilian Pepper trees completed at Lake Clifton– trees have been removed and stumps poisoned. Trees previously formed a large-scale physical barrier preventing any conservation works. Site is now being prepared for revegetation. Follow-up treatment is planned for next three years. Weed control program targeting Narrowleaf Cottonbush being completed at Myalup-Preston Beach including a large section of Yalgorup National Park and two private properties. Total area covered in excess of 180 ha. Large-scale cottonbush control project conducted by contractor (Ross Rose), coordinated by Rick James. Deliverable (Year 1) = 200 ha. Completed. Total area in excess of 300 ha.
OG3	Site Preparation (for year 2 revegetation work)	Work at Nancarrow Block (DBCA acquisition, former cattle property fringing Lake McLarty) includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale weed control 	\$12,000	Nancarrow Block prepared for revegetation, requires final weed control work early winter 2020. Small patches of sedges, rushes, larger stands of shrubs and trees identified early and protected.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ripping to break up soil compaction and encourage weed germination • Rotary hoe work closer to existing trees, shrubs 		<p>Deliverable = 16 days' work.</p> <p>Completed.</p>
OG4	<p>Lake Mealup Bushland Action Plan</p> <p>(coordinated by Rick James)</p>	<p>Plan prepared for Lake Mealup Preservation Society property that focuses on the terrestrial vegetation communities, providing a condition assessment and practical advice for future management.</p>	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft version of Bushland Action Plan received July 2019, final received October 2019 after considerable input from Rick James, Lake Mealup Preservation Group. . <p>Deliverable = 1x agreement & 1x "planning & delivery" document (counts towards overall target).</p> <p>Completed.</p>
OG5	Debris Removal	<p>Removing rubbish from selected areas within the Ramsar "footprint".</p>	\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites cleaned up by contractor Lake Mealup & surrounds (two trucks, front-end loader, several workers) <p>Deliverable = 20 hectares cleared of dumped rubbish, old building materials, tyres, assorted waste</p> <p>Completed.</p>
OG6	<p>Feral Animal Control.</p> <p>(Coordinated by Rick James)</p>	<p>Materials provided to Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) for maintenance and construction of feral-exclusion fencing at Creery Wetlands and Samphire Cove. Fence is designed to exclude cats, foxes and dogs.</p>	\$5,480	<p>Well over 140 ha was protected.</p> <p>Deliverable: 140 hectares treated.</p> <p>Completed</p>

COMMENTS

While we were aware that some landholders would be difficult to contact or to negotiate with, unexpected successes in negotiating LWAs at Lake Clifton and Myalup allowed better than anticipated project uptake in weed control

YEAR 2

Key Points

- **Weed prioritisation process culminated in workshop with stakeholders and interest groups with input from weed ecologists. Result was 10 priority weeds identified and 18 weeds of concern identified.**
- **Series of stakeholder meetings held July - August via Ramsar TAG members to discuss potential projects across Ramsar wetlands. Meetings involved Rick and Mike visiting each stakeholder in their own offices.**
- **Extensive planning meetings and site visits conducted for specific projects since August**
- **Revegetation species lists prepared for each site, totalling approximately 56,000 seedlings for sites ranging from southern end of Harvey Estuary to north-west Lake Clifton and northern shores of Peel Inlet. Most appropriate nurseries have been identified, contacted, and sent species lists for quotes. Seedling orders on track to be placed by 30 November.**

Ref. no.	Title	Description	Budget	Progress
OG20-5	Community/stakeholder engagement: On-ground works	On-ground works to be carried out on private land at strategic locations adjacent to PY Ramsar wetlands. Agreements to be negotiated directly with landholders.	\$50,500	This originated from devolved grants planning, and was intended as final payment funds for works initiated in previous year. These funds may now be used elsewhere, for example to support or extend existing works in Ramsar footprint.
OG20-7	Controlling access	Feral animal and/or public access to protect Peel-Yalgorup wetlands controlled by minimising predation on native species, grazing pressure or other environmental impacts.	\$30,000	<p>Three sites identified and progressed with initial discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boardwalk at Lake Clifton Thrombolites - railings needed, signage installed on-shore; • Nairns/Coodanup Reserve - fencing and gate needed on adjacent property to prevent 4WD access to Nairns foreshore; • Kooljerranup Nature Reserve - gates needed to prevent 4WD access to foreshore areas including Herron Point Reserve. <p>Deliverable: Access by 4WD vehicles, feral animals managed in 50 ha of environmentally-sensitive wetlands or adjacent bushland.</p>

OG20-8	Controlling pest animals	Targeted feral/pest animal species to be controlled; these include feral pigs, rabbits, foxes, feral honeybees.	\$7,500	<p>Two sites identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nairns/Coodanup Reserve – extra funds to be provided to contractor in partnership with City of Mandurah to extend fox and cat trapping program in 2019-2020 nesting season of Fairy Terns • Kooljerranup Nature Reserve (<i>potential project</i> subject to further discussions with DBCA) - Pig traps proposed for dense bushland, to be monitored with DBCA-approved contractor. Adjacent landholders supportive. Proposal triggered by discussions with Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group, potentially a major partner. <p>Deliverable: 75 ha of bushland to be treated for feral or pest animals</p>
OG20-11	Establishing & maintaining agreements	Landholder Works Agreements to be negotiated with private landholders for works on their respective properties that benefit ecological health of adjacent wetlands. Works can include exclusion fencing, weed control and revegetation, establishing native vegetation buffers, and activities to improve water quality of flow into wetlands.	\$25,500	<p>Several properties with opportunities for Landholder Works Agreements have been identified as strategic for local area restoration works in areas immediately adjacent to Ramsar or Ramsar Extensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property on north side of Nairns needs weed control and revegetation. Many annual weeds and Brazilian Pepper are spreading (or threatening to spread) from here into Nairns • Hexham Reserve, acquired by City of Mandurah for conservation purposes – contains large areas of wetlands and bushland. Needs revegetation and weed control. • Two landholders with properties adjoining Hexham Reserve' need cottonbush, thistle and Brazilian Pepper controlled.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two landholders at Preston Beach need cottonbush control, wild fig and Brazilian Pepper control. Landholders have contacted Shire requesting help with cottonbush. • Landholder (x1) at Lake Clifton has extensive area of Brazilian Pepper to be controlled (this landholder could not be contacted in time for works in FY 2018-19) • Landholder (x1) at Lake Clifton has some remaining Brazilian Pepper and wild Fig to be controlled. <p>Deliverable:: 6 Landholder Works Agreements with landholders (and appropriate on-ground works)</p>
OG20-20	Removing weeds and Weeds removal follow-up	<p>Follow-up control of environmental weeds targeted in 2018-19 to be conducted. This includes Cottonbush at Kooljerranup Nature Reserve and at Ellis Road at Myalup-Preston Beach and Brazilian Pepper and Wild Fig at Lake Clifton.</p> <p>New weed control work to target weeds as informed by Weeds Prioritisation Process and stakeholder meetings.</p>	\$69,800 and \$28,000	<p>Several projects identified, sites inspected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered infestations of Spiny Rush (<i>Juncus acutus</i>) to be surveyed and controlled on shores of Lake Preston in partnership with DBCA, Shire of Harvey and Shire of Waroona. • Watsonia infestations to be controlled on Murray River Delta Islands – Jeegarnyeejip island and Meeyip Island in partnership with Shire of Murray. • Preston Beach weeds project – large areas of cottonbush in Shire of Waroona reserve adjoining Lake Preston and on private properties need controlling, along with small but potentially damaging infestations of Brazilian Pepper and Wild Fig; in partnership with Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group, Shire of Waroona. • Harvey Estuary foreshore weeds (<i>potential</i> project subject to further discussions with DBCA) Island Point-Hexham Reserve:

				<p>control of targeted weeds including cottonbush, thistle, Cape Tulip and possibly Arum, Brazilian Pepper, Wild Fig.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up control of cottonbush to be conducted at Yalgorup National Park, Ellis Rd, Preston Beach/Myalup possibly in conjunction with DBCA-supported volunteers (hand-pulling) • Follow-up control of Brazilian Pepper and Wild Fig to be conducted at Yalgorup National Park, Lake Clifton with focus on new seedlings throughout, young saplings in dense paperbark fringing vegetation and new growth from cut stumps. <p>Deliverable: 114 ha new area and 70 ha of follow-up area from 2018-19 to be treated from previous year.</p>
OG20-22	Revegetating Habitat	Degraded sites adjacent to Ramsar wetlands to be revegetated with local native species to restore habitat.	\$191,530	<p>Several sites identified, inspected and planned in detail with partners. Revegetation species selected for each site, four major nurseries with appropriate accreditations, capacity, provenance awareness etc selected for quotes. Orders to placed within days.</p> <p>Project areas identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North-west Lake Clifton Large areas of Tuart-Peppermint dominated bushland to be revegetated and fenced to exclude kangaroos in partnership with DBCA, Lake Clifton Herron Landcare Group. • Lake McLarty-Nancarrow: Weedy areas SW of Lake McLarty Nature Reserve to be sprayed and revegetated as strategic buffer between private properties and wetlands. On SE side of Lake McLarty, Nancarrow Block (with previous site preparation) along

				<p>with adjoining bushland areas will be revegetated. Main partners are DBCA and Friends of Lake McLarty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nairns: Two sites identified and planned for revegetation - foreshore (salt marsh) and open bushland areas in partnership with City of Mandurah. • Herron Point Reserve: several small areas planned for revegetation along foreshore and bushland surrounding campground. Main issues here have been illegal 4WD access which have now been addressed or are due to be addressed. Main partner is Shire of Murray. • Lake Mealup Regeneration Project: Kangaroo-proof fence planned to protect approx. 2.5 ha of bushland adjacent to Lake Mealup. Bush has shown sound capacity to regenerate without additional assistance when kangaroos are excluded. Main partner is Lake Mealup Preservation Society. • Caddadup Reserve - if budget allows: several smallish areas to be revegetated. City of Mandurah manages reserve and is main partner. May be good opportunities for Landholder Works Agreements and weed awareness with adjoining properties. <p>Deliverable: 30 ha of wetland or bushland-fringing wetland to be revegetated</p>
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OG20-26	Weed distribution survey	Weed distribution in Lake Mealup Preservation Group's reserve to be mapped.	\$3,000	Focused Vision Consultants surveyed Lake Mealup for weeds in September 2019 with Lake Mealup Preservation Society members contributing. Weed map and GIS data due on 28 November. Deliverable: 1 weed distribution survey to be completed
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