

# HOTHAM-WILLIAMS STEERING COMMITTEE



Meeting held on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019**  
Boddington CRC Gallery, 20 Bannister Road, Boddington

## In Attendance

Darralyn Ebsary	Chairperson
Eliza Dowling	Committee Member (arrived 9.38am)
Caroline Knight	Committee Member
Melanie Durack	Program Manager, Hotham-Williams
Thelma Crook	Coordinator, Noongar Participation
Julie MacMile	Minute Taker

## Apologies

Christine Townsend     NRM Support Officer

## Agenda

#	DETAILS
1	Darralyn opened the meeting at 9.34am and welcomed everyone. Darralyn asked whether another Board Member will be appointed to the H-W Steering Committee in the future (Note: Caroline Knight is standing in temporarily in Mike Schultz's place). Mel advised that the two new Board members appointed at PHCC's AGM in October would be consulted about Steering Committee membership at their induction – Membership will be endorsed at PHCC's General Meeting in December.
2	Apology received from Christine Townsend.
3	No declaration of Interest received.
4	Minutes from previous meeting confirmed. Moved: Eliza Dowling Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary.
5a	<b>Community Environmental Grants 2019/20 – Numbat Neighbourhood</b> Mel provided an overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding announced early August and closed on 7th October.</li><li>• Expressions of interest were recorded and the team had a busy two months with field visits to assist landholders plan their projects and prepare application forms.</li><li>• 11 site visits were conducted.</li><li>• 15 project applications were received.</li><li>• Four of the applications received under the Greening Farms project will be assessed under the Numbat Project. It was confirmed with the Landholders that the applications are for conservation and not fodder.</li><li>• All projects are within 20km of Dryandra (except the Wandering Hotham Declared Species Group feral pig control project). DBCA have confirmed that this is the distance that Numbats (and other threatened species) are likely to travel.</li></ul> <p>A summary of each application was prepared to streamline the process and allow the Steering Committee to assess without the need to trawl through full applications (full applications were available on the Members pages of the website if further detail was required). <i>The Steering Committee liked the summaries and thought they were a great concept for the assessment process.</i></p>

It was noted the quality of maps needs improvement and refining. Mel advised that the grant process is being reviewed after this round and she will ensure this is brought up with the Grants Committee.

A table of projects with scoring against assessment criteria and Committee recommendations is contained in Attachment 1.

**Recommendation**

***That the Hotham-Williams Steering Committee recommend that the CEO approve funding for the CEG applications as per Attachment 1 (ASSESSMENT TABLE: Numbat Neighbourhood CEG 2019/20).***

Moved: Eliza Dowling      Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary

**Action:**

1. Send Recommended Grant Applications to Jane for approval.
2. Mel to raise with Grant Committee:
  - Improve the quality of maps being provided in applications.
  - Continue with Application Summaries in future grant rounds.
  - Error with weighting/scoring in Question 2.

5b **Numbat Neighbourhood Project**

Mel advised the project is tracking on time and on budget, and provided the following update:

- Numbat project Work plan for 2019 prepared.
- CEGs 2018-2019; seven completion visits occurred during May and June. All projects completed. One project variation was required for Wandering Hotham Declared Species Group; feral pig control unable to occur due to dry weather and no pig activity, extension granted until 30/9/19. Out of office session with steering committee to endorse purchase of a weed spraying backpack as requested by a landholder.
- 1 x vial of wild rabbit RHDV1-K5 virus released by Shire of Cuballing on 26/3/19.
- WA Feral Animal Management conducted feral cat trapping in Shire of Cuballing (2 x refuse sites) in early April; 3 feral cats were trapped and euthanized. WAFAM also presented at a workshop to community on the Cat Act and cat owner responsibilities.
- Spring 2019 RDHV1-K5 virus release planned for early-mid November; 15 vials on order (Helen Parsons coordinating) with nearly 40 release sites.
- Mel attended Numbat Recovery Team meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March in Narrogin and PHCC voted in as member.
- Mel and Christine attended the Numbat Recovery team meeting on 2nd October in Manjimup. Main points; 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 stepping down as chairperson.
- DBCA Project Proposal for years 2-5 received and Mel to prepare agreement. Continue with the following projects:
  - Fauna Survey - Undertaking a Numbat habitat survey, including the development of a digitized and geo rectified map layer with vegetation community complexes and numbat habitat quality attributions and correlated to numbat occupancy observations resulting from

camera monitoring, driven surveys, digging surveys and expert opinion. Will cover the cost of contract of external surveyors and data input/ analysis.

- Establish and Maintain Monitoring Regimes – three monitoring regimes established via camera monitoring grids on Contine and Stokes C satellite blocks. This will cover initial cost of new cameras, batteries etc, ongoing maintenance and repair of cameras and cost of contractors to download and classify data from cameras. Will also include cost of developing remote tracking collar monitoring stations and associate equipment costs.
- Maintain Feral Free Enclosures – value adding to maintenance of the Dryandra Woylie/Numbat Sanctuary and Barna Mia enclosures (including RTD as part of the Barna Mia complex of enclosures). Plan to cover contract costs and materials but not salaries, wages or overheads. Includes works on: track maintenance, weed control along the fence, fence repairs, bait costs in the event of an incursion.
- PHCC to investigate App for landholders and community to record threatened species sightings. Plan to meet with Wheatbelt NRM to learn more about their landholder Apps. Issue with no phone reception in Dryandra. A landholder has asked can PHCC assist with this?
- Formalised 4 year partnership with DBCA to support the Perth Zoo Numbat breed for release program, specifically for supporting the collection of *Nasutitermes* sp. termites from sites on the Swan Coastal Plain and sourcing wild-born numbats to provide new genetic stock for the captive breeding colony.
- Met with Noongar representatives Travis (Jock) Abraham and Daniel Kickett on 29th May to discuss with projects in Hotham-Williams (Numbat, Greening Farms and Newmont).
- Visit to a significant gravesite near Dryandra woodland occurred in September with Noongar elder, Mr Jock Abraham, his niece Joanne, Thelma Crook, Mel Durack and Christine Townsend. Follow up required on potential assistance to restoration activities around the grave site.
- Jock Abraham signed a memorandum of understanding to acknowledge PHCC-Willman community partnership on 24<sup>th</sup> October.
- MERIT Reporting; Year 1 - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and annual reports completed, reported and invoiced on time and all approved. All deliverables achieved. Completed, reported and invoiced all deliverables for Year 2, Quarter 1. Technical issue with revegetation layer in MERIT, requiring mapping data to be re-entered.
- Farmers for Fauna Update:
  - Increased loaning of the 40 cage traps, majority are signed out with landholders.
  - Loan agreement templates and reporting simplified. Reporting is being conducted via phone text messages with photos and locations of feral cats culled, leading to increased reporting. Now also providing landholders with bait (tin cat food) and sending them vouchers to a local Narrogin store when they report culled feral cats as an incentive and reward for their effort.
  - Farmers for Fauna project meeting held with DBCA Narrogin and Project Numbat on 28th May in Boddington. Tamara Wilkes-Jones stepped down as Project Numbat president. New president is Adam Cross a Research Fellow for ARC Centre for Mine Site Restoration at Curtin University. Next meeting planned for early December.
  - Discussions have commenced with some landholders on linkage projects between Dryandra main block and satellite blocks. Planning to hold strategic meeting with DBCA and other key stakeholders to discuss previous work completed on potential linkages. Discuss further the Steering Committee.

- Invited to participate in a media video shoot with DBCA in Dryandra Woodland on 22 July, Mel and Christine and a few adjoining landowners in attendance. Have requested media files to be sent to PHCC.
- Mel spoke with ABC regarding a media story release in September.
- The Dryandra-Woylie project is also to feature in a future landscape magazine article.
- Events:
  - Farmers for Fauna event held on 22/03/2019 in Dryandra; smaller attendance than previously but some new faces.
  - Red-tailed phascogale nest box installation workshop with Wandering Primary School occurred on 31st May in Dryandra Woodland. Great event with DBCA’s Peter Lacey and the Project Numbat Education Officer participating.
  - 1080 baiting accreditation workshop occurred in April with 8 landholders attending.
  - 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 Narrogin Show in October and shared a stall with DBCA and Project Numbat.
  - Numbat and threatened species incursion occurred at Williams Primary School occurred on 24th October. PHCC coordinated Project Numbat’s education officer to attend and present to 6 classes (pre-primary to year 6)
- Future Activities:
  - Additional 1080 accreditation course in Feb/March 2020.
  - Progress potential strategic Dryandra linkages.
  - Involvement with Black Cockatoo project and delivery in the Hotham-Williams; synergies with Numbat project.
  - Continue to work with Project Numbat and threatened species education in local schools.
  - Meet with Numbat Taskforce.
  - Look to support the Narrogin Naturalist group; weed control in and around Dryandra and potential volunteering opportunities.
  - Numbat Dig workshop planned with local landholders on 22 November. More information to be sent to the steering committee. Neil Riches from Aust. Gov’t keen to attend an event. Mel and Christine invited to assist Project Numbat with the Dryandra dig survey on 23 November.
  - Plans S.H.A.R.E event for March 2020 to be in Dryandra and include the Farmers for Fauna update, TBC.
  - Progress fauna reporting App for landholders.
  - Roll out FeralScan to landholders; encourage as reporting tool.
  - Dieback management project required, potential to work on Matchstick Banksia near Hotham River Nature Reserve, to discuss further with DBCA.
  - Case studies to be prepared, farmer partnerships.
  - Commence Tutanning landholder liaison.

6	<p><b>Newmont Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mel advised the project is tracking on time with River Action Plans (RAPs) and River Health Assessments (RHAs) being the focus for 2019 through to mid-2020. There is a slight budget exception where costs are approx. \$20,000 over budget. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) have agreed to provide this additional funding towards the (RHAs) to ensure the project can be completed. The partnership will enable all data to be shared on the new DWER rivers website and score cards to be produced for each field assessment area. All methodology for the RHAs will follow the South West Index of River Condition (SWIRC) methodology. Field work occurred week of 21 October. A DWER staff member was able to attend the field work. Drone footage captured.</li> <li>- Working closely with the Science &amp; Waterways team to ensure consistency across catchment. Six priority sites were selected for field assessments; on the Hotham River; Hotham River Nature Reserve, Popanyinning, Pumpreys Bridge, Ranford Pool. On the Williams River; Williams townsite (RAP only), Boraning (RHA only) and Working closely with the Science &amp; Waterways team to ensure consistency across catchment.</li> <li>- Partnership agreement with Urbaqua to conduct the Hotham and Williams RAP (synergies with Alcoa Foundation Serpentine River project).</li> <li>- RAP field work occurred 7th to 11th October and was conducted by Urbaqua, PHCC staff and volunteers, landholders and Newmont Goldcorp Boddington staff. Desktop analysis and draft report in progress. Additional RAP work conducted on the Yornaning Dam creek at the request of the Shire of Cuballing. The Shire contributed \$2,880 (exc gst) towards the additional \$4,880 (exc gst) of field work, analysis and reporting required. This additional work will form a case study in the RAP report. Cultural knowledge and local stories to be included.</li> <li>- Extensive engagement with the Hotham-Williams community to inform them of the field work and gaining access to the river via private property where possible. Landholders involved in RAP and River Health work.</li> <li>- Currently no funding for restoration work, once projects identified will need to seek funding sources.</li> <li>- Newmont Goldcorp Boddington Social Responsibility graduate work as an intern in the Boddington office for approx. 8 days finalizing the literature review to be included in the RAP report.</li> <li>- Mel and Jane participated in Newmont IUCN Biodiversity Review on 7 &amp; 8th May. Involved presentation in Boddington office and then a visit to Mandurian office to meet Jane and brief tour of Ramsar area. 14 Newmont and IUCN visitors attended.</li> <li>- Mel continues to attend the quarterly Newmont community reference group meetings and advising on project work. Chair of the group since August (2 year term).</li> <li>- Progress Meetings occur as needed and plan to be more formalized. Improvements to the agreement have been identified which will be recorded in a variation document to be prepared by Newmont. This includes the change from immediately conducting research to the current RHAs.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Tunbridge Gully</b></p> <p>Mel provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stage 1 and 2 completed and final report prepared and submitted to South32. Stage 3 works now commenced.</li> <li>- Stage 3 weed control conducted, 2 properties not sprayed this round due to landholder logistics. Weeds in these two areas appear to be under control for now. Re-assess next stage.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A controlled burn did not occur due to unfavorable weather conditions (high winds) and then large rainfall event.</li> <li>- Annual community planting event held on 31 July with approx. 60 Boddington District High School students and 20 adults (teachers, South32, Friends of the Reserves – Boddington and PHCC) in attendance. Approx. 70% of seedlings were planted of the total 5,000. Local Noongar elder Mr Greg Thorne and nephew John Thorne were in attendance and Greg performed a Welcome to Country.</li> <li>- Final planting event held with Friends of the Reserves Boddington at the end of August. A total of 5,000 seedlings planted.</li> <li>- Mel attends the quarterly South32 Mine community liaison committee and advises on PHCC project work.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>H-W Shires MOU Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mel attended the Shire of Williams and Cuballing Council meetings in May to present the work which has been conducted in their local communities and the NPL2 and Newmont secured funding. Presented to Wandering Shire Council in September and met new CEO Belinda Knight.</li> <li>- PHCC has been supporting 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 Worsley Alumina (and Shire of Boddington). All construction works including landscaping, rock pitching, access steps, conversation pit has been conducted. Several planting events held over July and August. Plans for opening to occur later this year. Memo on heritage approvals still to be finalized and shared with PHCC (for learnings).</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Greening Farms (Hotham-Williams) delivery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hotham-Williams team conducted the seven Greening Farms CEG 2018/19 Hotham-Williams project completion inspections and acquittal paperwork with landholders. One additional project has a variation until 2020.</li> <li>– Avril Baxter and Helen Parsons conducted a Land for Wildlife visit to a property in Boddington; Report now finalized and to be presented to landholder with sign. Additional land for wildlife request has been received (Dwarda property) and quote to be obtained from Avril.</li> <li>– Conducted the Greening Farms CEG 2019/20 visits over August and September to assist landholders with planting their projects and completing applications. Completed all Greening Farms CEG visits over August and September, 14 site visits and 23 applications for the Hotham-Williams received (note: 4 projects to be also assessed under Numbat Neighbourhood).</li> <li>– Met with the Southern Dirt Peel Hub officer Sienna Mallon and PHCC RALF, Paula Pownall to discuss synergies with PHCC projects (October).</li> <li>– Paula has been (where possible) visiting Boddington 1 day per fortnight. Focus last two months has been assisting with CEG site visits where possible.</li> <li>– 8th April - Saltbush workshop in Hotham-Williams.</li> <li>– Jointly coordinated an on-farm Water Management workshop for Farmers through a South Coast NRM partnership and GRDC funding which was held in Williams on 20th September including farm visit to local farmer. Mel MC for the event.</li> <li>– Coordinated a workshop with Quindanning farmers on cottonbush control in September. This was completed via a partnership with the Shire of Boddington. A follow-up busy bee occurred by the farmers with Shire of Boddington participation.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Monthly “Landcare Matters: Hotham Williams” prepared and distributed in Boddington, Williams, Cuballing and Wandering local newsletters as well as via email and Wattle &amp; Quoll.</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff Resourcing</b></p> <p>Darralyn congratulated Mel and the team on doing an amazing job. Some discussion ensued about workload and resourcing in the future.</p> <p>The Steering Committee acknowledge that there is a risk, in relation to reputation and delivery, attached to overloading staff and recommended that a review should be undertaken.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p><b><i>That the Hotham-Williams Steering Committee recommend a review of resourcing and workload be undertaken.</i></b></p> <p>Moved: Caroline Knight      Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Mel to review current job task and resources and present to Jane O’Malley for review.</p>
<p>Darralyn declared the meeting closed at 12.04pm</p>

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

Chairman: .....

Date: .....





**Attachment 1: ASSESSMENT TABLE: Numbat Neighbourhood CEG 2019/20**

	Independent Assessment Panel											Total score	Comments
	Project-specific criteria		Criteria to be used by all assessment panels										
Application	1. Contribution to project objectives/outcomes (Score 4,3,2,1,0)	2. Application addresses priority assets/threats (Score 5,4,3,2,1,0)	3. Public-private benefit (Score 2,1,0)	4. Relative ecological viability of site (Score 2,1,0)	5. Value for money (Score 3,2,1)	6. Site plan (Score 2,1,0)	7. Ongoing management (Score 2,0)	8. Applicant's capacity to deliver (Score 2,1,0)	9. Innovation, outstanding or strategic (Score 2,1,0)	10. Partnerships or collective efforts (Score 2,0)			
034_NUM_HARD_2019_HW	4	5	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	26	Recommended.	
035_NUM_HARR_2019_HW	4	5	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	26	Recommended.	
037_NUM_HIL_2019_HW	4	5	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	26	Recommended. Due Diligence in relation to Aboriginal heritage required.	
042_NUM_YOU_2019_HW	4	5	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	26	Recommended.	
032_NUM_BUR_2019_HW	4	4	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	25	Recommended, SC request for landholder to apply to close road permanently.	
033_NUM_FOW_2019_HW	4	5	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	25	Recommended.	
038_NUM_LAC_2019_HW	4	5	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	25	Recommended.	
040_NUM_WHDSG_2019_HW	4	5	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	25	Recommended. Support this project throughout the life of the Numbat Project.	
041_NUM_WPS_2019_HW	4	5	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	25	Recommended. Recommend to also install possum nest boxes in the future.	
036_NUM_HES_2019_HW	4	4	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	23	Recommended. Request distance of more than 6 metres from boundary for fence location and check firebreak requirements.	
012_GF_BUI_2019_HW	3	3	2	1	3	2	2	1	2	0	19	Recommended. Consider using fusilade to control grasses. SC approved funding of chemical.	
039_NUM_PAU_2019_HW	3	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	2	19	Recommended. Request planting in following year and rabbit control. Fencing on boundary (75 m) to be funded by landholder	
017_GF_FRE_2019_HW	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	0	17	Recommended. Links with #19.	
019_GF_FRE_2019_HW	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	0	17	Recommended. Links with #17	
018_GF_FRE_2019_HW	2	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	0	15	Not recommended this round. Requires re-work on application; recommended to links to creekline, remove internal fence (creek side), further seedlings needed. Amend application for next year.	