

# CHAIRMAN REPORT

General Meeting to be held on 18 June 2020



Welcome to our June meeting as we move into the Noongar season of Makaroo. This is traditionally the wettest time of the year when folk moved back inland to escape the winds bringing cold weather from the west and south.

Living with the reality of COVID -19 for the past two months has seen meetings somewhat restricted and limited to Zoom. Although functional the online platforms have their limitations and I welcome the opportunity to once again meet in person now that restrictions are easing.

The resilience of PHCC and the hard work of staff through this COVID period has seen PHCC weather this difficult time with minimal impact to our operations and again I'd like to thank our CEO and staff.

## Meetings and Events

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, Jane and I met with Mr Hastie to discuss the EPBC Act Review that is currently in progress and impacts that it may have on matters of National environmental significance in our region. We flagged concern with media reports on the removal of green tape and what this means to an Act with the prime purpose of the protection of the environment and the conservation of biodiversity.

The other main topic of discussion was the Conservation Stimulus Proposal. This is national proposal developed by the Pew Charitable Trusts, NRM Regions Australia and other national bodies, on behalf of 71 conservation and land management organisations is offering the opportunity for approximately 24 000 conservation jobs across Australia.

The 7 NRM Regions of WA can play a lead role in providing employment opportunities within our state and have 1771 shovel ready jobs which is particularly important in our economic recovery. PHCC has taken the lead on behalf of the 7 NRM Regions to engage with members of the State Recovery Group.

The proposal involves skilled and unskilled men and women being employed in the conservation and land management sector in roles that:

- are practical and labour intensive;
- located in both regional and metropolitan areas;
- appropriate for repurposing existing workforces under pressure;
- able to assist to meet seasonal farm workforce needs;
- will not create long-term structural commitments.

This topic was raised with David Templeman and Robyn Clarke at our quarterly meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. Jane and I also met with Colin Holt on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June again raising the Conservation Stimulus Proposal.

### News

As most of you know Amanda Willmott has accepted an exciting new position in Exmouth and will sadly not be able to continue as a board member. She has been a fantastic contributor to our Board as well as other sub committees including the Ramsar TAG and I thank her for her contributions.

Andrew DelMarco a long-standing member of our PHCC family finishes with us this Friday. His passion, in depth knowledge and friendship will be greatly missed by the team and I thank him for all that he has done for PHCC and wish him all the very best in his change of career.

For those of you who haven't yet read the latest edition of Wattle and Quoll, make sure you do. Julie has yet again done a fantastic job bringing together all the latest news from out and about in our catchment highlighting all the great work that the operations team are doing.

I know this time of year everyone at PHCC is working extra hard with end of the financial year reporting, acquittals, and are already planning for delivery in next financial year and we thank you.

Warm regards

Caroline Knight  
**Chairman**

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