

## PHCC BOARD MEETING – 20 AUGUST 2020

### DBCA AGENCY UPDATE

- WA Recovery Program projects: On 8 August 2020, the State Government announced funding for a Peel Recovery Plan as part of an overall WA Recovery Plan to drive economic and social recovery. This incorporated a range of projects that the DBCA will deliver including:
  - \$1.19 million for upgrades on the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail including renewing camp sites, bridges and sections of the track;
  - \$750,000 to replace the ageing timber boardwalk in Goegrup Lake Nature Reserve in the Mandurah region;
  - \$350,000 for upgrades to buildings, new facilities and services across national parks in the Peel region, including Serpentine National Park.

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/08/Plan-for-Peel-region-unveiled-as-part-of-WA-Recovery-Plan.aspx>

- Fairy Tern breeding area on Boundary Island: DBCA is investigating options for creating a Fairy Tern breeding area on Boundary Island by fencing off a 50m x 130m area on the southern part of the island. The initial area to be fenced may be smaller than this and run as a trial to see if the terns are likely to breed in the fenced area. Boundary Island is vested with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. DBCA is also liaising with Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, City of Mandurah, BirdLife Australia and the WA Fairy Tern Network.
- Revegetation of the Lake McLarty living stream project at Lot 68 Mills Road, Birchmont has been continuing with funding and support from the PHCC. Water is already being diverted through the living stream to reduce nutrients and improve water quality entering Lake McLarty Nature Reserve, which will be enhanced as plants become established.
- The contractor engaged by DBCA on behalf of the Department of Communities to undertake feral pig control at Keralup has been monitoring pigs and found a significant (~150) number at the site. The pigs have taken advantage of the good season with abundant water and feed allowing scattered groups to thrive independently. The contractor has recommended to wait and undertake a comprehensive culling program in two to three months when pigs are attracted to watering points and it is more efficient and quicker to remove large numbers. Currently the pigs are dispersed and with an abundance of nature fodder it would be difficult to attract them into traps. The Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group have also been informed of this work. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will prepare a strategy that will assist landowners in coordinating their efforts to control feral pigs in the local area.
- Prior to the end of June 2020, the DBCA completed several projects with the PHCC under its Banksia Woodland Public Partnership Program. This included \$21,825 (ex GST) for the supply and installation of 2.85km of fencing at Treasure Block to protect areas of Banksia Woodland. Other projects involved targeted woody weed control at Nine Mile Nature Reserve with \$3,870 (ex GST) in funding. These have been successfully completed and acquitted.
- There are several other projects under the PHCC's Banksia Woodland Public Partnership Program that have recently been approved and will provide additional funding to leverage DBCA's own investment to protect areas of Banksia Woodland. This includes undertaking 8ha of weed control at Hymus Swamp which was affected by fire in 2019-20. DBCA funding of \$8,000 (ex GST) is being matched by \$8,000 (ex GST) in funding from the PHCC Banksia Woodland Public Partnership Program.
- DBCA appreciates this funding and support. As a Board member and member of the Waterways Sub Committee, I will continue to ensure that I am excluded from any assessment or decision-making process that could directly or indirectly influence the DBCA receiving funding from the PHCC as was the case with this grant funding, consistent with a Conflict of Interest declaration previously registered with the PHCC.

**MARK CUGLEY**