

HOTHAM-WILLIAMS STEERING COMMITTEE



Meeting held on **Wednesday 25th March 2020**
Phone meeting due to the social distancing requirements of
Covid 19.

In Attendance (by phone conference)

Darralyn Ebsary	Chairperson
Eliza Dowling	Committee Member
Claire Reid	Committee Member
Melanie Durack	Program Manager, Hotham-Williams
Christine Townsend	Project Officer, Hotham-Williams

Apologies

Agenda

#	DETAILS
1	Darralyn opened the meeting at 10:30 and welcomed everyone. Darralyn acknowledged the Noongar people as the original custodians of this land and paid respects to elders past, present and emerging.
2	Claire brought up a declaration of interest due to the fact that she works at South 32.
3	Minutes from previous meeting confirmed. Moved: Eliza Dowling Seconded: Mel Durack
4	Terms of Reference: The roles and responsibilities of Steering Sub-Committees.
5	<u>Numbat Neighbourhood Project (NLP Jul 2018-Jun 2023 \$2,174,505)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mel gave a summary of the project.• Project is funded by Australian Government National Landcare Funding, \$2.1 million of funding for the 5 year life of the project includes FTE.• The main project outcome is that by 2023 the trajectory of Numbat populations has stabilized or improved.• Project deliverables are based around that outcome.• Reporting is completed at the end of every quarter through the Merit reporting tool. When reporting you cannot over achieve on deliverables.• A lot of the on ground work is delivered through the Community Environment Grants.
5a	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of how we are tracking - Mel asked everyone refer to 2.1 Numbat Neighbourhood 2019/20 Budget Tracker to see how the project is tracking. Mel explained how 16b. Habitat augmentation would happen in this quarter by putting up 4 Phascogale nest boxes - 1 in Dwarda Block of Dryandra Woodland, 1 at a landholder property near Cuballing and 2 at the East Yornaning Reserve.• 20b. Managing Disease would be achieved by getting 10 ha of the Yornaning Nature Reserve mapped for Dieback. Originally it was thought this would double as a training exercise and this could have included participants from Local Shires but due to the Covid 19 Pandemic this would be unlikely to go ahead. Darralyn suggested this may need to be written as a comment in Merit as a limiting factor. Eliza asked if this training could be done online. Mel to discuss with the Dieback Group.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23b. Pest animal survey will be achieved by the having done the pre and post survey of the rabbit virus release RHDV1-K5. This data will be put in Feralscan. • Steering committee would like more information out about Feralscan. Claire is interested in using Feralscan to input data at South 32. <p>Christine to email South 32 and Newmont Feralscan information sheet.</p>
5b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 budget tracking - Mel asked everyone to refer to Attachment 2. Also to be included in this table is the Abraham gravesite fencing, plaque, seating and revegetation near Dryandra in the Congelin Reserve. Mel and Christine are waiting for a quote back for fencing and approval from Jane. • At this stage the Numbat Project is about \$40,000 underspent. • Attachment 2.3 Deliverable Tracking show Establishing Feral Free enclosures is value adding to Dryandra. This is also the case for establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes. This is done through cameras provided by PHCC in Contine and Stokes satellite block of Dryandra. Monitoring threatened species and predator species. • The fauna survey is value adding to work in Dryandra by mapping Gastrolobium thickets determining habitat quality for numbats to help get accurate population estimates. • PHCC supports Perth zoos breed for release program. • Mel explained that the projects is tracking well.
5c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020/21 budget proposal - The proposed budget for each year is \$434,901 this includes FTE and \$264,521 for on ground work. • The Community Environment Grants help achieve deliverables as does the partnerships with DBCA and Perth Zoo. <p><i>The Hotham-Williams Steering Committee approves the budget.</i></p>
5e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events/workshops - Mel asked the committee to refer to Attachment 4. In 19/20 the 4 events required have been achieved and reported on. Events such as school incursions and fox hunts are not expensive but are above what we need to report on. • Mel discussed the proposed event in Attachment 4 and Darralyn mentioned that education is very important. • Most events are planned around farming however Numbat Dig workshop needs to be done in November to coincide with the Numbat Dig Survey. <p><i>The Hotham-Williams steering committee supports school incursions.</i></p>
5d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-ground projects - 14 Community Environment Grants were recommended by the Hotham-Williams Steering Committee. • Mel and Christine will speak to all the landholders to make sure they are on track to deliver their projects. The landholders may need to take photos of their completed projects because we may not be able to do site visits because of Covid 19 social distancing requirement and inability to cross boundary lines. • A new grant round will be opened in June. • There were 30 CEG projects approved in the Hotham-Williams Sub-catchment made up of 16 Greening Farms Projects and 14 Numbat Neighbourhood Projects. <p><i>The steering committee agrees with the Community Environment Grants being important to deliver the Numbat Neighbourhood Project.</i></p>

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Hotham-Williams NRM Project (Newmont Jan 2018-Dec 2022 \$500,000)

- Project overview \$425,000 of the project budget is for FTE which is equivalent to 0.8 of a position.
- All of the other projects delivered in the Hotham-Williams Sub-catchment are used to report on this project. The Newmont Project helps to support the other projects.
- The \$75,000 is the on ground component for the 5 year duration of the project. Mel is in the process of organising a variation to this. At the moment the on ground funds are being used to complete a River Action Plan (RAP) for the Hotham and Williams Rivers. As part of the RAP 8 sites had field assessments under taken using the Pen-Scott method of assessment. The rest of the catchment will be assessed by desk top review. 8 significant community sites were chosen to have the field assessments done.
- A River Health Assessment was also completed at these 8 sites using the SWRI standardised assessment from DWIR. Due to the limited project budget DWIR contributed \$20,000 to complete the RHS. The Shire of Cuballing also contributed because they requested the Yornaning Dam be included. There is now only \$818.80 left in the budget (refer to Attachment 5).
- Kate Barr was organising the RAP but she has moved to Perth, Kristy Gregory is on secondment from Landcare SJ and will help complete the RAP and RHS.

The Steering Committee agrees that it is important to have the baseline data on the Hotham and Williams River provided by the RAP and RHS.

- Claire asked if there is potential for more funding from Newmont. Mel has gone to Newmont for some more funding to complete projects recommended in the RAP. Kristy is getting quotes from Environmental Engineers to get concept plans for sites like Pumphreys Bridge. There may be money available from South 32 of \$50,000-\$60,000 to get these concept plans drawn up. Mel is discussing this with South 32 and making sure she keeps Newmont in the loop.
- Claire brought up the mines using some of this work as part of their offsets program and creating a potential partnership in achieving this. Mel mention PHCC can't be seen to help meet the mines statutory obligation. Mel has been speaking to Mark (South 32) to discuss a longer term partnership and Mel has given Mark a brief concept plan. Clare could potentially become involved in this planning.
- Darralyn said there is good value in working together with the mines and complementing and supporting one another and the work that has already been completed.

The Steering Committee supports pursuing relationships with the mines in Boddington.

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Tunbridge Gully Stage 3 & 4

- This Project aims to control Spiny rush in Tunbridge Gully and bring the community together
- Flora and some fauna monitoring (invertebrate and tracks and traces) has been done annually. Darrayn suggested setting up a camera to monitor fauna.
- The community workshop on spiny rush will be delayed due to the Corona Virus.

The Steering Committee agrees that the project is tracking well.

8	<p><u>Other Project Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Memorandum of Understanding with the 4 main shires in the Hotham-Williams Catchment (Wandering, Boddington, Cuballing and Williams) which protects us from getting pulled into day to day shire activities. • Mel tries to update the shires on how we are tracking. \$180,000 combined over 5 years goes towards FTE and vehicle running costs. • PHCC Hotham-Williams is supporting Friend of the Reserves with the Ranford Pool Project funded by South 32. • State NRM funds Friends of the Reserves Camballing Project to control bridal creeper, PHCC has helped to co-ordinate the contractor. This funding has finished, it would be good to somehow continue the project, rather than all the hard work going to waste and the bridal creeper re-establishing. • PHCC Hotham-Williams helped support the Popanyinning Progress Association control bridal creeper. • PHCC H-W also helped the Wandering Lions with the revegetation of the Wandering Walk Trail. • There has been a number of queries from the Boddington community on the silt build up in the Boddington Weir. The Boddington Shire had the silt tested and is waiting for the results to decide what should be done with the Weir. Steve Fisher is helping guide this process.
9	<p><u>Future Strategic Partnerships</u> Discussed in point 6</p>
10a	<p><u>General Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corona Virus - Staff have been advised to work from home where possible. No visitors or meetings are allowed in the office. • Christine and Mel are still working out of the office when they can as it is a large office and they can maintain physical distance from each other. Kristy is working from Landcare SJ and Helen is working from home. <p><i>The Steering Committee noted that the Corona Virus Pandemic will affect how the Projects are delivered.</i></p>
b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing- Kristy is on secondment from Landcare SJ for 6 months 2 days a week. Christine is working 3 days a week and Helen 2 days a week mainly working on the Tunbridge Gully Project and assisting the Numbat Project by coordinating the rabbit virus release. • Mel discussed that it is not a good time to employ someone to fill Kate's position. During this challenging time other employees may need to support different projects.
c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admin support - Will start coming to Boddington more regularly, at this stage during the Corona virus pandemic, from a distance.
d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other general business - Eliza discussed that in this time when everything is unpredictable and up in air that planning is very important. Darralyn offered for Claire to call her if she has any questions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mel gave a brief over view of the Greening Farms project and that a proportion is delivered in the H-W which is being supported by the H-W office. Paula Pownall is coordinating this project.
	Darralyn declared the meeting closed at 12.17 pm

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

Chairman:

Date:

