

MINUTES OF PHCC GENERAL MEETING



Held on Thursday 20 August 2020
At the PHCC Shed, 58 Sutton Street, MANDURAH

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.07 am.

Attendance

Present:

Caroline Knight	Chair
Darralyn Ebsary	Deputy Chair
Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
Bob Pond	Executive Committee (DWER)
Sue Fyfe	Community Member
Andy Gulliver	Community Member
Howard Mitchell	Community Member
David Prattent	Community Member
Mark Cugley	DBCA
Rob Summers	DPIRD

In Attendance:

Jane O'Malley	Chief Executive Officer
Steve Fisher	Program Manager Science & Waterways
Mel Durack	Program Manager Hotham-Williams
Gene Turner	Program Manager Land Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture
Rick James	Coordinator, Wetlands & Science Management
Jennie Beeson	Project Support
Leanne Greene	Office Manager & Executive Support (Minute Taker)

Guests:

Benson Todd	DBCA [9.30am - 10.48 am] attending in respect of Minute G.7/8/20
Neil Carroll	City of Mandurah [9.38am – 11.45am] attending in respect of Minute G.8/8/20

Apologies:

Paddi Creevey, OAM	Secretary
Claire Reid	Community Member
Suzanne Brown	Water Corporation – Observer
Cr Eliza Dowling	Local Government Member (Inland)
Cr Brad Cardilini	Local Government Member (Coastal)

G.1/8/20 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairman (Caroline) opened the meeting at 9.07am, acknowledging the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and paying her respect to all Elders past and present.

Caroline welcomed Gene Turner, Program Manager Land Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture and Jennie Beeson, Project Support Officer, who had recently joined the team.

G.2/8/20 Declarations of Interest

- Andy Gulliver (Community Member) declared a commercial interest in the development at East Keralup.

G.3/8/20 Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on 18 June 2020

Moved: Marilyn Gray

Seconded: Sue Fyfe

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

G.4/8/20 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Minute No	Update
G.6/6/20 a)	Feral Pigs in the Peel-Harvey Region: Rob advised that this item was complete, as the requested information had been provided in Rob's updated report and contained in Minute G.6/6/2020
G.6/6/20 b)	Recreational Master Plan for Yalgorup National Park: Mark Cugley reported that work was ongoing and as such the release of this document had been delayed. A copy of the Recreational Master Plan would be circulated to Board Members when calls for public comment commenced. Jane advised that because of the PHCC's limited involvement in the consultation process, she had put forward a request that the Masterplan be amended to perhaps removed the PHCC's name or make it clear that the content of the document did not necessarily reflect the views of the organisation.
G.6/6/20 b)	Jane advised that she has spoken with the DPRID Director General regarding activity being undertaken with regard to the PHCC COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Proposal, but had not written to him. Jane was requested to follow up her conversation in writing.
G.6/6/20 c)	It was reported that this action was complete, as Jane had provided Bob with information on PHCC COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Proposal . Discussion was taking place with the relevant DWER officer, and when ready, a meeting would take place with the PHCC.
G.6/6/20 c)	Bob Pond to advocate for PHCC in connection with funds available under the new Healthy Estuaries WA Initiative and Estuary Recovery Package (available across the State). This action was complete, with two potential funds being identified (Black Cockatoos and Freeform). This would be provided as offset funding.
G.6/6/20 c)	Jane advised that this item was complete as she had telephoned and spoken with the Director General DWER (Mike Rowe) , providing him with information on the PHCC COVID-19 Economic Stimulus proposal.
G.6/6/20 f)	Mark Cugley reported that with regard to the tenders sought for Jarrah Post- Harvest Regeneration , the tender advertised by the Forest Products Commission was for a contractor to provide works to undertake the Commission's jarrah forest post-harvest regeneration commitments. The standards that have to be met by the FPC (and its contractors) are set out in the Forrest Management Plan (2014 to 2023). That is the overarching document, however more details as to what needs to be achieved are set out in several DBCA manuals and procedures relating to the management of soils with timber harvesting in native forests, landing and extraction track rehabilitation and silvicultural practices in the Jarrah Forest. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• D1 Department of Parks and Wildlife Manual of procedure for the management of soils associated with timber harvesting in Native forests (May 2015).• D2 Department of Parks and Wildlife Procedure DPaWSFM026 Landing and extraction track rehabilitation procedures (May 2012).• D3 Department of Conservation and Land Management – Sustainable Forest Management Series – Silvicultural Practice in the Jarrah Forest (2004) Mark advised that he expected the FPC would monitor its contractor's operations on a daily basis, to ensure the above standards are being met. The DBCA, having set the standards in the

above manual and procedures undertakes its own on-ground monitoring of the jarrah harvest operations and post-harvest regeneration. DBCA's work includes monitoring of marked trees to be retained, habitat trees and trees that have potential to be a good source of natural seed fall, if/when this can be complemented by artificial seeding. We also look at thinning intensity that will enable gap creation for regeneration and silver culture practices to promote growth on retained trees. The documents above can be found on the external website, <https://fem.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>

While Mark and the Swan Coastal District staff don't work directly in this area, Mark advised that he can source any further information or have colleagues that do work in this area liaise directly with Board members.

- G.6/6/20 h) Jane reported that no suggestions had been received in connection with ways to reduce red tape and simplify processes for consideration by the **Director General of the Department of Finance**. This action was considered complete, with Board members noting the ability to make a submission if they so wished.
- G.9/6/20 Jane advised that **Amanda Willmott be removed as a bank signatory** on all Banking Institution Accounts due to Amanda's resignation from the Board. This action was complete.
- G.9/6/20 The appointment of **David Prattent as a bank signatory** was in process. It was agreed that this action be delegated to the Finance and Audit Committee to complete.
- G.10/6/20 A presentation by the Coordinator Wetlands and Science Management on the work of the Ramsar Science program was listed on this agenda. This action was complete.
- G.8/4/20 CEO to discuss with **Alcoa preferred aspects of a tour** identified by the Board, with an aim to ensure the tour meets the PHCC needs. Board Members identified a number of areas that they wished to raise with Alcoa.

ACTIONS:

- **Board Members to feed in questions and details of particular sites/areas that they would like to view as part of the tour to Jane, with this information to be passed on to Alcoa.**
- **Mark Cugley to ask colleagues for suggested areas to visit.**

G.5/8/20 Correspondence

Correspondence is posted weekly on the Members' page of the website, with emails to members to advising that new correspondence has been uploaded. The Correspondence Register was tabled at the meeting.

Sue suggested that changes be made, so that going forward, Board Members were only alerted to strategic items of correspondence.

ACTION: Jane to work with Leanne to implement suggestion that Board Members are only provided strategic items of correspondence.

Moved: Andy Gulliver Seconded: Howard Mitchell

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

CARRIED

Benson Todd, DBCA Regional Manager for the Swan Region entered the meeting at 9.30 am

Dr Neil Carroll, City of Mandurah Executive Manager Natural Areas entered the meeting at 9.38 am

G.6/8/20 Agency and Member Updates

a) Rob Summers, DPIRD

- **uPtake update:** The uPtake project monitoring the response of pasture to phosphorus fertiliser is continuing and preliminary results from DWER are showing that leaching of phosphorus can be reduced if other nutrients are not limiting.
- **HEWA – Healthy Estuaries WA:** Soil testing will be continuing this year until 2024. This year there will be a comparison between soil sampling carried out by DPIRD staff on 60 properties and sampling carried out by the landholders referred to as assisted or DIY sampling. Landholders will be given training and be able to use a battery powered drill and auger to sample their properties. The samples will be analysed as before and presented as maps of their properties at workshops. The workshops will be in March 2021 and the landholders will receive training on how to interpret the maps and decide how much fertiliser to apply. As part of the project they will have access to independent agronomists to help decide a fertiliser program.
- Two publications have recently been posted online through the DPIRD research Library:
Summers, R, Richards, P, Weaver, D & Rowe, D 2020, 'Soil amendment and soil testing as nutrient reduction strategies for the Peel Integrated Water Initiative', Resource management technical report 416, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Perth. <http://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/rmtr/401>
Weaver, D, Summers, R, Rogers, D & Richards, P 2020, 'The effect of soil pH on phosphorus content of clover pasture', Resource management technical report 417, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Perth. <https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/rmtr/402/>

At Jane's request, Rob confirmed that he was happy for the publications to be shared online.

ACTION: Steve Fisher to include both of the above publications into the PHCC reference document database.

ACTION: Jane to share publications as appropriate.

b) Mark Cugley, DBCA

- 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 arrange 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-regionunveiled-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 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 natural 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, Mark advised that he will continue to ensure that he is 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.

c) **Bob Pond, Executive Committee (DWER)**

- Healthy Estuaries was announced in October. Have not yet heard anything specific about allocations or works for the Peel-Harvey, but there has been some interim discussions with Leon Brouwer (DWER) and Jane O'Malley.
- City of Mandurah have commenced discussions with DWER regarding licensing for proposed works at the Estuary Pool (Mandurah Foreshore redevelopment). They are hoping to get works commenced in October.
- Containers for Change and Deposit Scheme has been announced and is coming into place in October. Some grants are available and information is available on the website.
- State and Commonwealth Governments have green lighted streamlining environmental approvals with the EPA doing assessment and covering Commonwealth approvals in that process. How this will be implemented is to be determined. Link to media statement is here <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/08/Agreement-to-streamline-environmental-approvals-given-green-light.aspx>

d) **Howard (Mitch) Mitchell, Community Member**

Mitch reported:

- He would be following up on the annual South Yunderup blow fish cull/competition which he'd only recently found out about. This unregulated event organised by SYRRA had significantly impacted blow fish populations in area. Contact with SYRRA will be made and more information obtained.
- He would be following up on the reintroduction of public access at Murray River Foreshore at Rodoreda Crescent, Shire of Murray, as the timing of this project had been impacted upon by COVID-19 limiting public and stakeholder consultation.

- On the release of a new film – The Furnace, which covered a range of environmental and Aboriginal issues. He encourage people to go and see it.

e) **Andy Gulliver, Community Member**

Andy expressed his concern regarding the streamlining of environmental approvals, asking what would be consequence of suppressing critical review by the community.

During discussion, reference was made to a recent media statement (dated 10 August) from the Premier (Hon Mark McGowan MLA) and Minister for the Environment (Hon Stephen Dawson MLC) entitled "[Agreement to streamline environmental approvals given green light](#)".

Bob referred to the confusion caused with regard to the terminology and language used, suggesting that this was an area that needed to be agreed upon to provide clearer direction.

ACTION: CEO to look into having an appropriate state government representative present to the December 2020 Board meeting on the proposed streamlining of approvals (What does it mean? / What does it look like? How it all works)

f) **Sue Fyfe, Community Member**

Sue spoke to her report as provided in the Agenda, which provided background information regarding the proposed Alcoa mining expansion, and Dwellingup community response:

- **2015/2016** - Alcoa commenced exploratory drilling close to Dwellingup. In August 2016 the Dwellingup Community Compact (DCC) established a subcommittee called the Dwellingup Protection Group, to identify values and determine an area boundary around Dwellingup to protect these values.
- The DPG identified a proposed area for protection from mining around the Dwellingup township and called this the **Dwellingup Discovery Forest**, an area of 27,876 hectares (Ha) around Dwellingup. It includes forest, recreation areas, wildlife areas, water protection areas, and historical sites. Partly mined in the 1970s 1980s.
- **December 2016** - The DPG worked closely with the Shire of Murray who unanimously supported the following resolution. *"That Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer to liaise and urgently negotiate with Alcoa and the Dwellingup Community to develop a draft 'non-negotiable' exclusion zone for future mining in and around the Dwellingup town site and adjacent to important trails in the area"*
- **January 2017** - The DCC/DPG worked with the support of the Shire of Murray to develop a Position Statement on the proposed **Dwellingup Discovery Forest**. The DPG met with Alcoa representatives on 13th January 2017 to put to Alcoa their Position Statement *Bauxite Mining in and around Dwellingup* which outlined the proposed **Dwellingup Discovery Forest** concept.
- **September 2017** - Alcoa wrote to Dwellingup landowners regarding their exploratory drilling around Dwellingup. *"Alcoa acknowledges the DCC position statement and is engaged in discussions with the group, as it is with other stakeholders in Dwellingup. Alcoa cannot support the DCC position in its current form as it calls for mining to be excluded in a large part of Alcoa's mineral lease."*
- **2019** – The Dwellingup Futures Group was established through a partnership between Peel Development Commission and the Shire of Murray. The Dwellingup Futures Growth Management Road Map is anticipated to be released by May 2021.
- **June 2020** - A letter from Alcoa was received by Dwellingup landowners on or around Friday 19th June re an assessment request to the WA EPA for expanding their Pinjarra Refinery and mine in the Holyoake area about 5kms East of Dwellingup. The referral was made public by the EPA on 17th June with public submissions due by Tuesday 23rd June. A total of 1589 public submissions were received by the WA EPA in support of a **full public review** which was supported by the EPA.

- Alcoa has also referred their proposal to the Federal EPA /EPBC with submissions from the public closing on 20th August. PHCC is putting in a submission focusing on threatened species and indirect effects on the Ramsar wetlands.
- **Community action- The Dwellingup Discovery Forest Working Group (DDFWG)** has been formed and is undertaking action following Conservation Council’s plan. Four working groups: Collecting Evidence, Forming Partnerships, Informing and Contacting and Community Engagement have been formed.
- On the weekend of 15th 16th August the DDFWG held a workshop with the **WA Forest Alliance (WFA), Wilderness Society and the Jarrahdale Forest Protection group.**
- Actions have been planned for the rest of the year.

g) **Darralyn Ebsary, Executive Member (Deputy Chair)**

Darralyn advised that a lot of people were really concerned in the upper catchment regarding the low water levels in the dams, particularly as it was the end of winter. Lack of water and water support will be a real issue for many in our community.

Mel Durack reported that she did look into the grants program funded under DWER grants. Advice from DWER was that the program was oversubscribed, but the information was still on their website which is misleading. Darralyn mentioned that aspects of these grants would not have been applicable to most W.A. farmers and was more applicable to the Eastern States. Further funding has just been announced under a Federal initiative and Mel was advised by DWER that local governments would be made aware of how the community could apply. Mel is having a meeting with the Shire of Wandering regarding another subject and will raise this with the Shire to understand what information they have been provided by the federal government.

Bob advised that he received rainfall and streamflow updates, which he can pass on to the Board.

ACTION: Bob Pond to provide rainfall and streamflow updates to the Board (attached to the Minutes of the meeting).

h) **Marilyn Gray, Executive Member (Treasurer)**

Marilyn expressed her appreciation for the work of the Administrative Support Team.

G.7/8/20 Presentation – Prescribed Burning (Benson Todd, DBCA, Regional Manager Swan)

Benson Todd, DBCA Regional Manager for Swan provided a high level overview of the DBCA’s prescribed burning program, including the State Bushfire Risk Management Framework; Burn Program planning; and details of monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The DBCA is responsible for using planned fire to achieve community and asset protection, and land, forest and wildlife management objectives. In applying a risk based approach, it is recognised Bushfire is a natural element of the WA environment, and it is impossible to eliminate the bushfire risk. As such, the DBCA aims to manage bushfire risk to an acceptable level – where risk is balanced against the cost, social and environmental effects of treatments.

Targets for prescribed burning are:

- 7.5% of the south-west ‘forest’ regions prescribed burnt annually adapted
- 45% of the landscape <6 years since last burnt
- 200,000ha of burning annually
- 13.3 year average fire interval.

Other treatments also used to reduce bushfire risk include mechanical fuel reduction and weed control.

A copy of the DBCA’s Fire Management Strategy was circulated.

During the debate that ensued, Caroline referred to the fire science program and impacts on biodiversity and various species, asking if Benson would be happy to present an in-depth look at that element.

Benson advised that there were aspects of Kingsley Dixon's presentation made at the 20 February Strategic Meeting that he did not agree with, including the regeneration time for orchids. He would be happy to come back for more detail or fire specific expertise in this area.

ACTION: *Arrangements be made for Benson Todd to present again to the Board, focussing on the fire science program and the impacts on biodiversity and various species.*

Benson Todd retired from the meeting at 10.48 am.

G.8/8/20 Staff Presentation – Lake Clifton Thrombolites, Dead or Alive?

Rick James, PHCC Coordinator Wetlands Science and Management provided a presentation, highlighting the work that had been carried out, and what was being proposed, in order to assess the condition of the Thrombolites, conduct a full condition assessment and undertake detailed groundwater investigations. Highlights included:

- Use of a manned aircraft with remote sensing equipment capable of capturing imagery down to a 3cm pixel to capture 1,400 images of the Thrombolite community. These images were then combined and georeferenced using ground control points. A Digital Surface Model was also produced.
- Use of Convolutional Neural Network (the current state of the art Machine Learning algorithm) to gather information that provided output for Thrombolite mapping and provided three classifications (Thrombolite; Reef; or other).
- Identification of:
 - 10.1km of "reef"
 - 1,052,740 Thrombolites
 - In the 1980's, the Thrombolite area had been assessed as being 54.66 ha., but the 2020 result had identified the area as being 179 ha (due to better assessment methods)

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to pick out "active" v "inactive" Thrombolite N.B. only minor "skirts" of cyanobacterial mats found on Thrombolite during the field work.

- A spear probe had been purchased to enable groundwater assessments to be conducted (to a depth of approximately 3.5m).

During the discussions that ensued, the idea of 'Adopt a Thrombolite' was suggested by Marilyn.

G.9/8/20 Treasurer's Report

Marilyn spoke to her report as provided with the Agenda, highlighting:

- The achievement of the Project Teams to meet their Quarter 4 Deliverables to claim payment across the 5 RLP Projects, despite COVID-19 restrictions.
- PHCC has issued tax invoices to our funding bodies of over \$1.5m, with all outstanding invoices having been received, and the bank accounts are looking quite healthy as we start a new financial year.
- The work of the Finance Team to complete EOY reporting, preparing the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2020.
- The ATO has advised that the mileage rate for use of private vehicles used for business related travel has increased from 68 cents to 72 cents per kilometre effective 1 July 2020. This applied to both staff and Member claims.
- The ANZ Term Deposit account 9108-29176 which has both Project and Corporate funds invested, matured on the 17th July 2020 with a total of \$13,618.30 earned in the 10-month period. The Principal and Interest (\$1,523,896.38) was reinvested for 7 month @ 0.88%. The decline in interest earned has been factored into forecast budgets for F2020-21 across all projects and PHCC Support.
- Information presented at the Finance and Audit Committee, providing an overview of the process involved in transitioning towards a paperless finance system.

- There was a glitch with the ATO which meant that PHCC payroll information needed to lodge tax return was not ready. The PHCC was working with the City of Mandurah to rectify this issue.

Moved: David Prattent Seconded: Marilyn Gray

That the Treasurer’s Report as set out in Attachment be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

G.10/8/20 Chief Executive Officer’s Report (including Program Managers’ reports)

Jane reported on the various activities and achievements of the team since the last Board meeting, accompanied by a supporting slide presentation.

There was no written report from the CEO this month, given that Jane had been on annual leave and had returned on the day of the meeting. Jane expressed her thanks to Mel Durack, who had acted in the CEO role during her absence (and had done a sterling job!).

Items highlighted by Jane included:

- A meeting that was to take place with Hon Diane Evers MLC regarding her Forest Amendment Bill.
- The meeting PHCC had attended, with representatives from the Shires of Murray, Serpentine/Jarrahdale and Harvey on 3 August with the Chair of the WA Planning Commission and DPLH Director General at which SPP2.9 – Water Resource Policy was discussed, with a collaborative request for further amendments to the draft Policy, before its formal release for public consultation.
- Prioritising work on reviewing the NRM Strategy.
- Staff updates.

Moved: Darralyn Ebsary Seconded: Rob Summers

That the CEO Report, including Program Managers’ reports as set out in Attachment be accepted.

CARRIED

G.11/8/20 Chairman’s Report

Caroline spoke to her report as provided with the Agenda, which set out details of a number of meetings and events she had attended. In addition, Caroline advised that the Interim Report of the Independent Review of the EPBC Act was published in June, and makes for a very sobering read.

Moved: Bob Pond Seconded: David Prattent

That the Chairman’s Report as set out in Attachment be accepted.

CARRIED

Confirmation of next meeting date, including AGM

The next meeting including the PHCC’s AGM is scheduled for Thursday 22 October 2020, with the proposed venue being Alcoa (to be confirmed)

The meeting closed at 11.45 am

Chairman:

Date:

Summary of actions from meeting held on Thursday 20 August 2020:

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.5/8/20	Jane to work with Leanne to implement suggestion that Board Members are only provided strategic items of correspondence	Jane O'Malley	
G.6/8/20 a)	Steve Fisher to include both Rob Summers' publications into the PHCC reference document database.	Steve Fisher	
G.6/8/20 a)	Jane to share Rob Summers' publications as appropriate.	Jane O'Malley	
G.6/8/20 e)	CEO to look into having an appropriate state government representative present to the December 2020 Board meeting on the proposed streamlining of approvals	Jane O'Malley	
G.6/8/20 g)	DWER updates on rainfall and streamflow to be circulated to Board Members	Bob Pond	COMPLETE – Update is attached to Minutes
G.7/9/20	Arrangements to be made for Benson Todd to present again to the Board, focussing on the fire science program and the impacts on biodiversity and various species.	Jane O'Malley	

Summary of outstanding actions from meeting held on Thursday 18 June 2020:

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.6/6/20 b)	Mark Cugley to provide Board Members with a copy of the Recreational Master Plan for Yalgorup National Park	Mark Cugley	Mark advised that the release of this document had been delayed. A copy of the Recreational Master Plan would be circulated to Board Members when calls for public comment commenced.
G.6/6/20 b)	PHCC to write to the DPIRD Director General providing him with information on the PHCC COVID-19 Economic Stimulus proposal and putting forward items for consideration	Jane O'Malley	Jane to follow up conversation with DPIRD Director General in writing.
G.9/6/20	David Prattent be appointed as a bank signatory.	Karen Henderson	In progress.

Summary of outstanding actions from survey meeting held in April 2020:

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.8/4/20	CEO to discuss with Alcoa preferred aspects of a tour identified by the Board, with an aim to ensure the tour meets the PHCC needs	Jane O'Malley	<p>Board members to feed in questions and details of particular sites/areas they would like to view as part of the tour to Jane, with this information to be passed on to Alcoa.</p> <p>Mark Cugley to ask colleagues for suggested areas to visit</p>



July 2020 Rainfall and Streamflow Summary

Rainfall

- The rainfall sites tracked across the South West Land Division (SWLD) indicated mostly dry conditions during July. Out of 36 sites, 14 experienced average July rainfall conditions and 22 sites recorded below average. Well below average rainfall was recorded at 5 sites.
- Perth Airport experienced its driest July since 2012 with well below average rainfall observed at sites between Perth and Jurien Bay. The Wellstead area, to the east of Albany, also had well below average rainfall (Kalgan River and Pallinup River Bulls Crossing sites).
- Rainfall totals so far in 2020 are well below average at Geraldton, Gingin Brook and Pallinup – Bull Crossing.
- Despite below average July rainfall, above average rainfalls earlier in the year has resulted in sites in the south west corner of the state, west of a line between Collie and Albany, tracking at average levels for the year to date.

Streamflow

- Streamflow through July was below average at all sites, except Thompson Brook, Lort River, and the Blackwood River at Nannup.
- Only Thompson Brook and Lort River have experienced average flows for 2020 (from January to end of July). Well below average streamflow has been observed at 8 sites and a further nine sites have recorded below average streamflow.
- Streamflow on the Kalgan River, north of Albany, has been the lowest on record for both the month of July and the year to date.

Forecasts

- The overall consensus from the DPIRD and BoM outlooks is for a neutral (40 – 60%) chance of exceeding the median rainfall with pockets of potentially higher or lower likelihood of median rainfall.

Monthly and year-to-date rainfall and streamflow

We track 36 rainfall sites and 19 streamflow sites across the South West Land Division (SWLD) as part of the seasonal response framework. Each site is chosen in relation to specific management priorities in the Department.



Rainfall

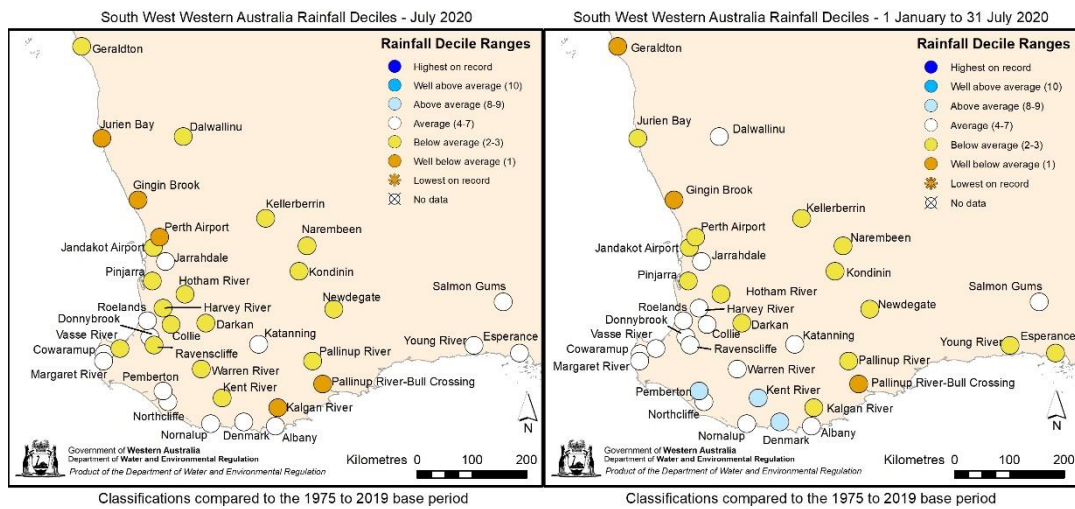


Figure 1 Rainfall deciles for July (left) and January to July (right) for South West Land Division of Western Australia.

Figure 1 shows rainfall deciles across the 36 sites. Some points of interest are below.

July Rainfall

- Rainfall over the month of July was average for 14 out of 36 sites (39%), below average for 17 sites (47%) and well below average for 5 sites (14%).
- In the metro area Perth Airport had well below average rainfall (70 mm compared to a 1975 to 2019 July average of 143 mm). Gingin and Jurien Bay north of Perth also received well below average rainfall totals.
- Kalgan River and Pallinup River along the South Coast received well below average rainfall totals following on from well below average rainfall totals in June.

Year to date (January to July)

- Denmark, Kent River and Pemberton have experienced above average rainfall so far.
- Geraldton, Gingin Brook and Pallinup River crossing rainfall totals are well below average for the 1975 to 2019 period.
- 14 out of 36 (39%) of rainfall sites are tracking as below average and 16 (44%) of these sites are tracking as average compared to 1975 – 2019 rainfalls.



Streamflow

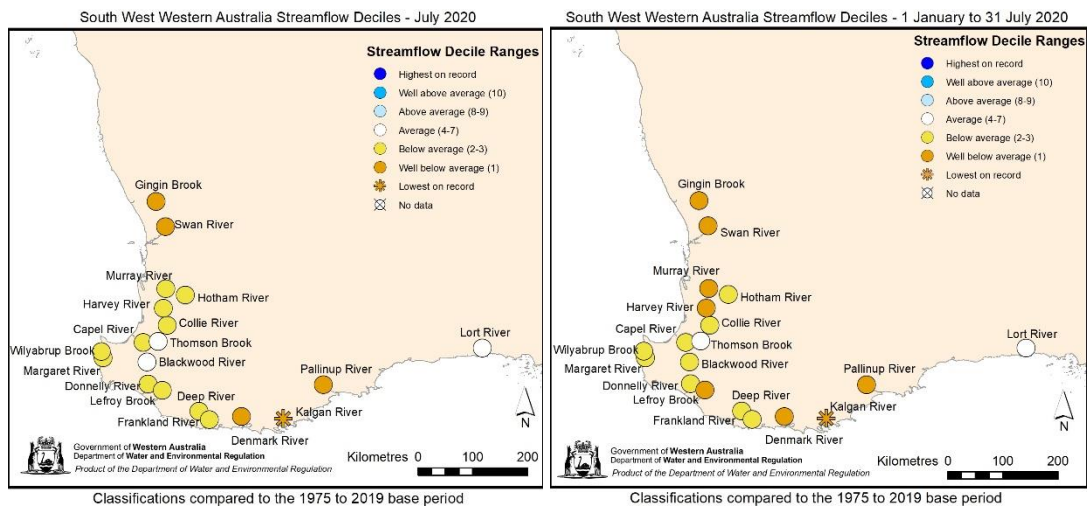


Figure 2 Streamflow deciles for July (left) and January to July (right) for South West Land Division of Western Australia.

Streamflow was below average for most sites during July and generally well below average for the year to date. Some points of interest are below.

July streamflows

- Kalgan River received its lowest streamflow total on record for the second month in a row.
- Three (16%) streamflow tracking sites, Thomson Brook, Blackwood River and Lort River, had average total flows.
- The majority of sites (58%) had below average streamflow for the month.
- Four out of 19 sites (21%) had well below average streamflow – Denmark River and Pallinup River on the South Coast and Gingin Brook and the Swan River near Perth. All of these sites, bar Denmark River, also received well below average rainfall in July. Denmark received average rainfall but tracking for this flow season indicates that it may still be recovering from dry catchment conditions after several years of below average rainfall.

Year to date streamflows

- As well as the lowest streamflow total for the month of July Kalgan River also received the lowest January to July flow total. Rainfall for this site is tracking as below average overall for the year to date, but over the months of June and July received there was well below average rainfall at this site.
- Two out of 19 sites (11%) are tracking as average for streamflow over the year to date- Thomson Brook and Lort River. Correspondingly, Thomson Brook has received average rainfall for the year to date. Lort River has had consistently average flows over the flow season reporting period.
- As with the monthly totals, Pallinup River, Denmark River, Gingin Brook and Swan River are tracking as well below average for streamflow for the year to date. In addition to these sites, Murray River, Harvey River and Lefroy Brook are also tracking as well below average for the January to July period. Murray River and Harvey River have had below average to well below average rainfall for several months. Similar to Denmark River, Lefroy Brook has experienced well below average streamflow despite above average rainfall at nearby Pemberton for the year to date.
- Nine out of 19 (47%) of sites are tracking as well below average for the year to date.



Forecasts

We look at three month outlooks prepared by DPIRD and BoM for an indication of the likely conditions in the coming months. BoM uses a dynamical climate model for forecasting over the entire country. DPIRD uses a statistical forecasting system which is more specific to our region of interest.

We analyse data of the current year in relation to data from 1975 to 2019. DPIRD uses the same reference period, while BoM use a shorter period in its climate outlooks, 1990 to 2012.

The BoM and DPIRD predictions can differ due to the use of different types of forecasting models and different baseline periods. For the period August to October the BoM and DPIRD forecasts indicate differing outcomes for rainfall totals at certain locations within the SWLD. For example:

- The three month BoM outlook indicates a 35-40% chance of exceeding the median rainfall for the area inland of Denmark and bordered by Manjimup and Cranbrook. For the same area, the DPIRD forecast predicts a higher probability (40 – 70%) that the median rainfall will be exceeded.
- The areas of the SWLD north of Perth are predicted by the BoM forecast to have a 45 to 70% chance of exceeding the median, with the highest chance of exceeding the median in the northern coastal areas. Conversely, the DPIRD outlook suggests these areas mostly have a 40-60% and 30 – 40% likelihood of exceeding median rainfall. DPIRD modelling also suggest several patches with probability of exceedance of 20-30%.
- In the south western corner of the state, from Busselton around the coast to Walpole, the BoM forecast indicates a neutral (45-55%) chance of exceeding the median along the west coast and a lower (40-45%) along the south coast. In contrast DPIRDs predictions indicates a 30-40% probability of median exceedance over most of this area with a low (20-30%) chance of exceeding the median over an area surrounding Augusta.
- The area of the SWLD surrounding Esperance has a more neutral outlook (45-55%) from BoM forecasting but a higher chance of above average rainfall (60-80%) predicted by the DPIRD Outlook.

Despite these differences the overall consensus from both outlooks is for a neutral (40 – 60%) chance of exceeding the median rainfall with spots of higher or lower likelihood for median rainfall across the southwest land division.

Overall, the range of predictive skill is similar for both BoM and DPIRD forecasts (50 – 75%), described as poor to moderate.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

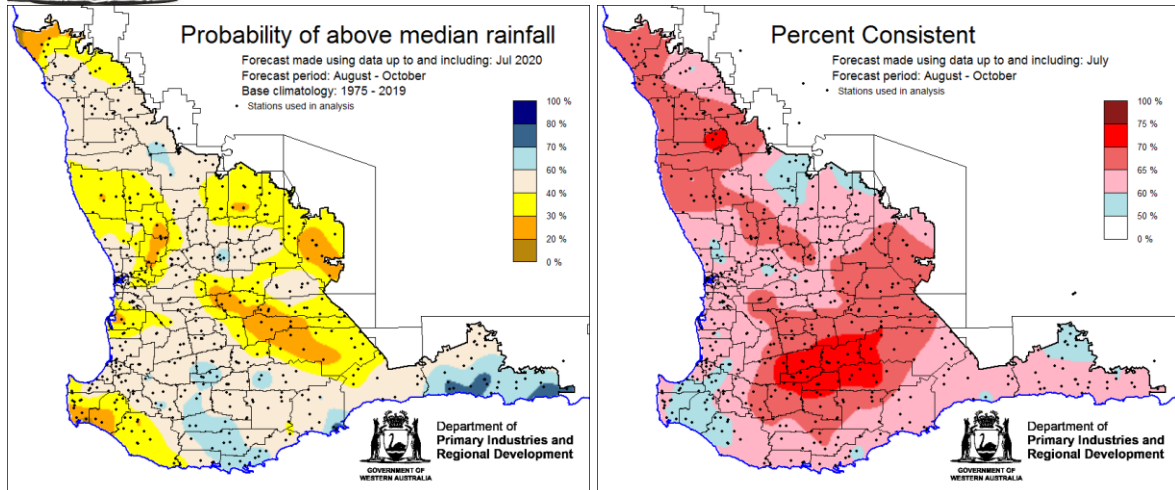


Figure 3 DPIRD August to October forecast (left) and skill (right)

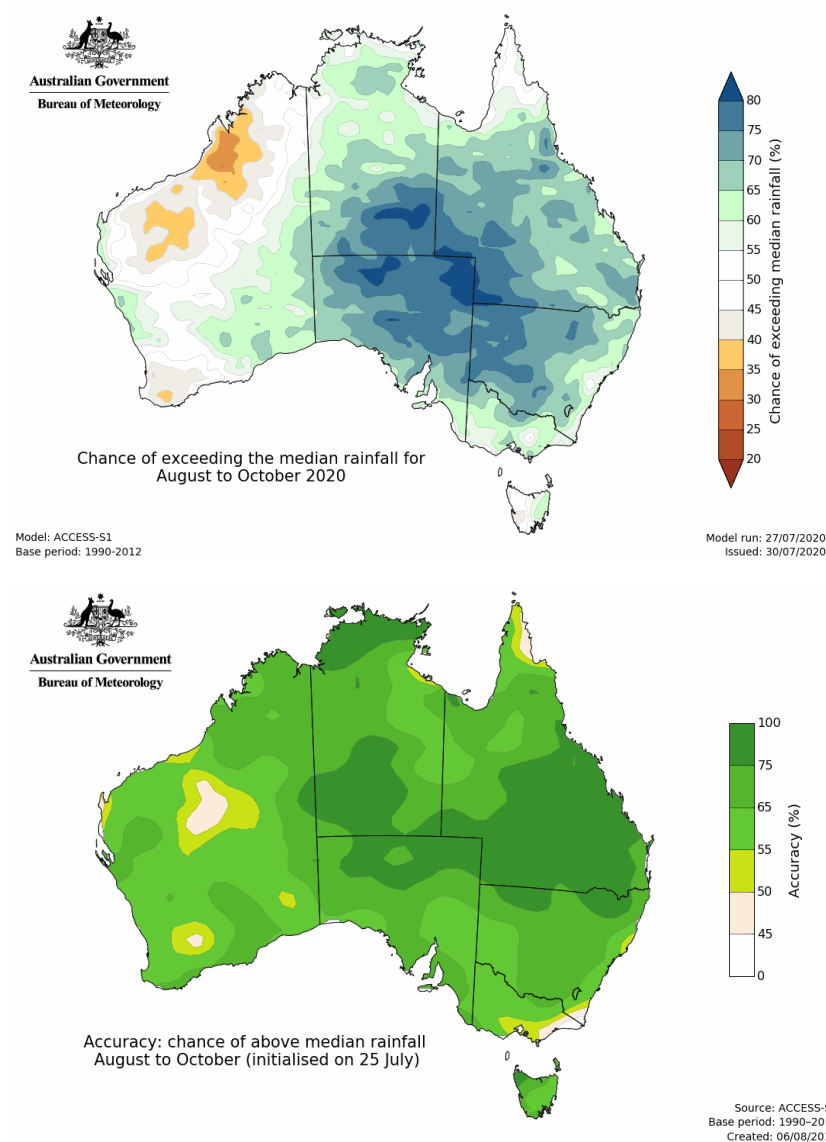


Figure 4 BoM August to October forecast (top) and skill (bottom)



Rainfall and Streamflow Tracking

We produce tracking graphs¹ for each of our rainfall and streamflow sites. Graphs for the following four sites (Gingin Brook, Harvey River, Denmark and Pemberton) are saved to TRIM. Graphs for the other sites are available on request.

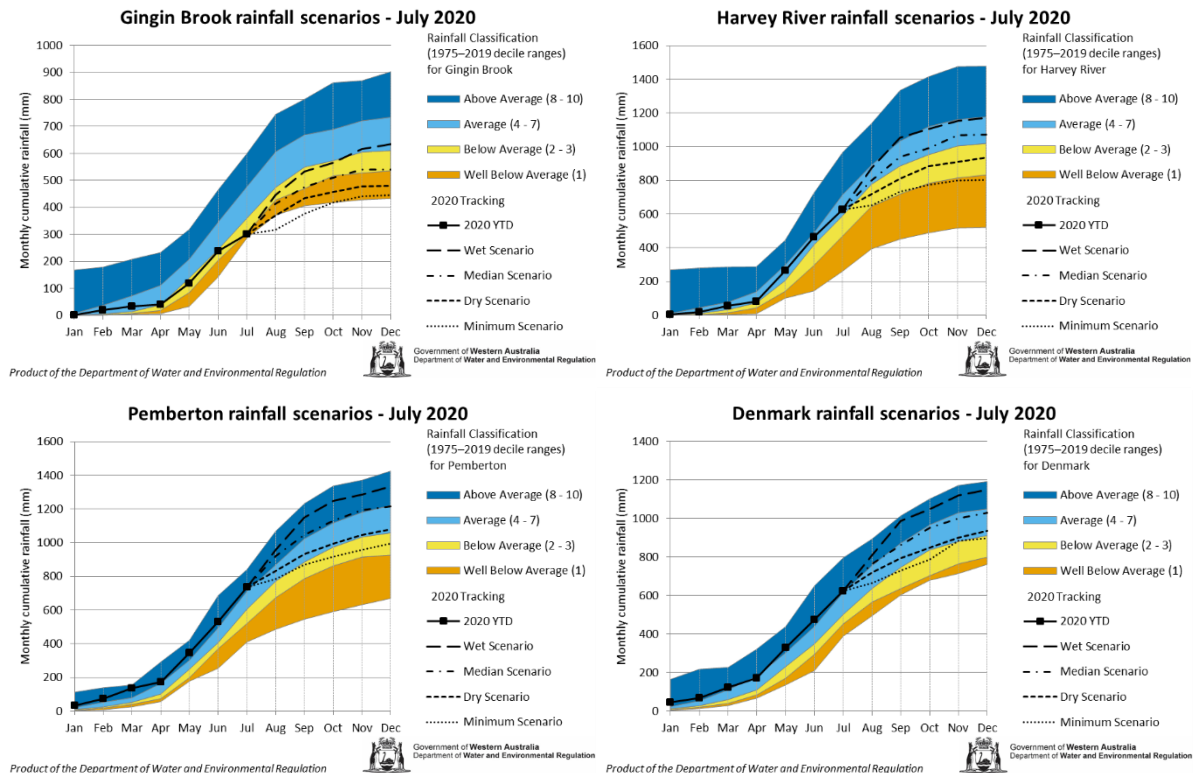


Figure 5 Rainfall tracking graphs for four representative sites.

Applying the DPIRD rainfall forecast (most probable decile range) for August to October the rainfall tracking plots gives an indication of likely conditions in September.

Applying this forecast, Gingin is forecast is likely to receive average rainfall (median scenario) over the next three months, which would result in below average conditions at the end of October.

¹ The block colours show the range in cumulative monthly rainfall or streamflow based on 1975-2019 records.

- High (dark blue) refers to the highest on record to the 70th percentile.
- Average (light blue) refers to the 70th to 30th percentile)
- Low (yellow) refers to the 30th to 10th percentile
- Very low (orange) refers to the 10th percentile to the lowest on record.

The solid black line shows recorded rainfall or streamflow for the year to date.

The black dashed lines show scenarios, based on recorded values from 1975 to 2019, from what has happened so far this year.

- The wet scenario corresponds to the 90th percentile.
- The median scenario corresponds to the 50th percentile.
- The dry scenario corresponds to the 10th percentile.

A percentile is a measure used in statistics to rank one data point compared to the rest of the data. For example, the 70th percentile means that 70% of the data is lower and 30% of the data is higher.



Below average rainfall is most likely at Harvey (dry scenario), which would result in below average conditions by the end of October.

For August to October Pemberton is forecast to receive below average rainfall (dry scenario) rainfall which would result in average conditions.

Denmark is forecast to receive average to below average rainfall from August to October (median to dry scenario) which would lead to average total rainfall.

The streamflow tracking graphs for Gingin Brook, Harvey River, Kalgan River and Lefroy Brook are shown below.

Depending on streamflow conditions for the next 3 months, Gingin flows may result in well below to below average conditions at the end of October. Harvey River, Lefroy Book and Denmark River trajectories have a much wider range of potential conditions for the next several months.

The July to September streamflow forecast for Harvey River indicates a dry scenario suggesting a continuation of well below average conditions to the end of September. Lefroy Brook and Denmark River are also forecast to track a dry scenario until the end of September which would result in well below average conditions at both sites.

We will continue to track these sites throughout the winter as conditions change.

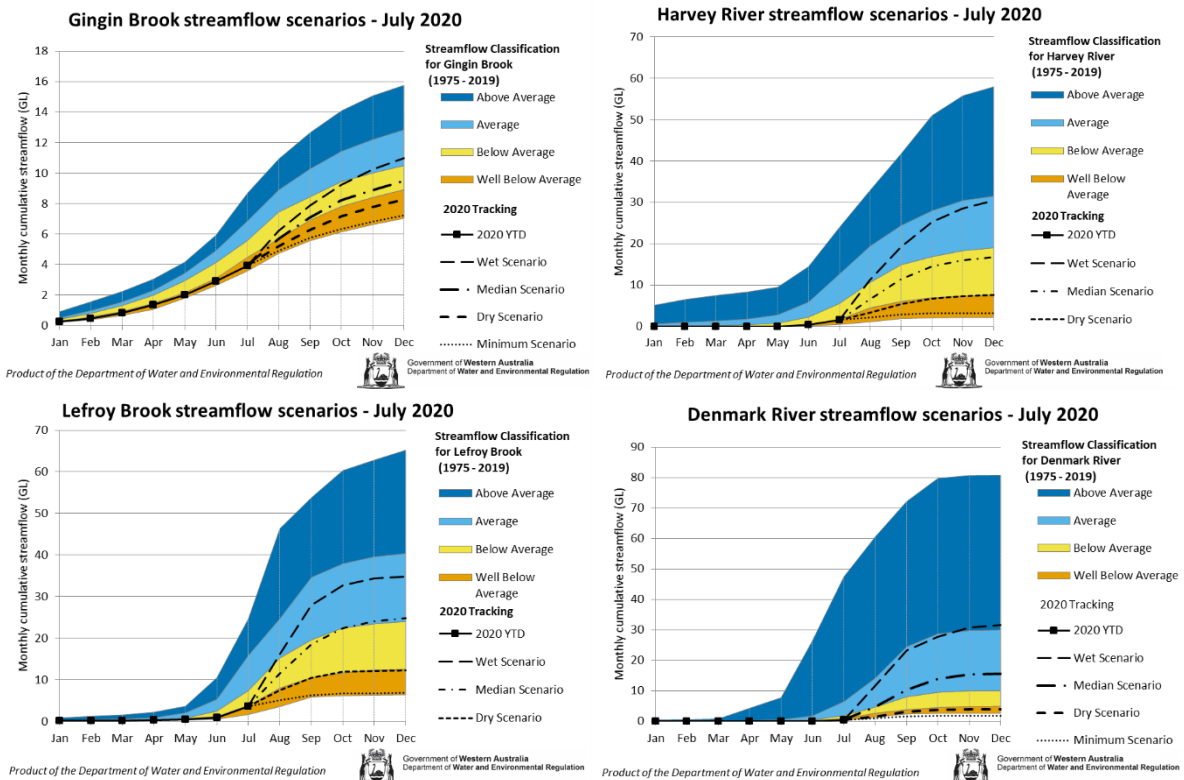


Figure 6 Streamflow tracking graphs for four selected sites.



Indicators

The rainfall station at Jarrahdale is used here to represent rainfall conditions contributing to inflow into the Integrated Water Supply Scheme (IWSS) dams. From 1 May around 400 mm of rainfall is needed to start streamflow discharging into IWSS dams. The 173 mm of rainfall in July means that this rainfall total has been surpassed. So far there has been 10.43 GL of inflow into IWSS dams (see <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Our-water/Rainfall-and-dams/Streamflow>). Subject to rainfall patterns, from 1 May 2020 around 650 mm of rainfall at Jarrahdale is needed to generate 50 GL of inflow to the northern dams.

We require approximately an additional 130 mm of rainfall in the coming months at Jarrahdale to reach this target.

Streamflow

30/07/2020

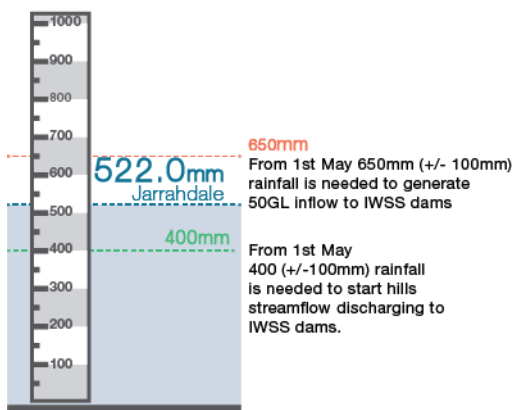


Figure 7 IWSS streamflow indicator

Useful Links

BoM produce 1 week, 2 week, monthly and three month outlooks for Rainfall and Temperature (outlooks are issued mid-month and at the end of each month).

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary>

BoM also produce monthly water updates, including information about rainfall, streamflow (similar to our dotted maps), salinity and water storages.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/water/monthly-water-update/current/south-west-coast-wa/>

DPIRD produce a monthly seasonal climate outlook newsletter, which summarises data from their own forecast system as well as BoM's.

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/newsletters/sco>

For more information please contact:
Simon Rodgers
Supervising Engineer
Simon.Rodgers@dwer.wa.gov.au
Flood Risk Science

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Meeting to be held on 20 August 2020

It has been a very hectic time for all staff during the past two months, and in particular, the Project Teams, as they worked extremely hard meeting their Quarter 4 Deliverables to claim payment across the 5 RLP Projects. This achievement, with COVID19 restrictions, adapting work management practices and the volume of Financial and Deliverables reporting required by 30th June, was quite remarkable. This has allowed PHCC to issue Tax Invoices to our funding bodies of over \$1.5M and I am very pleased to report that all outstanding invoices have been received and the Bank Accounts are looking quite healthy as we start a new financial year!

The Finance Team have the arduous task of completing EOY Reporting and preparing the Financial Statements for the year ending 30th June 2020 guided by the Auditors annual checklist. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and the impact it may have on such Organisations like ours, the auditors have included additional Governance and Risk Management items to allow PHCC to demonstrate that they have the relevant procedures and finances in place to reduce any hardship caused by the pandemic due to potential disruptions to operations. PHCC did not apply for the Australian Government's Jobkeeper package, so this has waived some of the reporting requirements necessary. It has been noticeable the increase in the number of late invoices from Contractors, Partners and Landholders this year. This could partially be due to COVID19, and it has had an impact on the ability for Karen to finalise the June and July Financial Statements for this meeting. Karen has been able to provide the Cash at hand as at 31 July 2020 to demonstrate that we have managed our funds and are in a sound fiscal position.

Mileage Rate increase: We have been advised by the ATO that the Mileage Rate for use of private vehicle for business related travel has increased from 68 cents to 72 cents per kilometre effective 1 July 2020. This applies to both Staff and Member Claims.

The ANZ Term Deposit account 9108-29176 which has both Project and Corporate funds invested, matured on the 17th July 2020 with a total of \$13,618.30 earned in the 10-month period. The Principal and Interest (\$1,523,896.38) was reinvested for 7 month @ 0.88%. The decline in interest earned has been factored into forecast budgets for F2020-21 across all projects and PHCC Support.

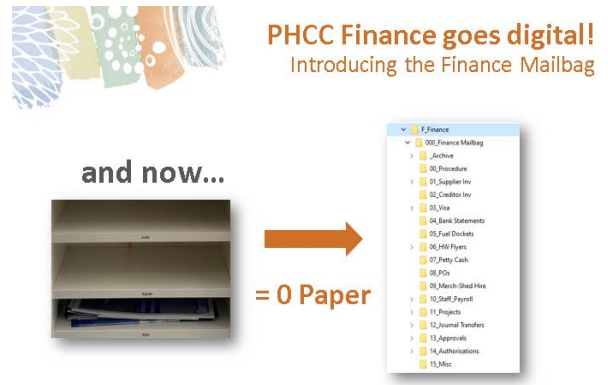
I would like to finish off with snippets of a presentation that Karen and Pat prepared, with the assistance of our fabulous Graphics Coordinator Julie, to give the F&A Committee Members a visual overview of the process involved in transitioning away from mountains of paper to the new "Paperless" finance system!



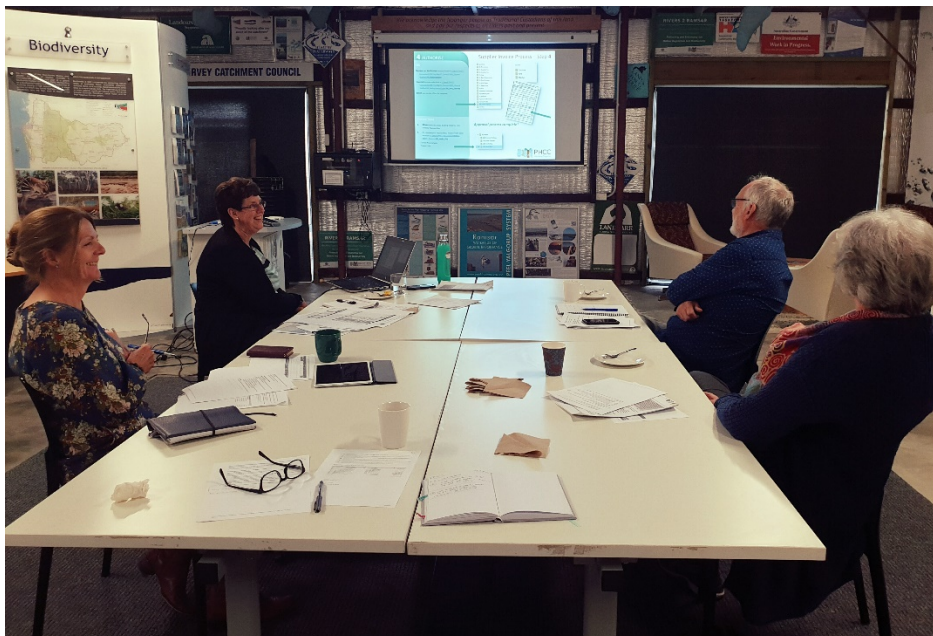
PHCC Finance goes digital!



PHCC Finance goes digital! Introducing the Finance Mailbag



Paperless Example Supplier Invoice Process



Finance Update for Period 1 June to 31 July 2020

Tax Invoices Issued		\$	Comment
1	Inv 793 City of Mandurah	55,000.00	3600: Lake Clifton Stewardship F19-20 Milestone payment (Yr 4 or 5)
2	Inv 794: State NRM (DPIRD)	234,584.90	9880: CSDL18059 Lake McLarty F19-20 Milestone Payments 2-4
3	Inv 795: State NRM (DPIRD)	27,816.80	7930: CSDL 19074 HRRT – Pmt 2
4	Inv 796: Tim Brownfield (Landholder)	4,180.00	9860: Return of 50% CEG Funding due to project not commencing.
5	Inv 797: Dept of Agric,Water &the Environment	83,220.50	9800: Core Services – Year 2, Pmt 6
6	Inv 798: Dept of Agric,Water & the Environment	44,550.00	9865: WA black Cockatoo – Yr 2, Pmt Q4
7	Inv 799: Dept of Agric,Water & the Environment	197,271.25	9850: Numbat Neighbourhood – Yr 2, Pmt Q4
8	Inv 800: Dept of Agric,Water & the Environment	187,000.00	9840: Banksia Woodlands – Yr 2, Pmt Q4
9	Inv 801: Dept of Agric,Water & the Environment	73,645.00	9860: Greening Farms – Yr 2, Pmt Q4
10	Inv 802: Dept of Agric,Water & the Environment	607,285.60	9830: Ramsar Wetlands – Yr, Pmt Q4
11	Inv 803: South32	28,651.70	6600: Tunbridge Gully Project
	Total	\$1,543,205.75	
Income Received		\$	Comment
1	Inv 787 Water Corporation	49,500.00	7900: HRRT HR Habitat Enhancement Project
2	Inv 793 City of Mandurah	55,000.00	3600: Lake Clifton Stewardship F19-20 Milestone payment (Yr 4 or 5)
3	Inv 794: State NRM (DPIRD)	234,584.90	9880: CSDL18059 Lake McLarty F19-20 Milestone Payments 2-4
4	Inv 799: Dept of Agric,Water & the Environment	197,271.25	9850: Numbat Neighbourhood – Yr 2, Pmt Q4
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9	Inv 797: Dept of Agric,Water &the Environment	83,220.50	9800: Core Services – Year 2, Pmt 6
10	Inv 795: State NRM (DPIRD)	27,816.80	7930: CSDL 19074 HRRT – Pmt 2
11	Inv 796: Tim Brownfield	4,180.00	9860: Greening Farms – Refund of CEG payment
12	Inv 803: South32	28,651.70	6600: Tunbridge Gully Project
13	Westpac Bank:	14,209.87	TD: 12mths on Maturity 12 June 2020
14	ANZ Bank Interest	13,618.30	TD: 10mths on Maturity 17July2020
15	Merchandise Sales	82.00	2700: Feb-June cash receipts
16	COVID19 - Cashflow Boost	12,500.00	Via ATO Portal

17	ANZ Bank Interest	402.14	June & July 2020
	Total	\$1,621,018.06	

	Expenditure	\$	Comment
1	No of Payment Runs – 9	1,100,727.43	Batches 29-35; F20-21 Batch 01-03
2	Visa Card expenditure	6,114.16	June & July 2020
3	Petty Cash	208.25	June & July 2020
4	Cheques – Petty Cash	268.55	Petty Cash Recoup Chq001995
	Total	\$1,107,318.39	
	New Projects/Agreements	\$	Comment
1	NIL		
	Closed Projects/Agreements		Comment
1	NIL		
	Employment		
1	Payroll Reimbursement	269,997.98	Salary & Superannuation – June & July 2020
	Total	\$269,997.98	
	Other		
1	Training: Karen providing Pat Sutton with MYOB training in Bankfeeds and Purchasing modules;		
2	Training: Karen providing Pat Sutton with ANZ Online Banking training and lodgement of Invoice payments. Pat has commenced undertaking this task with support from Karen.		
3	9870: Land4Wildlife Project: Audit completed and submitted to State NRM.		
4	Annual Project Audits: Preparation underway to have the State Election 1FTE and FishRec projects audited as at year ending 30 th June 2020.		
5	5500: Prepared Financial Statement for Alcoa Foundation interim Report as at 30 th June 2020.		
6	Prepared RLP Quarter 4 Invoicing and Statutory Declarations for 5 Projects + Core Services sent to Dept of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on 1 July 2020 and received full payment by 16 th July. This has provided us with a cashflow boost to start the new financial year.		
7	Payroll obligations for PAYG and Superannuation paid by CoM paid within monthly timeframes for the months of June and July. All EOY Reports have been provided to PHCC to finalise Payroll Reporting for Organisation audit. Staff entitlements reconciled and included on Balance Sheet at 30 th June.		
8	June 2020 BAS prepared & lodged with ATO. A further \$12,500 COVID19 Cash boost payment received into the Integrated Client Account with a balance of \$37,500 to be paid		
9	Continued improvement with finance processes. Commenced creating Flowcharts for procedures so staff have visual presentation of how processes work. (See Below) Finance Templates have been modified to allow for the new Chart of Accounts to be implemented.		

10	Finance & Steering Committee Meeting met on 27 th July 2020. Minutes of the meeting will be provided to the Board once completed. Karen provided the Committee with a snapshot Presentation of how the Finance Team have gone “Paperless” and the Flowcharts that will be rolled out to staff as part of the Finance Procedures Toolkit.
11	Organisation audit scheduled for 7 th -8 th September at the Mandurah Office. Preparation is well under way to meeting the AMD 2019-2020 checklist. It is to be noted the reporting of how COVID19 pandemic has impacted the Organisation is included in this years’ assessment.

Balance of Bank Accounts as at 31 July 2020:

	Bank Account Type	Account Number	\$
1	ANZ Commercial Credit Card	4564 80xx xxxx 3072	-\$1,311.80
2	ANZ Transaction Account	016 745 4638 83443	\$10.61
3	ANZ Project Cheque Account	016 745 4942 31182	\$160,557.20
4	ANZ Corporate Online Saver	016 745 5272 85292	\$77,648.21
5	ANZ Project Online Saver	016 745 5272 85559	\$3,758,284.18
6	ANZ Business Term Deposit	016 745 910829176	\$1,523,896.38
7	Westpac Term Deposit	036 134 239580	\$664,257.73
	Total		\$6,183,342.51

Lastly, I would like to thank Sue, Caroline, and Andy for assisting me in authorising process of the Online Payment Runs over the past two months. A total of 9 Payment Runs have been prepared by Pat and Karen, some rather large, and it has been a great team effort by everyone to meet our deadlines.

And, as always, huge appreciation for the dedication and leadership of our Finance Manager, Karen – your work is outstanding!!

Marilyn Gray
Treasurer

Science & Waterways Project REPORT

PHCC General Meeting – 20 August 2020

Steve Fisher, Program Manager, Science & Waterways

RLP – Wetlands and people: A community restoring the ecological character of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar 482 Wetlands (The Ramsar Project) Nov 2018 – June 2023 \$4,996,221

Year 2 Quarter 4 Reporting

Coordinated by Steve Fisher

- **Submitted the Year 2 Quarter 4 Outputs Report and the Annual Progress Report for Year 2 in MERIT**
- The team **delivered all of the outputs for Year 2 (2019/20)** of the project with the **exception of approximately 15 ha of revegetation works**. In recognition of the difficulties that the COVID-19 pandemic presented to project delivery, the Australian Government allowed us what is in effect an extension to complete this work without any financial implications. **The remaining 15 ha have since been completed in July and August.**
- Services completed in Year 2 are as follows:
 - ✓ 6 baseline data sets collected and/or synthesized
 - ✓ 75 communications material published
 - ✓ 2 field days held
 - ✓ 6 on-ground works on private land (weed control to complement works within Ramsar Site)
 - ✓ 50 ha controlling access
 - ✓ 74 ha treated for pest animals, initial
 - ✓ 90 ha treated for pest animals, follow up (monitoring, baiting & trapping foxes, feral cats)
 - ✓ 7 agreements established (Contractor and Landholder Works Agreements)
 - ✓ 2 monitoring regimes established
 - ✓ 17 monitoring regimes maintained
 - ✓ 165 ha area surveyed for fauna
 - 3 fauna surveys conducted
 - 1 additional fauna survey specific to cormorant breeding conducted
 - ✓ 5 negotiations with community, landholders, farmers, traditional owners, industry groups
 - ✓ 260 days of project planning and delivery
 - ✓ 20 planning and delivery documents for delivery of the project services
 - ✓ 114 ha of initial weed removal
 - ✓ 70 ha of follow-up weed removal
 - ± 15 ha revegetated ± (preparation, planting and fencing at 6 sites within Ramsar Site and catchment)

Component 1: Science and Collaborative Management

Managed by Rick James, Coordinator Wetlands Science and Management

Yalgorup Lakes Surface Water Quality Monitoring (YLSWQM) Program

- **19 sites are being assessed** covering the 17 discrete waterbodies that comprise the Yalgorup Lakes system.
- **Regular monthly monitoring continued** (June & July).
 - July round included DBCA involvement with Mike Venarsky, Ramsar Wetland Ecologist, assisting with sampling.

- The July assessment also included the **collection of water samples for analysis** by Chemistry Centre of WA to **determine ionic balance** against which we can **calibrate our in situ measurements of electrical conductivity**.



Revegetation work at Lake McLarty

- **Delivering On-ground component: implementing the Year 2 revegetation program:**
 - **Revegetation work completed on 12 August.**
 - A total of **34,548 plants were put in over six revegetation areas:** NW Lake Clifton, E Lake Clifton, Lake McLarty, Herron Point, Coodanup foreshore (Nairns bird hide) and Hexham Wetlands property on the west side of the Harvey Estuary).
 - Eighteen individual planting sites contained within these six main areas.
 - **18,702 biodegradable (cardboard) guards installed.**
 - **1,016m of fencing erected.**
- **Aerial Survey of the Lake Clifton Thrombolite Community**
 - Survey complete and **high resolution mapping of Lake Clifton and thrombolites provided** (3cm pixel resolution).
 - Final report received in August
- **Preliminary groundwater assessments at Lake Clifton**
 - The recently purchased “spear probe” (a portable piezometer) has been **tried at Lake Clifton.**
 - Results show that the **groundwater just below the lake surface at the shoreline is significantly fresher than the lake surface water** e.g. surface water conductivity = 118 mS/cm (~ twice that of seawater) whereas groundwater at a depth of 1.4 m below surface at the same location was 33 mS/cm (~ half that of seawater).
 - It’s important for the development and health of thrombolites **that significant fresh / brackish groundwater springs exist near the shoreline.** These preliminary results are encouraging as they indicate that this process is ongoing.

– **Welcome Jennie Beeson!**

- Jennie commenced work as a casual employee of PHCC on 11 August for approximately 3 months to help deliver the Lake McLarty Project (State NRM Program) and assist with other water quality sampling programs. Jennie has helped PHCC in the past as a volunteer and we are thrilled to welcome her to the team where we will put her engineering experience to good use.



Jennie Beeson and friends at the 2019 Wetland Weekender

Component 2: Wetlands & People (Community Engagement)

Managed by Sharon Meredith, Coordinator, Ramsar Community Engagement

- **Shorebird Mentor Program (23 July)**
 - Hosted the first workshop for **BirdLife’s Shorebird Mentor Program**. Five mentors have now signed up to the program which teams up local expert birders with local intermediate birders. Through a series of workshops and site surveys, **this program aims to improve the skills and confidence of intermediate volunteers so they can be involved in leadership roles for the National Shorebird Count.**
 - Over the next four months, the **Community Engagement Coordinator will support 2 workshops and 10 field days.** The next workshop is scheduled for 30 October.
- **Fairy Tern Site Managers Workshop (30 July)**
 - Attended the online workshop convened by the Conservation Council of Western Australia. **Stakeholders are considering setting up a secondary sanctuary site for Fairy Terns in Mandurah on Boundary Island.**

- **Clean Waterways Working Group (6 August)**
 - Supported the **City of Mandurah’s Clean Waterways Working Group**. The objectives of the working group are to:
 - Create a framework to assist in **transitioning the community and local businesses away from plastic** and create a community campaign to do so.
 - Engage several local businesses and community groups to **create a local campaign that promotes keeping Mandurah waterways clean and reducing litter**.
 - Plastic Free Mandurah was launched on the City of Mandurah's website on 6 August and will be accompanied by a tool kit that list of sustainable options to replace plastics.
- **Science Week event - “Breaming with opportunities” (18 August)**
 - Supported Peel Bright Minds to host a seminar **“Breaming with Opportunities” that showcases the innovative aquaculture project “Stock enhancement of black bream in the Murray River”** to celebrate National Science Week 2020. The event premiered the screening of Peel Bright Minds' **mini-documentary on the project followed by a panel discussion**. The event took place at John Tonkin College in front of an audience of approx. 50 people, and **was recorded so it could be viewed after the event** by those who couldn’t attend.
- **Dolphin Watch Training (September)**
 - Met with Jason Menzes (DBCA) on 6 August to discuss **rescheduling Dolphin Watch Training for 2020**. Due to restrictions under the COVID-19 pandemic the **2020 March event was cancelled** until further notice. **The event, supported by PHCC is now likely to take place during September**.
 - PHCC provided funding to DBCA to produce a new **(4th) edition of the Fin Book Mandurah**. This identification guide will **be distributed to new volunteers** on the night of the event.
 - Based on previous years, we **expect more than 100 people to attend** the event in 2020
- **The Wetlands Weekender (10 & 11 October)**
 - Met with an internal **Working Group** on 16 June and 9 July which provided recommendations and a framework for the festival.
 - The **Wetlands Weekender is scheduled for 10 and 11 October**. The event program includes:
 - Estuary Tour by boat from Mandurah to Mariners Cove (10 Oct pm)
 - Nature Walk at Creery Wetlands (10 Oct pm)
 - Sunset Cruise – return journey to Mandurah (10 Oct sunset)
 - Movie night – at Reading Cinemas (10 Oct evening)
 - Pave the Way Clean Up at Coodanup foreshore (11 Oct am)
 - A Dog’s breakfast (Coodanup foreshore am)
 - Cultural storytelling (Coodanup foreshore am)
 - Arts Market’s and Entertainment (Coodanup foreshore am)
 - Consulted and confirmed the following stakeholders:
 - BirdLife WA
 - City of Mandurah
 - Mandurah Cruises
 - John Tonkin College
 - Harry Nannup

- Tangaroa Blue.
- Engaged the Pinjarra Mens Shed to create 200 flock stencils.
- Contacted potential coordinators for arts markets and sent out a request to quote.
- **Reel it In Clean Up Event (24 & 25 October)**
 - Met with Jason Menzes (DBCA) on 6 August discussed potential dates to schedule the **Reel it In Clean-Up Event**.
 - DBCA has scheduled the cleanup event for the **24 and 25 October to avoid clashing with the Wetlands Weekender**. The event works with local stakeholders to clean up two sites in Mandurah across one weekend. **Last year over 200 people attended the event** that involved PHCC, Mandurah Cruises, Tangaroa Blue, Coastal Waste Warriors, City of Mandurah, Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group and Tackle World.
- **World Wetlands Day Conference (2 February 2021)**
 - Cockburn Wetlands Centre accepted PHCC's invitation to host the **World Wetlands Day conference at Mandurah Performing Arts Centre in February 2021**. PHCC has offered to support the conference through hiring the Boardwalk theatre, provision of wetland tours, presentations for the conference, and aligning festival events to celebrate:
 - World Wetlands Day
 - **30th Anniversary of the listing of the Peel-Yalgorup Wetlands** as Ramsar 482 (1990) and
 - **50th Anniversary of the Ramsar Convention** (1971).
- **Online Education Hub**
 - The Educational Hub aims to capture the **educational programs currently being delivered by PHCC** make them **available for students and teachers to interact with online**. This includes educational videos and worksheets.
 - **Collaborating with Charlie Jones and others at the Children's University at UWA** to develop resources including worksheets.
 - Confirmed videographer to develop a series of educational videos.

Component 3: On-Ground

Managed and delivered by Mike Griffiths, Wetlands Restoration Officer with support from Rick James and Steve Fisher

- **Weed control**
 - "Phase 2" **cottonbush control completed south of Ellis Road, Myalup, covering 94 ha of new area**, building on from previous work (Phase 1, 2019) and **complementing previous cottonbush control work on two adjoining private properties**.
- **On-ground works on privately-owned land**
 - Targeted Landholder Works Agreements (LWAs) used for weed control on private properties to complement control measures on adjoining Ramsar Site. **Cottonbush removal/treatment was added**

to follow-up previous control of Brazilian Pepper and Wild Fig, **having proliferated** after these woody weeds were removed. This was **completed by indigenous workers** on one property (see photo below).

- Negotiations underway with four new landholders for proposed on-ground works and LWAs.
- Weed control works completed under a LWA for **additional property near Harvey Estuary targeting woody weeds, cottonbush and thistles.**



Workers from Indigenous Management Services removing seeding cottonbush on private property

- **Access Control**
 - **Fencing at McLarty Nature Reserve** completed with objective of **managing illegal four-wheel-drive vehicle access** to the reserve, **thus protecting over 70 ha of conservation land.**



Contractors fit a gate to complete a fence line managing vehicle access into McLarty Nature Reserve near Harvey Estuary.

Managed by Jo Garvey, Coordinator Healthy Waterways, supported by Jesse Rowley

- **Communications**
 - **Three articles featured** in Edition 9 of *Wattle and Quoll*. **Suellen Jerrard (Alcoa Corporate Affairs) congratulated the team on the great coverage and promotion of the project.**
 - **Draft versions of the short films promoting the project have been compiled for review** by the PHCC Communications team to ensure that the films align with PHCC style guidelines and that funders are acknowledged appropriately.
 - **Alcoa Media Release featured in the Mandurah Mail** promoting the Three Rivers One Estuary Initiative planting season activities **to align with National Tree Day** on 2 August)
 - As part of the **“Spotlight on River Health” series** an article was published in the Mandurah Mail titled, “PHCC team hard at work during COVID-- 19 to protect and restore local waterways”.
 - **Jesse Rowley and Steve Fisher attended The Nature Conservancy’s “Shellfish Reef Restoration” project community forum**, to support the project and promote and raise awareness of the **‘Three Rivers, One Estuary initiative’** – see also 1 FTE Science Advisor below.
 - **Quotation from PHCC regarding our Restoring the Serpentine River Project and water sustainability cited and published in the Alcoa (Global) Sustainability Report - see page 80 & 83 of the report at <https://www.alcoa.com/sustainability/en/pdf/2019-Sustainability-Report.pdf>.**
- **Karu Bilya Wetlands Restoration Project**
 - **12,000 native plant species have now been planted over 7 hectares** under direction of Grant Pronk from GP Forestry. Gambara Environmental Company and the Noongar community from Perth as well as the **Bindjareb Middars who assisted Grant Pronk in planting the native species.**
 - **860m of fencing has been installed** to protect 5.7 hectares of revegetation.
 - ‘Restoring the Serpentine River’ and ‘Revegetation in Progress’ signs have been installed within the site to notify individuals and other organisations restoration works are taking place.
 - Continuing to work collaboratively with organisations such as Water Corporation, Main Roads and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to **help reduce illegal access into the Karu Bilya site.**
- **Hymus Creek Restoration Project planting and cultural knowledge sharing event, Lowlands Farm**
 - On 12 August, **2000 native species were planted by a team of volunteers including Alcoa staff** to help bring back biodiversity to Hymus Creek which was severely impacted by bushfires in January 2020.
 - Bindjareb Middars, a local Noongar group headed by Theo Kearing provided a **Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and storytelling session and planted with the team.**
 - This revegetation project was **funded jointly by the Australian Government (NLP2 Ramsar Project) and the Alcoa Foundation**
- **Serpentine River Action Plan (RAP)**
 - **The RAP has now been finalised** and we are using it to **strategically plan on-ground works** at priority sites identified in the plan to improve the condition of the Serpentine River.

- We are currently working through a process to **produce Concept Plans for works at three sites following recommendations from the RAP.**

- **Dung Beetle Project**

- **A field day was held on 13 August to create a greater awareness of the fascinating world of dung beetles, bringing together the community and other stakeholders for the PHCC region and beyond.** The event was attended by approximately **20 interested landholders and other stakeholders.**
- Guest speakers included **John Allen, a dung beetle expert** and Agricultural Coordinator at Coodanup College and **Jacob Berson, a Research Associate at the School of Biological Sciences, University of Western Australia,** provided an insight into their roles in the dung beetle industry as well as **share their knowledge on the potential environmental benefits of dung beetles.**



Karu Bilya Wetlands Restoration



Hymus Creek smoking ceremony



Hymus Creek planting



Dung Beetle Field day at Lowlands

Managed by Jo Garvey, Coordinator Healthy Waterways, supported by Jesse Rowley

- **Stock Enhancement of Black Bream in the Murray River (see also 1FTE Science Advisor Report)**
 - **17 mature black bream** captured from the Murray River (see photo below) will be used to **breed the next generation of baby bream fingerlings**, which will be raised by John Tonkin College students under the guidance of the Murdoch University.
 - The black bream **broodstock spawned naturally on 7 August**
 - The project was **showcased through the “Breaming with Opportunities”** event (18 August) , organised by Peel Bright Minds to coincide with National Science Week – see Ramsar Community Engagement and 1-FTE project reports.



Ben Roennfeldt (Murdoch University / DPIRD) angling for black bream on the Murray River.

- **Harvey River Demonstration Reach / Marron, more than a meal**
 - The team has been busy planting with community and Greening Australia.
 - **A series of short films promoting the Harvey River and the ‘Marron, more than a meal’ project**, have been produced and are available to view via the HRRT facebook page – see <https://m.facebook.com/groups/155774684632567?view=permalink&id=1383395358537154>
- **Fish Friendly Farms**
 - PHCC is supporting several projects occurring in the Peel Catchment that align with the Fish Friendly Farms initiative with the **aim to have a landscape scale impact rather than an ‘ad-hoc’ approach**.
 - Enhancing fish habitat (1) - **supporting TNCs Shellfish Gardening Project** in the Peel-Harvey Estuary (see also 1 FTE Science Advisor below)

- Enhancing fish habitat (2) – investigating **occurrence of black pygmy mussels in the Murray River**
- **Carter’s freshwater mussels in farm dams** – with Alan Lymbery (Murdoch University)
- **Riparian habitat restoration** – on hold until we learn more about the fate of our grant application to the Alcoa Foundation for our Healing Bilya – Restoring the Serpentine and Murray Rivers - see 1 FTE Science Advisor report below.
- The Project’s ‘Delivery Components’ are tracking well with meetings and planning sessions to discuss future works with Murdoch University, the Nature Conservancy and community.

Royalties for Regions / City of Mandurah / PHCC 1FTE Science Advisor May 2018 – Oct 2021
\$468,000

Managed by Steve Fisher, Program Manager, Science and Waterways (in addition to oversight of the projects above)

- **Attended the following key meetings with:**
 - The ‘**Stock enhancement of black bream in the Murray River**’ project team i.e. **Kim Savins, Barb Sing, (John Tonkin College, JTC)**, Jo Garvey and Jesse Rowley (**PHCC**) on 23 June where we decided that the program would proceed in 2020, with a **release of bream fingerlings again in December 2020** (see also Royalties for Regions: Peel-Harvey Estuary Grants project summary above).
 - **Alex Hams, Fiona Valesini, Theo Kearing (TNC)** and **Jesse Rowley and Jo Garvey** on 23 June to **progress collaboration** on TNC’s **Shellfish Gardening Program** and **PHCC’s Fish Friendly Farms** project (see also Peel-Harvey Estuary Grants project summary above).
 - Justin Fromm (Peel Development Commission) and Jane O’Malley on 2 July to discuss the status of the **Business Case for the Water Research Infrastructure Project** we prepared in December 2019. It is likely that the **business case will be presented to the State Government (DPIRD) as a package with the business case for the City of Mandurah’s Data Array**
 - Stefan Chappell (PDC) and **Sundave Sidhu (DPIRD)** on 9 July to give more **detail and context to the annual progress report for the Science Integration (1FTE) project.**
 - Jane Meriwether, Mindy Blaise (Edith Cowan University) and Brad Gobby (Curtin University) on 9 July to explore opportunities to collaborate on early childhood learning activities based on the ecological character and landscapes of the Ramsar 482 Site
 - The community at the **Shellfish Gardening Program forum**, hosted by the nature conservancy on 3 August to recruit community members living in marinas and canal estates to participate in a program of **growing and maintaining blue mussels in baskets installed under privately owned jetties** – see also Provision of Advice, Shellfish Reef TAG Meeting below.
- **Made the following presentations**
 - **“Breaming with Opportunities”** to approx. 50 attendees at the National Science Week event on 18 August hosted by Peel Bright Minds and funded by Inspiring Australia and PHCC. The presentation complemented a short film and a panel discussion describing the **Stock Enhancement of Black Bream in the Murray River** component project of the Peel-Harvey Estuary Grants.
 - Interviewed on 16 July for **short films promoting the Connecting Corridors and Communities - Restoring the Serpentine River Project.** These will be used to showcase the project to the

community as well as by Alcoa to **promote the Healing Bilya – Restoring the Serpentine and Murray Rivers to the Alcoa Foundation.**

- Interviewed on 16 July and 1 August for a **short film promoting the Stock Enhancement of Black Bream in the Murray River** project for screening at the “Breaming with Opportunities” National Science Week Event.

- **Provision of Advice / driving projects to assist in the restoration of Peel Waterways**
 - Attended the **Technical Advisory Group of the Peel-Harvey Shellfish Reef Project** on 3 August to discuss progress and provide advice on this project delivered by The Nature Conservancy. The project involves two components: **establishment of a shellfish reef in the Peel-Harvey Estuary comprising ~ 1.5 million blue mussels** and a **shellfish gardening project, involving community members growing ~50,000 mussels** to seed onto the reef.

 - With Jo Garvey, on 16 July submitted the final **full application for *Healing Bilya-Restoring the Murray and Serpentine Rivers* project Dec 2020 – Dec 2023** (i.e. the next Phase of the **Connecting Corridors and Communities – Restoring the Serpentine River** - see Alcoa Foundation project report above). **Alcoa will present it to the Alcoa Foundation for their consideration at their August Board Meeting. We will know if we are successful by late 2020.**

 - Participated in the first meeting of the **Stakeholder Reference Group** for the ***Predicting the Impacts of Fire on Water Quality (PIFWaQ)*** project held on 21 July. This project is led by Pierre Horwitz (ECU) funded by the Water Corporation and will examine the impacts of fire on water quality in drinking water catchments in southwest WA.

 - Provided information to Peel Development Commission about achievements by PHCC to update the **Peel Blueprint Scorecards for 2019/20** (7 August)

 - Provided input to **PHCC’s submission to the Australian Government** regarding the impact of the proposed expansion of the **Alcoa Huntley Bauxite Mine on the Ramsar Site** (14 August).

- **Other**
 - Helped collect (i.e. went fishing for) **black bream broodstock** from the Murray River 1 August with Ben Roennfeldt (DPIRD), Alan Cottingham (Murdoch University) and others.

Events (PHCC sponsoring or presenting)

- **Previous events 18 June to 20 August:**
 - 23 July 2020 **Shorebird Mentor Program - Workshop1**
(see Wetlands & People Community Engagement)

 - 12 August 2020 **Planting Day at Hymus Creek, Serpentine River**
(see Alcoa Foundation – Restoring the Serpentine River)

 - 13 August 2020 **Dung Beetle Field Day**
(see Alcoa Foundation – Restoring the Serpentine River)

 - 18 August 2020 **Science Week “Breaming with opportunities”**
(see Wetlands & People Community Engagement and 1-FTE Science Advisor)

- **Future events (after 20 August):**
 - September 2020 **Dolphin Watch Training (TBC)**
(see Wetlands & People Community Engagement)
 - 10/11 October 2020 **Wetlands Weekender**
(see Wetlands & People Community Engagement)
 - 24/25 October 2020 **Reel it In Clean-Up**
(see Wetlands & People Community Engagement)
 - 30 October 2020 **Shorebird Mentor Program - Workshop2**
(see Wetlands & People Community Engagement)
 - February 2020 **World wetlands Day Conference (TBC)**
(see Wetlands & People Community Engagement)

Work Health and Safety

- **No incidents or near-misses to report**

Hotham-Williams Project REPORT

PHCC General Meeting August 2020

Melanie Durack, Program Manager, Hotham Williams



RLP – Numbat Neighbourhood

Jul 2018 – Jun 2023 \$2,174,505

Managed by Mel Durack, supported by Christine Townsend (Farmers for Fauna Coordinator) 3 days/week.

- Achieved all Year 2 Quarter (2019/20) deliverables and reported in MERIT. Final invoice for year 2 submitted, \$179,337.50 (exc GST). Major components:
 - o Community Environmental Grant Round 2019-20 on-ground works: completion visits were conducted ensuring that extra precautions taken with regards to social distancing and appropriate hygiene protocols. Mel coordinated these standards with relevant project officers.
 - o Disease management: Disease mapping was completed and field taping to be installed in August to demarcate any infested areas.
- Annual report submitted in MERIT with the following key achievements for the reporting year, noting the project is tracking well towards 2023 outcomes:
 - o Reducing threats, protection of habitat patches tracking well through on-ground works including fencing (18 km) and weed control (12 ha) with a total of 182 ha protected.
 - o Targeted feral cat trapping (Farmers for Fauna) with 68 culled cats reported, large scale release of RHDV1-K5 rabbit virus and feral pig control.
 - o Improving landholders understanding with 73 landholders attending workshops/training/feral animal control events (total 530 community attendees). 9 landholders completed on-ground works.
 - o Further engagement continues through monthly Hotham-Williams Landcare matters publications printed in 4 local newsletters & distributed via email.
 - o Noongar partnership signed with Wiilman community representative, Mr Travis (Jock) Abraham.
 - o Partnership signed to support Perth Zoo's Numbat Breed for Release program is progressing well and PHCC is an active member of the Numbat Recovery Team.
 - o Partnership continues with DBCA to value add to Dryandra specific work including a fauna habitat survey, monitoring regimes and supporting the feral free enclosure. Additional artificial habitat structures were installed to support red-tailed phascogales.
- Planning and delivery of Year 3 Quarter 1 is underway. The major component is following up on expressions of interest for the 2020/21 Community Environmental Grant Round. Site visits are well underway and assisting landholders and community groups with their applications. Applications close on 31st August. Mel has been coordinating this grants program which covers the Numbat, Greening Farms, Banksia and Black Cockatoo projects.
- In the process of establishing a partnership with Indigenous Workabout to enable support to local Shires with weed control along the Hotham River.
- Also working to formalize a partnership with PYNOC, owned and operated by Daniel Christensen in the Cuballing-Popanyinning area to assist landholders to control feral cats around Dryandra Woodland.
- Assisted with a submission on the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Problem of Feral and Domestic Cats in Australia.

Newmont - Hotham-Williams NRM & Conservation Project**Jan 2018 - Dec 2022 \$500,000**

Managed by Mel Durack, supported by Kristy Gregory 2 days/week until 31th December 2020.

- The Final Hotham-Williams River Action Plan (RAP) was provided to the Hotham-Williams Shires for their information. PHCC will be working with these Shires on planning potential projects based on the recommendations from the RAP. Initial discussions have been held with Shires of Cuballing and Williams.
- As previously mentioned PHCC requires further funding to engage Urbaqua for the development of detailed and site specific concept plans for the 8 sites which were field assessed. PHCC submitted a funding application to South32 for a 5 year strategic partnership which will enable the concept plans to be developed and priority on-ground works to occur.
- Kristy Gregory continues to support this project 2 days per week until December 2020 and is working on restoration plans for each of the priority sites.
- Newmont and PHCC prepared a joint application for the 2020 Community Partnership Resource Sector Award and have recently been informed the partnership has been shortlisted for the award. Mel and Newmont to present to a selection panel on 12th August. Announcement of the award winner will occur at an awards ceremony in October (date TBC). More information: <http://dmp.wa.gov.au/News/Resources-sector-projects-apply-27292.aspx>
- The draft river health assessment report prepared by Wetland Research and Management has now been received and is under review by PHCC, DWER and Newmont. Findings to be shared at the next board meeting.
- Mel Durack will continue to represent PHCC at the quarterly Newmont Community Reference Group meetings in 2020 and is the current chair.

South32 - Tunbridge Gully Stage 3&4 (South32)**Jul 2018 – Jun 2021 \$78,141**

Managed by Mel Durack and delivered by Helen Parsons working 2 days/week.

- The annual planting event with Boddington DHS occurred on 30th June. Over 6,000 seedling have been planted in the area this season.
- A field day on *Juncus acutus* control is still planned demonstrate the work which been undertaken to control the invasive weed within a natural creekline and on farm land. This will be a jointly coordinated workshop with the Greening Farms project. Timing still to be determined.
- Mel Durack will continue to represent PHCC at the quarterly South32 Mine Community Liaison Committee meetings in 2020. South32 will be undertaking extensive consultation for their expansion project ahead of a public environmental review period which is due the second half of this year.
- Helen Parsons assisting with this project and additional other project support 2 days per week.

Hotham-Williams Shires MOU (subject to annual budget approvals)**Aug 2018 – Aug 2023****\$180,000***

Managed by Mel Durack and delivered by Helen Parsons working 2 days/week.

- PHCC is supported the Friends of the Reserves Boddington (Inc.) with a State NRM grant application to continue bridal creeper control in Boddington's Camballing Reserve and surrounds. PHCC's support will include coordination and reporting. Awaiting announcement of successful recipients.
- Mel continues to be involved in a Green Canopy Committee providing advice to the Shire of Boddington on species selection and placement for seedlings to be planted within the Shire of Boddington. The Friends of the Reserves Boddington President, Robin Andersson is also a member of the committee.

Other Project Support

- Coordination of the Community Environmental Grant Round 2020/2021. This includes the Numbat, Greening Farms, Banksia and Black Cockatoo projects.
- Two new local volunteers were on-boarded to provide support to the Hotham-Williams and experience opportunities. Total of three volunteers now in the area.
- Attended the Wandering Farm Productivity Group Meeting & Information Session with Paula Pownall on 25th June. Great to see a committee formed as the group has been inactive for some time.
- Assisted with Noongar consultation for the Black Cockatoo project.
- Acting CEO whilst Jane is on annual leave.

Planned Events (and/or PHCC sponsoring or presenting) – check website

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all face to face events have been delayed until later in 2020.

- Tunbridge Gully
 - o *Juncus acutus* field Workshop (to be delivered with Greening Farms project) –TBC
- Planned Numbat Neighbourhood events:
 - o Williams Primary School Excursion to Dryandra (inc. Project Numbat) – October 2020
 - o Numbat Dig Workshop with landholders – November 2020
 - o 1080 accreditation workshop – February 2021
 - o Managing your bushland & pest animal workshop proposed – Oct/Nov 2020 TBC
 - o Potential Project Numbat School Incursions -TBC
 - o Dieback Green Card Training (in conjunction with disease mapping) – late 2020/early 2021
 - o Chemcert training – PHCC supporting landholders and community members to attend a course being hosted by the Williams CRC in September.

Communications – See most recent issues of “*Landcare Matters: Hotham Williams*” July and August 2020 Editions attached.

Work Health Safety

- There are no incidences to report.
- Mel, Christine and Helen all attend 4WD training in July.

Melanie Durack

Program Manager, Hotham-Williams

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



Edition 44
July 2020



NRM is the management of natural resources such as land, water, soils, plants and animals. It brings together land use planning, water management, biodiversity conservation and sustainability of industries such as agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry.



Community Environment Grants

We have been out and about visiting landholders who have completed their 2019/2020 Community Environment Grant Projects. There were 14 projects funded in the Hotham-Williams Sub-catchment through PHCC's Numbat Neighbourhood Project and an additional 16 through the Greening Farms Project.

2020/2021 funding is now available for landholders in the Hotham and Williams Rivers Catchment for eligible landcare and bushcare works.

Interested? Contact us to discuss your project ideas and eligibility against funding priorities

P: 6369 8801 / 0455 166 780 or
E: grants@peel-harvey.org.au



RegenWA goes online

RegenWA has recently been hosting online events remotely. The best news is that the videos are now available to watch online for free!

If you are interested in regenerative agriculture and would like to check the videos out, please follow this link: <https://www.regenwa.com/resources/presentations/>, otherwise be sure to follow Regen WA out on Social media @RegenWA (twitter) and online regenwa.com

For further information please contact our RALF Officer Paula Pownall: paula.pownall@peel-harvey.org.au



COVID-19 We value the health and safety of our whole community and PHCC is now accepting visitors on an appointment basis only. Please contact us to make a booking via phone on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780 or via email.

Are you a Dryandra local?



Do you live near Dryandra Woodland and have a linkage project you would like help with? We have funding available through the Numbat Neighbourhood Project to help you with these projects. Please call Mel Durack or Christine Townsend on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780.

What else is happening...

- Do you have black cockatoos hanging out in your patch? We would love to hear from you! If you think you might know where black cockatoos are nesting in tree hollows within the Peel-Harvey, please contact Megan LeRoy on 6369 8800 or email megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au. If you are a landholder near a nesting site, you may be eligible for financial assistance to improve and maintain habitat.
- PHCC has two new volunteers which now means we have three dedicated volunteers in the Hotham-Williams Sub-catchment. We'd like to thank our volunteers for all of their help and support.

Coming Up...

- Completion visits for 2019/2020 landholders grants
- Expressions of interest for 2020/2021 landcare funding
- Expressions of interest to release rabbit virus RHDV1-K5 this Spring. Please contact helen.parsons@peel-harvey.org.au or call 63698801 or 0455 166 780
- Tree planting in Tunbridge Gully with Boddington District High School students - July

Do you have an NRM event or information you would like us to promote? Please contact Mel Durack at melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au or 0455 166 780 or 6369 8801



melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au
www.peel-harvey.org.au



Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



Edition 45
August 2020



NRM is the management of natural resources such as land, water, soils, plants and animals. It brings together land use planning, water management, biodiversity conservation and sustainability of industries such as agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry.



Tunbridge Gully Planting Day

The yearly planting of Tunbridge Gully was once again conducted in June 2020. This project aims to improve the health of the vegetation with the removal of the invasive weed *Juncus acutus* (Spiny rush). Over 6,000 species have been planted this year within a 7 hectare area leading along the gully and into the Hotham River.

Thank you to all 50 volunteers from the Year 6 Boddington District High School Students, South 32 and Newmont employees, Friends of the Reserves – Boddington (Inc.) and PHCC volunteers. Everyone braved the winter conditions, muddy water ways and enjoyed planting the seedlings, all to be rewarded with a great sausage sizzle from the BDHS P&C.



COVID-19 We value the health and safety of our whole community and PHCC is now accepting visitors on an appointment basis only. Please contact us to make a booking via phone on 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780 or via email.

Wandering Primary School Red-tailed Phascogale Project

The Wandering Primary School students have been planting to improve red-tailed phascogale habitat that is located on their school grounds.

In 2018 the students made and installed a red-tailed phascogale nest box and they are now planting thickets of sheoaks and other locally found trees and shrubs that are the preferred habitat for phascogales.

The photo right shows Christine using a nest box camera to monitor the nest box. So far, no phascogales have moved in but one has been spotted in a neighbouring garden!



What's happening...

We welcomed 3 volunteers to the Hotham-Williams Team: Victoria Brockhurst, Christina Nardini and Rebecca Clarke. You may see more of our new volunteers when we are out and about undertaking expression of interest visits for our 2020-21 Community Environment Grant round.

Do you have black cockatoos hanging out in your patch? We would love to hear from you! If you think you might know where black cockatoos are nesting in tree hollows within the Peel-Harvey, please contact Megan LeRoy on 6369 8800 or email megan.leroy@peel-harvey.org.au. If you are a landholder near a nesting site, you may be eligible for financial assistance to improve and maintain habitat.

Expression of interest site visits for this year's Community Environment Grant round. If you have contacted PHCC about a project you will be contacted soon to organise a time for a site visit. Applications are due on the 31st of August.

Coming Up...

Expressions of interests for **2020/2021 landcare funding**. Interested? Contact us to discuss your project ideas and eligibility against funding priorities P: 6369 8801, 0455 166 780 or E: grants@peel-harvey.org.au

Expressions of interest to release **rabbit virus RHDV1-K5** this Spring. Please contact helen.parsons@peel-harvey.org.au or call 63698801 or 0455 166 780

*Do you have an NRM event or information you would like us to promote? Please contact Mel Durack at melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au or 0455 166 780 or **6369 8801***



melanie.durack@peel-harvey.org.au
www.peel-harvey.org.au



Land Conservation Project REPORT

PHCC General Meeting – August 2020

Gene Turner, Program Manager, Land Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture



Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) – Banksia Woodlands TEC Project

Nov 2018- Jun 2023 – \$1,401,428

Project Officer: Jordon Garbellini Adams

The Year 2 Quarter 4 MERIT Report and evidence was completed and submitted on time, along with the Year 2 Annual Report.

Key achievements since the last Board meeting include:

- Established an Agreement with DBCA to undertake 2.85 km of fencing at Treasure Block Nature Reserve. This enabled us to meet our fencing target for the project as the project to fund fencing at Brickwood reserve was unable to be supported due to increase in fencing costs.
- Completion of 3 hectares of revegetation at the Karu Bilya Project Site (Partnership project with PHCC's Serpentine River Project - huge thank you to Jo Garvey) to meet revegetation targets for the project. 8 Local Noongar community members were engaged to undertake the planting through the Bindjareb Middars group, with 3,000 seedlings planted and guarded across the sites sandy soils (Wetland areas were planted through the Serpentine River Project).
- Establishment of monitoring regime 'Monitoring vegetation condition changes Associated with management of Banksia Woodlands in the Peel-Harvey Catchment' to guide vegetation condition monitoring at project sites to provide essential data to evaluating the Project's outcomes and overall effectiveness. Of the five major outcomes to be achieved by the Project, two outcomes include an improvement or maintenance of vegetation condition.
- Completion of 2 events to meet targets for the project. One training event involved two local Noongar youth and PHCC Land Conservation team staff, establishing vegetation condition monitoring plots at the Karu Bilya Project site. The second event was a presentation highlighting Orchids associated with Banksia Woodlands, this presentation was provided by Landcare SJ and distributed across social media platforms due to COVID -19 restrictions.
- Established an Agreement with DBCA for winter weed control at Hymus Swamp, this agreement was in negotiations in June to be commenced on July 1st and will achieve project targets for weed control in year 3.

Year 3 Quarter 1 deliverables are underway:

- CEG visits have commenced with several landholders interested in applying for funding for artificial nesting hollows for Cockatoos (could be supported under Banksia, Cockatoo or Stewardship Projects), seedlings for revegetation and Dieback mapping and Assessment.
- Potential Public Partners have been emailed and requested to submit project proposals by 31st of August to be assessed within the same timeline as the CEG applications. DBCA have submitted two project proposals for Treasure Block and Nine Mile Nature Reserve.

- A Land for Wildlife application has been received as a result of the CEG site visits and this will be supported under the project service 'One on One Technical Advise' and be reported under this quarter.

Banksia Mapping project:

Project Officer: Megan LeRoy

- Bronwen Keighery has been contracted until end November 2020 to further improve the Banksia Mapping by undertaking further desktop assessment using her skills, knowledge and field data of Peel-Harvey sites where we have unknown information on presence.
- Collen Archibald had been assisting with the GIS side of the project and providing Bronwen with maps with which to assess data.

Lake Clifton Catchment Stewardship Project

June 2017 – Jun 2022 – \$262,500

Project officer: Jordon Garbellini Adams

- The Annual LAKE Clifton Seedling Giveaway was held on the 7th of June, with the event adapted to be a 'Drive Through' for seedling collection. Landholders wishing to register for the event were required to complete a landholder survey as part of their registration. Over 50 Landholders attended the event and the information and feedback from their surveys will guide future events in the project.
- One new LFW application was received and followed up with a site visit (a site visit was also conducted for a previous applicant), these visits resulted in one new property being registered with the program. The newest applicant has been provided with information on weed control and appropriate species for revegetation to encourage them to commence stewardship activities on their property.

Year 4 deliverables are underway:

- CEG site visits have resulted in two landholders expressing an interest in joining Land for Wildlife, with one landholder registering for the program. Information for the property report was gathered during the CEG site visit and the report is underway.

Land for Wildlife (LFW) -State NRM funded Project

Feb 2019-Jun 2020 \$80,032

- Formal project acquittal was submitted to the State NRM Office in May.

Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) – Greening Farms Project

Oct 2018-June 2023 \$1,078,254

Project officer: Paula Pownall

The Year 2 Quarter 4 MERIT Report and evidence has been completed and submitted. The project achieved all planned Quarter 4 deliverables.

In Quarter 4:

- 6 x On ground works (Completion of 2019-2020 Greening Farms (GF) Community Environment Grants (CEG))
- 1 x monitoring regime (document to monitor the progress of GF project over 5 years).
- 3 x Farm surveys
- 3 x Communication materials

Year 3 deliverables are underway:

- 1 x Dung Beetle Field Day, Lowlands, Swan Coastal Plain (SCP)
- 13 x site visits on the SCP for potential GF CEG projects.
- 9 x site visits within Hotham Williams (HW) for potential GF CEG projects.
- 5 x GF CEG applications without site visits
- 3 x Communication materials

Regional Estuaries Initiative (REI): Fertilising the Farm

2019/20: \$46,000

Project Officer: Megan LeRoy

- 87 farmers in the Peel-Harvey Catchment have undertaken the “Fertilising the Farm” soil testing project since program inception in 2016.
- The new program renamed “Healthy Estuaries” in replace of “Regional Estuaries Initiative” will see the continuation of the “Fertilising the Farm” project for another 4 years.
- In 2020-21, a DIY soil sampling program will run in conjunction with the sampler supplied program to encourage farmers to build capacity to undertake sampling themselves. Peel-Harvey Catchment are aiming for 18 farmers, of which 50% will be undertaking the DIY program.
- Expressions of Interest for “Fertilising the Farm” soil testing program close on the 14th August 2020. 16 farmers have applied (as of 7 Aug 20), of which 8 are return farmers.
- Reviewed proposal and provided feedback to REI Project Officer on proposed system upgrades for the following dairy farm in the Peel-Harvey: Piggot’s Dairy.
- Submitted a response to the revised Code of Practice for Dairy Shed Effluent in WA to Jenelle Bowles, Regional Manager, Western Dairy.
- Worked with panel Agronomists to assist farmers with follow-up agronomic/fertiliser advice post Soil Testing Workshop.
- Completed post-surveys for 2018/19 program participants.
- Participated in Catchment Officer catch-up (via Zoom).
- Participation at PRG meeting 11th June (via video link).
- Participation at cross-catchment “Fertilising the Farm” wrap up sessions.
- PHCC Facebook posts
- Wattle and Quoll newsletter articles, including Announcements

DWER Smartfarms Project uPtake

2019-2022: \$90,000

- One trial continuing in Peel-Harvey catchment at Sel Williams property, where a lysimeter is measuring nutrient loss from pasture on his low PBI soils
- Media Statement released on outcomes of 2019 trials: <https://estuaries.dwer.wa.gov.au/fertiliser-trials-protecting-waterways-and-farmers/>
- Results on local soils consistent with National Guidelines for Better Fertiliser Decisions for Pastures, giving local farmers confidence in the data for local fertiliser applications.

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) & Sustainable Agriculture projects – NLP2, \$130,000 p.a.

Project officer: Paula Pownall

On the 18th of June the RALF officer co presented to the Peel Development Commission on Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) sustainable agricultural engagement within the Peel Region.

Training:

- Black Cockatoo Training
- 4x4 driving course

On the 26th of June the RALF officer presented to Wandering Farm Productivity Group in Wandering.

The year 2 RALF annual report was submitted to Canberra on the 30th July 2020.

The 2020-2021 RALF work plan was reviewed and submitted to Canberra on the 30th July 2020.

Joined the National RALF Dung Beetle Community of Practice on Facebook.

Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) Black Cockatoos Project

2019 – 2023: \$380,000

- The Year 2 Quarter 4 MERIT Report has been completed and submitted. The project achieved all planned Quarter 4 deliverables.
- Worked with Birdlife Australia to produce a monitoring protocol to survey Black Cockatoos in the Peel-Harvey Catchment across the project timeline.
- Advertised the availability of funding for private landholders for on-ground works (2020-21 financial year) to improve the habitat and resources available for nesting cockatoos.
- Located sites and prioritized potential on-ground works at 2 known Carnaby breeding locations on the Swan-Coastal Plain associated with Banksia Woodland TEC (Lake Clifton & Marlee Reserve).
- Located a potential breeding site in the Hotham-Williams catchment
- Liaised with the community on potential nesting areas within the Peel-Harvey using a call-out on social media and newsletters
- Undertook staff training for 5 officers & 1 volunteer, with Birdlife Australia, on monitoring/survey techniques
- Consulted with 2 indigenous groups on the Swan Coastal Plain and Hotham-Williams area on the Cockatoo project
- Created 1 work plan, 1 revised OSH plan and other supporting project documents.

Events (PHCC and/or PHCC sponsor or presenting)

Due to Covid19 restrictions, face to face events have been limited, however some web-based events have been scheduled.

Work Health & Safety

- There are no incidences to report.
- Gene Turner is now WH&S focal point for PHCC, handing over from Jordon Garbellini Adams.
- Planning underway to install Emergency Exits in all office spaces in accordance with AS2293.
- Planning underway to inspect and tag all Electrical devices in all office spaces in line with OHS Regs 1996.
- Inspection of all Fire Extinguishers completed.

Planning submissions, advocacy, support to partners

- Nothing additional to report.

Gene Turner

Program Manager, Land Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture

CHAIRMAN REPORT

General Meeting to be held on 20 August 2020

Welcome to our August meeting as we transition into the start of the massive flowering explosion that is Djilba. Beginning with the yellows, cream and then the vivid and striking blues of our native flowers, this is the time of lake and waterhole replenishment and is also known as the season of conception for our fauna.

Meetings and Events

The last two months have flown by in a very COVID changed world.

With our CEO being on leave, in a warmer part of our State, meeting numbers have been a little less!

At the end of June, Jane and I met with Liza Harvey and Zak Kirkup with discussions focusing mainly around Point Grey and the ARC Linkage findings. Damian Bell was also in attendance highlighting the potential impact on our local commercial fishing industry.

In early July with the assistance of the Executive Committee and in particular Bob Pond I undertook our CEO's performance review and contract renewal. I am delighted to inform the board that our wonderful CEO has renewed her contract with PHCC.

On the 23rd August I attended the Dwellingup Futures Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Alcoa delivered a presentation Future Mining Plans; Alumina production increase and Environmental Impact Assessment referral to EPA.

Currently Alcoa has referred the Proposal to the EPA for assessment. The EPA has determined that the Proposal will be assessed via a Public Environmental Review and the Proposal has also been referred for EPBC assessment.

I've been fortunate to attend two events as part of the Connecting Corridors and Communities Restoring the Serpentine River project funded by the Alcoa Foundation.

The first was the Hymus Creek Planting and Cultural Knowledge Sharing Event. Over 1,000 native species were planted to help bring back the biodiversity to Hymus Creek with the local Bindjareb Middars performing a smoking ceremony and local knowledge sharing.

The second event was a Dung Beetle Field Day, bring together experts in the field and local community keen to learn.

Congratulations to the team for their great work, it was an adventure I won't forget anytime soon!

News

The Interim Report of the Independent Review of the EPBC Act was published in June and makes for a very sobering read. I quote from the Executive Summary;

Australia's natural environment and iconic places are in an overall state of decline and are under increasing threat. The current environmental trajectory is unsustainable...

The EPBC Act is ineffective. It does not enable the Commonwealth to effectively protect environmental matters that are important for the nation. It is not fit to address current or future environmental challenges.

One can only hope that Government acts on this blunt review.

Closer to home, I'd like to welcome Gene Turner as our new Program Manager, Land Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture to the team.

A big thank you to Karen Henderson and her team for the great work in moving to paper free operations.

And last but not least thank you to our volunteers who give generously of their time supporting staff across the organisation.

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