

# Land Conservation Project REPORT

PHCC General Meeting – October 2020

Gene Turner, Program Manager, Land Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture



**Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) – Banksia Woodlands TEC Project**

**Nov 2018- Jun 2023 – \$1,401,428**

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*Project Officer: Jordon Garbellini Adams*

Key achievements since the last Board meeting include:

- The Year 3 Quarter 1 MERIT Report and evidence was completed and submitted on time. All scheduled deliverables were achieved including –
  - 1 Project planning and delivery document
  - 40 days of Project planning and delivery of documents
  - 3 Communication materials
  - 5 Community/stakeholder engagement - One on One Technical Advice Interactions
  - 1 Establishing and maintaining agreements
- 3 private landholders have been awarded CEGs to achieved deliverables under the Banksia ‘A World of Woodlands’ Project. Deliverables to be achieved through the CEG Program (including in-kind contributions):
  - 4 Ha of Revegetation
  - 13 Ha of Weed Control
  - 13Ha of Protected area
  - 6 Ha of Dieback control
  - 2km fencing
  - 4 habitat structures

Year 3 Quarter 2 deliverables are underway:

- 3 CEG Agreements
- 3 Ha follow up Weed Control at Karu Bilya project site
- Public Partnership project proposals have been received and are currently being assessed against project deliverables.
- Potential Landholder project to achieve remaining revegetation (1 Ha) to be assessed under the CEG framework.

## **Banksia Mapping Project**

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*Project Officer: Megan LeRoy*

- Bronwen Keighery has been updating data for Banksia maps. She has so far completed assessing 117 map tiles for the southern end of the catchment, noting the presence/absence of TEC Banksia Woodland for each priority 1 remnant polygon. Colleen is currently creating maps for Bronwen to analyse for the northern section. Bronwen is contracted until the end of November 2020 for this work.

- Colleen Archibald had been assisting with the GIS side of the project and providing Bronwen with maps with which to assess data.

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### Lake Clifton Catchment Stewardship Project

June 2017 – Jun 2022 – \$262,500

*Project officer: Jordon Garbellini Adams*

- 3 new expressions of interest to joining LFW have been received, landholders provided with information on how to register for the program.
- 2 site visits to complete LFW assessments undertaken, with both landholders being registered into the program.
- 4 expressions of interest for the Lake Clifton Stewardship Grants, landholders provided with information on how to apply for the grants.
- Landholders have been contacting Land Cons Officer requesting assistance with Rabbit Control. Landholders have been directed to the Peel Harvey Biosecurity group to sign up for the Calicivirus release and encouraged to look into other methods of control, perhaps with the assistance of the Stewardship Grants.
- Edition 10 of the Lake Clifton Landcare Matters newsletter created and distributed.
- Informal discussions on hosting a Rabbit Control workshop/event in early 2021 have commenced with PHBSG.

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### Land for Wildlife (LFW) -State NRM funded Project

Feb 2019-Jun 2020 \$80,032

- 1 application received will be undertaken through the Numbats Project
- 2 applications received will be undertaken through the Cockatoo Project
- 3 applications received have been undertaken through the Lake Clifton Project
- 2 new expressions of interest have been received through the Lake Clifton Project

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### Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) – Greening Farms Project

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

*Project officer: Paula Pownall*

The Year 3 Quarter 1 MERIT Report and evidence has been completed and submitted. The project achieved all planned Quarter 1 deliverables.

#### In Quarter 1:

- 4 x Communication Materials
- 1 x Dung Beetle Field Day
- 1 x Farm survey
- 9 x One on One Technical advice
- 4 x On ground works (2019-20 CEG acquittals)

Quarter 2 deliverables are completed or underway:

- 1 x Sheep Handling Field Day (Wandering Farm Productivity Group) with ~40 attendees
- 19 x Recommended Greening Farms projects 2020-21
- 42 x site visits for potential GF CEG projects.

#### CEG Agreements

- 28 Applications considered
- 16 applications recommended fully for funding
- 4 recommended for partial funding
- 4 recommended for funding under alternative projects
- 4 rejected
- \$130k worth of grants approved
- Matching in-kind contribution of over \$150k
- Total Coverage (including in-kind)
  - On-ground works: 13+7
  - Controlling Access: 24km
  - Weed Control: 191ha
  - Revegetation: 771ha
  - Dieback Control: 22ha
  - Feral Animal Control: 2268ha
  - Area Protected: 841ha

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#### **Regional Estuaries Initiative (REI): Fertilising the Farm**

**2019/20: \$46,000**

*Project Officer: Megan LeRoy*

- Worked with DPIRD and DWER to extend Expressions of Interest for the 2020/21 soil testing program. Resulted in a total of 19 farmers apply and 13 accepted for the program in the Peel-Harvey.
- Participated in a series of “wrap-up” REI review seminars with catchment officers across the south-west to analyse what went well and areas of improvement for the soil testing program.
- Verified property maps with the 13 farmers involved in the 20/21 soils testing program
- Attended BMP working group meeting in Busselton in August
- Supported proposals for effluent upgrades at 2 properties in the Peel-Harvey catchment.
- PHCC Facebook posts
- Wattle and Quoll newsletter articles, including Announcements

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#### **DWER Smartfarms Project uPtake**

**2019-2022: \$90,000**

*Project Officer: Megan LeRoy*

- One trial continuing in Peel-Harvey catchment where a lysimeter is measuring nutrient loss from pasture on his low PBI soils.
- Pasture cuts at this site showed expected responses however site not suitable for a field day because results are not visual enough.

- Wrote media/extension material for uPtake trials and shared via e-newsletter and social media

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

*Project officer: Paula Pownall*

During September RALF work plan for 2020-21 was approved by the Department of Agriculture, as was the 2019-20 RALF Annual Report.

The feedback highlight was they were happy to see the reinvigoration of the Wandering Farm Productivity Group through the support of the RALF officer.

Peel Harvey Catchment Council representative to Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group, including meeting attendance.

Nominated as one of Peel Harvey Catchment Council representatives to the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI) stakeholder group on enhancing biodiversity conservation outcomes in Western Australia by mitigating the impacts of weeds.

WA RALF Community of Practice: Discussed a professional development opportunities through a two day regional tour.

Working closely with Blythe Calnan of Runneymede Farm in Harvey to support her regenerative farming projects.

Provided technical support to Tony Free on the draft document for Moderate-Scale Animal Keeping Guidelines.

Contributed to Wattle and Quoll articles and social media.

### **Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) Black Cockatoos Project **2019 – 2023: \$380,000****

*Project Officer: Megan LeRoy*

- The Year 3 Quarter 1 MERIT Report has been completed and submitted. The project achieved all planned Quarter 1 deliverables.
  - 2 x communication materials – Black Cockatoo Project Summary flyer & Wattle & Quoll article promoting CEG grants
  - 3 x community engagement (one-on-one technical advices) - Site visits at Boddington, Lake Clifton and Keysbrook to assist private landholders with applications to undertake on-ground works in Black cockatoo breeding areas
  - 1 x establishing monitoring regime – Monitoring schedule for the 2020 Spring breeding surveys for Black Cockatoos
  - 3 x Identifying the location of potential sites – Black Cockatoo nesting sites were located at Boddington (2km East) where a forest red tail was confirmed incubating an egg; private property in Parklands where a potential FRT/Carnaby nest was prospected; and another private property in Parklands where a Forest Red Tail chick was confirmed in a natural hollow. Landholders at all sites have been awarded grants for on-ground works.

- 3 x project planning and delivery documents – 1x community environment grants variation approval document; 1x Whole of Project Life MS Excel database tracker; 1x Community Environment Grants Action Tracker Spreadsheet.
- This Spring black cockatoo nesting surveys will continue – split between Adam Peck (Birdlife) and in-house (Megan LeRoy + volunteer/s). PHCC now have their own cocky cam to inspect nesting hollows and cockatubes.
- Community members are encouraged to continue reporting sightings of nesting through (expressed through social media and newsletters).
- Eight private landholders have been awarded CEGs for Black Cockatoos (2 in Hotham-Williams; 6 on SCP). On-ground works include installation of cockatubes; planting of cockatoo food species; purchase of bird bath; weed control; fencing remnant vegetation.
- Coverage achieved by CEG's (including in-kind):
  - On-ground works: 8
  - Controlling Access: 1km
  - Weed Control: 95ha
  - Revegetation: 21.7ha
  - Area Protected: 98ha
  - Bank Stabilisation Area: 5ha
  - Enhance Fish Habitat: 5ha
  - Seedlings: 10,755
  - Structures installed: 4

### Events (PHCC and/or PHCC sponsor or presenting)

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

### Work Health & Safety

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- There are no incidences to report.
- 2 minor vehicle reversing incidents with slight vehicle damage, but no injured parties.
- Investigation into installation of reversing cameras and recovery points on vehicles
- Planning underway to install Emergency Exits in office spaces in accordance with AS2293.
- Completed inspection and tagging of all electrical devices in all office spaces in line with OHS Regs 1996.
- WHS GAP Analysis completed and action plan underway
- Updating and review of all data on Online OHS Software database

### Planning submissions, advocacy, support to partners

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- Nothing additional to report.

*Gene Turner*  
 Program Manager, Land Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture