

MINUTES OF PHCC GENERAL MEETING



Held on Thursday 22 October 2020
At the PHCC Shed, 58 Sutton Street, MANDURAH

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.05 am.

Attendance

Present:

Caroline Knight	Chair
Darralyn Ebsary	Deputy Chair
Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
Paddi Creevey OAM	Secretary
Bob Pond	Executive Committee (DWER)
Sue Fyfe	Community Member
Andy Gulliver	Community Member (from 9.12 am)
Howard Mitchell	Community Member
Claire Reid	Community Member
Rob Summers	DPIRD
Adrian Parker	PDC (Proxy for Andrew Ward)
Cr Brad Cardilini	Local Govt Member (Coastal)
Cr Eliza Dowling	Local Govt Member (Inland)

In Attendance:

Jane O'Malley	Chief Executive Officer
Mel Durack	Program Manager Hotham-Williams
Gene Turner	Program Manager Land Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture
Charlie Jones	Community Engagement Coordinator, Wetlands & People
Leanne Greene	Office Manager & Executive Support (Minutes)

Guests attending in respect of Minute G.9/10/20 [9.30am - 10.48 am]:

Jodie Read	Alcoa, Corporate Affairs Director
Soo Carney	Alcoa, Environmental Manager
Andrew Grigg	Alcoa, Sustainability Manager

Apologies:

David Prattent	Community Member
Mark Cugley	DBCA
Andrew Ward	PDC
Suzanne Brown	Water Corporation – Observer
Vacant	DPLH (Peel) – Observer
Steve Fisher	Program Manager Science and Waterways

G.1/10/20 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairman (Caroline Knight) opened the meeting at 9.05 am, acknowledging the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and paying her respect to all Elders past and present.

G.2/10/20 Declarations of Interest

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

G.3/10/20 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 20 August 2020

Moved: Rob Summers Seconded: Bob Pond

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 August 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

G.4/10/20 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Minute No	Update
G.6/8/20 a)	Rob Summers' Publications: It was reported that this action was now complete, with both publications having been included into the PHCC reference document database.
G.6/8/20 a)	Rob Summers' Publications - Sharing: Clarification was needed regarding the audience that the PHCC should be targeting when sharing his publications. Jane would discuss with Rob outside of the meeting.
G.6/8/20 e)	Streamlining of approvals: Jane advised that this was in progress, with arrangements being made to meet with Gail McGowan. Jane would report back to the Board following this discussion.
G.7/9/20	Secondary Presentation by Benson Todd [fire science program and the impacts on biodiversity and various species]: Jane advised that this was in progress, with arrangements being made for this to occur in 2021.
G.6/6/20 b)	Recreational Master Plan for Yalgorup National Park: Whilst unable to attend the meeting, Mark Cugley provided an update via email advising that DBCA staff met with PHCC on 31 August to discuss draft. It is unlikely that the Plan will go out for public comment now, which was going to occur at the request of the City of Mandurah. Rather the Recreational Master Plan will be finalised and further stakeholder engagement with public consultation will occur as recommendations are considered and progressed. It is expected that the PHCC will be provided with final copy before the end of 2020.
G.6/6/20 b)	PHCC to write to the DPIRD Director General [PHCC COVID-19 Economic Stimulus]: Jane advised that this was in progress, however it was proving tricky given the developing situation and receipt of funds from DWER and DBCA. Jane asked Paddi for guidance, with a discussion to taken place outside of the meeting.

G.8/4/20 **Alcoa Tour:** This was in progress, and was listed for discussion later at this meeting. Whilst unable to attend the meeting, Mark Cugley provided an email update in terms of the DBCA's offer to identify sites. Mark advised that there are sites around Dwellingup that DBCA can suggest and a DBCA officer that is familiar with Alcoa's rehab program can attend the tour if the Executive wish – pending consideration.

ACTIONS:

- **Jane to seek clarification from Rob Summers regarding the audience that the PHCC should be targeting when sharing his publications.**
- **Jane to seek guidance from Paddi Creevey regarding writing the DPIRD Director General regarding funding.**

Andy Gulliver (Community Member) entered the meeting at 9.12 am.

G.5/10/20 Correspondence

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

Following the last meeting, Jane advised that a process has been put in place so that Board Members are provided with more succinct and strategic items of correspondence. Feedback from Board Members regarding the new process was positive.

Marilyn queried correspondence provided from the Shire of Murray, suggesting that a page may be missing.

ACTION: Marilyn Gray to provide Jane with details of the correspondence highlighted, so that this can be looked into and rectified (if necessary).

Moved: Bob Pond

Seconded: Paddi Creevey

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

CARRIED

G.6/10/20 Agency and Member Updates

a) **Rob Summers, DPIRD**

- **uPtake update:** The uPtake project, monitoring the response of pasture to phosphorus fertiliser, has been completed in the Peel and an information session on the results is being planned for November.
- **HEWA – Healthy Estuaries WA:** Farmers have been chosen for the soil testing for 20/21 and their properties have all been mapped so that the paddocks can later be coloured by their nutrient and pH status.

Prior to soil testing, landholders are surveyed for their nutrient management practices and the responses are entered onto an iPad database. If the questions are not changed the results can be quickly compiled to show the changes in fertiliser application rates as well as the changes in understanding. Training on the latest database will soon take place in Manjimup.

- Training videos are being created for the DIY soil sampling program which will be available this year. Prior to field training, landholders will be able to see videos showing the way to sample their own property and what they need to know to be able to capture the location of the samples.
- Analysis of the REI project which precedes the HEWA project has shown it to be successful in engaging a significant number of farmers across a wide area of WA's sensitive coastal catchments. Farmers responded through changes in practice measured by both reduction in phosphorus fertiliser applied and also application of fertiliser based on the evidence of soil test requirements. The HEWA project will also monitor these changes over a further four years.

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

- **Dredging:** The Department of Transport licence for works at the Murray Serpentine Entrance Channel has been extended to 2021, with works able to start from 1 April.

No further word has been received from the City of Mandurah regarding the licensing for the Eastern Foreshore Estuary Pool works. DWER is still awaiting further information.

DWER has entered into discussion with the City of Mandurah for drag dredging of Port Mandurah Entrance Channel. No application has yet been received, but these works will be high priority as the channel is very shallow and safety concerns need to be addressed prior to Christmas lights season.

Caroline asked what quality checks are carried out before and after dredging work is carried out? Where would a member of the public go to access this information? Who should they be directed to? Bob responded that yes, quality checks are carried out and suggested that people wishing to find out more in this regard should be directed to speak with him.

- **Fairy Tern Site:** DBCA has been successful in getting a lease from DPLH for fencing a site on Boundary Island for a Fairy Tern breeding site. DWER Regional Staff will be taking a number of interested parties out to the island Monday 26 October for site recon.

Jane asked if not already included, if PHCC staff (Charlie Jones, Thelma Crook and Sharon Meredith) could be tagged into any correspondence circulating on this matter, given their involvement over many years.

- **Departmental Consultation:** The discussion paper Waste Not, Want Not: Valuing Waste as a Resource has been released, with comments being sought on the proposed legislative framework for waste-derived materials by 18 December 2020 (<https://consult.dwer.wa.gov.au/waste-policy/waste-not-want-not/>)
- **Rainfall and Streamflow Summary:** The September update was provided for Board Members (attached to the Minutes of the meeting).

c) **Adrian Parker (Proxy for Andrew Ward), PDC**

- **Dwellingup Trails:** It had been rewarding to see the recent launch of the visitor centre and trails network. Work was now focussing on the Dwellingup Gap, involving the construction of a further 18kms of mountain bike trails to enable Dwellingup to meet the state standards and become classified as a Trails Town, with state funding being requested.
- **Agri- Innovaton Precinct, Shire of Murray:** The Shire of Murray is also busy working on the Agri-Innovation Precinct. Investment attraction conversations look promising, and businesses are coming to the PDC expressing interest in agriculture, technology / food, which is very encouraging.
- **Keralup - Feral Pig Management:** Working in collaboration with the DBCA and DPIRD to formulate a management strategy for landholding and perpetual management of this biosecurity issue. Jane referred to a recent meeting held with Heather Channon to discuss the National Feral Pig Action Plan that was due mid-January 2021. Heather is leading the development and implementation of the National Feral Pig Action Plan that aims to provide a national framework for feral pig management in Australia - a project that is being managed through Australian Pork Limited with funding from the Commonwealth. Jane suggested that she put Adrian in contact with Heather and Jonelle Cleland, so they could discuss the plans for Keralup, and the action that is being taken in this area.
- **Keralup - Leases and Access Road:** Draft leases are currently being negotiated. Focus now was primarily on the road design process (road width and tenure), and working with DPHL and the Shire of Murray, to obtain the necessary approvals needed for the access road. Funding for the road has been secured, which will drive and enable activation of that site.
- **Point Grey:** At a recent consultation session he had attended with Andrew Ward and Paddi Creevey, the PDC's views had been made clear regarding the need to go through process.

ACTION: Jane to put Adrian in contact with Heather Channon (National Feral Pig Management Coordinator) and Jonelle Cleland (Executive Officer at the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group), so they could discuss the feral pig management plans for Keralup, and the actions that are being taken in this area.

d) **Darralyn Ebsary, Deputy Chair**

Darralyn highlighted the dire situation faced in the upper catchment in terms of low water levels and hay.

e) **Marilyn Gray, Treasurer**

Marilyn conveyed her congratulations to everyone involved in the Wetlands Weekender Mini-Festival, which had included celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Peel-Yalgorup Wetland Ramsar 482. The mix of artists, musicians and artisan stalls at the Wonders of the Wetland event held on Sunday 11 October had resulted in a fabulous vibe at this very well attended community event.

ACTION: Jane to pass on to the team the thanks of the Board for delivering the Wetlands Weekender Mini Festival.

f) **Andy Gulliver, Community Member**

- **The Peel Community Fund:** Andy reported on a meeting he had attended with Kristie Tonkin, PDC Principal Regional Development Officer, who would be contacting the PHCC to see what assistance could be provided to the Peel Community Fund, and providing a physical home for the group.
- **Agriculture and Environment School Program:** Investigations were being made into expanding the agriculture and environment school program to all schools. It was envisaged that this could be achieved by building a dedicated facility for the program on government land, for as part of the development at East Keralup. He suggested that the PHCC should explore this option as a source of funding for Agriculture programs. Marilyn Gray provided background of her involvement with the Agriculture Trust, offering her assistance to Andy.

ACTION: Jane to organise for Andy Gulliver to meet with herself, Gene Turner and Charlie Jones to discuss the PHCC's role in the potential expansion of the agriculture and environment school program.

ACTION: That the potential source of funding for Agriculture programs through the Agriculture Trust and similar be raised and considered at the Agriculture Steering Committee.

g) **Cr Eliza Dowling, Local Government Member (Inland)**

- **Upper Catchment Water Levels:** The conditions in the upper catchment are very dry, with August water levels down to the levels usually expected in December. This could lead to serious ramifications in terms of the bushfire risk posed in the area as recreational dams on farms are seen as a source of water for aerial drops.
- **Tourists:** The upper catchment was currently experiencing a huge number of tourists visiting and camping in the area. At present, there were approximately 30 caravans free camping at Pumphrey's Bridge.

Mel Durack reported she is working with the Shire of Wandering to assist with sourcing funding for detailed concept plans for Pumphreys Bridge, which is a follow-on from the Hotham-Williams River Action Plan.

Marilyn queried if Commonwealth money could be applied for.

Jane advised that national funding, which was more designed for eastern states' needs, has been fully allocated and that this a priority area for advocacy and support to our farmers. Gene Turner advised that he has looked into funds providing between \$20,000- \$200,000, supporting new technology around water availability/storage.

ACTION: The Land Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture team and the Agriculture Steering Committee to prioritise actions/strategies to support water storage and availability, particularly in the upper catchment, including identify the PHCC's role and guide how we can improve our advocacy and support of this issue.

h) **Paddi Creevey OAM, Secretary**

- **Dolphin Entanglement:** Paddi acknowledged the outstanding work of Mark Cugley and Benson Todd (DBCA) in responding to the dolphin entanglement in the Mandurah estuary. A multi-agency team has been established that is in constant contact with stakeholders.
- **Meeting with Good Weather Energy:** An invitation was extended to join a meeting that is taking place on Monday 26 October with Warren Savage from Good Weather Energy. The meeting would provide the opportunity to understand the technology that is available to drill deeper to access water (and harness the associated energy component). It was considered that this proven technique may provide solutions to ongoing water issues.
- **Water Resources Funding:** It was disappointing that the Peel region did not receive funding as part of the recent announcements to assist with water issues and resources. Further discussions were being held to see what business case needs to be developed for solutions in this region.

i) **Mark Cugley, DBCA**

Mark Cugley was unable to attend the meeting, but circulated the following out of-session agency update:

- **Entangled dolphin in Mandurah estuary:** The DBCA has formed an Incident Management Team (IMT) inclusive of vet colleagues from Perth Zoo to coordinate its continued response to a dolphin that has been entangled in fishing line for several months now in the estuary. On water patrols have increased to continue to gather information on its condition and behaviours, in addition to the valuable information that had already been provided by key stakeholders, including Murdoch University and the Mandurah Dolphin Volunteer Rescue Group. If the opportunity presents itself and it is safe to do so, a disentanglement attempt will be made and relevant equipment remains on the vessels being used at all times in anticipation of this. The IMT is being supported by an Incident Response Group (ISG) of key stakeholders that are continuing to provide significant information and support in accessing additional resources such as boats and nets that could potentially be used to capture and disentangle the dolphin.
- **Fairy Tern breeding on Boundary Island:** Planning for the trial of a safe breeding area for Fairy Terns by fencing off a 50m x 130m area on the southern part of the island is continuing. 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. A key threat to the species, identified by the WA Fairy Tern Network, is the loss of nesting habitat due to coastal development, predators such as foxes, and increasing sea levels. Fairy Terns have been observed attempting to breed on Boundary Island in previous years but without success, as a result of disturbance by humans and domestic dogs. The DBCA is aiming to construct the fence by mid-November 2020, while fairy terns are still prospecting for new breeding areas. The Fairy Tern Network will place decoys (artificial terns) on the sand within the fenced area and attract the prospecting terns with play-back calls, in the hope that they will establish a breeding colony. The District will regularly survey the island for fox activity and if identified, will increase fox control measures in the adjacent Creery Wetlands Nature Reserve. BirdLife Australia is providing State NRM funds for construction of the fence (\$10,000).

- **Feral animal control:** The contractor engaged by DBCA on behalf of the Department of Communities to undertake feral pig control at Keralup is now beginning a comprehensive culling program given the landscape is drying out and the pigs are being attracted to watering points. The DBCA has also engaged another contractor to undertake feral animal control, primarily foxes at Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve, Lake McLarty Nature Reserve and Lake Mealup Nature Reserve. This work at these three nature reserves is being done with the valuable support of the Peel Harvey Catchment Council and the Lake Mealup Preservation Society.
- **The Lake McLarty Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** met on 8 October 2020 in the PHCC Shed. TAG members reviewed water levels for 2019 and 2020, future monitoring requirements, the living stream project at Lot 68 Mills Road and the findings of macroinvertebrate, sediment and waterbird studies since its last meeting in 2019.

G.7/10/20 Treasurer's Report

Marilyn spoke to her report as provided with the Agenda, and accompanying financial statements for July and September 2020. During her report, Marilyn highlighted:

- The comments of the Auditor (Isidore Sy) in connection to the 2019-2020 Organisational Audit that had been recently carried out. No adjustments or recommendations were identified, which was not only a tribute to the work of Jane and Karen, but the contribution of the whole team in following processes.
- The work of the staff to meet Year 3 Deliverable Outcomes and finalise Year 2 commitments across the five RLP Projects.

Moved: Paddi Creevey

Seconded: Bob Pond

That the July and September 2020 Financial Reports and the Treasurer's Report as set out in the Attachment be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

The Board placed on record its thanks and appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Marilyn Gray in carrying out her role as Treasurer.

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

Jane spoke to her report (accompanied by a supporting slide presentation), providing updates on the team, new funding applications, projects, strategic issues and other highlights.

With regard to the Winjan Ranger Team, Andy Gulliver highlighted that there was a whole range of agricultural employment opportunities. Jane responded that Thelma would be the best person to discuss this with, to see how the PHCC can help in this space.

ACTION: Jane to put Thelma in touch with Andy Gulliver to discuss the agricultural employment opportunities that may align with the Winjan Ranger team.

Moved: Mitchell Howard

Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary

That the CEO Report as set out in the Attachment be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

At this juncture of the meeting, and with the consensus of Board Members, the meeting adjourned at 10.30 am, and reconvened at 10.42 am

G.9/10/20 Alcoa Presentation: Huntly Bauxite Mine and Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Environment Assessment

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting from Jodie Read, Corporate Affairs Director; Soo Carney, Environmental Manager; and Andrew Grigg, Sustainability Manager.

During their presentation on the Huntley-Pinjarra Refinery Environmental Approval and Mine Site Rehabilitation:

- Jodie provided an overview of Alcoa's WA operations at its two mines and three refineries
- Soo reported on Alcoa's request for State and Commonwealth environmental assessment of plans for the Pinjarra refinery and Huntly mine. She highlighted the various opportunities for review and input, and extensive studies being undertaken into potential impacts from operations, to support the development of management plans, which would be put forward for consideration.
- Andrew focused on the science behind Alcoa's jarrah forest rehabilitation, mining effects on streamflow and reducing forest densities in current rehabilitation sites.

At the request of Board Members, clarification was provided regarding:

- Clearing – the reasons for it and the scope of clearing 10 hectares in Pinjarra refinery (support the mining function)
- Retreat mining rehabilitation carried out as mining closed down (acknowledging that some sites were held open for up to 3-5 years to accommodate customer requests for particular blends of ore).
- Surface and groundwater changes, and the role of climate change/a warming climate being, resulting in Alcoa's plans to reduce its water use by 30% by 2026.
- The weight placed on community expectations and rehabilitation when considering the company's triple bottom line.

Unfortunately, time constraints prevented further discussion. It was highlighted that the upcoming Alcoa tour would provide plenty of opportunities for information to be presented, questions to be asked and sites of interest to be viewed. As such, Board Members were requested to send through details of any questions they would like to present to Alcoa, along with specific areas of interest that they may wish the tour to include, which will assist in guiding the design of the tour.

ACTION: Board Members to send through details of questions they would like to present to Alcoa, along with specific areas of interest that they may wish the tour to include, which will assist in guiding the design of the tour.

Jodie Read, Soo Carney and Andrew Grigg retired from the meeting at 11.34 am.

G.10/10/20 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, along with a number of organisational highlights.

Moved: Marilyn Gray Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary

That the Chairman's Report as set out in the Attachment be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

G.11/10/20 Confirmation of next meeting date

The next meeting of the PHCC is scheduled for Thursday 10 December, with the proposed venue being the Marine Operations Board Room, 107 Breakwater Parade, Mandurah (to be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 11.38 am

Chairman:

Date:

Summary of actions from meeting held on Thursday 22 October 2020:

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.5/10/20	Correspondence: Marilyn Gray to provide Jane with details of the correspondence highlighted, so that this can be looked into and rectified (if necessary).	Leanne Greene	
G.5/10/20c	Keralup Feral Pig Management: Jane to put Adrian in contact with Heather Channon (National Feral Pig Management Coordinator) and Jonelle Cleland (Executive Officer at the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group), so they could discuss the feral pig management plans for Keralup, and the actions that are being taken in this area.	Jane O'Malley	
G.5/10/20e	Wetlands Weekender: Jane to pass on to the team the thanks of the Board for delivering the Wetlands Weekender Mini Festival.	Jane O'Malley	
G.5/10/20f	Agriculture and Environment School Program: Jane to organise for Andy Gulliver to meet with herself, Gene Turner and Charlie Jones to discuss the PHCC's role in the potential expansion of the agriculture and environment school program.	Jane O'Malley	
G.5/10/20f	Agriculture and Environment School Program: That the potential source of funding for Agriculture programs be raised and considered at the Agriculture Steering Committee.	Gene Turner	
G.5/10/20g	Upper Catchment Water Levels: The Land Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture team and the Agriculture Steering Committee to emphasise the priority of the low water levels in the upper catchment, identify the PHCC's role and guide how we can improve our advocacy of this issue on a wider stage.	Gene Turner	
G.8/10/20	Winjan Rangers - Agricultural Employment Opportunities: Jane to put Thelma in touch with Andy Gulliver to discuss the agricultural employment opportunities that may align with the Winjan Ranger team.	Leanne Greene	

G.9/10/20	Alcoa Presentation: Board Members were requested to send through details of any questions they would like to present to Alcoa, along with specific areas of interest that they may wish the tour to include, which will assist in guiding the design of the tour.	Board Members	
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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	COMPLETE: Process implemented to allow for the identification of strategic correspondence for the Board.
G.6/8/20 a)	Steve Fisher to include both Rob Summers' publications into the PHCC reference document database.	Steve Fisher	COMPLETE: PHCC reference document database has been updated to include these publications.
G.6/8/20 a)	Jane to share Rob Summers' publications as appropriate.	Jane O'Malley	Jane to seek clarification from Rob Summers on audience to be targeted.
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	In progress: Jane is arranging a meeting with Gail McGowan.
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	In progress for 2021

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	DBCA staff met with PHCC on 31 August to discuss draft. It is unlikely that the Plan will go out for public comment now, which was going to occur at the request of the City of Mandurah. Rather the Recreational Master Plan will

			be finalised and further stakeholder engagement with public consultation will occur as recommendations are considered and progressed. It is expected that the PHCC will be provided with final copy before the end of 2020.
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 seek guidance from Paddi.
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	COMPLETE Discussed at the PHCC Board Meeting on 22 October 2020



September 2020 Rainfall and Streamflow Summary

- Rainfalls varied at the 36 tracking sites across the SWLD for the month of September. Sites south of a diagonal line from Collie to Albany generally had above average rainfall, sites north of a diagonal line between Gingin and Esperance generally experienced below average rainfall and sites between these lines had average falls, overall.
- Sites in the vicinity of the Perth area – Gingin Brook, Perth Airport and Jandakot Airport – are currently well below the 1975 to 2019 rainfall average for the year to date.
- Streamflow for the Gingin Brook and Swan River tracking sites were well below average for the month.
- Streamflow totals at the five sites between Gingin and Harvey – Gingin Brook, Swan River, Murray River, Hotham River and Harvey River – are well below January to September averages.
- Gingin Brook streamflow was the second lowest September total in the last 45 years and also the second lowest January to September total over this period.
- The BoM outlook for October to December indicates a 55% - 80% chance of exceeding the median over the SWLD. In contrast, the DPIRD forecast suggests 0 to 40% probability of exceeding average rainfall for most of the SWLD. The BoM outlook has a slightly higher forecast skill (55-75%) than the DPIRD outlook (50-65%) for this period.

Disclaimer

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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. The base period used for the rainfall and streamflow deciles is 1975 to 2019.

Rainfall

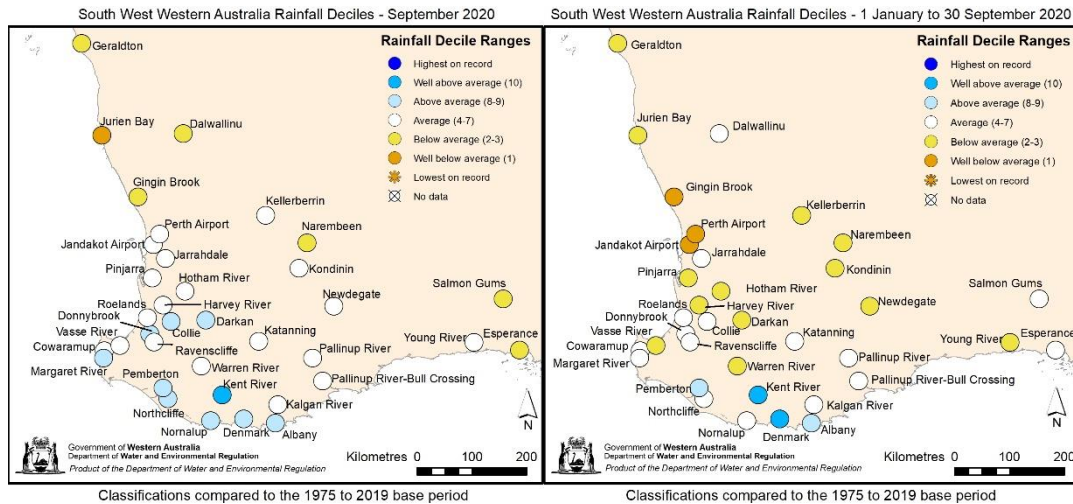


Figure 1 Rainfall deciles for September (left) and January to September (right) for South West Land Division of Western Australia.

Figure 1 shows rainfall deciles across the 36 sites.

There was a spatial trend present for the rainfall deciles at the reference sites for the month of September and more loosely for the year to date deciles:

- Sites north of a diagonal line between Gingin and Esperance generally experienced below average rainfall for the month of September. Sites south of a diagonal line from Collie to Albany generally had above average rainfall for the month. Sites located in between these two lines mostly had rainfall totals in the average monthly rainfall decile.
- Overall, one site had well above average monthly rainfall (Kent River), nine sites had above average rainfall, 19 sites had average rainfall, six sites had below average rainfall and one site had well below average rainfall (Jurien Bay).
- For the year to date sites along the south coast between Pemberton and Albany fit between the average to well above average rainfall deciles. Sites in the Perth region have below average rainfall for the year to date. Similar to the monthly trend, sites north of a diagonal line between Gingin and Esperance generally experienced below average rainfall for the year to date. Elsewhere in the SWLD the reference sites have had average or below average rainfall totals for January to September.
- Out of the 36 reference sites three sites (Gingin Brook, Perth Airport and Jandakot Airport) are well below average for the year to date, 13 sites are below average, 16 sites are average, two sites (Pemberton and Albany) are above average, and two sites (Denmark and Kent River) are within the well above average decile.



Streamflow

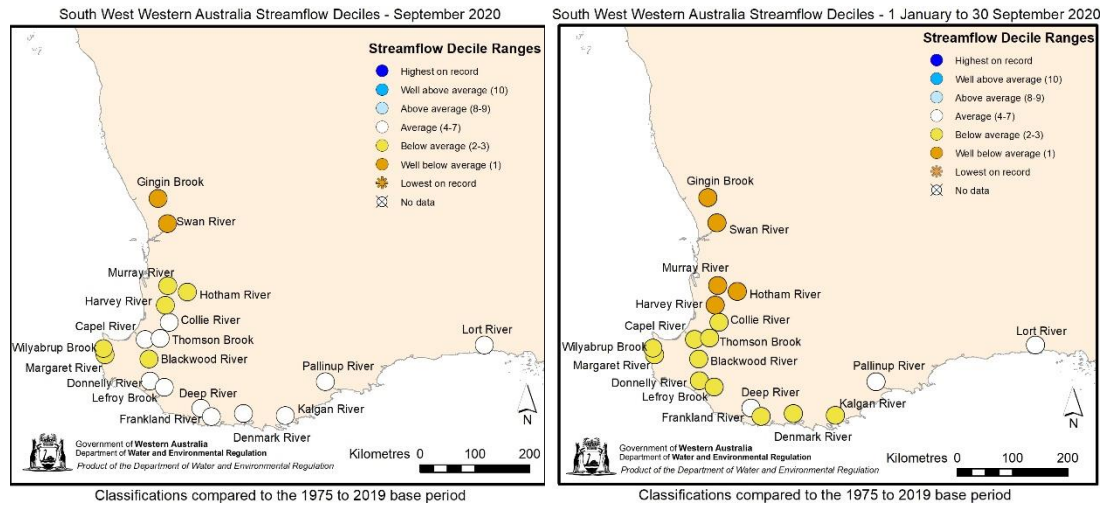


Figure 2 Streamflow deciles for September (left) and January to September (right) for South West Land Division of Western Australia.

Figure 2 shows streamflow deciles across the 19 sites.

As well as for rainfall, there was also a clear spatial relationship between the streamflow deciles at the 19 reference sites for both monthly and year to date streamflow totals:

- Sites along the south coast, from Donnelly River to Lort River (eight sites) had average flows over the month of September. The two sites near Perth – Gingin Brook and Swan River – had well below average streamflow conditions in September. Out of the remainder of the sites, north of Donnelly River and south of Swan River, six sites had below average conditions and three sites had average conditions.
- Streamflow recorded for Gingin Brook was the second lowest September total in the last 45 years and also the second lowest January to September total over this period.
- For the year to date sites from Harvey River, north to Gingin Brook, including the Perth metropolitan region, is tracking as below average. The sites Pallinup River and Lort River, located between Albany and Esperance, are tracking as having average streamflow totals for January to September. Out of 12 of the remaining sites, 11 are tracking as below average and one site (Deep River) is tracking as average.

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 outlook for October to December indicates that rainfall over a large portion of the SWLD will likely be above average (65% - 80% chance of exceeding the median). A more neutral chance of exceeding median rainfall (55 – 65%) is predicted for the most northerly parts of the SWLD and the coast from Mandurah to Walpole. Forecast skill for this period is 55 – 75%.



In contrast, the DPIRD outlook for the next 3 months suggests a much lower likelihood of exceeding the median rainfall, with a 0 to 40% probability of exceeding average rainfall for most of the SWLD. The forecast skill for the DPIRD forecast is lower for the October to December period than the BoM outlook, with skill generally between 50 to 65% over the same area.

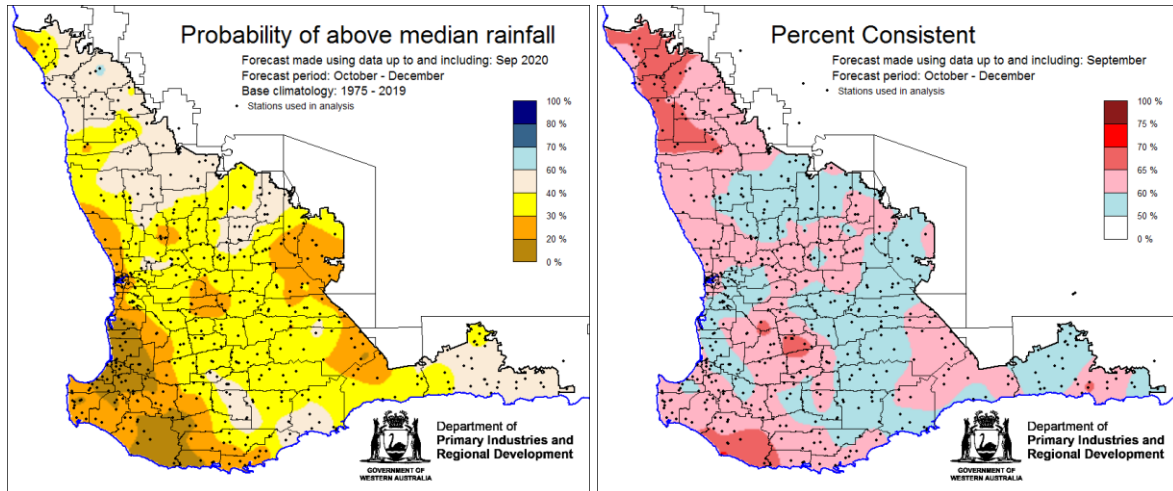


Figure 3 DPIRD October to December forecast (left) and skill (right)

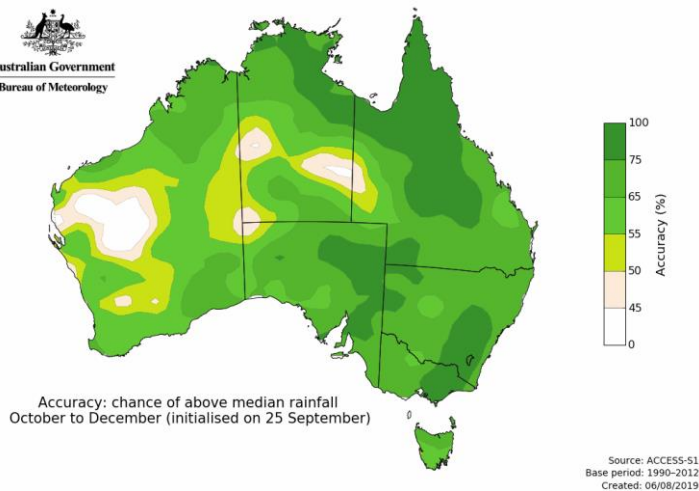
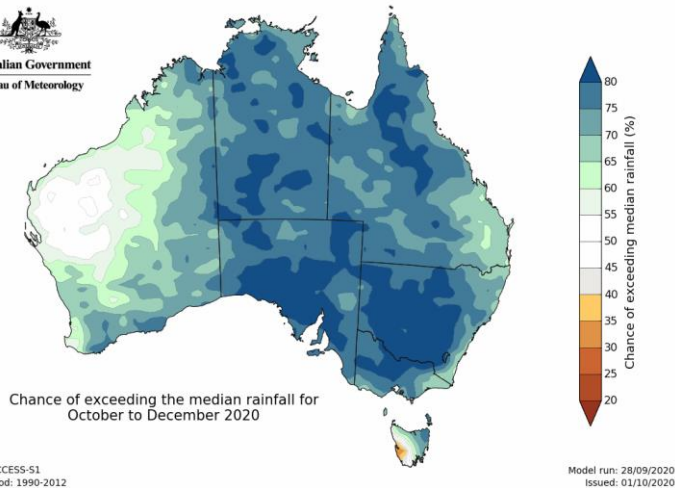


Figure 4 BoM October to December forecast (top) and skill (bottom)

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.

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.

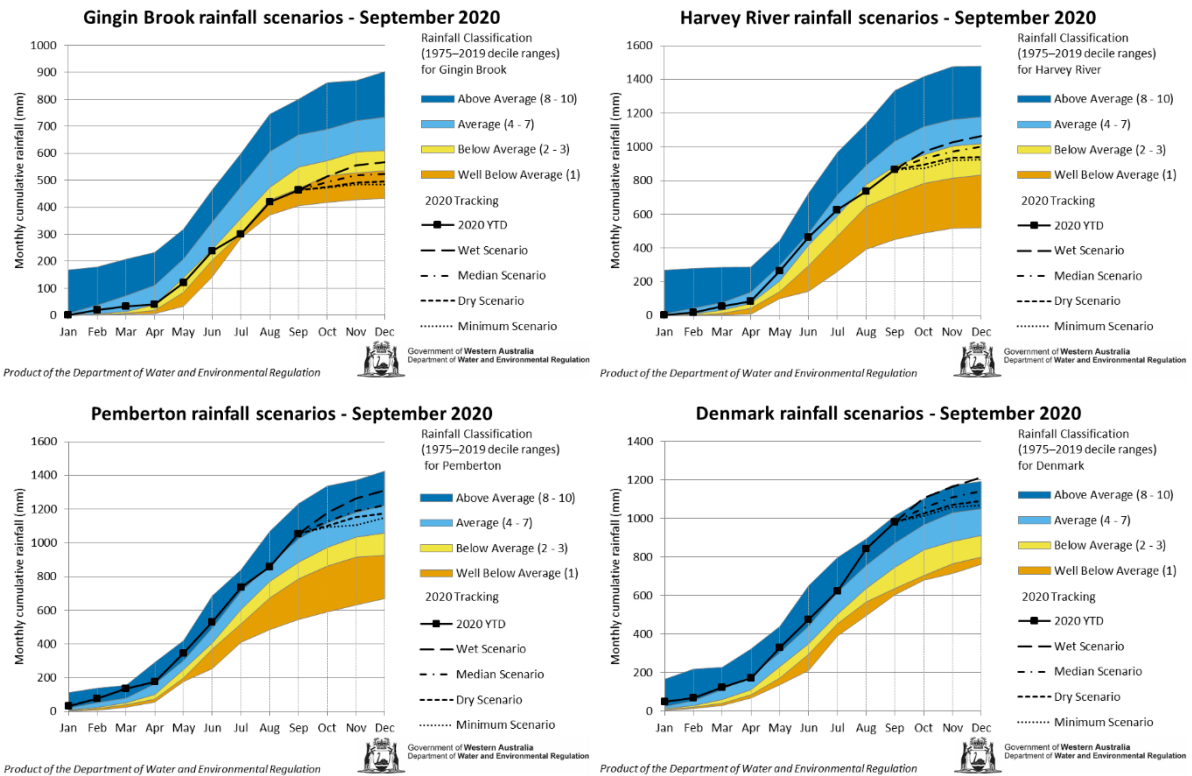


Figure 5 Rainfall tracking graphs for four representative sites.

The annual rainfall total at Gingin Brook is likely to be well below average to below average, given the current trajectory.

If the next 3 months follow a wet scenario, Harvey rainfall totals may be average by the end of the year, otherwise they will likely be below average.

At the end of December cumulative rainfall at Pemberton will likely fit within the average or above average decile range.

Given the current rainfall total for the year to date, Denmark rainfall will likely continue to meet an above average classification until the end of the year.

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

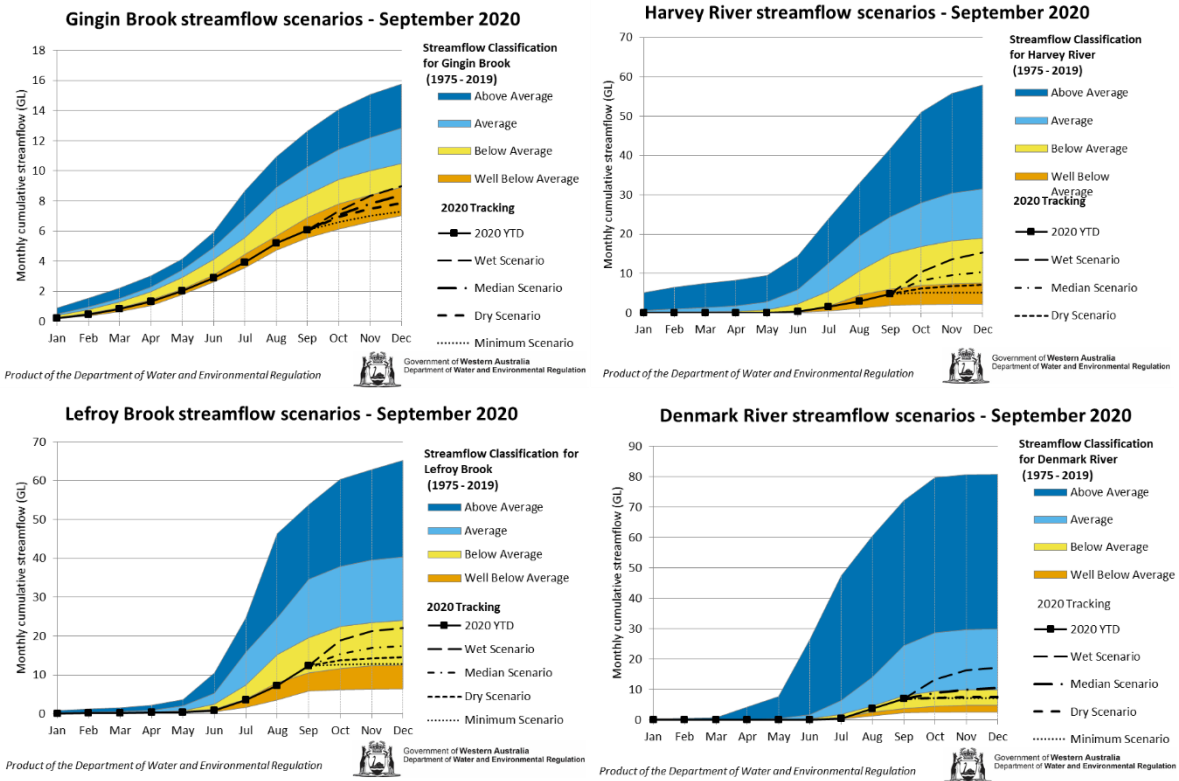


Figure 6 Streamflow tracking graphs for four selected sites.

Given the current trajectory of flows for Gingin Brook, well below average streamflow conditions would be anticipated at the end of December.

Harvey River streamflow conditions at the end of December are likely to be well below average to below average based on cumulative monthly streamflow to date.

Lefroy Book streamflow is likely to continue to track as below average until the end of the year.

Dependent on rainfall conditions, Denmark River is likely to have experienced a below average or average streamflow year.



Indicators

The rainfall station at Jarrahdale is used here to represent rainfall conditions contributing to inflow into the Integrated Water Supply Scheme (IWSS) dams. Subject to rainfall patterns and other factors, approximately 650 mm (+/- 100mm) of rainfall is required to generate 50GL of inflow to the northern dams. A total of 781.8mm fell at Jarrahdale from 1 May to 30 September this year. The resultant inflow into IWSS dams over this period was 34.7 GL.

Streamflow

30/09/2020

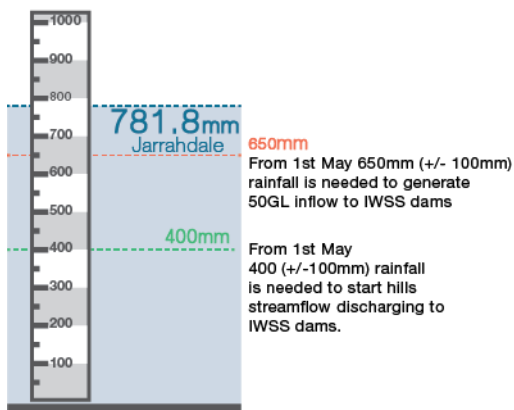


Figure 7 IWSS streamflow indicator

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 22 October 2020

The Financial Statements for July and September have been presented for endorsement at this Meeting.

I am pleased to report that the Organisation Audit conducted in September went very smoothly, and the two Auditors, Isidore and Kellie were amazed and extremely impressed with how the annual organisation data was presented electronically and the willingness to assist them as questions or further documents were required. Both Caroline and myself I met with the Auditors on Day 1 of the audit to answer any concerns that they had with regards to COVID19 and Fraud and Risk Management; and Karen and Jane responded to the day-to-day management processes of the organisation. At the conclusion of the two-day audit approximately 90% of the scope testing had been performed with the balance being conducted off-site which resulted in minimal post-audit follow up questions. The audit process was finalised on 12th October with no audit adjustments and no audit recommendations. A huge thank you to all that who have assisted in the Organisation Audit and I would like to share the Quote that AMD have provided.

"We would like to thank Jane and Karen for providing accounting files and related documentation at the commencement of our audit electronically on a USB. Due to the high quality of the financial records and reconciliations provided to us which correctly supported year end balances we are pleased to report there are no audit adjustments and no audit recommendations arising from our audit.

There are few audits undertaken by us which result in minimal or no recommendations which is a credit to the commitment and preparedness of Jane, Karen, and the team in achieving such an audit result.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane and Karen for the assistance provided to us during our audit". **Isidore Sy** | B.Bus

Staff have worked extremely hard during this reporting period to meet Year 3 Deliverable outcomes and finalise Year 2 commitments across the 5 RLP Projects. This ensured Quarter 1 Invoicing to be prepared and sent off to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on 1st October and we have received payment for the Ramsar, Banksia and Numbat projects which is a fantastic achievement to assist with cashflow.

Snapshot of RLP Project Invoicing across Quarters - Year 3 @ 30th September 2020

Code	Project	Work Order Budget (Yr 3)	Total Invoiced to Date	Balance to Invoice	% Invoiced to Date
9830	Ramsar Wetlands	\$ 918,451.00	\$ 222,914.67	\$ 695,536.33	24%
9840	Banksia Woodlands	\$ 280,000.00	\$ 41,200.00	\$ 238,800.00	15%
9850	Numbat Neighbourhood	\$ 434,901.00	\$ 78,978.51	\$ 355,922.49	18%
9860	Greening Farms	\$ 213,700.00	\$ 38,050.00	\$ 175,650.00	18%
9866	WA Black Cockatoos	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 24,416.00	\$ 90,584.00	21%
9800	Core Services	\$ 494,421.00	\$ 82,403.00	\$ 412,018.00	17%
	Total RLP Projects	\$ 2,456,473.00	\$ 487,962.18	\$ 1,968,510.82	20%

Finance Update for Period 1 August – 30 September 2020

Tax Invoices Issued		\$	Comment
1	Inv 804: City of Mandurah	22,000.00	9500: 1FTE Science Advisor Contribution
2	Inv 805: The Nature Conservancy	1,306.25	1000: PHCC Support Accommodation T Kearing
3	Inv 806: Shire of Waroona	2,750.00	3600: Lake Clifton LFW Stewardship
4	Inv 807: Dept Agriculture, Water & Environment	\$90,643.30	9800: Core Services Year 3, Pmt 1 Jul-August 2020
5	Inv 813: Alcoa Foundation	\$280,190.53	5600: Alcoa Foundation II Year 1 Payment \$200USD.
	Total	\$396,890.08	
Income Received		\$	Comment
1	Inv 804: City of Mandurah	\$22,000.00	9500: 1FTE Science Advisor Contribution
2	Inv 805: The Nature Conservancy	\$1,306.25	1000: PHCC Support Accommodation T Kearing
3	Inv 807: Dept Agriculture, Water & Environment	\$90,643.30	9800: Core Services Year 3, Pmt 1 Jul-August 2020
4	Inv 813: Alcoa Foundation	\$280,190.53	TBA: Alcoa Foundation II Year 1 Payment \$200,000USD.
5	Flight Centre	\$603.00	Refund on Accommodation paid for P Pownall – RALF Conference Canberra on Visa Card. Flight Centre Policy change due to COVID19.
6	Merchandise Sales - Website	\$72.50	Merchandise
7	Merchandise Sales - Cash	\$4.00	Merchandise
16	COVID19 Cash Flow Boost	\$25,000.00	2 nd and 3 rd payment of 4 payments - F20-21 COVID19 Cashflow Boost held in ATO Integrated Client Account. To be transferred to PHCC Bank account when Sep BAS is paid in October.
17	ANZ Bank Interest	\$310.12	August & September 2020
	Total	\$420,129.70	

Expenditure		\$	Comment
1	No of Payment Runs – 4	\$302,498.07	Batches 03 - 06
2	Visa Card expenditure	\$6,429.94	August & September 2020
3	Petty Cash	\$136.80	August & September 2020
4	Cheques – Petty Cash	\$267.05	Petty Cash Recoup Chq002021
	Total	\$309,331.86	
New Projects/Agreements		\$	Comment

1	5600: Alcoa Foundation – Healing Bilya: Restoring the Murray and Serpentine Rivers	\$600,000USD	Payment 1: \$200,000 USD received – Conversion Rate - \$280,190.53.
	Closed Projects/Agreements	\$600,000USD	Comment
1	NIL		
	Employment		
1	Payroll Reimbursement	\$252,896.09	Salary & Superannuation – August & September 2020
	Total	\$252,896.09	
	Other		
1	9500: State Election 1FTE annual project acquittal audit completed with no adjustments. Sent to Funding Body with Annual Reports. Q1 Jul-Sep 2020 financial statement prepared and sent using the new Smarty Grants Reporting system.		
2	9700: State Election FishRec annual project acquittal audit completed with no adjustments. Sent to Funding Body with Annual Reports. Q1 Jul-Sep 2020 financial statement prepared and sent using the new Smarty Grants Reporting system.		
3	RLP: Year 3, Quarter 1 Deliverable tracking for the 5 Projects completed by Program Managers by 30 th September. Tax Invoices and Statutory Declarations signed and sent off to Australian Government 2 nd October.		
4	RLP: Yr 2 2019 CEG Grants: A number of 2019 CEG grants across the Greening Farms, Numbat Neighbourhood, Banksia & Alcoa Foundation projects have now been completed with final Tax Invoices being received from Landholders and Partners. Tax Invoices will be released for payment once Final Acquittal statements have been checked and meet all obligations.		
5	5600: Alcoa Foundation: First payment of the new project Healing Bilya – Restoring the Murray and Serpentine Rivers received on 30 th September. Exchange rate resulted in the \$200,000 USD converting to \$280,190.53 AUD		
6	\$25,000 COVID19 Cash Flow Boost received via the ATO on completion of monthly PAYG lodgements.		
7	Payroll – PAYG and Superannuation paid by CoM on 30 September 2020. The CoM payroll system will migrate to a new system, therefore new setup in myGovID to connect Single touch Payroll to be completed by the Treasurer.		
8	Payroll – EOY Staff Payment Summaries. A considerable amount of time and effort liaising with the CoM and ATO trying to resolve the “glitch” that has occurred with the lodgement of F2019-2020 data file. Whilst this error is out of PHCCs control, the ATO has advised that staff can complete their 2020 tax returns without disruption.		
9	Bank Signatory changes – This has been completed electronically and form sent to our Business Manager in Melbourne. David Prattent provided is 100 pt ID check on Monday. Once David has been assigned a PHCC CRN number, he will be setup with IB4B authorisation which will allow him to authorise Internet Banking payment authorisations and the necessary training will be provided .		
10	ANZ Bank: Received notification that Sholl Street Mandurah Branch will be closing permanently on 12 November 2020. BSB and Account Number will remain the same.		
11	Next Finance & Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday 12 November 2020.		

Balance of Bank Accounts as at 30 September 2020:

	Bank Account Type	Account Number	\$
1	ANZ Commercial Credit Card	4564 80xx xxxx 3072	-\$4,011.74
2	ANZ Transaction Account	016 745 4638 83443	\$1.00
3	ANZ Project Cheque Account	016 745 4942 31182	\$426,231.47
4	ANZ Corporate Online Saver	016 745 5272 85292	\$77,655.28
5	ANZ Project Online Saver	016 745 5272 85559	\$3,588,587.83
6	ANZ Business Term Deposit	016 745 910829176	\$1,523,896.38
7	Westpac Term Deposit	036 134 239580	\$664,257.73
	Total		\$6,276,617.95

Equity as at 30 September 2020:

	Description	\$
1	Assets	\$6,368,663
2	Liabilities	\$5,001,699
3	Equity	\$1,366,964

Marilyn Gray

Treasurer

22 October 2020

CEO REPORT

General Meeting to be held on 22 October 2020

We continue to navigate through COVID-19 restrictions and hope that social distancing can be relaxed in the future to enable our events and activities to accommodate greater numbers. We continue to manage this well so that have minimal disruption to delivery. In this Phase 4 of the State's COVID-19 Coronavirus WA Roadmap, we have the following protocols in place:

- We are open to visitors, by appointment only;
- We are enabling community groups to utilise the Shed for events/meetings, where they demonstrate they can meet social distancing numbers and abide by our hygiene requirements;
- More of the team are back working in their respective offices on a more regular basis We are encouraging staff to work where they are most productive, whilst being careful to manage socialising and engagement with the team (to ensure there are not isolation issues);
- Community events and activities are being delivered and scheduled for future, with greater confidence;
- We will continue with our good habit of attending meetings via zoom where practical, noting the significant time savings from reduced travel.
- We continue to mandate that team members cannot come to work or engage with team members or community, if they have any symptoms. They are required to show a covid clearance from their doctor before they are allowed to return to the workplace (or use work vehicles or engage with the team).

Staff – Movements, Professional Development and more

- **Farewells and Recruitment** – **Charlie Jones** commenced on 9 October with some casual days before she comes on full time on 27 October. Charlie is replacing **Sharon Meredith** who finishes on 5 November (refer Steve's report for more details). **Michelle Mullarkey** has resigned from her 1 day a week but remains available for ad-hoc work via a casual contract.
- **Kim Wilson** is working hard on rehab following her accident. We hope she will return early 2021.
- **Tony Free** continues to provide much appreciated support on a voluntary basis with respect to development submissions as well as the Avitourism paper, signage concept paper and the Sustainable Ag Working Group (supporting the preparation of small animal holdings paper for local governments) .
- **Organisational Structure Review** – Our structure review is progressing with the Science and Waterways team determined and planned to commence in December. Further discussions are required for the Hotham-Williams and Land Conservation teams. Outstanding funding applications are being considered.
- **Pay Structure Review**– We have commenced discussions to undertake a review of our pay structure. This was undertaken in 2012 and we aspire to doing this by March 2021.
- **Staff Contracts Review** – Our contracts were reviewed against statutory requirements and internal policies ~2013. We will review these again to ensure that we are meeting all obligations and being fair and reasonable to staff, while managing the PHCC business. We are confident that existing contract structures are adequate and so we will continue to use this until this process is complete.
- **Long Service Leave** – several staff are eligible for full or pro-rata long service leave. We will need to manage this carefully to enable people their entitlements with the least impact on project delivery.
- **Waroona Landcare Centre** – we are supporting a collaborative approach across PHCC, HRRT, PHBG and Coolup LCDC/Waroona Landcare around the lease arrangements for the Waroona Landcare Centre, noting that the lot adjacent which has the shed used for storage is up for sale, and the Shire is considering a revamp of the site.

New Funding Applications (see also Program Manager Reports)

a) **State NRM \$100,000** – Core business investment – this funding has been approved/secured.

Key areas of funding are:

- Training (Darren Doherty post fire and water – train the trainer, 12 month program);
- Landcare support – small grants + auspicings for HRRT
- WAFeral Cat Working Group website
- On-ground feral pig work (Wandering/Hotham Declared species)
- Communications – 25% towards prep of Wattle & Quoll
- Community support – Noongar, landholders, water scarcity

b) **State NRM \$224,727** – Jane submitted this to State NRM Community Grants (large)

We are waiting a decision for the funding application for the Executive Officer for the Feral Cat Working Group. In summary funding will enable:

- Supporting the Working Group through administration and research support activities
- Website development and maintenance (website via additional funding application)
- Indigenous consultation, knowledge sharing and improving cross-organisation collaboration
- 2021/22 WA Feral Cat Symposium

c) **Alcoa Foundation \$600,000 (USD)**

- This application has been successful (refer Science and Waterways Report). A big thank you to Steve and Jo Garvey.

d) **South 32 – 5 year partnership program**

- We are hoping to have an announcement on the success of this partnership proposal in the near future (refer Hotham-Williams Report).

Projects (Refer also Program Manager Reports)

Please refer to the Program Manager reports that provide a summary of project status, highlights etc. Our thanks to the project team, but also the support team enabling the project delivery.

1. National Landcare Program – Core Services

- a. **Review of NRM Strategy** – has commenced! This an enormous task that is made easier by the great work that the team have done since the first Strategy, particularly with respect to targeted and detailed consultation, excellent delivery of works that will help to guide on-ground works into the future, and preparation of various guiding documents such as our Noongar Participation Plan. Julie and Jane are working closely on structure and will invite Board Members at various points to have input and provide strategic direction. We have commenced getting quotes to subcontract various aspects including data analysis and mapping as well as research and information reporting. We are considering the benefits of a full online interactive strategy (either within our website or as a stand-alone website) vs a online document and are awaiting quotes for online interactive strategy.
- b. **Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator** – Please refer Land Conservation & Ag PM Report.

c. **Communications** – We are meeting all obligations for communications. In summary:

- **Wattle and Quoll**
 - 410 Subscribers up by 11
 - Latest edition (Kambarang 2020) sent out 1st October
 - 47.5% open rate
 - Article on Dung Beetles received most views
- **Facebook:**
 - 1977 followers up by 175
 - Average 1 post per day
 - Average 536 people reached per day
 - Highest post reach 4,219 '*Black Cockatoo nesting season is upon us!*'
- **Twitter**
 - 505 followers up by 26
- **Instagram**
 - 468 followers up by 69
- **Project Newsletters prepared and distributed**
 - Landcare Matters H-W x 2
 - Landcare Matters Lake Clifton x 1
 - All available here: <https://peel-harvey.org.au/newsletters/>

d. **Noongar Participation – Thelma Crook**

Procurement / Employment / Skills and Capability building - We continue to progress well in this area. Thelma is working with our contractors to work through methods to best engage our noongar community in on-ground works and provide practical skills and experience. This has been achieved in some projects, but mostly the works that complement this approach are not NLP projects, and therefore we are working to determine how this can be considered as progress against NLP objectives. We are in the process of modifying procurement processes, quote selections and reporting to embed a more concerted approach across the organisations. We have engaged IMS (Indigenous Management Solutions) to undertake our office cleaning and are exploring other supply chains that are run by or employ Noongar and/or Aboriginal and T.I. peoples. We hosted the Wirra-hub at the Shed on 26 August, with ~15 Aboriginal businesses present.

Noongar Procurement Strategy – This is nearly complete and will be a component of our revised NRM Strategy, with agreement from our identified communities (Binjareb and Wilmen).

Winjan Ranger Team – We are very pleased that the 3rd application a Ranger team has been successful (announced in September). Winjan has received \$308,000 for the employment of 3 part-time rangers and allow for 12 individuals to participate in skills-based training for 21 months. We are advocating for a longer term, larger Ranger program through our election asks, to try to maintain, and expand the Ranger program. I would like to **acknowledge Thelma Crooks efforts** in working with Winjan and a broad range of stakeholders to secure this funding. Her role has been fundamental to securing the Program and she continues to support Winjan, particularly in coordinating a minimum of 30 days on-ground works, which PHCC will fund via NLP projects.

2. Regional Estuaries Initiative / Healthy Estuaries

Healthy Estuaries Program – commenced 1 July and we are waiting for discussions to confirm what this means for the PHCC and determine our acceptance and delivery, a portion will be managed within the Science and Waterways team (stream-lining projects and revegetation) and the Land Cons team (ongoing soil testing and associated extension programs).

Peel Main Drain

We are finalizing arrangements with DWER to enable an extension to works outside of the REI timeframe. W/Corp are progressing the construction of the Weir (finalizing design, commenced tender process and have purchased penstock). Their current timeframe shows construction being complete ~April 2021. It is proposed that unspent funds will be quarantined to finalise the project, including modifications to the swales to accommodate the change in weir design and to enable trials and monitoring for a further ~5 years. Peter Muirden is still in Melbourne and unable to return to W.A. and the Water Science team has been fabulous in assisting with ongoing maintenance and other issues (including managing ongoing vandalism at the site) – a big thank you to Jo Garvey.

Mayfield

Most works are complete and the on-ground components of this project are basically finished, except for some post construction modifications that will be undertaken now that winter rains are over. Peter has completed detailed reports for each of the sites and these need to be checked before they are signed off. Again, the Science and Waterways team are supporting these minor works as well as monitoring at identified representative sites (thanks Steve, Rick and Jenni). Peter is keeping in close contact with landowners re operation and maintenance.

3. Green Jobs

Green Jobs – State wide application (\$12 million) & Secured shared \$500,000

We coordinated the preparation of a \$12 million proposal on behalf of the seven (7) NRM Regions, with strong support from Wheatbelt, Rangelands and NACC. The proposal was been submitted to DWER for their consideration and a copy can be seen in correspondence out. While the \$12 million has not been secured a number of smaller projects have been secured across various Regions (to be delivered by Regions and/or Sub regions or partners). PHCC have been offered a shared project valued at \$500,000, to be delivered across SWCC and PHCC. This will require us providing seed collection and training (and perhaps propagation), by 30 June, 2021 as part of year 1 of the project. We are actively putting this into place with the hope that we can commence works in November 2020.

We are hoping to secure more funding via years 2 and 3 of Green Jobs and will continue to advocate in this space.

4. Community Environmental Grants (CEGs)

The team have completed this year's round of CEG's. These are detailed in the Hotham Williams and Land Conservation and Ag reports but need to note the efforts by the team in delivering this program, from EOI's, site visits, supporting preparation of applications, preparing information to be considered by the Steering Committees, approvals and agreements, followed by supporting the implementation, milestone and final inspections and acquittal. A huge thank you to all, particularly Mel Durack who took on the coordination of the program, with good support from Gene and both teams.

Strategic Issues (refer also to Chair's report detailing strategic meetings)

1. SAPPR and PHEMC Update – Suspension of SAPPR:

No updates

2. State Budget Submission:

We have a state budget ask with the Peel Regional Leaders Forum and are also working with **NRM WA** – to prepare a submission across the 7 Regions.

3. WA Feral Cat Working Group:

We are continuing to drive this group with the support of Kerry Sanderson, WABSI, Bush Heritage and DBCA. The third meeting was held in October (via zoom). This commenced with the Working Group, who were then joined by the Advisory Group and the Threatened Species Commissioner (TSC). This was the first real interaction with the Advisory Group which was excellent, as was the update from the TSC on progress of Feral Cat works/programs/reviews etc. at a national level, a presentation from the Albany and Surrounds Feral Cat Working Group, and a demonstration on current works being undertaken by Bush Heritage (from Alex Hams). We await with hope the funding announcement to provide us with an Executive Officer so that Jane (and Leanne) can reduce the amount of time they are needing to spend to keep this moving forward. Jane presented an overview of the Working Group to the Mandurah Environment and Heritage Group AGM on 13 October. Mel and Christine represented the PHCC as witnesses at the House of Representatives Environment Committee hearing into the Inquiry into the Problem of Feral and Domestic Cats in Australia (September).

4. Meetings/advocacy etc (refer also to Chair's report):

Please refer Chairs report. Includes Governor's visit; Budget Breakfast; EPA Board presentation of ARC Linkage findings; Diane Evers re greater protection of forests and Forest Amendment Bill.

5. Other highlights and project updates

1. **Point Grey Channel** – The scheme amendment consultation closes on 30 October and we are preparing our submission to meet this timeframe. The community “save our estuary” has resulted in >400 submissions to the Shire, with copies to decisions makers, including the Minister for Planning. We are awaiting the results of the Impact Assessment modelling.
2. **NRM WA CEO** – meeting was held 2 October. Mark Webb (DG DBCA) attended to continue discussions about strengthening relationships between DBCA and Regions. New WABSI CEO Owain Nevin presented on Research Impact (impacts starting to be measured, ie what did the research do?). The National Knowledge Conference will be held in WA (potentially Margaret River). The State budget submission is progressing. The Chair of Chairs is meeting with Minister MacTiernan to
3. **Audit** – a big thank you to Karen and the whole team for their efforts with the organisational audit (see Treasurers report).
4. **UWA Research** – PHCC have been selected and have commenced process to support UWA research (Craig Edmunds) into what makes a successful not for profit.

6. **PHCC Events** – Events and activities are getting back up and running, please keep an eye on the events agenda to make sure you don't miss out.

7. **Work Health Safety**

There are no significant issues to report. Refer to Land Conservation and Ag Report for details on minor incidences and review of WHS. Note, Jane, Steve and Mel are attending WHS training on 9 November.

8. **Operational Issues**

Please keep following our Facebook and Twitter accounts for project information, events and more. A huge thank you to the team who are doing a great job.

Office closure will be from COB Wednesday 23 December to Tuesday 5th January. Staff may choose to work over this time, as per usual but the office will not be open or 'manned – or womaned' !

Jane O'Malley
Chief Executive Officer

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

CHAIRMAN REPORT

General Meeting to be held on 22 October 2020

Welcome to Kambarang, a transformational time of year. Wildflowers are abundant along with fledglings. The Mooja or Australian Christmas Tree will begin to flower soon signalling the arrival of warm weather.

Meetings and Events

On the 17th of September PHCC (Jane O'Malley, Steve Fisher and myself) attended a meeting with the EPA Board where Dr Fiona Valesini and Assoc/Prof Matt Hipsey presented the ARC Linkage results. The presentation was very well received by the board and sparked a lot of interest from the Chair Tom Hatton and other Board members. Discussion revolved around the science and how the findings should be factored into policy to prevent the estuary suffering from "a thousand cuts".

This type of advocacy by PHCC is so incredibly important and was certainly my highlight of the past two months.

I attended the opening of the delightful new Dwellingup Trails and Visitor Centre on the 10th of September. Congratulations to the Shire of Murray, this facility will enhance the wonderful eco-tourism experiences that Dwellingup is becoming so popular for. It's fabulous to see ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas in our patch.

Election asks has been one of the focuses this past month with Jane and I meeting with David Templeman and Robyn Clarke on the 11th of September. PHCC election asks will be included in the Peel Alliance document used to advocate for funding as we approach election season.

Our asks are:

- The Science of Restoring our Estuary – Total \$2,085,000, being:
 - \$500,000 Science Advisor
 - \$750,000 Restoration Projects
 - \$175,000 Community Engagement Co-ordinator (2 years)
 - \$315,000 Community Educator (4 Years)
 - \$185,000 Incursion and Excursions support for schools (4 years)
 - \$160,000 Capital Works – Tourism/Wetland informative signage
- Waterways Research Infrastructure Project – \$2,077,000
- Aboriginal Ranger Program - \$1,840,000
- Rescuing the Lake Clifton Thrombolites - \$500,000

On the 24th of August Jane O'Malley, Sue Fyfe and myself met with Diane Evers MLA to discuss her Forest Bill. The Bill recognises the native forest as valuable and irreplaceable source of economic, environmental and social benefits and calls for the end of logging by the Forests Products Commission. The retention of native forest allows for the investment in opportunities such as eco-tourism, honey and bee production, water provisions and carbon credits.

The Governor of Western Australia the Hon Kim Beazley took time out to visit Mandurah on the 8th of October. PHCC was invited to join a cruise of the waterways to Mariners Cove where Sarah Way of Ways to Nature conducted a 30-minute walking tour of the Creery Wetlands. The Governor was clearly impressed with the beauty of our wetlands and the incredible journeys our migratory birds travel.

Jane and I attended the 2020 Post Budget Breakfast Briefing hosted by the Peel Development Commission on the 9th of October.

News

PHCC has undergone its annual Organisational Audit, which to the credit of Jane, Karen and the rest of the team has been flawless!

The auditors were extremely impressed with the electronic systems that PHCC has in place and their feedback was glowing. Congratulations to Karen and the whole team.

Our wonderful annual Wetlands Weekender mini festival was held on the 10 and 11th of October to coincide with World Migratory Bird Day and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the listing of our wetlands under the Ramsar Convention, was a fabulous event. A huge amount of work was done across the team and Bob and I were involved in the sub-group that evaluated last year's event and assisted in setting the program for this year. Congratulations to Steve, Sharon, Julie and the team for such a positive event that was very well attended by community, with >600 people being involved across the weekend.

The PHCC will hold 2 annual 'festivals', the Wetland Weekender (World Migratory Bird Day) with grass roots events at the Coodanup Foreshore, and the Wetlands Festival (World Wetlands Day in February), focussed more in central Mandurah. The 2021 Wetlands Festival will be beautifully linked to the annual Cockburn Wetlands Conference, which will be held in Mandurah for 2021, thanks to renovations works at Cockburn and the team's efforts to secure this conference in our patch.

Special mention and thank you to Thelma who played a significant role in supporting Winjan Aboriginal Corporation, who are successful third round recipients in the Aboriginal Ranger Program. The funding is for a 21-month period providing jobs for 3 part-time rangers and training for 12 individuals. The PHCC will be providing on-ground works programs and provide ongoing support, with the hope that the Ranger program is successfully embedded into delivery of works, gradually expanded and continues long into the future.

Welcome to Charlie Jones our newest member of the team.

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