

Land Conservation Project REPORT

PHCC General Meeting – December 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

Key achievements since the last Board meeting include:

- CEG Projects are now under way with landholders submitting their first round of invoices.

The total approved funding of these three CEG grants comes to \$ 21,314.50 (Ex GST). The deliverables being achieved through the grants consist of:

- 4 Ha of Revegetation
- 13 Ha of Weed Control
- 13Ha of Protected area
- 6 Ha of Dieback control
- 2km fencing
- 4 habitat structures

- An additional CEG grant proposal has been assessed against the year 3 Banksia Project deliverables and sent to the Land Conservation Steering Committee and CEO for assessment.

The total requested value of this grant comes to \$ 7,754.14 (Ex GST). The deliverables being achieved through the grants consist of:

- 1 Ha Revegetation
- 1 Ha Dieback Treatment
- 1 Ha weed Control

- 4 Public Partnership Project Proposals have been assessed against the year 3 Banksia Project deliverables and sent in November to Steering committee and CEO for assessment. Agreements for successful projects should be distributed before the close of December 2020.

The total requested cost of these grants comes to \$63,688.00(Ex GST). The deliverables being achieved through the grants consist of:

- 260 Ha Initial and Follow up weed control (combined)
- 66 Ha Pest Animal Control
- 3.2 Ha Revegetation
- 1.5 Km Fencing
- 13 Ha Dieback Treatment
- 2 Weed Mapping Exercises
- 1 Habitat Augmentation Structure
- 4 Community Engagement/ Training Events

- The Year 3 Quarter 2 MERIT Reporting and evidence has commenced, this reporting is on track to be completed and submitted on time (prior to December 31st).

Deliverables to be reported on and invoiced for are:

- 5 Establishing Agreements
- 7.3 Ha weed control

- 3 Ha Follow Up Weed Control
 - 1 Collecting and Synthesising Baseline data activities
 - 3 Communication materials
- Discussions have commenced with Winjan Aboriginal Corporation in regards to supporting training activities for the Winjan Rangers. Potential training courses to be supported include Green Card - bush hygiene and Seed collection. The activities will meet Community Engagement projects through the project as well as assist in meeting our targets for engaging the local Noongar community.
 - DBCA have been approached in regards to on ground deliverables that are currently unallocated under the CEG and Public Partnership grants. These discussions will continue and may eventuate into an additional Public Partnership Project to assist in meeting the Banksia Project deliverables.
Current outstanding outputs include –
 - 1.5 km fencing
 - 80 Ha Pest Animal Control
 - 1 Access Control Structure
 - Discussions with Birdlife WA regarding PHCC hosting a Great Cocky Count workshop in the Lake Clifton Catchment have commenced. It is likely that this workshop will be scheduled for an evening in February. This work shop will include a cultural component to promote the cultural connection to Banksias and Black Cockatoos. Discussions with Franklyn Nannup are to take place to determine the appropriate representative to present.

Banksia Mapping Project

Project Officer: Megan LeRoy

- Bronwen Keighery has been updating data for Banksia maps. She has so far completed the southern end of the catchment, noting the presence/absence of TEC Banksia Woodland for each priority 1 remnant polygon. Bronwen requires another 12 hours of contracted time to complete the northern section. This has been approved by Jane, pending a variation to contract being signed.
- Colleen 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

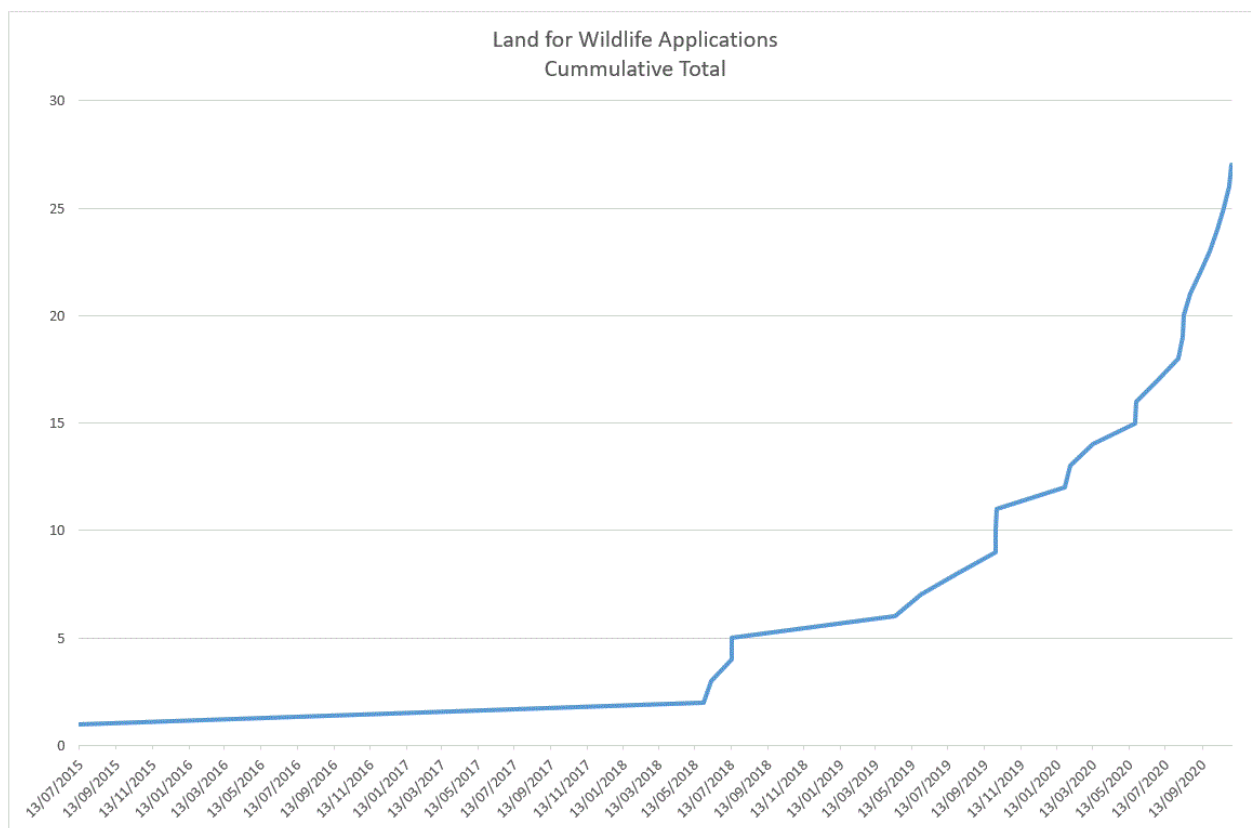
- 1 new Application to join Land for Wildlife has been received, after discussion with landholder following an expression of interest.
- 3 site visits are to be completed prior to the end of December. These site visits will completed the field component of the applicants LFW report.
- Our current Lake Clifton Stewardship Grant supporting Rabbit Control across 7 propertied adjoin Lake Clifton is up for acquittal on the 10th of December. The Landholder has completed the project and is beginning to wrap up reporting.

- Edition 11 of the Lake Clifton Landcare Matters newsletter created and distributed via Lake Clifton Catchment mailing list. This edition focused on highlight the Black Cockatoo monitoring being undertaken through the Black Cockatoo Project and provided information on controlling 'Weedy Wattles'
- Discussions with Lake Clifton Landcare Group regarding species selection for next year's seedling Giveaway event have taken place and a species list has been created. A request for quote for the seedlings has been sent to Hamel Nursery and Native Plants WA.
- A brief discussion around budget available to support the 2 Lake Clifton Stewardship events was held with the Ramsar team, currently awaiting confirmation of budgets though enough guidance has been provided to proceed.

Land for Wildlife (Lfw) -State NRM funded Project

Feb 2019-Jun 2020 \$80,032

- 1 of 2 Land for Wildlife applications received under the Cockatoo Project have had a site assessment and report completed by Heather Adamson.
- 3 Landholders that have submitted applications to join Land for Wildlife received through the Lake Clifton Project have been contacted, the assessments will be scheduled in before the end of December.
- 1 application to join Land for Wildlife has been received and will be completed under the Lake Clifton Project.
- Applications into the program that have been received through the new online system and have had a site assessment and report completed have been updated into the Land for Wildlife GRID system.



Project officer: Paula Pownall

The Year 3 Quarter 2 MERIT Reporting and evidence is on track to meet all targets. 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:

- 2a: 3x communication materials, Wattle and Quoll, Social Media, Email Survey
- 3a: 1x Field days Sheep Handling Field Day (Wandering Farm Productivity Group) with ~40 attendees
- 8a: 10x Establishing agreements Greening Farms projects 2020-21
- 21a: 1x Negotiating with community Peel Hub Southern Dirt MOU
- 25b: 2x Planning Documents CEG Procedure, OSH planning

Twenty landholders were awarded Community Environment Grants (CEGs) for a total funding of \$131,194 for the Greening Farms. On-ground works will achieve:

- 20 agreements
- 838.8 Ha weed removal
- 16.85 km fencing
- 188.08 Ha weed control
- 769.88 Ha revegetation
- 22 Ha Dieback control
- 72Ha Banksia Stabilisation area protected
- 97,371 Seedlings

Investigating options to use an online database format to collect and process CEG applications for next year. Assessing 3 different systems and have had discussions with developers and collected quotes. Cost-Benefit spreadsheet developed and quote selection template completed.

Healthy Estuaries WA (HEWA): Fertilising the Farm

2019/20: \$46,000

Project Officer: Megan LeRoy

- Pre-surveys are underway with the 13 participants of the HEWA soil sampling program.
- An “Assisted Soil Sampling Training Day” was held on the 25 November at Jenni and Lance Ford property in Waroona. This was for the 8 farmers in the program that nominated to take their own soil samples. It was a great training by DPIRD officers.

- PHCC Facebook posts
- Wattle and Quoll newsletter articles completed.

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 low PBI soil type.
- Results are showing that the application of N greatly assists with the uptake of P.

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

Project officer: Paula Pownall

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

Attended Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI) stakeholder group workshop on enhancing biodiversity conservation outcomes in Western Australia by mitigating the impacts of weeds, and follow up survey.

WA RALF Community of Practice: Attended a two day professional development training to a variety of agricultural businesses and stakeholders.

Assistance with updating the NRM strategy which will be released as an electronic, live, dynamic version. This includes facilitating a working group, including farmers.

Working closely with Peel Hub Southern Dirt Southern Dirt in collaboration with the Regional Regeneration Alliance to develop a project in the Peel Region, namely the 'Peel Regeneration Hub' project. This includes attending meetings.

Attended Regional Estuaries Initiative Project Reference Group Meeting

Contributed to Wattle and Quoll articles and social media.

Developing a comprehensive engagement survey to issue to all contacts to clarify stakeholder interest topics and best methods of contact to ensure optimum engagement across the catchment.

Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) Black Cockatoos Project

2019 – 2023: \$380,000

Project Officer: Megan LeRoy

- Eight landholders were awarded Community Environment Grants (CEGs) for the Black Cockatoo Project. On-ground works will achieve:
 - 94 Ha weed removal

- 1.25 km fencing
- 3 habitat augmentations
- 7 agreements
- 2 on-ground works
- 21 ha revegetation
- Remaining outputs to be met by June 2021 are:
 - an additional 2.75km fencing of cockatoo habitat, some of which I hope to achieve by fencing 1.4km of remnant bush on a property in Boddington
 - 5ha feral animal control (to be covered by Lake Clifton stewardship grants)
 - 1 on-ground works
- This Spring black cockatoo nesting surveys have continued – 3 breeding pairs of Carnaby black cockatoos in Marlee Reserve have produced 3 chicks in cockatubes and due to fledge early Dec. One red-tail chick was also found in a natural nest in a neighbouring property. In Lake Clifton a white-tail Black Cockatoo chick was confirmed in a cockatube on a private property, and in Boddington a red-tail chick in a natural nest. Nests have been checked in Quindanning, Boddington, S-J, Myalup, Lake Clifton, Waroona areas by Megan and Adam Peck (Birdlife) using Birdlife database records and information from the public.
- Community members are encouraged to continue reporting sightings of nesting.
- The “Friends of Boddington Reserves” have approached us for assistance to purchase mobile black cockatoo road signs to place on road verges where Black Cockatoos are feeding on the ground. Their previous signs were stolen, so we will work with them to provide more suitable replacement signs.

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.

- Assisted Soil Sampling Training Day – 25 November, Waroona

Work Health & Safety

- There were no incidences to report.
- Supervisory team attended ‘Introduction to OHS for Supervisors’ 1 day training course
- Installation of reversing cameras and snatch/recovery points on vehicles is underway – 3 cars completed.
- Number of small hazards were identified on the online OHS database and controls all put in place.
- Waiting on City of Mandurah to install Emergency Exits in office spaces in accordance with AS2293.
- PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) review undertaken with list of mandatory provision list of required personal protective equipment for all staff based on Risk assessments and agreed work plans. These work plans have been approved by the federal government. This is a legal requirement and the provision of complete and appropriate PPE for all staff needs to be prioritised.
- Online OHS system has had some bugs removed by the developers.
- A number of documents, including the Workplace Management System (WMS) and other procedures are in need of being updated and/or formalised in order to be compliant with OSH regulations. These are listed in a Gap Analysis document that has been developed.
- Need to resolve the issue of OSH representatives for the organisation.

Planning submissions, advocacy, support to partners

- Nothing additional to report.

Gene Turner

Program Manager, Land Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture