

# FILE NOTE | PEEL-YALGORUP RAMSAR SITE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP



<b>Subject</b>	Discussion guide for TAG meeting # 10 on the future role and function of the group
<b>Author</b>	Amanda Willmott
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The purpose of this document is to guide a discussion of the current and future need for the TAG. The discussion will be conducted as part of the Agenda for the upcoming PYS Technical Advisory Group Meeting 10.

This guide and the ensuing discussion will inform the preparation of a Terms of Reference for the group.

## 1 What is the background and context of the TAG?

TAG was established with the first meeting in Jun 2007:

- Meetings 1 & 2 (Jun – Sept 2007) informed the Ecological Character Description (hence the name ‘technical advisory’)
- Meetings 3 - 6 (Nov 2007 – Jul 2009) informed the Management Plan for the Peel-Yalgorup (shift: group provides technical/scientific and local knowledge into planning process)
- Meetings 7 – 9 focused on assessing the status of the wetlands and on reviewing the limits of acceptable change.
- What is next? Is there a need to continue the TAG and what will be its function/role?

## 2 What is the group’s current role? Why is it valuable?

Suggestions as a basis for group discussion:

- Providing collaborative management for the implementation of the PYS Management Plan
- Providing technical input into ECD, management plan and associated docs
- Providing local knowledge into same
- Providing a forum for knowledge exchange on values, biophysical characteristics, threatening processes and management action
  - amongst management agencies
  - between local experts, managers and scientists

## 3 What is the ongoing/future role of the group?

The key question: is the role of the group to.....

in a broader context, to provide an avenue towards strengthened and improved co-management of the wetland system (ie. broader than just providing advice to the PHCC to guide its program)?

Some options to throw out to the group for discussion may be:

- Provide a forum for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the management program, including:
  - Assessing the wetlands' ecological status
  - Continually revising the framework for assessing the status (e.g. the suite of Limits of Acceptable Change – LAC)
  - Regularly evaluating the Management Plan for the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site including:
    - What are their contributions to implementation; reported 6 monthly
    - Providing guidance and advice on implementing management strategies and actions, including identifying likely strengths weaknesses opportunities and threats
    - Providing technical, scientific or practical input into management of the System and action planning including: project design, methodology used, cost-effectiveness of proposed works etc in order to deliver best management practice outcomes.
- Identifying opportunities for collaboration with other stakeholders
- Identification of key stakeholders and interested parties in projects that work towards to the goals of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site Management Plan
- Facilitate communication of relevant activity outcomes with local community groups, local governments, agencies and NRM groups in order to avoid duplications of works and allow for potential partnership projects to be developed for best on-ground results.
- Facilitate communication and networking between stakeholders with responsibilities in relation to coastal and aquatic environments, Ramsar and non Ramsar wetlands as well as riparian and Water Quality Improvement Plan issues within the Peel-Harvey Catchment.

## **4 Role of individual Group members**

The role of the individual members of the Group includes:

- Report on their organisation's planned contributions towards the management of the Ramsar system for the next 6/12 months.
- Report on achievements over the past 6 months against the Limits of Acceptable Change.

## **5 Name of Group**

Do we keep the name "TAG" or re-badge to "PYS Collaborative Management Group"?