

# MINUTES OF PHCC GENERAL MEETING



Held on Thursday 17 June 2021  
At the Boddington RSL Hall, 2 George Street  
BODDINGTON

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.04am

## Attendance

### Present:

Caroline Knight	Chair
Darralyn Ebsary	Deputy Chair
Bob Pond	Executive Committee (DWER)
Sue Fyfe	Community Member
Claire Reid	Community Member
Mark Cugley	DBCA
Suzanne Brown	Water Corporation (Observer)
Nicholas Dufty	DPLH, Mandurah (Observer)
Robert Harris	Local Government Member (Inland)

### In Attendance:

Jane O'Malley	Chief Executive Officer
Mel Durack	Program Manager Hotham-Williams
Deborah Chard	Manager Corporate Services & Executive Support (Minutes)
Janine Neeling	Administration Officer

### Invited Guests:

Mark Worthington	Corporate Affairs Lead – Worsley Alumina – South32 Presentation
Tori Henderson	Principal Environment – South32 Presentation
Meredith Gibbons	Manager Corporate Affairs – South32
Amanda Batt	Local Farmer and Boddington Community Member
Veronica Metcalf	Local Farmer and Boddington Community Member

### Apologies:

Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
Paddi Creevey OAM	Secretary
Andy Gulliver	Community Member
Howard Mitchell	Community Member
David Prattent	Community Member
Rob Summers	DPIRD
Andrew Ward	PDC
Brad Cardilini	Local Government Member (Coastal)

## G.1/6/21 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.04 am, acknowledging the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and paying her respect to all Elders past and present.

## G.2/6/21 Welcome to New Board Member – Robert Harris

The Chair welcomed Councillor Robert Harris to the meeting as the new Local Government Representative (Inland) replacing Cr Eliza Dowling.

### G.3/6/21 Declarations of Interest

- Claire Reid (Community Member) declared a conflict of interest with regard to her employment by South32.

### G.4/6/21 Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on 15 April 2021

Moved: Bob Pond

Seconded: Claire Reid

That the Minutes of the General meeting held on 15 April 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**CARRIED**

### G.5/6/21 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Minute No	Update
G.7/4/21	<b>CEO's Report:</b> This item has been completed, as the CEO's report has been adjusted to provide an indication at Board meetings of how things are tracking against the goals for 2021-2023
G.11/4/21	<b>NRM needs of the upper catchment discussion:</b> This item has been completed, following tabling with the Hotham-Williams Steering Committee and inclusion as a 'planned achievement' in the new Strategic Directions.
G.12/4/21 a)	Rob Summers to present the findings of the <b>publications associated with soil testing, soil health and nutrient retention</b> at an appropriate event, either a future Board meeting or to enable a broader audience a SHARE or similar event. This item has been completed with articles to continue to be shared electronically and updates provided through Wattle and Quoll, social media and Healthy soils network. A share event and/or field trip will take place in the future.
G.12/4/21 c)	CEO to liaise with <b>Dr Malcolm Robb</b> regarding his attendance at the June 2021 Board Meeting to <b>present on the Peel-Harvey Estuary Plan and QWIP</b> . Dr Robb's presentation has been deferred to either August or October meeting due to inability to discuss budget or funding implications prior to budget announcements in September.
G.12/4/21 c)	<b>Steve Fisher</b> provided a written memo to the Board in <b>response to</b> issues raised at the PHCC Board Meeting on 15 April 2021 in relation to <b>reported Fishkills</b> . The paper was provided to the Board as a meeting agenda item.
G.8/12/20(h)	<b>Worsley Mine Expansion:</b> This item has been completed. South32 presentation included in 17 June 2021 board meeting.
G.9/10/20	<b>Alcoa Presentation/Tour:</b> This item has been completed as the proposed tour was cancelled – refer to correspondence 11.0 05/05/2021 to Alcoa. Note: no response received.
G.6/8/20 e)	CEO to look into having an appropriate state government representative present to the <b>December 2020 Board meeting on the proposed streamlining of approvals:</b> Arrangements have been made for the CEO, Chair and Secretary to meet with DPLH representatives, (A/DG) Jodie Cant, (Chair) David Caddy, Nicole Lucas-Smith and Nicholas Dufty on Monday 21 June 2021. Chair and/or CEO to report back to Board at August meeting.
G.6/6/20 b)	Mark Cugley to provide Board Members with a copy of the <b>Recreational Master Plan for Yalgorup National Park:</b> This item has been completed. The plan was distributed to the Board on 11 June 2021, via the Board Members page. In response to questions asked, Mark advised that the status of the plan is a final but noted that it is a 'live' document. Bob Pond noted that the plan did not include mapping for a number of trails along the Harvey River and that this may have been a missed opportunity that he would encourage is considered in future planning.



## G.6/6/21 Correspondence

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

Moved: Claire Reid

Seconded: Mark Cugley

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

### CARRIED

## G.7/6/21 Agency and Member Updates

### a) Rob Summers, DPIRD (Written report provided in absence)

HEWA – Healthy Estuaries WA: Expressions of interest are now open for the 2021/22 round of the fertiliser management program through Healthy Estuaries WA. The program is a partnership between the Peel Harvey Catchments Council, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. The 2020/21 program was the first-time farmers were offered two approaches of soil sampling: do-it-yourself or sampled for you. Prior to 2020, farms were sampled exclusively by a team of trained soil samplers. This minimised time requirements from farmers but meant that farmers weren't contributing their expertise to the process.

The EOI is now open for the 2021/22 Fertiliser Management Program. It will close on Friday 9 July. All maps must be submitted by Friday 16 July. The EOI form can be accessed in two ways:

- The Healthy Estuaries WA website gives some additional information about the program: [Soil Testing - Healthy Estuaries \(dwer.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dwer.wa.gov.au/healthy-estuaries)
- This link is direct to the eligibility form on SurveyMonkey [2021 Soil testing to support better fertiliser decisions Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2021-soil-testing)

### Publications

A new journal paper has been published. It should be open access but there appears to be an issue so stand by for the full article link:

Rogers, D., Weaver, D., Summers, R., Dobbe, E., Master, R., McFerran, R., Mussell, G., Dawson, L., Mercy, J., Richards, P. and Holtham, D., 2021. Critical phosphorus values from the Better Fertiliser Decisions for Pastures project: early insights from validation trials. Crop and Pasture Science.  
<https://www.publish.csiro.au/CP/CP20236>

Publications in review or in press below. These will be publicly available and downloadable. The link will be provided when published.

Weaver D, Summers R, Rogers D and Richards P (2021) 'Assessment of soil sampling equipment for guiding fertiliser decisions', Resource management technical report 423, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australian Government.

Summers, R. N. Weaver, D. M. (in review). Phosphorus retention of a nutrient retentive filter in a wetland beaten by a simple pond. Submitted to Journal of Environment and Natural Resources Research (8 June 2021)

Weaver, D., Summers, R. (2021 in press) Phosphorus status and saturation in soils that drain into the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary of Western Australia. Soil Research (22 March 2021)

b) Mark Cugley, DBCA

**Autumn prescribed burns**

In April 2021, the DBCA undertook a series of mild, low intensity prescribed burns at Yalgorup National Park, Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve and Lowlands Nature Reserve that left unburnt pockets for flora and fauna habitat. The areas in Yalgorup were not during the 2016 Waroona fire. Prior to undertaking the prescribed burn work is done to protect habitat tress for local fauna, including Western Ringtail Possum. This often involves raking away ground fuels and wetting down the surrounding ground. Monitoring after prescribed burns to assess how effective it was in lowering fuel loads, benefiting the biodiversity of plants and protecting habitat trees is continuing.

Opportunities to improve communications with tour operators in Yalgorup were identified as a result of the burns and the department will consider what aspects of their engagement can be improved and what opportunities for engagement can arise through future prescribed burn activities.

**Climate change vulnerability assessment for Peel Yalgorup System Ramsar wetland workshop**

On 11 June 2021, the PHCC provided very valuable support in providing a venue and organisational assistance to an all-day workshop that DBCA staff ran to derive a climate change vulnerability assessment for the Peel-Yalgorup System Ramsar 482 Site. There were approximately 20 participants in the workshop (with a number on-line). It was extremely valuable and the day ran very smoothly due to the use the PHCC Mandurah office (shed) and the technology that was available – thank you!

**Entangled Dolphin**

The entangled dolphin 'River' continues to be monitored by Sally Kirby and other members of the Dolphin Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group, along with DBCA that undertook an on-water patrol on 12 April 2021. Based on her behaviour and body condition any attempt at capture is likely to be unsuccessful and possibly dangerous, for personnel and the dolphin at this time.

A deceased adult female dolphin was found by Sally Kirby on 22 May 2021 in a remote part of the eastern estuary near Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve. DBCA staff retrieved the deceased dolphin the following day and transported it to Murdoch University for necropsy. Results are pending.

**Recent project agreements with PHCC**

Since the last PHCC meeting the DBCA also signed a letter of support and Lawful Authority for the PHCC to engage a contractor to undertake feral pig animal control in the southern end of Yalgorup National Park. This will complement the feral animal control work undertaken by DBCA and is appreciated. Consistent with the Col registered with the PHCC on 11 March 2020 I have acknowledged that I am an agency representative on the PHCC Board, but took no part in the process that determined these projects were a good and useful of funds administered by the PHCC.

**Question:** The CEO enquired into what assurances could be provided that there will not be a reoccurrence of the burn activity in Perup, noting the risk and potential impact to the numbat population if something similar were to occur in Dryandra. The question was taken on notice.

**ACTION:** Mark to follow up and provide a response to question of what assurances can be provided that there will not be a reoccurrence of the burn activity in Perup, noting the risk and potential impact to the numbat population if something similar were to occur in Dryandra.

c) Bob Pond, Executive Committee (DWER)

The biggest single piece of news out of the Department has been to loss of our Director General, Mike Rowe. Mike has been transferred to head the Department of Communities. Michelle Andrews, who has been Acting Director General at the Department of Communities has been reciprocally transferred to head up DWER. The good news is that Michelle has qualifications in environmental science, and has previously worked for the EPA, so she comes with a good background to the Department's business.



The dredging operations for the Serpentine and Murray River entrance channels was delayed but has now commenced. There was a hiccup with monitoring at the start of the operation but that has now been rectified. No issues have arisen.

In the background the Department is currently busy with business planning work for the 2021/22 financial year. The good news here is that corporate executive is clearly recognising the priority of the Peel Harvey Estuary Protection Plan as a government commitment.

At a more personal level I am currently very busy with role as an assessor for the State Natural Resource Management Grants.

**d) Nicholas Dufty, DPLH**

As part of a wider shift in leadership across eight State Agencies, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has a new Director General – Jodi Cant (temporary appointment coming across from Department of Finance). Gail McGowen has a special adviser role before retiring later in the year.

The WAPC Chairman, David Caddy, and Department for Planning, Lands and Heritage Director General, Jodi Cant, are scheduled to visit the Peel Region on 21 June – meeting with the PHCC as well as the City of Mandurah and Peel Development Commission.

The City of Kwinana has submitted a new Local Planning Strategy to the Department seeking approval to advertise.

Following advertising, the draft Serpentine Town Site Structure Plan is with the Department for assessment, it proposes a limited amount of new development on lots smaller than 1 hectare and outside of reticulated water waste services, requiring onsite wastewater disposal.

**Question:** Sue Fyfe enquired as to whether DPLH had a similar plan to the Serpentine Town Site Structure Plan for Dwellingup Town Site, noting that there was currently no capacity for additional housing in the Dwellingup Town site.

**Response:** Nicholas provided additional detail in relation to the development and planning framework, noting that the Serpentine sites are taking small rural holdings down to lots that are approximately 2000sqm and that the sites are located to the east of the town site. He also noted that any increase in town lots would require additional development planning.

**Question:** Bob Pond enquired as to whether there were any updates in relation to Point Grey.

**Response:** Nicholas advised that the proposal is still with DPLH, who are hoping to submit a report to the Statutory Planning Committee by August.

**e) Suzanne Brown – Water Corporation**

1<sup>st</sup> of June saw the Watercorp 'Winter sprinkler switch off' come into force.

Contrary to information circulating this has not been a promising year for inflow into the dams, with this year's totals being on par with those recorded last year of 2GL's, noting that urban rainfall is down and storage is not great.

The focus of water supply is moving away from stream flow and looking towards future supply technologies. The dams are utilised as they are infrastructure that already exists, but they are primarily being utilised as reservoirs for ground water and desalinated water.

There is a level of excitement in relation to the progress and success of the Peel Main Drain works (noting Peter Muirden's update).

**Discussion:** Board members engaged in discussions in relation to current and emerging water challenges, noting the need for water quality/supply and environmental water flow to be on the agenda and a topic for considered and sustained focus.

The CEO advised that water health, quality and availability had featured in recent Peel Alliance meetings, with a significant level of frustration being experienced regarding agency ownership/commitment. It has been collectively identified that this topic will feature heavily in Federal Election asks, with a consolidated effort required.

**ACTION:** Bob Pond to provide a copy of the Rainfall and Streamflow summary for May 2021.

**f) Sue Fyfe – Community Member**

Scarp /Jarrah Forest area

The Dwellingup Discovery Forest Defenders has continued to work with Jarrahdale Forest Protectors and Wagerup group. The group meets monthly using the CCWA campaign strategy.

Continue to update the position statement regarding Alcoa's proposal.

The EPA have released the Alcoa scoping document with associated timelines- below-

DDFDF are requesting an extension of the 8-week period as this covers the Christmas / New Year period.

Table 1 Assessment timeline

Key assessment milestones	Completion date*
EPA approves Environmental Scoping Document	June 2021
Proponent submits first draft Environmental Review Document	31 August 2021
EPA provides comment on first draft Environmental Review Document (6 weeks from receipt of ERD)	12 October 2021

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Key assessment milestones	Completion date*
Proponent submits revised draft Environmental Review Document	29 October 2021
EPA authorises release of Environmental Review Document for public review (2 weeks from EPA approval of ERD)	26 November 2021
Proponent releases Environmental Review Document for public review for 8 weeks	10 December 2021
Close of public review period	10 February 2022
EPA provides Summary of Submissions	10 March 2022
Proponent provides Response to Submissions	10 May 2022
EPA reviews the Response to Submissions (4 weeks from receipt of Response to Submissions)	7 June 2022
EPA prepares draft assessment report and completes assessment (6 weeks from EPA accepting Response to Submissions)	25 August 2022
EPA finalises assessment report (including two weeks consultation on draft conditions) and gives report to Minister (6 weeks from completion of assessment)	8 October 2022

\*Dates are indicative



DDFD working on an on-line portal to maximise submissions through increasing ease of use. (Update – DDFD are no longer working on the portal as EPA has its own portal).

The Dwellingup Futures group have acknowledged the DDF Boundary as an area of interest- Alcoa's proposed extension extends into the DDF area.

The Shire of Murray has engaged a socio-ecologist – Dr Judy Fisher to work with the Shire and Community on developing arguments around cumulative impact and social surroundings.

Robyn Clarke MLA made the following statement in the WA Parliament on 27th May 2021

*"I stand with the community as a whole and call on the federal and state governments to ensure that this pristine, idyllic and culturally significant region stays this way, without the threat of potential mining throughout the surrounds of Dwellingup, which would prevent the trails from passing through these areas and risk the protection of the integrity of these renowned forests. It is a place where nature, adventure and culture combine for a truly unique destination, with a little bit of everything that makes it so special"*

**g) Rob Harris – Local Government Representative (Inland)**

By way of introduction, I am a farmer from a farming family and a Councillor with Cuballing Shire.

Local areas of focus include the continued growth in the size of farms, the increase in mixed farming and the increase in cropping and how that impacts on the natural surrounds. There is also an increase in population and diversity, which is positive for the area, but also presents challenges relating to infrastructure and natural resources, particularly water.

There is a need for and growing opportunities to work with and educate young farmers, who in most instances are astute business managers, but need to be guided to all of the resources and support that is available. The rise in technology, continued technological advances and increases in the size of machinery have had a major impact on vegetation and that is a challenge to local habitats. There are positive developments which present opportunities for engagement including the Numbat Neighbourhood project.

**Question:** Sue Fyfe enquired into the technological advancements and whether there was future opportunities to amend machinery to bypass small areas when clearing.

**Response:** Rob advised that 'guidance technology' requires the removal of vegetation and rocky areas, which often include habitats. The use of this technology does not remove clearing restrictions already in place and which farmers are required to adhere to, but there is an opportunity to educate.

Additional discussion touched on the impact of large machinery on road verge areas, local government and Main Roads shoulder clearing activities, die back and fire for weed control on verges.

**ACTION:** Rob Harris, Mel Durack and Mick Davis (Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator) to meet and discuss educational and engagement opportunities for landholders

**h) Claire Reid – Community Member**

Further to discussions at the December strategic meeting relating to Carbon Offsets and how or if PHCC may be able to become involved, Claire suggested that PHCC might like to consider contacting GreenCollar, who have worked previously with other similar NRM organisations and Greening Australia in other states. There may also be opportunities to work with farmers/landholders in this space to increase awareness of the carbon and biodiversity offsets of carbon sinks.

**Discussion:** Members engaged in wide-ranging discussions in relation to carbon farming opportunities and the need for a greater level of understanding from within PHCC. Future opportunities for knowledge sharing in the form of a presentation to the Board and/or the delivery of a workshop will be pursued.

**ACTION:** Jane O'Malley to work with PHCC staff to explore workshop opportunities to gain a greater understanding of opportunities for Peel-Harvey landowners in respect to carbon offsets, including looking at Greencollar and what services they provide that may be of interest

i) Darralyn Ebsary, Deputy Chairman

The seeding program is going well with good rainfall for the season.

Expanding on what Rob (Harris) said earlier, continued education and engagement is important and opportunities to work with our landholders should be explored. In the past there was a series of small landholder workshops that covered a variety of different topics. Something similar to those workshops would be great for the towns and increase diversity in practice.

The primary benefit of the workshops were that they offered knowledge and also practical skills on important topics such as good neighbours, fire control, weed control and livestock control. With the significant benefits and opportunities this type of engagement encourages it would be worth considering which of the PHCC programs could support this kind of work.

Mel Durack advised that there is work happening in this space, noting that PHCC is currently providing the funding for six farmers to undertake the train the trainer for farm planning, including fire prevention and restoration, with other participants able to self-fund. During the training each participant will be paired with an NRM professional, who will then have farming extension skills and knowledge to further educate our farming community.

**ACTION:** Darralyn, Rob Harris and Mel Durack to work with Mick Davis to look for opportunities to work with landholders in the catchment through PHCC program alignment, priorities and funding. Enquiries also to be made into the current status of Landcare and Dept. Agriculture workshops for landholders in the area

G.8/6/21 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO spoke to her report (accompanied by a supporting slide presentation), providing updates on the team, new funding applications, projects, strategic issues and other highlights. The CEO report should be read in conjunction with the Operation Managers reports (attached with the Agenda), for a more detailed description of project/program progress and outcomes. The CEO's full report can be seen in the attachment, highlights include:

**Staff – Movements, Professional Development and more Farewells and Recruitment:**

- Jo Garvey, Program Manager Healthy Waterways has **resigned** from PHCC with her **last day** being **9 July, 2021** (we will commence recruitment process asap)
- Karen Bettink Coordinator, Land Conservation **commenced on 3 May**
- Deborah Chard Manager Corporate Services & Exec Support **commenced on 19 April**
- Mick Davis, Regional Agricultural Landcare Officer **commenced on 9 June**
- Vacant – Program Manager, Land Conservation and Agriculture; and River Restoration Officer (part time) (given 3 vacant positions we will now go out to open recruitment process)
- Pay Structure Review – We have received some quotes to undertake this process but no progress yet.
- Staff Contracts Review – We have received some quotes to undertake this process but no progress yet.
- Long Service Leave – We have sought clarification as part of our contracts review but no progress yet.
- Boddington CRC (PHCC Regional Office) – We are negotiating an extension of lease, taking in an additional office space (adjoining office) to enable expansion and meeting area, pending safety certificate for gas heating and cooling.
- Staff Culture, wellbeing and Team Building – We are encouraging more whole of team events and activities to get the team out of the office and working together (tour of wetlands on 11 May – bus tour



with lunch); Planting day (28 May). We have commenced mentoring for staff (CEO commenced; Ops Manager x 1 arranged but not commenced). We have approached Brain Ambulance for some training for supervisors (supporting team, identifying and managing stress, getting best out of selves and team etc.); We are formalizing access to staff assistance programs.

- **GRID/Mapping** – Our GRID system will no longer be available after 30 June. Our project data is secure and we are working with GAIA Resources and other Regions to look at a practical way forward that will continue to enable us to store all our project data, over time, so that we have historic and contemporary information on our work. This will have a financial implication (the quote at this stage is ~\$50,000) for set up and ongoing costs for maintenance. It is hoped that we can have a collaborative approach with other regions and have some economies of scale to reduce the costs.
- **Strategic Directions** – the new Strategic Directions has been completed, printed and will be provided to members at the meeting. Thank you to all for their input.

## **New Funding Applications / Business Contracts**

### **Peel Waterways Infrastructure Project (\$500,000)**

We have secured \$500,000 for stage 1 of the Peel Waterways Institute, in accordance our business case (2019). The Business Case asks for \$2,077,000 for all aspects, but \$500,000 is a good start. Steve is working with PDC to finalise the Financial Assistance Agreement, with the aim that the first payment will be received prior to 30 June. The funding will enable 2 x demountable on-site labs; 2 x river health assessment trailers; community engagement trailer; mobile laboratory; research equipment; signage and marketing; project management and administration.

### **South 32 – 5 year partnership program (\$625,000)**

The partnership is in now in place and the launch will be held after the Board meeting on 17 June. Congratulations to Mel Durack for enabling this. Below is an excerpt from the media release:

*“...Under this new five year partnership, PHCC will employ an additional team member operating out of the Boddington office who will help to deliver priority activities, as identified by the Hotham-Williams community including improving habitat and ecological function of river corridors at eight priority sites. This new partnership will value add to an existing partnership the PHCC has with the 4 Local Governments in the upper catchment (Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering and Williams) and Newmont Australia.... (2018-2022)... including the preparation of a dedicated River Action Plan and river health studies to inform investment in priority areas along the Hotham and Williams Rivers. The PHCC team are ....t consulting with the community to understand their vision and priority for the 8 sites ..... This consultation will inform the detailed design of the sites and the new partnership with South32 Worsley Alumina will enable restoration works at 4 of the 8 sites to be implemented over the next 5 years, enhancing environmental, social and cultural values at these important locations along the rivers. This component of the project is known as Hotham-Williams Warlang Bilya (Healthy Rivers).”*

### **State NRM Community Engagement Grants**

We did not apply for funding but provided technical and moral support to several groups, have sponsored Harvey River Restoration Taskforce in their application and provided letters of support (as per correspondence register). This is perhaps the greatest interest from our community in several years and we hope that our community will be successful in attracting significant investment for NRM in our patch.

### **Mike Schultz Memorial Biodiversity Scholarship (Murdoch University)**

We have finalised the parameters for the Scholarship (with support from Sue Fyfe, Marilyn Gray and Deborah Chard), selected Murdoch University to deliver the scholarship, and applicants can apply from ~October 2021 for the 2022 academic year. Details of the scholarship can be seen in the Attachment. We will advise Mike wife Peggy and ask her to let the family know. [https://peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Murdoch\\_University\\_PHCC\\_Proposal\\_2021-Final.pdf](https://peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Murdoch_University_PHCC_Proposal_2021-Final.pdf)

## **State NRM and Coastal Conference – City of Mandurah with Shires of Murray and Waroona**

The City's alliance have secured the September 2022 Conference and we are working with them to support delivery (abstracts, general support and looking at supporting field trips).

## **Projects**

### **National Landcare Program – Core Services**

We provided an organisational wide response to the RLP Survey by the Australian Government (correspondence register – No. 37.0) - <https://bit.ly/3iGkSfQ>

**Review of NRM Strategy** – is nearly complete. We have modified the structure slightly from that presented to the Board and believe that this will make it more user friendly and appealing to our audience. The Strategy will be live in July and we will send a link through to all at that time. A big thank you to Julie MacMile in her role in coordinating the various components. We are on track for completion by 19 July.

### **Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator**

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

- **Wattle and Quoll**
  - 544Subscribers up by 5
  - Latest edition (Makaroo 2021) sent out 1st June
  - 44% open rate
  - Article *Special Lake Clifton property joins Land for Wildlife* received most views
- **Facebook:**
  - 2,321 followers up by 96
  - Average 1 post per weekday
  - Average 935 people reached per day
  - Highest post reach 24K+ *Confirmed sighting of Numbat in Boddington*
- **Twitter**
  - 514 followers up by 4
- **Instagram**
  - 544 followers up by 8
- **Project Newsletters prepared and distributed**
  - Landcare Matters H-W x 2
  - Landcare Matters Lake Clifton x 1
  - Available here: <https://peel-harvey.org.au/newsletters/>

### **Noongar Participation – Thelma Crook**

**Procurement / Employment / Skills and Capability building** – We continue to work alongside our Noongar community to strengthen procurement opportunities. This

**Noongar Procurement Strategy** – We have not yet received feedback from the Australian Government on our revised Noongar Participation Plan but it is live on our website.

**Winjan Ranger Team** – The Ranger team is doing a great job, we are getting positive feedback and as their skills and experience grows, so will opportunities for further employment. Thelma continues to play a key role in this space, supporting the Rangers as well as the PHCC team in provision of our 30 days of on-country work with the Rangers.

### **Healthy Estuaries WA Bindjareb Gabi Wonga**

We met with Bronte Grant and George Walley (with apologies from Franklyn Nannup) on 3<sup>rd</sup> June for a round table to share the key objectives of the Healthy Estuaries WA Bindjareb Gabi Wonga project and review the terms of reference around Bindjareb Gabi Wonga project to design, develop and implement the Bindjareb Waterways



Assessment Program (BWP). Bindjareb Elders, the department and the PHCC collaborated in 2019 to draft a Terms of Reference for this partnership initiative.

## **Regional Estuaries Initiative**

### **Peel Main Drain**

Since the last update (April 2021), the construction works on the PeelMD project are now mostly complete!

The Peel MD diversion weir and Swale inlet and outlet structures are now operational with the two gauging stations recording water level (one on Peel MD, the other on the Headwater Pool) also operational with telemetry allowing remote monitoring. On the Swales themselves, we currently have all earthworks complete with flat bases plus four of the five outlet controls (note: there is no control on the outlet of Swale#6 as it is sloping at ~1:500).

Some of the works had to be redesigned due to the production and weather delays. The original design had pre-cast concrete culverts with aprons, however, non-delivery by the supplier forced us to cancel the order, which worked out well in that the rain during April-May (150mm) made the site inaccessible to heavy vehicles and we redesigned the structures to use treated pine timber so that the controls could be installed by hand. They still will allow holding back water to 10cm depth and allow foot-passage over them to enable sampling. On Swale#4, it was not possible to even install the wooden structure due to the amount of flow passing through that outlet levee (and it's deep mud); however, this should allow a shallower depth in the Swale to be monitored, with a comparable flow/velocity in Swale#5.

Works still to be complete are the brackets to mount the stopboards on the inlet culverts, fitting the stopboards themselves to control the design inflows and Swale water depths, sealing the bases of each inlet culvert to assist flow measurement and repairing the fence around the Swales.

Operation of the Swales including flow measurement and water quality sampling is due to start in early July as soon as Peter Muirden arrives back from Victoria and he intends to be in WA for at least the rest of 2021. Mike Kendrick has offered to be part of the monitoring team for the Swales.

## **Goal 3 – Influence key decision makers for better catchment governance** (refer also to Chair's report detailing strategic meetings)

### **1. SAPPR and PHEMC Update – Suspension of SAPP:**

We are scheduled to meet with Jodi Cant (A/DG DPLH) and David Caddy (Chairman, WAPC) on 21 June, to discuss the suspension of the SAPP, impacts of streamlining processes, how data is being managed, how identified priorities will progress and the recommendations of the review panel.

### **2. Dwellingup Futures Roadmap and Working Group:**

Jane attended the Dwellingup Futures combined Strategic Working Group and Technical Advisory Group on 19 May. A follow meeting is scheduled for 16 June, with revised documents provided in response to feedback of the 19 May meeting.

### **3. EPA Stakeholder Reference Group:**

On behalf of the 7 NRM Regions Jane is the NRM WA representative on the EPA Stakeholder Reference Group, with her first meeting scheduled for 30 June.

### **4. WA Feral Cat Working Group:**

Judy Dunlop has commenced as EO for the Working Group and has hit the ground running. The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group (and first one in person) was held at WABSI on 18 May, 2021. The website will be live in July.

### **5. \$5 Million Election Commitment – Implementation of the Estuary Protection Plan and Revised Peel-Harvey WQIP (Water Quality Improvement Plan):**

It has been confirmed that the \$5 million is to implement the "P" Actions (Plans, policy and partnership) of the Bindjareb Djiilba (Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan - PHEPP)

[https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/Peel\\_Harvey\\_Estuary\\_Protection\\_Plan\\_Bindjareb-Djiilba.pdf](https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/Peel_Harvey_Estuary_Protection_Plan_Bindjareb-Djiilba.pdf).

The revised **WQIP** is being reviewed internally by DWER before it will be provided to key stakeholders, including the PHCC for comment, prior to its release.

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

Please refer Chairs report.

**7. Other highlights and project updates**

**Point Grey Channel** – Is with the WAPC for recommendation to the Minister.

**8. PHCC Events** – Please see our website to keep across events and activities happening across the catchment - <https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/>

**9. Work Health Safety**

There are no significant issues to report.

**10. 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.

Moved: Darralyn Ebsary

Seconded: Sue Fyfe

That the CEO's Report be endorsed as presented.

**CARRIED**

**G.9/6/21 Presentation: South32 - "Worsley Mine Development Briefing"**  
**Mark Worthington and Tori Henderson**

Mark Worthington (Corporate Affairs Lead Worsley Alumina) and Tori Henderson (Principal Environment) presented to the meeting, providing a visual slideshow and verbal briefing on the proposed Worsley Mine expansion.

The presentation covered:

- An introduction to South32 & Worsley Alumina
- Environment Approvals Update
- Details of the Application
  - Timeline
  - Environmental Scoping Document
  - Technical Studies

*Discussion:* The presentation generated significant discussion with the Board posing a series of questions to the presenters. Key topics arising from the discussion included:

- Omissions management/commitments and the reduction of the carbon sink as a result of removal of the forest
- Rehabilitation and regeneration programs, including the length of time a pit is open and the time regeneration takes at a site
- Water management, including the importation of (salty) water from Wellington Dam and the long term approach to water management
- Felled timber management and usage
- The application of new/updated legislative requirements to old agreements



**G.10/6/21 Steering Committee Modification: Hotham-Williams Committee (seeking endorsement of Cr Robert Harris)**

Moved: Darralyn Ebsary

Seconded: Bob Pond

That the Board endorse Cr Harris' nomination onto the Hotham-Williams Steering Committee.

**CARRIED**

**G.11/6/21 Board Member Agenda Items**

Nil presented

**G.12/6/21 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report, as provided with the agenda and the accompanying financial statements for the period as at 31 May 2021, was tabled in absence.

Moved: Bob Pond

Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary

That the Financial Reports and the Treasurer's Report be endorsed as presented.

**CARRIED**

**G.13/6/21 Chairman's Report**

The Chair spoke to her report as provided with the agenda, setting out details of meetings and events she had attended.

Welcome to our June meeting in Boddington. This is the Nyoongar season of Makaroo a time when the mob sheltered from the wet and cold. Our waterways and catchments are now starting to fill and the landscape is turning green, a particular delight for grazing animals such as kangaroos.

**Meetings and Events**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of April we met for a brief meet, greet and photo opportunity with the Minister for Water, Dave Kelly. The occasion was the launch of HEWA and a trip to inspect the seagrass monitoring in the estuary.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May we attended the Green Jobs Graduation for the third cohort of students who have embraced this positive program. The training and capacity building of local Peel residents in native seed collection provides an important step in gaining meaningful employment or helps lead to further education. This plan was rolled out by the State Government as part of the WA Recovery Plan. The native seeds collected will be used in future environmental restoration projects demonstrating that environmental conservation as we all know has the potential to provide many employment opportunities.

The Autumn/Winter 2021 edition of the Peel Magazine has a fabulous article for anyone wishing to read more.

On the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our 20th birthday with a modest gathering of staff and board members in the shed. Twenty years is a truly magnificent milestone and a testament to the many staff and board members who have contributed to creating this wonderful organisation. Our vision for the Peel-Harvey Catchment which drives all that we do could not be more appropriate in a time when the world needs strong environmental support.

*The Peel-Harvey catchment is once again a flourishing network of interconnected, productive landscapes, with diverse, healthy and resilient ecosystems, globally and locally recognised, acknowledged and embraced for its*

*environmental significance. It is wisely managed by a community that values it- **people working together for a healthy environment.***

Hopefully we will be able to celebrate our 21<sup>st</sup> with our community without the COVID restrictions as we move into our third decade!

Jane and I met with David Templeman, Robyn Clarke and Lisa Munday on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, the main thrust of the meeting focused on the need for large landscape scale funding commitments. Given the upcoming Federal Election this is an area Jane and I will be focusing on in the coming months.

Bob Pond, Nicolas Dufty and I had the pleasure of joining staff for a "Show and Tell" field trip of the Yalgorup Lakes on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It was fascinating learning of the incredible diversity of the lakes from the southern end of Lake Preston, Pamelup Pond, Myalup Lagoon to Lake Josephine. Each lake so very different from the next and yet all part of the one incredible system in which we live. Rick, Jenni and Steve provided so much information, it was really informative. A great time was had by all, it was a fabulous way to learn about our patch, let the operations team get out and see the catchment and the work they support/enable. I look forward to the next trip out to another part of the catchment.

NRMWA held a collective meeting of Chairs and CEOs to further the discussion on the purpose, objectives and entity of NRMWA on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Hopefully a decision will be made later in June.

Jane and I met with Lisa Munday on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May to provide an overview of PHCC and the challenges our patch faces. Lisa showed a strong interest and we look forward to working closely with her in the future.

#### News

Welcome to our newest board member Cr Robert Harris from the Shire of Cuballing and our new staff member Mick Davis who assumes the role of RALF Officer. I'd like to acknowledge the huge effort staff go to when recruiting, inducting and training new members of staff and thank everyone involved.

The South 32 Partnership Proposal has been signed and a big thank you to Mel Durack for all her work.

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Marlon Nannup. Marlon worked closely with PHCC, he was a lovely person and a leader in his community. Our thoughts go out to his family at this very sad time.

Embrace the cold wet weather with some inside reading, the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Wattle and Quoll is out, great articles from soil chemistry, fish habitat to identifying a living Thrombolite! Enjoy!

Moved: Darralyn Ebsary      Seconded: Bob Pond

That the Chairman's Report be endorsed as presented.

**CARRIED**

#### **G.14/6/21    Confirmation of next meeting date**

The next meeting of the PHCC is scheduled for Thursday 12 August (venue to be confirmed).

*The meeting closed at 11.47 am*



Chair: DW Cramer

Date: 12 August 2021

Summary of actions from General Board meeting held on Thursday 17 June 2021:

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.7/6/21 b)	Mark Cugley to follow up and provide a response to question of what assurances can be provided that there will not be a reoccurrence of the <b>burn activity</b> in Perup, noting the risk and potential <b>impact</b> to the numbat population if something similar were to occur in Dryandra.	Mark Cugley	
G.7/6/21 e)	Bob Pond to provide a copy of the <b>Rainfall and Streamflow summary for May 2021.</b>	Bob Pond	
G.7/6/21 g)	Rob Harris, Mel Durack and Mick Davis (Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator) to meet and discuss <b>educational and engagement opportunities for landholders.</b>	Rob Harris	
G.7/6/21 h)	Jane O'Malley to work with PHCC staff to explore workshop opportunities to gain a greater understanding of opportunities for Peel-Harvey landowners in respect to <b>carbon offsets</b> , including looking at Greencollar and what services they provide that may be of interest	Jane O'Malley	
G.7/6/21 i)	Darralyn Ebsary, Rob Harris and Mel Durack to work with Mick Davis to look for opportunities to work with landholders in the catchment, through PHCC program alignment, priorities and funding. Enquiries also to be made into the current status of Landcare and Dept Agriculture workshops for landholders in the area.	Darralyn Ebsary Rob Harris	

Summary of actions from General Board meeting held on Thursday 15 April 2021:

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.12/4/21 c)	CEO to liaise with <b>Dr Malcolm Robb</b> regarding his attendance at the June 2021 Board Meeting to present on the <b>Peel-Harvey Estuary Plan and QWIP</b>	Jane O'Malley	Presentation deferred to either August or October meeting due to inability to discuss budget or funding implications prior to budget announcements in September.

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

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.6/8/20 e)	CEO to look into having an appropriate state government representative present to the <b>December 2020</b> Board meeting on <b>the proposed streamlining of approvals</b>	Jane O'Malley	In progress: Arrangements have been made for the CEO and Chairman to meet with DPLH & WAPC representatives on 21 June 2021.