

The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) is an incorporated, not-for-profit, community based Natural Resource Management organisation that promotes an integrated approach to catchment management and the way we protect and restore the environment.

**Covering approximately ~11, 900km<sup>2</sup>, the success of the project relies on  
"People Working Together for a Healthy Environment"**



#### Project linkage to relevant Plans/Acts:

- PHCC Strategic Directions
- Regional NRM Strategy
- Peel-Yalgorup System Management Plan
- Ecological Character Description for the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar site
- Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Priorities
- National Wildlife Corridors Plan
- EPBC Act 1999
- Threat Abatement Plans:
  - Carnaby's Cockatoo Recovery Plan
  - Phytophthora National Threat Abatement Plan 2004
  - State Phytophthora Dieback Response Framework 2004
  - Threat Abatement Plan for the European Red Fox 2008
  - Draft Threat Abatement Plan - *Pythophthora Cinnamomi*
- Lower Murray River Action Plan
- Middle Murray River Action Plan
- Lower Serpentine River Action Plan
- Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Rivers and Estuary of the Peel-Harvey System - Phosphorus Management (WQIP) 2008
- Biodiversity Strategies for:
  - Serpentine-Jarrahdale
  - City of Mandurah
  - Shire of Murray
- NRM MERI Framework and Biodiversity Fund Program Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plan
- Statutory Planning Instruments



#### Partners in delivery

Birdlife WA  
Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce  
Shire of Murray  
Shire of Waroona  
City of Mandurah  
Landcare SJ Inc

#### Stakeholders in delivery

R2R Technical Advisory Group  
South West Catchment Council  
Winjan/Gnaala Karla Booja working groups  
Birdlife WA  
Shire of Waroona  
Private landholders

#### Primary Funding Body

Australian Government

#### Financial Contributors

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council  
Shire of Murray  
Shire of Waroona

#### In-kind Contributors

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council  
Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce  
Shire of Murray  
Shire of Waroona  
City of Mandurah

#### Project Team

Program Manager - Kim Wilson  
Project Manager - Thelma Crook  
Project Officer - Jo Garvey  
MERI Coordinator - Colleen Archibald

### PHCC invite you to "Be Involved"

This project will involve many ongrounds activities, and so PHCC invite people to become involved. You can also keep up to date by joining our facebook page. It's as easy as clicking on the QR Code, or going to our website at [www.peel-harvey.org.au](http://www.peel-harvey.org.au)

Like us on facebook



**Australian Government**

This project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, through funding from the Australian Government.



**NOONGAR COMMUNITIES' AND WORKING GROUP**



## Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

*People Working Together for a Healthy Environment*

July 2013 - June 2017

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

## Peel-Harvey Rivers 2 Ramsar Connecting River Corridors for Landscape Resilience

8000\_R2R\_BFEO114P2-00089  
\$3,569,552 Australian Government Program

### Australian Government Biodiversity Funding

The Australian Government has committed ~\$3.6 million dollars to protect and enhance biodiversity in the Peel-Harvey Catchment. The 'Rivers 2 Ramsar' project will be delivered by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council and its partners from July 2013 to June 2017. Landscape scale restoration, community engagement and planning will be undertaken in six priority sites across the 11,940km<sup>2</sup> catchment.

The PHCC with its project partners, community and local Noongar communities will undertake a range of actions to protect cultural, ecological and economic values by connecting river corridors to improve resilience and ecosystem function of the Harvey, Serpentine and Murray Rivers to the receiving waters of the internationally significant, Ramsar listed 'Peel-Yalgorup' System, particularly the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary.

Key actions include restoration and protection of river banks and riparian corridors through weed, access and erosion control; Habitat protection for aquatic, riparian and terrestrial species; Review of River Action Plans; Preparation of a Natural Resource Management (NRM) plan for the Hotham Williams subcatchments; Seed collection and propagation; Field days and training workshops and Cockatoo counts.

Wildlife corridors will be improved by extending, protecting and enhancing vegetation. This will reduce fragmentation, increase refuge, breeding and food sources for native fauna that traverse the landscape, including listed fauna such as Carnaby's Cockatoo. These actions are crucial in the face of climate change, changes in hydrology and increased fragmentation from land clearing, disease and fire.

The primary funding for delivery of this project was secured by the PHCC through a competitive process. Additional funds have been committed by the PHCC and Shires of Murray and Waroona. In-kind contributions, partners and stakeholders in delivery are also contributing their time, technical support, labour, skills and experience. The community will play a huge role. This will be a legacy project. Its success relies on people working together for a healthy environment.

### Protecting and enhancing native vegetation and biodiversity

#### Community engagement

Increase the community's awareness and skills in:

- Connection to the environment
- Involvement in landscape scale connectivity of wildlife corridors and habitat for iconic species such as Carnaby's Cockatoo
- Delivery of NRM planning and actions in the region

#### Cultural awareness, engagement and capacity building

Increase the local Noongar community's capacity and engagement in delivery to:

- Implement NRM planning and actions
- Increase knowledge of Noongar traditional ecological values and culture
- Identify opportunities for future land management and employment prospects for Noongar people

#### Onground Actions

Improve 'long term' ecological function and ecosystem services across the Peel-Harvey Catchment by:

- Improving the connectivity and health of priority riparian corridors and bushland patches across ~11,900km<sup>2</sup> catchment



**Australian Government**





# RIVERS 2 RAMSAR

## Connecting River Corridors for Landscape Resilience



### 1 MURRAY RIVER - LOWER

Protect the ecological, cultural, social and biological values of the Ramsar-listed Murray River Delta Islands and Lower Murray River system. Works carried out will create and improve ecological linkages, connectivity and improve River health.

Activities include:

- Implementation of Management and Action Plans
- Restoration and protection of riparian banks and floodplains
- Weed control

Partnerships:

- Shire of Murray
- Noongar communities' and working group
- 'Friends of' groups and local community

### 2 MURRAY RIVER - UPPER

Develop an NRM Plan for the Hotham and Williams subcatchments. The Plan is a priority action in the Hotham Williams NRM Business Case. It will identify landuses, previous and future NRM works, biophysical assets, issues and management targets for the short and long term.

Activities include:

- Identifying links between significant bushlands, both public and private holdings
- Onground works including fencing and Revegetation

Partnerships:

- Local landholders and managers
- The Noongar community
- Local government agencies
- Non Government Organisations

### 3 HARVEY RIVER - LOWER

Improve landscape and habitat connectivity between the Lower Harvey River, and the Ramsar-listed river confluence and Harvey Estuary.

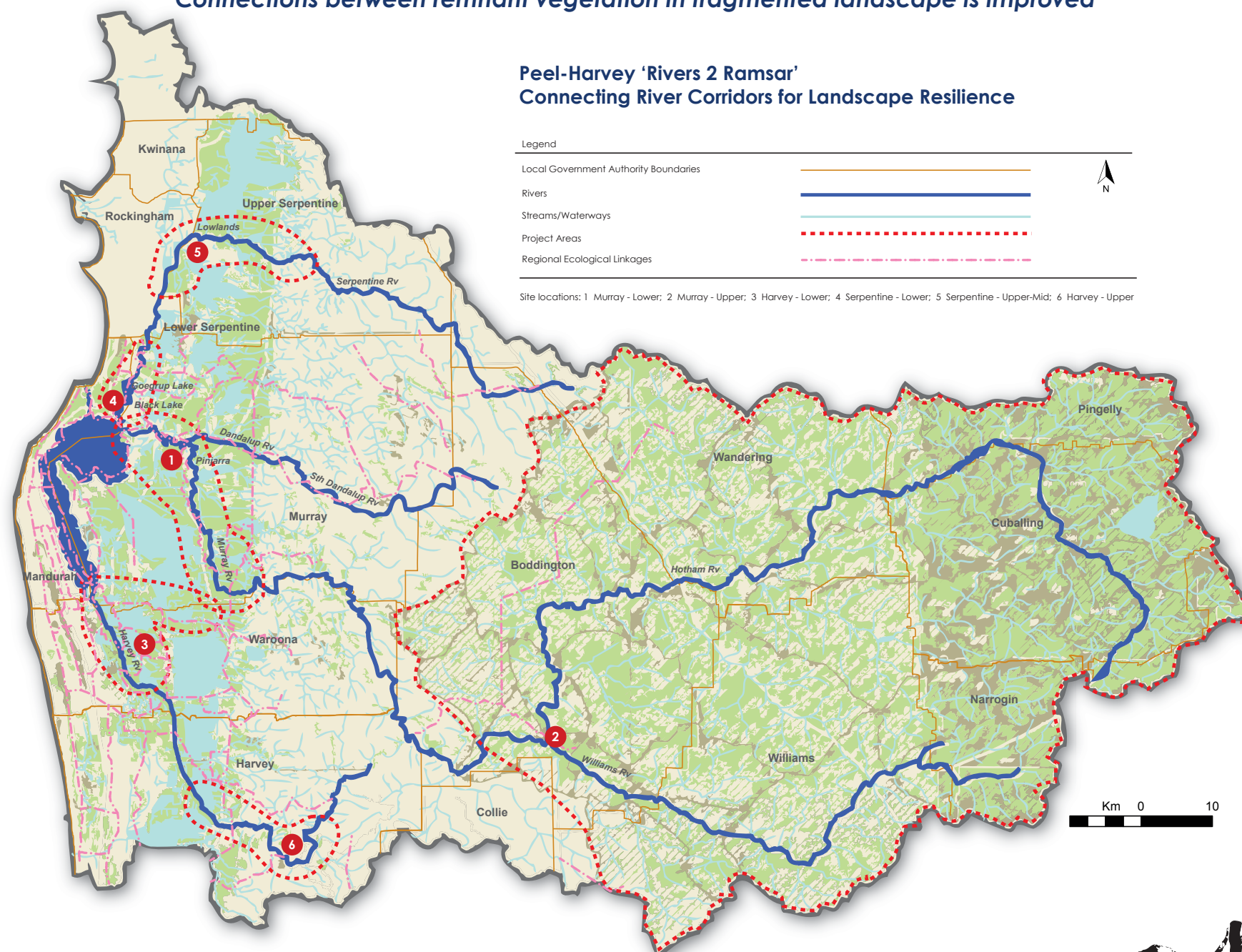
Activities include:

- Onground activities in restoration and bank stabilisation
- Habitat protection for aquatic, riparian and territorial species

Partnerships:

- Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
- Local community

**The extent of native habitats in fragmented landscapes is expanded**  
**Existing native vegetation condition that has high conservation value is protected, managed and enhanced**  
**Connections between remnant vegetation in fragmented landscape is improved**



### 4 SERPENTINE RIVER - LOWER

Review, and update the Serpentine River Action Plan and to set priority actions for the next 4 years, implementing relevant recommendations.

Activities include:

- Feral animal and weed control
- Revegetation and bank stabilisation
- Cultural signage

Partnerships:

- Noongar communities' and working group
- City of Mandurah
- Local community

### 5 SERPENTINE RIVER - UPPER AND MID

Restore key links between significant bushland and riparian zones from the upper and middle catchment, which complements and expands geographical scope and outcomes of the project deliverables.

Activities include:

- Increase regeneration of native bushland and riparian zones to reduce flora and fauna decline
- Weed control
- Fencing to reduce the impact of feral animals
- Reducing unlawful access
- Growing and planting resistant iconic Tuart trees
- Phytophthora mapping
- Collection and storage of seed from native plant species

Partnerships:

- Landcare Serpentine Jarrahdale Inc
- Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Local community

### 6 HARVEY RIVER - UPPER

Improve the landscape, habitat and ecological connectivity of the headwaters and upper reaches of the Harvey River and improve connectivity between the forested Darling Scarp and the receiving waters of the Ramsar-listed Peel-Harvey Estuary.

Activities include:

- Revegetation and restoration onground works
- Weed control and fencing to remove stock from waterways

Partnerships:

- Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
- Local community

**Field days and training workshops over all areas to create cultural and NRM awareness, with biodiversity as a priority focus!**

**20 Carnaby's Cockatoo training workshops and 'Great Cocky Counts' will be held during the life of the project.**

Partnership: Birdlife Western Australia



Protecting and enhancing existing native vegetation and biodiversity