

Annual Report

2020-2021

Our Vision

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.

Our Goals

1. Governing, leading and managing the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
2. Securing our Future
3. Influencing key decision-makers for better catchment governance
4. Facilitating collaborative adaptive management
5. Delivering quality environmental outcomes
6. Engaging and enabling individuals and communities

Cover Image: PHCC water quality monitoring at Myalup Lagoon

The 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



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

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



Message from our Chair

Our vision of a flourishing interconnected landscape, wisely managed by a community who value it, continues to underpin all we do. Professionalism, passion and exemplary delivery of projects are a credit to our team and our partners. I thank our operations team for their efforts, and our Board for shaping strategic direction and guiding governance.

The past year has seen extensions and new partnerships with Government and private sector to deliver shared visions. We are pleased to continue to increase our presence in the upper catchment, particularly to support our farming community.

In a constantly changing world the significance of protecting our environmental assets has become increasingly vital to many, especially our younger generation. We are grateful to our many volunteers and we thank you for your ongoing generosity of time and spirit.

Challenges ahead include the impacts of Climate Change, specifically decreasing water for our environment, the loss of vegetation including our forests, biodiversity, and the constant challenge of future funding to implement long term, landscape scale projects.

PHCC is in a strong position to do what we do best, support our community as together we strive for better environmental protection and outcomes for our beautiful catchment.

Warm regards
Caroline Knight

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF)

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoA]
National Landcare Program

2 Volunteers 24 Hours
\$840 in-kind

Supporting our community, especially farmers, to adopt sustainable land management practices through skills development, improved access to programs, farmer extension work and networking

Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Supported 8 events (2 x field days and 6 workshops), engaging 263 community members, including 123 farmers with technical advice, networking and information
- Supported 5 Farmer Groups, including Wandering Productivity Group, Southern Dirt, SJ Food and Farm Alliance and the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group
- Supported 20 farmers with farm management surveys and one-on-one technical advice
- Supported 33 Expressions of Interest from farmers for on-ground works
- Information sharing and networking using social media, email lists, newsletters, articles and flyers



Greening Farms

\$857,000

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoA]
National Landcare Program

4 Volunteers 48 Hours
\$1,680 in-kind

Supporting our farmers to manage and use native vegetation, revegetation and fodder plantings to increase farm biodiversity, productivity and improve soil condition

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- \$131,194 of projects funded across 20 farms, attracting \$269,781 in-kind contributions from farmers for:
 - 180 ha of on-farm revegetation
 - 188 ha of weed control
 - 17 km of fencing to exclude stock from 81 ha of native vegetation
- 84 landowners attended 4 Regenerative Farming events including 'Healthy Soil, Healthy Pastures, Healthy Horse', Soil Health, Dung Beetles and Sheep Handling

Regional Estuaries Initiative

Drainage & Soils

\$2.72 million

Jun 2016 - Jun 2020

WA Government [DWER]

2 Volunteers 26 Hours
\$910 in-kind

Improving the water quality of our Rivers and Estuary through the construction of drainage management infrastructure at priority sites, providing multiple benefits to landowners

Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- All seven Mayfield on-ground projects now complete with two winter flows having passed through the constructed infrastructure
- Projects now in a low-level support phase with PHCC staff supporting landholders
- Works on Peel Main Drain diversion weir, inlet/outlet culverts and swale modifications are all complete with operations expected to begin in October 2021 and continue through a series of winters with ongoing analysis and reporting

Supporting better fertiliser management practices, including regular soil testing, to improve farm profitability and deliver environmental outcomes, including improved water quality

Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 13 farming properties participated in the Nutrient Management program and received DIY soil sampling training and detailed soil testing

Healthy Estuaries WA

\$904,000

Dec 2020 - Dec 2024

WA Government [DWER]

2 Volunteers 56 Hours
\$1960 in-kind

Driving action in the catchment to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the estuary

Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 13 farming properties continued to participate in the Nutrient Management program, and received soil mapping reports, expert agronomic fertiliser advice and training at a workshop
- Workplan prepared for 1st year of stream restoration activities comprising exclusion fencing (5 km) and revegetation of riparian zones (1 ha)
- 4 landholders engaged for stream restoration activities

Smart Farming Partnership (uPtake)

\$90,000

Mar 2019 - Jun 2022

WA Government [DWER]

Using innovative technology and practices to build capacity and confidence in farmers to improve nutrient use efficiency on grazing farms in SW WA

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 32 participants attended soil health workshop promoting findings of uPtake trials
- Results of uPtake trials communicated to farming community through multiple media forums
- Installation of new uPtake trial on property in Waroona



Wetlands and People

\$4.99 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]
National Landcare Program

320 Volunteers 1143 Hours
\$40,005 in-kind

A community restoring the Ecological Character of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar 482 Wetlands

Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

Community Engagement - Capturing our community's hearts and minds through educational, artistic and cultural events to be more involved in the care and protection of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site

- 1,978 participants attended 28 community engagement and education events
- Supported Wetlands Centre's 2021 WA Wetlands Management Conference attended by 167 people (wetlands tours, keynote and plenary presentations and the Dandjoo Gabi Wonga sundowner event)
- 109 volunteers trained through the National Shorebird Monitoring Program and Mandurah Dolphin Watch Citizen Science initiatives
- 70 trained volunteers identified 53 waterbird species and counted 33,752 waterbirds in the National Shorebird Count confirming the wetland's compliance with Ramsar Criteria 5 and 6
- 334 school students engaged to learn about Ramsar 482 through 5 on-country excursions
- > 250 volunteers removed 1,400 kgs of litter from waterways through Clean Up the Peel Month events

Wetlands Science & Management - Facilitating collaborative management and monitoring to enable evidence based management of the Ramsar Site

- 19 sample sites representative of the 17 discrete waterbodies comprising the Yalgorup Lakes monitored monthly for water quality and level
- Convened 19th Annual Meeting of the Ramsar 482 Technical Advisory Group
- 34 stakeholders attended workshop to assess vulnerability of Ramsar 482 Site to climate change
- Supported sampling and analysis of fish communities to assess the ecological health of the Estuary
- Provided technical expertise to support the Saving Lake McLarty Project
- 2 projects designed to understand drivers of increasing salinity in Lake Clifton and assess health of the Thrombolite threatened ecological community in partnership with the Thrombolite Recovery Tea

On-ground - Actions to address threats to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site

- 114 ha of Yalgorup National Park protected to restrict illegal 4WD vehicle activity
- 62 ha of national park bushland protected from feral pigs, foxes and rabbits with a further 134 ha of follow-up control at previously treated Ramsar 482 bushland
- 83 ha of new areas within Ramsar 482 boundary protected by weed control and 70 ha of follow-up weed control in previously treated areas
- 5 ha of revegetation plantings maintained
- 8 projects in partnership with private landholders and community groups achieving 60 ha feral pig, rabbit and fox control, 100 ha weed control and 1500 seedlings at Lake Clifton seedling giveaway

Saving Lake McLarty

\$350,859

2019 - 2022

WA Government
[State NRM]

Assessing and arresting the threats of acid sulfate soils and declining water levels at Lake McLarty

Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 1 investigation of the current hydrological conditions of the lake, exploring possibilities for supplementing seasonal flows
- 108 m of soil cores collected and analysed from 58 locations in comprehensive investigation of acid sulfate soils in the lake bed
- 13 groundwater monitoring bores installed and groundwater levels and quality monitoring undertaken
- Monthly lake surface water level and quality measurements undertaken



Connecting Corridors and Communities

\$750,000 USD

Jan 2018 – Dec 2020

Alcoa Foundation

130 Volunteers 290 Hours
\$10,150 in-kind

Improving the health, biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Serpentine River

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 2,000 native seedlings planted across 3.8 ha of bushfire-affected area along Hymus Creek
- 7 sites monitored to assess vegetation condition along the Serpentine River
- 500 Dung beetles released onto farmland by North Dandalup Primary (bushfly & soil productivity)
- 2 cameras installed to monitor bottlenose dolphins in the Serpentine River
- 12 Alcoa employees and 7 Bindjareb Middars engaged in on-ground activities
- 2 Concept Plans completed detailing on-ground works to improve condition at priority sites

Healing Bilya

\$600,000 USD

Dec 2020 – Dec 2023

Alcoa Foundation

124 Volunteers 444 Hours
\$15,540 in-kind

Improving the health, biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Murray and Serpentine Rivers

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- US\$600K secured to implement priority restoration for the Serpentine River and Murray Rivers
- Commenced River Action Plans for lower and mid reaches of the Murray River to guide restoration
- > 900 seedlings planted along the Serpentine River to restore areas of degraded Banksia Woodland
- 6 events engaging > 400 people to increase skills, awareness and knowledge of values of our rivers
- 27 Alcoa employees and 6 Winjan Rangers engaged in revegetation works on the Serpentine River

Estuary Grants

\$750,000

Jun 2018 – Sep 2021

WA Government [DPIRD]

265 Volunteers 1,602 Hours
\$56,070 in-kind

Improving the health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary by improving fish habitat or abundance in our rivers

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Enhanced native fish habitat in the Harvey River by installing in-stream woody debris at 3 locations
- 69 estuarine sites assessed using fish communities to indicate estuary health
- 3 sites in the non-estuarine reaches of the Murray River assessed using fish, invertebrates and fringing vegetation to indicate ecological health of the river
- 40 sites sampled in the Murray River to identify habitat for Black Pygmy Mussels
- 24 Mussel Gardeners participated in the 'Mussel up for the Murray' citizen science initiative investigating mussel survival and recruitment
- 41 recreational fishers committed to improve fish habitat through engagement with OzFish Unlimited

Science Integration

\$468,000

May 2018 – Oct 2021

WA Government [DPIRD]

City of Mandurah
PHCC

Employment of a Science Advisor to drive projects to enhance the health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary and provide leadership for the integration of science into the management of the system

Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 5 large projects overseen to improve the ecological health of the Peel-Harvey waterways (Estuary Grants, Connecting Corridors and Communities, Healing Bilya,) and the Ramsar Site (Wetlands and People, Saving Lake McLarty)
- \$500,000 secured for the Peel Waterways Infrastructure Project (Peel Waterways Institute Stage 1)
- Keynote presentation at 2021 WA Wetlands Management Conference to 170 delegates
- 17 additional presentations and 5 school excursions delivered to >1200 community members and 1 radio interview with an audience of ~ > 1.5 million on our Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar 482 site
- 4 universities actively engaged in scientific research relevant to waterways health
- Continued provision of expert advice to local and state government, industry and community e.g. environmental impacts of proposed developments and fisheries management



Numbat Neighbourhood

\$2.17 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]
National Landcare Program

3 Volunteers 96 Hours
\$3,360 in-kind

Supporting people to protect the vulnerable Numbat wioo (Numbat, *Myrmecobius fasciatus*) in the wild

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- \$91,196 granted under Community Environmental Grants. Landholder contributions of \$108,295 (183 ha protected, 14 km fencing, 11 ha revegetation, 30 ha weed control and feral animal control)
- 19 cats removed and recorded through our Farmers for Fauna program
- 43 feral cats, 165 foxes and 34 feral pigs culled on private land around Dryandra Woodland
- 124 attendees culled 28 feral cats and 303 foxes through Wandering and Williams Community events
- 1500 ha of wild rabbit control through RHDV1-K5 virus release
- Continued cat, fox and threatened species monitoring in Dryandra Woodland including mapping vegetation to ascertain habitat value and support for additional maintenance on feral free enclosures
- 58 people attended workshops and training events including Numbat Dig Workshop, Bushland Management Workshop and Feral Pig Eradication Workshop
- 94 students and teachers attended a Numbat Incursion with Project Numbat to present and raise awareness about Numbats and other threatened species
- Continued active membership on Numbat Recovery Team
- Continued partnership to support Perth Zoo's Numbat Captive Breeding Program
- Worked with local Elder to protect important Aboriginal Heritage Site near Dryandra Woodland
- 13 ha of weed control in the Shire of Cuballing through a partnership with Indigenous Workabout

Protecting WA Black Cockatoos

\$380,000

April 2020 - June 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]
Environmental Restoration
Fund

7 Volunteers 56 Hours
\$1,960 in-kind

Supporting our farmers to manage and use native vegetation, revegetation and fodder plantings to increase farm biodiversity, productivity and improve soil condition

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 60 ha Black Cockatoo habitat protected on private properties by controlling access (4.5 km fencing)
- 1 ha revegetated with key food resource species on private properties
- 9 ha of native vegetation protected by controlling weeds at nesting and food resource sites
- 8 ha of nesting and food resource protected through feral pest control on private properties
- 1 alternative water source provided to reduce road strikes of Black Cockatoos
- 4 artificial nesting structures (Cockatubes) installed
- 8 project/site management plans developed
- Survey and collection of data on previously unmapped and existing nesting sites
- Community and stakeholder engagement activities including 16 communication materials, 2 training workshops, and 4 one-on-one interactions

A World for Woodlands

\$1.2 million

Jul 2019 - Jun 2023

Aust Government [DoEE]
National Landcare Program

35 Volunteers 114 Hours
\$3,990 in-kind

Reducing threats to Banksia Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) through land stewardship

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 401 ha of Banksia woodland actively managed through on ground works (4.6 km fencing, revegetation, habitat augmentation, 84 ha weed control and 305 ha pest control)
- 9 communication materials and 5 training/workshop events to raise awareness and empower local groups and landholders including Green Card Training for Winjan Rangers
- Additional activities included one on one engagement, data collection, Noongar Traditional Owner engagement, project planning and monitoring of on-ground activities
- Monitoring implementation plan prepared for data collection to evaluate outcomes



H-W Rivers

\$500,000

Jan 2018 - Dec 2022

Newmont Goldcorp
Boddington

1 Volunteers 8 Hours
\$280 in-kind

Supporting NRM officer/s to enable effective Natural Resource Management to improve the health of the Hotham-Williams Rivers and Tributaries

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- Commenced implementation of recommendations from Hotham-Williams River Action Plan leading to draft project concept plans being developed, with community and stakeholders for 8 priority sites
- Employment support in the delivery of onground components of the Numbat Neighbourhood, Greening Farms, Tunbridge Gully and Black Cockatoo projects within the Hotham-Williams catchment including the delivery of workshops/events and community environment grants
- The project and Newmont-PHCC partnership was a finalist in the 2020 Department of Mines, Industry, Regulation and Safety Community Partnership Awards
- Active involvement in the Newmont Community Reference Group

Tunbridge Gully

\$158,000

Jul 2015 - Jun 2021

South32

75 Volunteers 300 Hours
\$10,500 in-kind

Improve biodiversity and ecological function of Tunbridge Gully, increase cross cultural knowledge, provide education and training opportunities, improve aesthetics and establish a demonstration site

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- 1 planting event with the local community with a total of 75 volunteers planting 3,344 seedlings
- Follow-up weed control for *Juncus acutus* completed
- 4th year vegetation transect and photo monitoring completed
- PHCC represented on the South32 mine community liaison committee

Lake Clifton Conservation

\$248,500

2018 - 2022

CoM & SoW

5 Volunteers 12 Hours
\$420 in-kind

Improve health and resilience of the natural resources of the Lake Clifton Catchment, including the lake's thrombolites and other threatened species and ecological communities

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

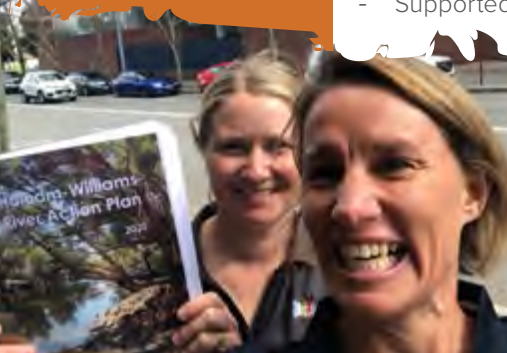
- 72 landholders across 48 properties attended Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway
- 14 attendees at Great Cocky Count workshop held with Birdlife WA and Mandjoogoordup Dreaming
- Prepared and distributed four editions of Lake Clifton Landcare Matters
- Continued engagement with Lake Clifton Community and implemented Land for Wildlife site assessments with 5 new properties registered, 2 Expressions of Interest received, 3 visits undertaken and 1 desktop and field assessment complete
- 2 grants provided to recipients for on-ground works through the Lake Clifton Stewardship Grants

Other Highlights

4 Volunteers 286 Hours
\$10,010 in-kind
(Finance, Communications,
Planning & Strategy)

**Governing, Securing,
Influencing, Facilitating,
Delivering, Engaging**

- 3 years funding secured and appointed inaugural Executive Officer for WA Feral Cat Working Group
- Supported the establishment of the first Noongar Ranger Team for Winjan
- Continued advocacy for the protection of Estuary (ie Point Grey Channel & Marina)
- 16 people employed (12 Aboriginal), 31 kilos native seed collected, cleaned and stored (20 species) via delivery of Green Jobs Agreement with State Government
- Commenced review of NRM Strategy, with consultation and shift to 'on-line' Strategy
- Revised our Strategic Directions '2021-23'
- Noongar Participation Plan approved by DPLH, SWALSC and Australian Government
- \$625K secured in 3 yr partnership with South32 Worsley Alumina "Hotham-Williams Warlang Boodja (Healthy Country)" to improve habitat and ecological function of river corridors at 8 priority sites
- Increase in employment opportunities for the local Aboriginal community and uptake of training
- Supported Friends of the Reserves – Boddington (Inc.) Ranford Pool and Camballing Reserve projects



17 Members

Community

Caroline Knight* Chair
 Darralyn Ebsary Deputy Chair
 Marilyn Gray* Treasurer
 Paddi Creevey Secretary
 Andy Gulliver
 Howard Mitchell*
 Sue Fyfe
 David Prattent*
 Claire Reid

Local Government

Eliza Dowling (Inland)
 Brad Cardilini (Coastal)

Agency

Bob Pond Exec Comm. DWER
 Dr Rob Summers DPIRD
 Mark Cugley DBCA
 Andrew Ward PDC
 Nicholas Dufty DPLH (observer)
 Suzanne Brown WC (observer)

*Member Finance & Audit Comm.



59 Partners

Associate | Investment | Delivery

Australian Government
 Alcoa Foundation
 BirdLife WA
 Bindjareb Noongar Community
 David Rennie
 Dept of Agriculture (DoA)
 Dept of Environment & Energy (DoEE)
 Dept of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD)
 Dept of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER)
 Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA) & Perth Zoo
 Dept of Planning, Lands & Heritage
 Friends of the Reserves Boddington (Inc.)
 Friends of Rivers Peel
 Friends of Lake McLarty
 Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
 John Tonkin College
 Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group
 Lake Mealup Preservation Society
 Landcare SJ
 Murdoch University - Fish & Fisheries Research
 Murdoch University - Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems
 Murray Districts Aboriginal Association
 Newmont Boddington
 NRM WA (7 WA NRM Regions)
 Numbat Recovery Team
 Peel Development Commission
 Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group
 Project Numbat
 PYNOC Invasive Species Control
 Regional Development Australia (Peel)
 Serpentine-Jarrahdale Food and Farm Alliance
 South32 Worsley Alumina
 Southern Dirt (Peel Hub)
 The Nature Conservancy
 University of WA
 Urbaqua
 WA Landcare Network
 WA Local Government Association
 Water Corporation
 Wing Threads
 Winjan Aboriginal Corporation
 Winjan Rangers
 Willman Noongar Community

31 Staff

Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer
 Colleen Archibald GIS Co-ordinator
 Kate Barr Project Support (Hotham-Williams)
 Jennie Beeson Wetlands Science Officer
 Karen Bettink Co-ord Land Conservation
 Deb Chard Manager Corp Services/Exec Support
 Thelma Crook Co-ord Noongar Participation
 Mick Davis RALF
 Mel Durack Ops Mgr Land Cons & Agriculture
 Steve Fisher Ops Mgr Science & Waterways
 Jo Garvey Prog Mgr Healthy Rivers
 Jordon Garbellini Land Conservation Officer
 Leanne Greene Office Manager/Exec Support
 Kristy Gregory Project Support (seconded)
 Mike Griffiths Wetlands Restoration Officer
 Karen Henderson Chief Finance Officer

Rick James Co-ord Wetlands Science & Mgmt
 Charlie Jones Co-ord Community Engagement
 Megan LeRoy Healthy Farms & Habitats Officer
 Julie MacMile Co-ord Graphics & Comms
 Sharon Meredith Co-ord Wetlands & People
 Peter Muirden REI Drainage Engineer
 Janine Neeling Admin Officer
 Helen Parsons Project Support (H-W)
 Paula Pownall RALF
 Nicole Ramsay Admin Officer
 Jesse Rowley Rivercare Officer
 Pat Sutton Finance Support
 Christine Townsend Co-ord Farmers for Fauna
 Kim Wilson Program Manager Ag

Judy Dunlop Exec Officer WAFSWG

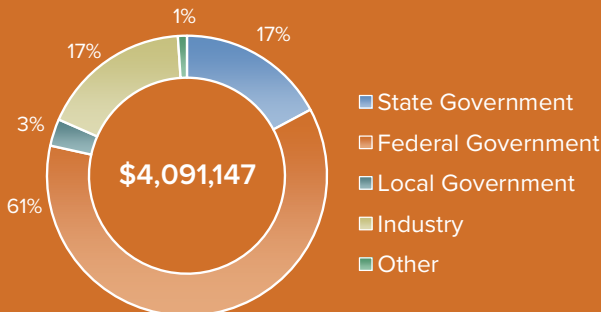
979 Volunteers

A big thank you to our regular team of volunteers.

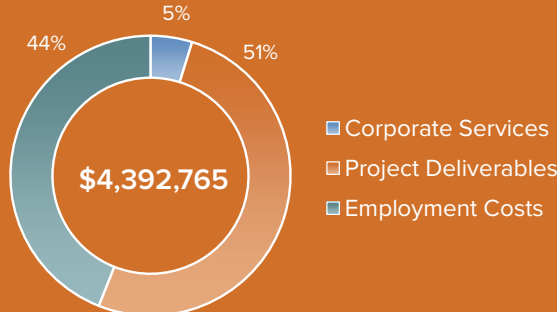
including 16 Local Governments

Shire of Boddington
 City of Cockburn
 Shire of Collie
 Shire of Cuballing
 Shire of Harvey
 City of Kwinana
 City of Mandurah (CoM)
 Shire of Murray
 Shire of Narrogin
 Shire of Pingelly
 City of Rockingham
 Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
 Shire of Wandering
 Shire of Waroona (SoW)
 Shire of Wickepin
 Shire of Williams

Financials



Funding



Expenditure

"AMD Chartered Accountants have completed Peel Harvey Catchment Council's audit for the year ending 30 June 2021, and stated that our "financial report has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012, giving a true and fair view".



PHCC is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program



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www.peel-harvey.org.au