

# MINUTES OF PHCC GENERAL MEETING



Held on Thursday 9 December 2021  
At Meadow Springs Sports Facility, Function Room,  
Oakmont Avenue, MEADOW SPRINGS WA 6210

## G.1/12/21 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.02 am, acknowledging the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of the land and paying her respect to all Elders past and present and emerging.

## G.2/12/21 Attendance

### Present:

Caroline Knight	Chair
Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
Paddi Creevey OAM	Secretary
Bob Pond	Executive Committee (DWER)
Sue Fyfe	Community Member
Veronica Metcalf	Community Member
Amanda Batt	Community Member
Claire Reid	Community Member
Peter Zurzolo	Community Member
Robert Harris	Local Government Member (Inland)
Rob Summers	DPIRD
Adrian Parker	PDC (Proxy for Andrew Ward)
Greg Durell	DBCA (Proxy for Mark Cugley)

### In Attendance:

Mel Durack	A/ Chief Executive Officer
Steve Fisher	Operations Manager, Science and Waterways
Charlie Jones	Community Engagement Coordinator, Wetlands and People
Deborah Chard	Manager Corporate Services & Executive Support (Minutes)
Janine Neeling	Administration Officer

### Invited Guests:

Cr Laurie Snell	Shire of Waroona
-----------------	------------------

### Apologies:

Darralyn Ebsary	Deputy Chair
Andrew Ward	PDC
Nicholas Dufty	DPLH (Observer)
David Prattent	Community Member
Mark Cugley	DBCA
Suzanne Brown	Water Corporation (Observer)
Andrew Ward	PDC
Brad Cardilini	Local Government Member (Coastal)

## G.3/12/21 Declarations of Interest

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

## G.4/12/21 Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on 21 October 2021

Moved: Claire Reid

Seconded: Bob Pond

That the Minutes of the General meeting held on 21 October 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

## G.5/12/21 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Minute No	Update
G.7/8/21 g)	That a Working Group comprising of Howard Mitchell, Andy Gulliver, Bob Pond and Steve Fisher <b>explore options</b> and consider how best to <b>capture visual monitoring of the current wet event</b> across the catchment. CEO to have delegated authority to consider PHCC contribution from 'Partnership funding' up to the value of \$10K. This action to be removed and opportunities to source captured imagery from Near Maps to be pursued by Steve Fisher, with an update to be provided to the Board if progressed.
G.10/08/21	Howard Mitchell, Marilyn Gray, Nicholas Dufty and Bob Pond to form a <b>working group</b> to discuss how the Board can support <b>an initiative that provides protection to the Peel Inlet</b> , a regionally significant landscape, through planning policy at local and state level. The working group to report back to the Board on next steps. <b>Action item to remain open in progress</b>
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 burn activity in Perup, noting the risk and potential impact to the numbat population if something similar were to occur in Dryandra. <b>This action item is complete. Greg Durell provided a response as part of the DBCA update (see G. 9/12/21 (c))</b>

## G.6/12/21 Out of Session Endorsement

Documentation relating to the out of session consideration and endorsement of the 'Wetlands and People project' was posted on the Members' page of the website. Endorsement was confirmed on 19th November 2021 and included as an agenda item for the purpose of noting only.

Moved: Marilyn Gray

Seconded: Bob Pond

That the minutes note the out of session endorsement by the Board of the 'Wetlands and People project'.

## G.7/12/21 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: Paddi Creevey OAM

Seconded: Claire Reid

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

CARRIED

*At this point in the meeting, the Chair handed over to Bob Pond as the chair of the selection panel for the Local Government Representatives for the PHCC Board. As nominees, Cr Robert Harris and guest Laurie Snell left the meeting.*

## **G.8/12/21 Ratification of Local Government Representatives**

Bob Pond reported that a selection panel was convened, comprising of himself, Rob Summers (DPIRD) and Professor Lyn Beazley, who was selected as the prominent member of the community.

It was noted that there were two vacancies, one for the Local Government Inland Representative and one for the Local Government Coastal Representative. All Local Government Areas within the catchment were invited to nominate a representative. The nominations closed on 18 November 2021. Five nominations were received, however, one was withdrawn prior to the panel making its recommendation.

The nominations were reviewed by the panel as per the constitution. Bob provided a briefing note with an overview of the nominees, summarising the applicants' backgrounds. Members discussed the panel's recommendations for both the representative and proxy roles. The Board supported the panel's recommendations for the two vacancies and agreed that further consideration of how best to utilise and engage with proxy's was required before moving to endorse the proxy recommendation.

**Moved: Marilyn Gray**

**Seconded: Sue Fyfe**

**That:**

- 1. Cr Robert Harris from the Shire of Cuballing be appointed as the Inland Local Government Representative; and**
- 2. Cr Laurie Snell from the Shire of Waroona be appointed as the Coastal Local Government Representative.**

**CARRIED**

**ACTION: The Executive Committee members to consider and discuss how best to engage with and utilise proxy members.**

**ACTION: Mel Durack to send a card to ex Board Member Eliza Dowling congratulating her on becoming the Shire of Cuballing President and thanking her for her contribution and time on the Board.**

## **G. 9/12/21 Agency and Member Updates**

**a) Rob Summers, DPIRD**

### **HEWA – Healthy Estuaries WA**

**Soil sampling:** Austin Lilly and Megan LeRoy have been visiting landholders for a brief hands-on training with the soil sampling equipment in the field. These are the DIY soil sampling farmers and the DPIRD sampled farmers are also currently underway. The aim is to have all of the sampling completed by the second week of January so that the results can be presented to the farmers in the February workshops.

**Surveys:** Farm surveys are taking pace with Megan LeRoy and Austin Lilly to determine the changes in fertiliser management practice.

**REI evaluation workshop:** An evaluation and review workshop covering the learnings from the Sustainable Agriculture program has been held in Busselton on 25-12-2021. Theo Nabbin is a local facilitator with evaluation experience who had local management of the day with Jeff Coutts (evaluation consultant) online from Queensland. The workshop evaluated how the process has developed in WA and the potential for incorporation from learnings about management of water quality in Queensland and New Zealand.

### **Publications**

*06\_2021\_12\_21\_General Minutes\_DC*

Weaver, D., Summers, R. (2021) Phosphorus status and saturation in soils that drain into the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary of Western Australia. Soil Research. Open access and downloadable from:

<https://www.publish.csiro.au/SR/pdf/SR20259>

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 press). Phosphorus retention of a nutrient retentive filter in a wetland beaten by a simple pond. Submitted to ENRR and accepted. Proofs have been reviewed and a link will be provided when this is online.

**ACTION:** Rob's co-authored article "*Phosphorus status and saturation in soils that drain into the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary of Western Australia. Soil Research*" to be listed as a future topic for presentation to the Board.

b) Mark Cugley, DBCA – written submission in absence:

**Fairy Tern breeding area on Boundary Island:**

The trial of a safe breeding area for Fairy Terns by fencing off a 50m x 130m area on the southern part of the Boundary Island is now in place, after the areas was fenced by DBCA in November 2020 with the support of volunteers of BirdLife Australia, PHCC and the WA Fairy Tern Network. The WA Fairy Tern Network have continued to deploy decoy Fairy Terns and signage advising any public that go to Boundary Island of the trial is in place. In mid-November there were 5 pairs incubating inside the fence at Boundary Island, with more prospecting!

**Feral pig control at Keralup and adjacent lands:**

The DBCA will be continuing to engage a contractor to undertake feral pig control activities on behalf of DevelopmentWA at Keralup in 2022. This is being done in conjunction with the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group, the Craig Mostyn Group and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) as part of an extensive feral pig trapping program being done across neighboring properties.

**Lake Mealup TAG and Lake McLarty TAG meetings:**

The Lake Mealup Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting occurred on 20 October 2021. The Lake McLarty TAG meeting occurred on 16 October 2021. DBCA greatly appreciates the knowledge and expertise of all stakeholders that are represented on these TAGs and their important work in assisting the DBCA to manage these areas with other land manages.

**Replacement of Goegrup Lake Nature Reserve boardwalk:**

Work to replace the ageing timber boardwalk in Goegrup Lake Nature Reserve began in November 2021 and is progressing well. It will be completed by March 2022.

**Recreational Master Plan for Yalgorup National Park:**

DBCA and the City of Mandurah are continuing to plan out the next steps for implementation of the Recreational Master Plan for Yalgorup National Park, given funding opportunities that may be available over the next three years. This is particularly focussed on managing beach access around Tim's Thicket and opportunities for improving access in the north of the park, on both DBCA and City managed land that is adjacent.

c) Greg Durell, DBCA

**DBCA Activities - Numbat Neighbourhood project**

Brian Macmahon attended the numbat dig workshop and answered questions about how native fauna are going in Dryandra. Peter Lacey attended the visit by Gillian Basnett, National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator and Richard Hudson, ABC Country Hour when they visited Dryandra.

The region has been working with DBCA remote sensing branch and universities to undertake analyse of the available vegetation data to determine if preferential habitat for numbats on or off reserve can be identified. No results as yet.

DBCA is continuing to maintain the enclosures, a branch fell on the Woylie numbat enclosure earlier in the year, this was repaired, and cat baiting was implemented as a precaution. No incursions of feral animals resulted from this damage.

Cat and fox baiting is continuing on the Dryandra main block and Contine and Stokes C blocks.

Camera networks continue to be monitored on Contine and Stokes C satellite blocks, cat and fox detections on the Dryandra main block, Contine block and Stokes C block have remained low with the current control measures on and off reserve, Chuditch detections have remained stable on the main block and Contine block and rising on Stokes C block, Melleefowl detections have been increasing on Dryandra's main block, Numbat and woylie detections are steadily rising on Dryandra's main block, woylies are starting to be detected on Contine however numbats still have not been detected on Contine or Stokes C as yet.

Peter Lacey has been assisting with developing the Dryandra Woonta Environmental Restoration Fund Priority Species (ERFPS) project.

### **Response to questions raised in Business arising from previous minutes - G.7/6/21 b)**

#### **Prescribed burning Dryandra Woodland**

Prescribed burns in Dryandra are undertaken differently to those in forest areas where leaf accumulation and load reduction are a priority. It takes a lot longer for leaf accumulation to occur in Dryandra due to the thicket type vegetation and there is very little chance it will reach the high fuel levels seen elsewhere (such as Perup). Burns are focused on creating smaller lineal buffers of approximately 100 metres wide for the creation of lower fuel zones to use a "breaks" to fall back on in case of severe bushfire. Burns of this nature only required every 10 to 15 years. Where possible burns activities are avoided in areas where there fallen trees that may be acting as natural habitat for the numbats and other fauna. Small block burns (50-200ha) maximum are only undertaken in autumn for ecological reasons and largely focused on regeneration of habitat/vegetation. The scale is different and the approach is integrated.

#### **Dryandra Woodland National Park status update**

The designation of Dryandra as a National Park has progressed significantly with the proposal currently with the Governor. The plans currently include the creation of two nature reserves and retain an area of state forest (mallet plantation areas). Further information will be made available at the time of announcement.

#### **d) Bob Pond, DWER**

##### **Dredging Licenses**

There are currently two dredging licences, with the licence for the Mary Street Lagoon channel extended for a week and sea bed levelling in the Dawesville Entrance Channel. The work in the Dawesville Channel is being undertaken using a tug pulling equipment specifically designed for sweeping the seabed.

##### **Murray River Buoy**

A permanent monitoring buoy has now been installed. This provides the Department with continuous data, capturing oxygen and temperature levels, which will prove information that might help us explain or predict fish kills.

##### **Estuary Sampling**

Sampling was undertaken after reports of sewage like smells in the Coodanup Area. The samples found that the levels weren't too bad and the smell was the result of algae build up. A further report of bad water quality and odour was addressed following repairs to a pump.

##### **Water Resource Management Bill redrafting**

Work on the Departments Water Resources Management Bill redrafting continues, resulting in a very busy period. The turnaround time for comments is very tight in some instances, being only one week.

e) **Adrian Parker, PDC**

- A lot of work has gone into progressing the election commitments for the Ravenswood and Dawesville Community Centre projects. Financial agreements have been developed and are with the respective councils.
- Waroona is going through a change process with the welcoming of new CEO, Mark Goodlet. The town is also working hard to progress its \$1.3 million town centre revitalisation strategy.
- Planning, development and management of the Peel Regional Trails project continues following the successful completion and submission of the 2020 – 2023 business case.
- There has been significant development for East Keralup, which is the single-largest freehold State Government Landholding, with an official announcement and sod turning imminent. This is a long term project spanning many years that is finally coming to fruition.
- The Peel alliance are contributing to the Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative with an \$80k commitment. Works will include scoping a practical agreement. Water supply is also the focus of Water Corps invitation to bid for upgrade works at the Mandurah Gordon Road Water Resource Recovery Facility and Harvey Waters future engagement with Alcoa.
- The Dwellingup futures program has reached practical completion, with a current focus on conversion of the governance structure and the agreements in principle.
- PDC is continuing to explore emerging opportunities in the development of green energy hydrogen.

f) **Robert Harris – Community Member**

The upper catchment and local areas are experiencing an increase in tourism, with an obvious increase in the number of caravans on the road and tourists in the towns and retail/hospitality outlets. The rise in visitors has resulted in increasing demand for facilities which is being met through upgrades to areas such as Pumphreys Bridge and Yornaning Dam Rest Area.

The high rain fall received across the catchment has led to a heavy fuel load, which has resulted in a level of community anxiety. Local response groups are promoting a common sense approach, with recognition of the excellent volunteer services and resources available, as well as the advancements in the use of thermal imaging data to detect and respond to hot spots and lightning strikes.

The previously raised issues of supply shortages and delays continues, with cost increases seen in relation to fertilizer, fuel and chemicals. Phosphate has seen a 100% increase in cost, with significant increases also seen in relation to potassium and nitrogen based products.

g) **Marilyn Grey – Community Member**

Convenor and campaign director of the WA Forest Alliance Jess Beckerling, was recently awarded the Bob Brown Foundation Environmentalist of the Year Award for her long term commitment to protecting the forests and wildlife of the South-West. This is an achievement that should be promoted and acknowledged.

**ACTION: Mel Durack to send a card to Jess recognising the continued work of the Alliance on protecting the forest and congratulating her on the award on behalf of the PHCC.**

It is difficult to ascertain what rehabilitation is occurring in Alcoa's footprint due to the lack of published scientific data available. PHCC should seek avenues in which it can query what is occurring and what information is available to support rehabilitation works.

h) **Sue Fyfe – Community Member**

There have been no updates published on the EPA website relating to the current Alcoa Environmental Assessment. This leads to concerns around the transparency of the process.

**ACTION: Mel Durack to identify appropriate contact for Alcoa and make enquiries into the plans for dissemination of information. Claire Reid to assist with identifying appropriate contact.**

i) **Peter Zurzolo – Community Member**

Government requirements in relation to Director Identification Numbers have come into effect. PHCC Board Members may be required to apply for a Director Identification number with new members given 28 days in which to apply and a longer period for established members.

**ACTION: Deb Chard and Peter to follow up on whether or not there is a requirement for PHCC Board Members to apply for a Director ID and report back to the Board.**

The CRC have introduced a new portal that allows members to connect and submit ideas – please see the link for more information [Connect Portal](#)

It is great to see Tom Hatton in the role of Chair of the WA Feral Cat Working, he brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to the role.

j) **Claire Reid – Community Member**

South32 will submit its Environmental Scoping Document by the end of January 2022 with the anticipated release by the EPA for a Public Environmental Review period being towards the end of February 2022.

**G.10/12/21 Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer spoke to her report as provided with the agenda.

**Moved: Rob Harris**

**Seconded: Paddi Creevey**

**That the Treasurer’s Report be endorsed as presented**

**CARRIED**

**G.11/12/21 Confirmation of Board Meetings to be held in 2022**

The proposed dates were provided to the Board. No objections to the proposed dates were raised.

**G.12/12/21 ACNC Report for Noting**

Completion and submission of the ACNC report 2021 was delegated to the CEO at the October AGM. The draft report was endorsed by Sue Fyfe as Chair of the Governance Steering Committee on 25 October 2021 and submitted by the CEO on 11 November 2021.

**Moved: Marilyn Gray**

**Seconded: Paddi Creevey**

**That the submitted ACNC report be accepted and noted**

**G.13/12/21 Chief Executive Officer’s Report, including presentation of the Operation Managers Reports:**

Operation Managers, Mel Durack (Land Conservation and Agriculture) and Steve Fisher (Science and Waterways) presented their reports to the Board.

Mel Durack presented the CEO’s report as acting CEO. The CEO’s full report was provided with the Agenda, highlights included:

Jane is enjoying her holiday over in S.A and the team has been completing some amazing work as you will see through the Land Conservation & Agriculture and Science & Waterways Teams reports. Also a huge thanks to the work and support of the Corporate Services teams. A reminder of the Acting CEOs whilst Jane is away:

- 15 November to 23 December (6 weeks) - Melanie Durack
- 24 December to 21 January (4 weeks) - Charlie Jones



- 24 January to 11 February (3 weeks) - Steve Fisher

## **Staff – Movements, Professional Development and More**

### **Goal 2 – Secure our Future (Workforce Plan)**

#### Farewells and Recruitment:

- Program Manager, Healthy Waterways – remains vacant, interviews are planned for the week of 6<sup>th</sup> December
- Manager Corporate Services – Deb Chard provided notice of her resignation and will be finishing up with PHCC on 3rd February 2022. Thank you to Deb for staying on to cover the staff leave period over December/January. The role has been re-advertised with applications closing on 20th December. Interviews will be planned once staff return from leave.
- **Boddington CRC (PHCC Regional Office)** – A lease agreement was finalised and signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. This is for the period of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and is for the current office space, room 13 and also the room next door, room 12. The new lease includes PHCC assisting with painting and delivering 6 community sessions in partnership with the CRC. We continue to investigate longer term office options for the Boddington based staff. Jane has had some initial discussions with Lotterywest regarding options and potential grant opportunities.
- **Staff Culture, wellbeing and Team Building** – We continue to review and determine appropriate steps to support the team. When Jane returns the 1:1, “what’s working and what’s not” discussions will continue. So far they have triggered some modifications to operations.
- **Staff Bulletin (Karla Time)** – this is continuing and is emailed out every Friday. It is proving to be a great resource for the staff.
- **GRID/Mapping** – We remain on a periodical arrangement for GRID while we work across the 7 Regions to determine the best way forward that will meet individual business needs but also enable whole of state reporting of our collective outputs (tell the story of what NRM Regions achieve across the state. Currently there are three options being investigated, and in Jane’s absence Colleen is liaising with South Coast NRM and SWCC as well following up with Gaia on further information.
  1. Original Transitional Proposal using QGIS and a Cloud Database - \$48,000 (PHCC only). May need a GIS officer to oversee and manage it at the NRM region level.
  2. NRM Region GRID V2 (access to one platform and collate data from across the state) - \$600,000 total.
  3. State Wide Schema with QGIS or ArcGIS. May need a GIS officer to oversee and manage it at the NRM region level. More information to come.

## **New Funding Applications / Business Contracts (see also Program Manager Reports)**

### **Goal 2 – Secure our Future (Business Model)**

### **Goal 6 – Engage and enable individuals and communities (Partnerships)**

The figure below provides a snapshot of our secured and “in progress” funding to 2025/26. A detailed table showing budget, funders and commencement dates will be provided at the meeting.



PHCC Project Funding 2021-2027  
Actual & Projected

Project	2021/22			2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27		
	SEP	DEC	JUN	SEP	DEC	JUN	SEP	DEC	JUN	SEP	DEC	JUN	SEP	DEC	JUN	SEP	DEC	JUN
Core Services																		
Ramsar Wetlands																		
Banksia Woodlands																		
Numbat Neighbourhood																		
Greening Farms																		
Black Cockatoo																		
Healthy Estuaries																		
Estuary Grants																		
Healing Bilya																		
HW Warlang Boodja																		
Hotham-Williams Rivers																		
Peel Water Research Infrastructure																		
Saving Lake McLarty																		
Feral Cat Working Group																		
Peel Main Drain Monitoring																		
Lake Clifton Stewardship																		
Hotham Williams 4LG MOU																		
Science Integration (1FTE)																		
Landcare Support																		
Smartfarms																		
Partnership - Shire of Murray																		

a. **Science Advisor – Continued funding (\$120,000 + City of Mandurah support)**

We have submitted a funding proposal for a further 4 years funding for this role, with support of the PDC. We have also sought further support from the City of Mandurah (who have traditionally provided between \$10,000 and \$20,000 p.a.). It is hoped that this will be presented to Council for their meeting in February 2022 (4 years support).

b. **Healthy Estuaries WA**

Jane, Steve and Mel met with DWER representatives on 27 October to discuss proposed variations to our Healthy Estuaries WA Agreement. This funding is from the \$5 million DWER secured for implementation of the Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan. The proposal is to extend the project to December 2025 with additional commitments under the fencing and revegetation and fertilizer management projects. We are currently working through feasibility and interest from landholders in undertaking the additional fencing requests (additional 40km). Further discussions will be had with DWER early next year.

We advised DWER that we were unable to accept a proposed variation to partner on trialling Iron Man Gypsum (IMG) due to the proposal shifting significantly from initial discussions back in June 2021 (brokering to undertaking trials and outcome reporting). We have offered the opportunity for a new proposal to be sent for consideration and further discussion (for simple brokerage).

c. **Lake Clifton Stewardship - MOU – City of Mandurah (\$50,000 x 5 years)**

The City of Mandurah’s briefing session for December is now not going ahead, so we plan to present to the Council at the February 2022 briefing session on an extension of our MOU with them (2017-2022) for \$50,000 p.a. for a further 5 years. This presentation will coincide with a presentation on the Science Advisor funding.

**Goal 6 – Engage and enable individuals and communities (Build Community Capacity)**

a. **State NRM Community Engagement Grants**

74 projects totalling \$7 million announced.

Successful projects within the Peel-Harvey Catchment are below:

- PHCC as sponsors for the Harvey River Restoration Taskforce – River connections toward a revitalised and vibrant Harvey River Catchment - \$247,992.
- Shire of Murray – Murray River – Engaging Community in Riverbank Restoration and Rehabilitation - \$191,400.
- Lake Clifton Herron Progress and Sporting as Sponsors for Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group – 3R’s for Lake Clifton – Maintenance-Consideration-Review-Future of Area A, B, C, H - \$16,390.
- Swanlandia Inc. as sponsors for Friends of Island Point – Community Dieback Action Plan – Island Point Reserve - \$26,492.

Further updates to be provided on the Community Collaboration Grants once information is received (note the website is currently down).

b. **Community Engagement (Ramsar)**

Please see the Community Engagement Sections of the Operations Manager, Science & Waterways and Operations Manager, Land Conservation & Agriculture.

## **Projects (Refer also Program Manager Reports)**

Goal 4 – Facilitate Collaborative Adaptive Management

Goal 5 – Deliver quality environmental outcomes

Please refer to the Program Manager reports that provide a summary of project status, highlights etc. Our thanks to the project team, but also the support team enabling the project delivery.

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

- a. **Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator** – Please refer Land Conservation & Ag PM Report.
- b. **Communications** – We are meeting obligations for communications. A summary was provided with the agenda
- c. **Noongar Participation**

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

**Procurement/Capacity** - Thelma continues to support the Winjan Ranger team and is actively working with our team to identify opportunities for employment.

### **2. Airport Offsets – Banksia and Wetlands**

Jane, Karen Bettink and Corrine Duncan met with 3 representatives of the Perth Airport on the 5th November and we were asked to provide further information on potential offset areas. The following was provided:

- Maps of potential offsets for north and south of the region, showing private land tenure only, within 12km of black cockatoo habitat, within 1km of TEC and mapped Banksia PHCC layer and categorised according to land size (ha).
- Map of Roberts Bay Swamp area with ecological values.
- Zip shapefile of extracted tenure from Roberts Bay Swamp (2016), with propriety details excluded.

We have also provided details of black cockatoo nest box costs, suppliers, installers and maintenance requirements. For proposed installation locations it was recommended that the Airport liaise directly with Birdlife WA and DBCA to ensure all guidelines and requirements are met.

### **3. Regional Estuaries Initiative - Peel Main Drain**

Construction is complete and we have completed a Site Access and Risk Management document in lieu of an Operations Strategy. Peter Muirden, Bob Pond and Steve Fisher met with staff from Water Corporation on Site on 6th December to talk through outstanding WH&S issues. As per the special presentation at the start of the meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December we were able to operate the penstock to let water flow from the drain into the swales! Congratulations to everyone involved in the project for their hard work!

Goal 3 – Influence key decision makers for better catchment governance

(refer also to Chair's report detailing strategic meetings)

**SAPPR and PHEMC Update – Suspension of SAPPR (No update)**

**Minister for Environment** – Jane has been working with Robyn Clarke to provide a half day tour of the catchment with Amber Jade Sanderson (State Minister for Environment) – no further update at this stage

**EPA Chairman, Matthew Tonts** – following on from the meeting Jane and Steve attend on 6th September with Matthew Tonts, a meeting is being planned for February once Jane returns focused on offsets and Native Vegetation Policy.

**WA Feral Cat Working Group Meeting** – Mel attended this meeting on Monday 29th November on behalf of Jane. Well done to Judy for all her hard work in developing the new website, there is still some further information to gather from various groups. A Feral Cat Symposium is being planned for 1st to 3rd November, see Operations Manager, Land Conservation & Agriculture report for more information.

**The Strategic Meeting** - is being held on 17th February and the focus will be on:

- Water for our Environment - Prepare a PHCC statement on, and advocate for, Environmental Water Provisions for the health of the Peel Harvey Estuarine System and its tributaries.
- Business Case for Restoring Catchment - Develop and communicate a clear understanding of the range and value of ecosystem service provided by the Peel-Harvey Estuarine system and its catchment (basis for potential business case for our \$111 million restoration project).
- Carbon Off-Set Markets - Investigate potential for entering carbon off-set markets and explore a range of investment strategies
- Most speakers have been locked in.

### Other highlights and project updates

**Point Grey** – amazing news! On 2<sup>nd</sup> December an announcement was made by the Minister for Planning, Rita Saffioti that the Point Grey Channel will not go ahead! Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in working towards this decision for the past 10 years, this includes a number of staff and board members along with the community and Shire of Murray! A big shout out in particular to Jane and Steve for all their hard work – well done! Refer to the Operations Manager – Science & Waterways Report for further information.

Minister's announcement - [Media Statements - Point Grey Marina plan jettisoned in wake of amendment](#)

PHCC media release - [Point Grey Channel Squashed in monumental win for Peel-Harvey Estuary and its community | Peel-Harvey Catchment Council](#)

Work Health Safety - There are no significant issues to report.

Office closure will be from 12 noon Thursday 23rd December and re-opening on Monday 10th January. Staff may choose to work over this time, as per usual but the office will not be open.

Congratulations to the amazing PHCC team on another very busy year! Also on behalf on Jane and all the staff, thank you to the board for their continued support throughout the year. The team are looking forward to a well-deserved break over the festive season!

**Moved: Rob Summers**

**Seconded: Bob Pond**

**That the CEO's Report be endorsed as presented.**

**CARRIED**

### G.14/12/21 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 Birak, the season of the young. A time of fledglings and reptiles shedding their skin. A season represented by the colour red, symbolic of heat, sun and fire. A time traditionally used to burn country in mosaic patterns and to share stories on hunting yonga (kangaroo) and the movement of the mobs.

Meetings and Events

Last week's fabulous announcement by the Minister for Planning, Rita Saffioti to support the Shire off Murray's Scheme Amendment to remove the 330 berth marina and the 2.5km long navigational channel from Pt Grey couldn't be more fantastic!

Ministers Media Statement - [Point Grey Marina plan jettisoned in wake of amendment](#)

PHCC Media Release - <https://peel-harvey.org.au/point-grey-channel-squashed-in-monumental-win-for-peel-harvey-estuary-and-its-community/>

The collective excitement across our region that common sense still prevails was palpable. PHCC have worked with community for 10 years opposing the proposed channel which would have cut through our Ramsar 482 site. It's been long, it's been hard, it's been exhausting with so many people contributing to this outcome which cannot

be appealed. We should all take time to acknowledge the real significance of what has been achieved by this decision. Countless numbers of people have contributed in diverse ways, the Shire of Murray has demonstrated true courage and of course the science was overwhelming, all of this leading to such a significant decision.

I'd like to make special mention of our Dr Steve Fisher's contribution in driving sound research and science for evidence-based decision making along this journey.

I attended the National NRM Chairs conference held virtually over two days on the 18th and 19th of November. For me the highlight was an inspirational presentation by Barry Irvin AM the Chairman of Bega Cheese. His passion for sustainable agriculture and a circular economy has seen huge growth in Bega products and range as consumers demonstrate a real appetite for corporate social responsibility, sustainable practices, and circularity.

Jane and I have undertaken the first steps in the induction process for our new board members and I'd like to welcome Amanda Batt, Veronica Metcalf and Peter Zurzolo as our newest community members and Rob Harris and Laurie Snell as our Local Government representatives.

With our CEO having a wonderful time away I'd like to thank Mel, Charlie and Steve for stepping into the big shoes whilst managing their own areas. I'd like to thank our fabulous staff for their ongoing professionalism and the board for their support and commitment.

I look forward to working with you all next year starting off with our Strategic thought-provoking day in February which is shaping up with an inspiring range of speakers.

It's been an extremely busy year for PHCC with staff recruitment and a restructure but we end this year with the best possible outcome, an end to the Point Grey issue! We just need Santa to purchase this incredible piece of land so it can be used in a manner that celebrates its incredible biodiversity.

Best wishes for a much-deserved Christmas break!!

**Moved: Paddi Creevey**

**Seconded: Rob Harris**

**That the Chairman's Report be endorsed as presented.**

**CARRIED**

### **G.15/10/21 Confirmation of next meeting date**

The next meeting is a General and Strategic Meeting scheduled for Thursday 17 February 2022. The meeting is scheduled to run from 8.45am – 4.30pm.

*The meeting closed at 12.15 pm*

Chair: .....

Date: .....

Actions arising from General Board meeting held on Thursday 9 December 2021

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.8/12/21	The Executive Committee members to consider and discuss <b>how best to engage with and utilise proxy members.</b>	Executive Committee	
G.8/12/21	Mel Durack to send a card to ex Board Member Eliza Dowling congratulating her on becoming the Shire of Cuballing President and thanking her for her contribution and time on the Board.	Mel Durack	
G.9/12/21(g)	Mel Durack to send a card to Jess recognising the continued work of the Alliance on protecting the forest and congratulating her on the award on behalf of the PHCC.	Mel Durack	
G.9/12/21 (i)	Deb Chard and Peter Zurzolo to follow up on whether or not there is a requirement for <b>PHCC Board Members to apply for a Director ID</b> and report back to the Board.	Deb Chard and Peter Zurzolo	

Summary of actions from General Board meeting held on Thursday 12 August 2021:

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.10/08/21	Howard Mitchell, Marilyn Gray, Nicholas Dufty and Bob Pond to form a working group to discuss how the Board can support an initiative that provides protection to the Peel Inlet, a regionally significant landscape, through planning policy at local and state level. The working group to report back to the Board on next steps.	Nominated Board Members	In progress

