

# MINUTES OF PHCC GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 17 February 2022  
At The Department of Fire and Emergency Services,  
Bushfire Centre of Excellence, Peel Business Park,  
20 Dollyup Street (Off Lakes Road) NAMBEELUP



## G.1/02/22 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:47 am, acknowledging the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of the land and paying her respect to all Elders past and present and emerging.

## G.2/02/22 Attendance

### Present:

Caroline Knight  
Darralyn Ebsary  
Marilyn Gray  
Paddi Creevey OAM  
Bob Pond  
Sue Fyfe  
Veronica Metcalf  
Amanda Batt  
Peter Zurzolo  
Robert Harris  
Laurie Snell  
Rob Summers  
Adrian Parker  
Mark Cugley  
Suzanne Brown  
Nicholas Dufty

Chair  
Deputy Chair  
Treasurer (via zoom)  
Secretary  
Executive Committee (DWER)  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Local Government Member (Inland)  
Local Government Member (costal)  
DPIRD  
PDC (Proxy for Andrew Ward)  
DBCA  
Water Corporation (Observer) (via zoom)  
DPLH (Observer)

### In Attendance:

Jane O'Malley  
Mel Durack  
Steve Fisher  
Charlie Jones  
  
Kellie Beckwith  
Janine Neeling  
Nicole Ramsay  
Renee Barton

CEO  
Operations Manager, Land Conservation and Agriculture  
Operations Manager, Science and Waterways  
Community Engagement Coordinator,  
Wetlands and People  
Manager Corporate Services & Executive Support  
Administration Officer  
Administration Officer (Minutes)  
Program, Manager, Healthy Waterways

### Invited Guests:

### Apologies:

Claire Reid  
Andrew Ward

Community Member  
PDC

The Chairman advised the Board that David Prattent has resigned from the Board and recommended that this Community position remain vacant at this time. A card is to be sent to thank David for his time and contributions.

## G.3/02/22 Declarations of Interest

Nil

## G.4/02/22 Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on 9 December 2021

Moved: Paddi Creevey OAM

Seconded: Amanda Batt

That the Minutes of the General meeting held on 9 December 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

## G.5/02/22 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Minute No	Update
G.8/12/21	The Executive Committee members to consider and discuss how best to engage with and utilise proxy members. <b>Action item to remain open in progress.</b>
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. <b>Action item is complete.</b>
G.9/12/21	Mel Durack to send a card to Jess Beckerling (WAFSA) recognising the continued work of the Alliance on protecting the forest and congratulating her on the award on behalf of the PHCC. <b>Action item is complete.</b>
G.9/12/24(i)	Deb Chard and Peter Zurzolo 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. <b>Action item is completed. Written advice provided in meeting papers. Confirmation that there is no requirement for PHCC Board Members to apply for a Director ID. Action item is completed.</b>
G.9/12/21(i)	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. <b>Action item is completed. Claire provided response via email with contacts on 12 December 2021. Board members have been provided with an update via email from Mel Durack on 17/12/2021.</b>
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. To be driven by Howard Mitchell, however his resignation and loss of his skillset from the board raises impediments to the task. Bob Pond and Nicholas Dufty have met to discuss and agree it is difficult to progress from our current departmental roles. <b>Nicholas agreed to prepare a brief overview of how landscape planning measures can currently be managed within the planning system and report this back at a future Board meeting. Action item to remain open in progress</b>

## G.6/02/22 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: Robert Harris

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

CARRIED

## G.7/02/22 Chairman's Report

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

Welcome to Boonaroo (or Bunuru)- the season of adolescence. This is the hottest time of the year, strong easterly winds with cooling sea breezes for coastal living. A time to feast on seafood and freshwater foods from the rivers, estuaries, and coast. Marri trees are flowering, their white flowers offering a sweat nectar treat.

2022 is here and it promises to be a challenging year as we face the reality of living with COVID. We are taking the safety of our staff and our community seriously and with good adaptive management we will ensure the continuity of working towards a flourishing interconnected landscape. True to this, it's been a busy start for our fabulous staff.

Steve Fisher presented a plenary lecture at the 18th Annual Wetlands Conference titled "When international importance isn't important enough: a case study in the power of community in protecting a Ramsar wetland". Steve's presentation emphasised the importance of an engaged and well-informed community using scientific evidence to underpin arguments to influence decision makers - an approach I feel is needed across many areas that are threatened.

Charlie Jones has been busy with the annual Shorebird ID workshops introducing more community members to the delights of our shorebirds followed by the annual shorebird count. This citizen science all contributes to BirdLife's Australian Shorebird Monitoring Program which we support through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

This year will see us preparing for the NLP contracts coming to completion in mid 2023 and the need to reapply. We call upon government to embed funding of environmental repair into a more sustainable model, not one dependant on one off cycles and the complexities and uncertainties that that entails.

It is welcome news that the long-awaited national park in the Wheatbelt, the Dryandra Woodland, has been finally created. Covering over 17 000 hectare and home to some of Australia's rarest and most venerable wildlife, including numbats, woylies and chuditch. This is significant step in preserving the precious biodiversity of Dryandra.

Welcome to our two new staff members, Renee Barton and Kellie Beckwith.

A very big thank you to Mel Durack, Charlie Jones and Steve Fisher for all of their work covering for Jane while she was on leave, and a very big welcome back to Jane.

I look forward to working with you all in 2022

**Moved: Sue Fyfe**

**Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary**

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

**CARRIED**

## G.8/02/22 Acting Chief Executive Officer's Report (Steve Fisher)

Welcome Back Jane! It's great to have Jane back at work again. The place was not the same without you.

On behalf of Mel and Charlie, thanks to all PHCC staff, volunteers and Board Members for your support in Jane's absence. Although Jane returned from her leave on 14 Feb., this report has been prepared by Steve Fisher with help from Charlie Jones and Mel Durack all of whom spent time as Acting CEO over the past three months.

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

**Staff – Movements, Professional Development and more**

**1. Farewells and Recruitment:**

- Renée Barton as Program Manager, Healthy Waterways, who commenced work with us on 7 Feb.
- Kellie Beckwith, as Manager, Corporate Services, who commenced work with us on 16 Feb.
- Emily Heller worked with us through December as a (McCusker Centre at UWA) intern, and did such a great job that we engaged her as a casual employee through Jan. and Feb.
- Deb Chard resigned as Manager, Corporate Services, with 10 Feb. being her last day at PHCC.
- Rick James tendered his resignation as Coordinator, Wetlands Science and Management (finishing 25 Feb).

**2. Professional Development**

- Nine staff attended the 2022 WA Wetlands Conference at the Wetlands Centre Cockburn on 2 & 3 Feb.

**3. Other**

- The Hotham-Williams team expanded into the adjoining Room 12 at the Boddington CRC.
- Weekly Staff Bulletin (Karla Time) – is proving to be a popular and great resource for the staff.
- GRID/Mapping – We remain on a periodical arrangement with GAIA Resources while we work with other Regions to determine the best way forward.

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

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

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

The figure below provides a snapshot of our secured and “in progress” funding to 2025/26.

PHCC Project Funding 2021-2027  
Actual & Projected

Project	2021/22				2022/23				2023/24				2024/25				2025/26				2026/27			
	SEP	DEC	MAR	JUN	SEP	DEC	MAR	JUN	SEP	DEC	MAR	JUN	SEP	DEC	MAR	JUN	SEP	DEC	MAR	JUN	SEP	DEC	MAR	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																								

In addition to the detail given in the Operation Manager Reports, please note the following:

1. **Science Advisor** – continued funding \$120,000 p.a. State Government + ~\$10,000 p.a. City of Mandurah (x 4 years)
  - No progress attempted with State Government funding proposal (2022-23 State Budget Priority Initiative).
  - Funding request to City of Mandurah has been included in the officer's report (22 March) meeting of Council. Jane and Steve will present to council on 15 March to brief them about this request and another for the Lake Clifton Stewardship Project. This is also an opportunity to inform council of the good work that PHCC does.
2. **Lake Clifton Stewardship - MOU** – City of Mandurah (\$50,000 x 5 years)
  - Extension of our MOU (2017-2022) for \$50,000 p.a. for a further 5 years – see above.
3. **Healthy Estuaries WA**
  - PHCC hosted the Healthy Estuaries WA Peel-Harvey Estuary Forum on 16 Dec 2021. The event was a great success, attended by approx. 50 community members, and showcased on-ground work and scientific investigations that DWER (Aquatic Science) and PHCC are undertaking to protect our waterways.
  - Jane, Steve, Renée and Mel will meet with DWER to discuss extending (doubling!!) our current Stream Restoration and Sustainable Agriculture activities undertaken through HEWA with funding from the \$5 million DWER secured for implementation of the Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan.
4. **Regional Estuaries Initiative - Peel Main Drain Water Diversion Trial**
  - As announced and celebrated at the December General Meeting, we opened the penstock on 7 Dec. letting the water flow down the treatment swales at the Trial site! During December, Peter Muirden and Michelle Mullarkey undertook preliminary trials, including collecting samples for chemical analysis before the flows dried up. The trial will now go into hibernation until we get consistent stream flow in autumn / winter.

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

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1. Community Engagement (Ramsar and other projects)

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

#### **Goal 4 – Facilitate Collaborative Adaptive Management**

#### **Goal 5 – Deliver quality environmental outcomes**

#### **Projects (Refer also to Operations Manager Reports)**

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Please refer to the Operations 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**

- Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator – Refer Operations Manager, Land Conservation & Agriculture report.
- Communications – We are meeting all obligations for communications, as detailed in the full report.

Noongar Participation - Procurement / Employment / Skills and Capability building –Thelma is a living treasure. She continues to support the Winjan Ranger team. Steve, Jesse Rowley, and / or Karen Bettink attend regular meetings with the Winjan Rangers where we try to identify opportunities to help them fulfil their obligations for their agreed work plan and for them to undertake additional fee-for-service work.

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

- No progress since December report

### **3. State NRM Core Services Project – CBIP 2004 (reported by Mel Durack on behalf of Kim Wilson)**

- Train the Trainer Farm Planning in a Fire Prone Landscape (refer Program Manager report for details)
- Feral pig on-ground support in place through partnerships in the Hotham-Williams and a training workshop is planned near Narrogin (Minigin) which will involve DPIRD and the National Feral Pig Program Support Officer.

### **Goal 3 – Influence key decision makers for better catchment governance**

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

No update, however, the **Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan** recommends (P1) to:

“Establish a coordinating committee to: a) Guide implementation of the (Estuary Protection) plan; b) Share information on land development and planning proposals; and c) Collaborate with key stakeholders to support implementation of the specific actions of this (Estuary Protection) plan.”

No formal announcement has been made regarding the establishment of this committee, however oblique references were made to it at both the Healthy Estuaries WA Peel-Harvey Estuary Forum (15 Dec) and the Peel-Harvey Estuary Dolphin Forum (7 Feb).

#### **2. Minister for Environment (State):**

- Minister Whitby opened the 2022 Wetlands Conference on 2 Feb. where he spoke about the threat to Ramsar Wetlands posed by climate change and his personal and professional commitment to protecting wetlands for future generations. He was also represented at the Peel-Harvey Estuary Dolphin Forum.

#### **3. Meetings/advocacy etc:**

- EPA Chairman, Matthew Tonts: a meeting is scheduled for 28 Feb.
- WA Feral Cat Working Group – see Operations Manager, Conservation & Agriculture report.
- PHCC’s Strategic Meeting - immediately following this meeting with nine experts as guest speakers to provide information on a) Carbon Off-Set Markets – to help us investigate potential for entering carbon off-set markets and explore a range of investment strategies; and b) Water for our Environment – to help us prepare a statement on, and advocate for, Environmental Water Provisions for the health of the Peel Harvey Estuarine System and its tributaries.

### **Other highlights**

- Dryandra Woodland received National Park status on 17 Jan., the first National Park in the Wheatbelt!
- PHCC Events: Please go to our website to keep across events and activities happening across the catchment - <https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/> - and keep following our Facebook and Twitter accounts for project information and more.

### **Work Health & Safety and other Operational Issues**

- There are no Work Health and Safety incidents or near misses to report (however):
- In response increased occurrences of coronavirus infections in the community, we undertook a survey of staff to gauge and act on concerns regarding workplace safety. As a result we are a) Creating a voluntary register of staff vaccination status (i.e. information volunteered by staff); and b) reviewing procedures and protocols to reduce the risk to our staff, volunteers, board members, partners and community of infection by the coronavirus.

**Moved: Robert Harris**

**Seconded: Sue Fyfe**

**That the Acting CEO’s Report be endorsed as presented.**

**CARRIED**

## G.9/02/22 Treasurer's Report

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

**Moved: Paddi Creevey OAM**

**Seconded: Mark Cugley**

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

**CARRIED**

## G. 10/02/22 Agency and Member Updates

### a) Nicholas Dufty, DPLH – written submission

- The Department has received the development application for The Nature Conservancy Estuary Shellfish Reef Development – a sub-tidal reef system in the Peel-Harvey Estuary seeded with blue mussels.
- The Department has a new Director General – Anthony Kannis. Anthony will move from his current role as Managing Director at METRONET.

### b) Rob Summers, DPIRD – written submission

HEWA – Healthy Estuaries WA

*Soil sampling*

Austin Lilly and Megan LeRoy have finalised soil sampling with all samples submitted for analysis.

*Surveys*

Farm surveys are concluding with Megan LeRoy and Austin Lilly to determine the changes in fertiliser management practice.

*HEWA soil mapping workshop*

The workshops will be carried out online due to Covid-19 issues, 21/2/2020 to 10/3/2022. The format will be changed to spread the training over shorter sessions over a few days to avoid online fatigue. There will also be an equipment check to see if everyone can get online as well as the ability for attendees from one catchment to be able to move their allocated time to another catchment so that they have the flexibility if they can't attend (similar to previous years). Hard copies of the maps with the fertility will be delivered by Austin Lilly and Megan LeRoy as soon as the laboratory results return and the farms are mapped.

### **Publications**

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>

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. <https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/rmtr/406/>

Summers, R. N. Weaver, D. M. (2021). Phosphorus Retention of a Permeable Reactive Barrier Surpassed by an Unvegetated Artificial Pond. ENRR, 11 (1) <https://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/enrr/article/view/0/46500>

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

Summers, R. N. Weaver, D. M. (submitted for review). Lowering the water solubility of phosphorus fertilisers impacts leaching, plant growth and residual soil phosphorus.

c) **Mark Cugley, DBCA**

- Dryandra Woodland national park status.
- Lisa Munday held a meeting regarding Dolphin incident response, Mark will keep the board updated with progress.

d) **Adrian Parker, DPC**

- Very Busy period with DWIN agreement, Infrastructure investment Program.
- Keralup progressing well (joint cause with DWER, C-Wise)

e) **Bob Pond, DWER**

- Murray River Buoy - A houseboat has collided with and dragged the buoy about 250 metres upstream, doing significant damage. The buoy and instrumentation has now been removed for repair. Alternative deployment options are being considered.
- WRM Bill - There is a lot of background work going on for drafting of the new Water Resource Management Bill. Sections are coming out regularly with questions from the State Solicitors that need to be responded to with urgency, creating an immediate and unpredictable additional workload.
- Water Quality Improvement Plan - The revised Peel Harvey WQIP is currently in draft form and the region has been involved with its review
- COVID Planning
- Bindjareb Djilba – PHEPP - Things have been progressing in the background for implementation of the PHEPP. Trudy Evans has been appointed as the PHEPP coordinator for DWER, and she will be working partly in the region to increase organic communications. Progress is being made on the higher level implementation committee, Likely to be Chaired by the Hon David Templeman MLA

f) **Darralyn Ebsary – Community Member**

- 173 Foxes culled at Wandering Fox Shoot.

**ACTION:** Requested a report of more detailed information/updates from DBCA Wheatbelt Narrogin Office regarding what is happening at Dryandra Woodlands and future plans.

g) **Veronica Metcalf – Community Member**

Residential development to be put to Boddington Council. Veronica to attend next council meeting and provide update to the Board.

### G.11/02/22 Organisational/Steering Committee membership modifications

Members considered nominations to Organisational and Steering Committees.

**Moved: Rob Summers                      Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary**

**That the following nominations for Steering Committees be endorsed:**

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Agriculture Steering Committee | - Andy Gulliver (guest)          |
| 2. Finance and Audit              | - Peter Zurzolo                  |
| 3. Governance                     | - Peter Zurzolo                  |
| 4. Community Engagement           | - Peter Zurzolo                  |
| 5. Hotham-Williams                | - Amanda Batt & Veronica Metcalf |

**CARRIED**



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

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.10/08/21	<p>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. This item was raised and was to be driven by Howard Mitchel, however his resignation and loss of his skillset from the board raises impediments to the task. Bob Pond and Nicholas Dufty have met to discuss and agree it is difficult to progress from our current departmental roles. Nicholas agreed to prepare a brief overview of how landscape planning measures can currently be managed within the planning system and report this back at a future Board meeting.</p>	Nominated Board Members	In progress

## G.12/10/21 Confirmation of next meeting date

The next meeting is a General Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday 28 April 2022.

*The meeting closed at 9:35 am*

Chair:  .....

Date: 28/04/2022 .....

Actions arising from General Board meeting held on Thursday 17 February 2022

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.2/02/22	A card to be sent to resigning Board Member David Prattent to thank him for his contribution and time on the board	Caroline Knight	
G. 10/02/22 (g)	Requested a report of more detailed information/updates from DBCA Wheatbelt Narrogin Office regarding what is happening at Dryandra Woodlands and future plans.	Mark Cugley	

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	In progress
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	Completed
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	Completed
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	Completed