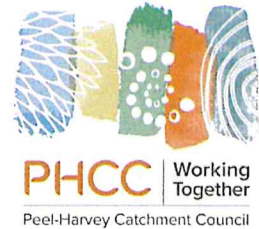


# MINUTES OF PHCC GENERAL MEETING



Held on Thursday 28 April 2022

At The Marine Operations Centre – 107 Breakwater Parade Mandurah

## G.1/04/22 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:03 am, acknowledging the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of the land and paying her respect to all Elders past and present and emerging.

## G.2/04/22 Attendance

<b>Present:</b>	Darralyn Ebsary Marilyn Gray Paddi Creevey OAM Bob Pond Sue Fyfe Amanda Batt Robert Harris Laurie Snell Rob Summers Mark Cugley	Deputy Chair (Chairing this meeting) Treasurer Secretary Executive Committee (DWER) Community Member (via Zoom) Community Member (via Zoom) Local Government Member (Inland) Local Government Member (Costal) DPIRD DBCA (via Zoom)
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Jane O'Malley Mel Durack Steve Fisher Karen Henderson Corrine Duncan Jennie Beeson Janine Neeling Nicole Ramsay	CEO Operations Manager, Land Conservation and agriculture Operations Manager, Science and Waterways Chief Finance Officer (via Zoom) Co-ordinator Land Conservation Wetlands Science Officer Administration Officer Administration Officer (Minutes)
<b>Invited Guests:</b>	Patrick Gardner	Wilderness Society WA
<b>Apologies:</b>	Caroline Knight Claire Reid Peter Zurzolo Veronica Metcalf Andrew Ward Suzanne Brown Nicholas Dufty Kellie Beckwith	Chair Community Member Community Member Community Member PDC Water Corporation (Observer) DPLH (Observer) Manager Corporate Services & Executive Support

## G.3/04/22 Declarations of Interest

Nil

## G.4/04/22 Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on 17 February 2022

**Moved: Rob Summers**

**Seconded: Marilyn Gray**

**That the Minutes of the General meeting held on 17 February 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

02\_2022\_04\_22\_General Minutes\_NR

## G.5/04/22 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Minute No	Update
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. <b>Completed.</b>
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. <b>Completed</b> – Greg Durell, Regional Manager Wheatbelt and staff will contribute information and <b>updates in DBCA's agency report that is provided at Board meetings</b> (via Mark Cugley).
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 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. <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.</b> <b>Action item to remain open in progress</b>

## G.6/04/22 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: Bob Pond**                      **Seconded: Laurie Snell**

**That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

**ACTION:**                      **Jane O'Malley to send Sue Fyfe further information on Director Identification Numbers, as considered by the Finance and Audit Committee at their meeting in November 2021.**

## G. 7/04/22 Agency and Member Updates

a) **Rob Summers, DPIRD**

**HEWA – Healthy Estuaries WA**

**Soil Mapping** – All soil sampling, map preparation and surveys have been carried out under the coordination of Megan Leroy and Austin Lilly. Soil samples have been analysed and soil maps for all landholders have been completed and either delivered in hard copy and as digital copies.

**HEWA Soil Mapping Workshop** – The Workshops were online due to COVID-19 issues, 21/2/2020 to 10/3/2022. The unedited presentation can be viewed:

**Setting the scene**

Session 1 – 23/02/2022

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/3b3a62lvs4ddkc3/HEWA\\_Session\\_1\\_23022022\\_H264.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/3b3a62lvs4ddkc3/HEWA_Session_1_23022022_H264.mp4?dl=0)

**What is in your mapping report – Peel-Harvey**

Session 2 – 28/02/2022

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/a7z5rlbuxn0nbz1/HEWA\\_Session2\\_Peel\\_Harvey\\_28022022.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/a7z5rlbuxn0nbz1/HEWA_Session2_Peel_Harvey_28022022.mp4?dl=0)

## Soil Acidity, lime and next steps

Session 3 – 10/03/2022

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wp9jls2je6hk1am/HEWA%20Session%203%2010032022.mp4?dl=0>

The format was changed to spread the training over shorter sessions over a few days to avoid online fatigue.

**uPtake** – The uPtake project is examining how much pasture will grow based on soil tests for phosphorus. This information is being added to an Australian database for estimating fertiliser requirements and the project is stimulating interest and generating confidence in soil testing. The project requires many sites from differing soil types and phosphorus contents to represent the range of soils in WA to ensure that it is relevant to our conditions and current pasture species. This data adds to 3000 years of research trials which have previously described the response curve used to calculate the fertiliser requirements based on soil tests.

This year there will be 6 new uPtake trials with 4 continuing sites and one of the sites in the Peel will also be testing and monitoring the leaching from SuperSR which is a less soluble P fertiliser.

### **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>

Weaver, D., Summers, R. Schweizer, S., Leopold, M, Scanlan, C (2022) Valuable phosphorus retained by ironstone gravels can be measured as bicarbonate extractable P. Geoderma Volume 418, 15 July 2022, 115862 [https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S0016-7061\(22\)00169-0](https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S0016-7061(22)00169-0)

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. (Accepted- subject to changes). Lowering the water solubility of phosphorus fertilisers impacts leaching, plant growth and residual soil phosphorus.

Summers, R., Weaver, D. (in prep) Modifying soil P retention to reduce phosphorus runoff in coastal Western Australia

### **b) Mark Cugley, DBCA**

**Dryandra Woodland** – Camera monitoring has continued at Stokes and Contine Blocks; Cat and fox detections have remained low at both sites; detections of other fauna such as Chuditch, Quenda and Possums have continued to increase; Numbats have not been detected on either block yet which is not unusual; No Woylies have been detected on Stokes block and only a small number have been detected on Contine block, again not unusual given they are small blocks of bush.

There is no reason to suspect that both numbat and bettong populations at Dryandra should not be in any immediate threat of declining. Recent monitoring will determine this when data is analysed. Baiting program continues at Dryandra.

The Department's Remote Sensing Branch has purchased a drone with remote sensing capacity, including LiDAR, it is being used to monitor at Dryandra and we are currently collecting data and calibrating data from the drone with on ground vegetation informed by the recent vegetation mapping, hoping this will allow the identification preferred habitat for a range of threatened species.

Australian Government funding for the Dryandra Woonta Project has been approved. This is the project looking at using Felixer feral animal control devices around Dryandra to add to the feral predator control work already being undertaken.

**Autumn prescribed burns** – Two prescribed burns planned for Dryandra Woodlands this Autumn. Weather dependent they may be achieved this autumn or carried over for future years. Given the current weather patterns we are not confident we will get to these burns this year. DBCA undertook a prescribed burn in Lowlands Nature Reserve last week. This was a strategic 105ha burn to the south of the homestead for asset protection and help maintain biodiversity amongst 60 year old fuels.

**Lake McLarty and Lake Mealup** – Water levels across both Lake McLarty and Lake Mealup have been managed to provide habitat for wader and migratory birds throughout the summer. Lake McLarty dried out in early March which was an opportunity to cycle off nitrogen, and birds shifted to use the habitat that was still available at Lake Mealup that still had ~30cm of water.

**Other DBCA-PHCC projects for southern reserves on the Swan Coastal Plain** – The support from the PHCC for works to protect Claypan and Banksia Woodland TEC's is greatly appreciated. Signage, feral animal control and access management continues to occur with PHCC support at Treasure Block, Nine Mile Nature Reserve, Lake McClarty Nature Reserve and Hymus Swamp. DBCA and PHCC staff are scoping up new potential projects for weed control, access control and feral animal control works at Austin Bay and Kooljerrenup to protect Claypan TEC within these Nature Reserves.

Consistent with the COI registered with the PHCC on 11 March 2020 I have acknowledged that I am an agency representative on the PHCC Board, but will take no part in the assessment process that considers these projects as a good and valuable use of funds administered by the PHCC.

c) **Bob Pond, DWER**

- The Murray River Monitoring Buoy should be back in place in the next couple of weeks.
- Bindjareb Djilba – Policy and Planning Coordinating Committee will be having its inaugural meeting 6 May chaired by Hon David Templeman MLA, and Deputy Chair Lisa Munday MLA. Jane O'Malley is representing the PHCC.
- Environmental offsets are intended to counterbalance the significant residual impacts on biodiversity values of proposals and clearing regulated under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. In October 2021, the WA metric (calculator and guidelines) was published to help quantify environmental offsets, available here: <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/environment/environmental-impact-assessment/environmental-offsets>. The need for guidance on metric inputs was noted in several appeals determinations, and to improve the consistency and transparency of offset calculations. DWER has developed a procedure which includes the ranges of values and their rationale. A draft procedure for metric inputs will soon be released for public consultation.
- I will be representing the Department on the Small and Large NRM grants again this year.
- I am finished contract tracing with the Department of Health and back to full time duties in the region.

d) **Sue Fyfe, Community Member**

- Dwellingup Discovery Forest Defenders is now incorporated
- Interaction between groups focusing on Rio Tinto applications for 10 exploration permits in the Northern Jarrah Forests, The wardens court hearing date has been delayed from July 2022 until April 2023 as around 1500 objections were received (with each party being able to object 10 times).
- The Social Housing Economic Recovery Program (SHERP) will be building 12 houses at the Dwellingup Community Village.

e) **Amanda Batt, Community Member**

The Boddington community is awaiting the Community Environmental Review from South32.

**ACTION:** Mel Durack to link PHCC position statement regarding the South32 Community Environmental Review on the PHCC webpage once endorsed. Also ensuring that PHCC will advertise dates of the South32 information sessions.

f) **Marilyn Gray, Community Member**

- KPMG's annual survey of risk in industry has placed Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks above commodity risks for the very first time.  
<https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2022/04/global-mining-outlook-2022.html>
- Rehabilitation areas need to be a higher priority with a public register and condition report

**ACTION:** Jane O'Malley to enquire if any other groups have worked on a rehabilitation site register or similar.

g) **Rob Harris, Local Government Representative**

- New local cat laws that have been introduced in Cuballing have received overwhelming support from the community.
- Narrogin East Fire - Impact Statement provided with Agenda. Fire Incident East of Narrogin raising bushfire awareness and concern with in the community leading to implications for local governments across the upper catchment.
- Carnarvon Energy – Resurrections of Oil Mallee industry for carbon storage paper provided with Agenda and discussed.

h) **Laurie Snell, Local Government Representative**

- A larger Solar Farm is planned in the southern part of the catchment. The proposed land is already cleared.
- The Community is concerned about Rio Tinto's 10 exploration applications.

## G.8/04/22 Guest Speaker

Patrick Gardner, WA Campaigns Manager, The Wilderness Society WA – Presented on the “**Values and Threats faced by the Northern Jarrah Forrest**”.

Members were provided the opportunity to ask questions of Patrick.

## G.9/04/22 Staff Projects Updates

- A. “**A summary of Acid Sulfate Soils Investigations at Lake McLarty**” (Jennie Beeson - Waterways Research Officer)

The board thanked Jennie Beeson for her presentation.

- B. “**A World for Woodlands – Protecting our Swan Coastal Plain Banksia Woodlands**” (Corrine Duncan - Coordinator, Land Conservation)

The board noted the great work of the Banksia Project in difficult circumstances and thanked Corrine for her presentation.

Mark Cugley provided feedback following the meeting:

*“I really wanted to convey how great the work is that PHCC is doing on the SCP Banksia Woodlands project at the end of Corrine's presentation, but my virtual hand didn't get high enough and the opportunity passed! A considerable part of this work is on DBCA land and it is providing very valuable*

*leverage to our own management effort of controlling feral animals, illegal access and the spread of dieback. Can you please pass on appreciation to the Corrine and all of the PHCC that is involved."*

### G.10/04/22 Treasurer's Report

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

Moved: Bob Pond

Seconded: Rob Harris

That the:

- a) Treasurer's Report be endorsed as presented;
- b) Draft Budget for 2022-23 be endorsed, as presented, noting that the final Budget will be presented at the August meeting;
- c) Modifications to the Procurement Policy be endorsed, as presented

CARRIED

### G.11/04/22 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO spoke to her report (with supporting slide presentation), providing updates on the team, projects and other highlights including:

Staff – Movements, Professional Development and more

**Farewells and Recruitment** - We continue to manage a higher than usual staff turnover, which is resulting in resources being redirected to this purpose.

- Mike Griffiths finished 1<sup>st</sup> April and we welcome Katy Montgomery as our new Wetlands Restoration Officer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.
- Nicole Ramsay appointed as full time finance officer, with Pat Sutton retiring on 1 June.
- Currently advertising to back fill Nicole's Administration Officer (Hotham-Williams) role
- Charlie Jones finished with us on 26 April and we are contracting parts of Charlie's role while we determine the best way forward.
- We are yet to fill the Co-ordinator Wetland Science and Management and again, are looking to determine best way forward (with only ~12 months left on this project).

The figure below provides a snapshot of secured and "in progress" funding to 2025/26. Including new projects "Dryandra Woonta" (refer Land Conservation Program Manager report – congratulations to Karen Bettink) and Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan (refer Science and Waterways Program Manager report).

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

**Science Advisor** – continued funding \$120,000 p.a. State Govt + ~\$20,000 p.a. City of Mandurah (x 4 years). We are awaiting confirmation of the State Government proposal (2022-23 State Budget Priority Initiative); Jane and Steve presented to the Council on 15 March to brief them about this request and another for the Lake Clifton Stewardship Project (see below).

**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.

**Healthy Estuaries WA** - Jane, Steve, Renée and Mel met with DWER representatives on 3 March to discuss extending our current Stream Restoration (fencing and revegetation) and Sustainable Agriculture (soil testing and behaviour change) activities undertaken through HEWA with funding from the \$5 million DWER secured for implementation of the Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan. We are awaiting receipt of Agreement.

PHCC Project Funding 2021-2027 Actual & Projected																											
Project	Grand Total	Start Date	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	\$ 2,382,737	July 2018																									
Ramsar Wetlands	\$ 4,996,221	July 2018																									
Banksia Woodlands	\$ 1,401,428	July 2018																									
Numbat Neighbourhood	\$ 2,174,505	July 2018																									
Greening Farms	\$ 1,078,254	July 2018																									
Black Cockatoo	\$ 380,000	July 2019																									
Dryandra Woonta - ERF	\$ 223,000	June 2023																									
Healthy Estuaries	\$ 904,000	Dec 2020																									
Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection	?																										
Estuary Grants	\$ 750,000	Jun 2018																									
Healing Bilya	USD 600,000	Dec 2020																									
HW Warlang Boodja	\$ 625,000	April 2021																									
Hotham-Williams Rivers	\$ 500,000	Jan 2018																									
Peel Water Research Infrastructure	\$ 500,000	Sept 2021																									
Saving Lake McLarty	\$ 350,859	Apr 2019																									
WA Feral Cat Working Group	\$ 224,727	April 2021																									
	\$ 52,500	April 2021																									
Peel Main Drain Monitoring	\$ 249,254	Dec 2020																									
Lake Clifton Stewardship	\$ 236,000	Sept 2017																									
	\$ 12,500	July 2021																									
Hotham Williams 4LG MOU*	\$ 180,000	August 2018																									
Science Integration (1FTE)	\$ 120,000	July 2021																									
Landcare Support	\$ 100,000	Oct 2020																									
Smartfarms	\$ 90,000	Mar 2019																									
Partnership - Shire of Murray	\$ 25,000	July 2019																									

**Bindjareb Djilba (Peel-Harvey Estuary) Protection Plan Policy and Planning Coordinating Committee** – we have accepted an invitation on this Committee, with the first meeting being 6 May. Jane will be the PHCC representative and will present to the inaugural meeting re PHCC needs to best implement/support implementation of actions identified in the PHEPP.

**EPA Chairman, Matthew Tonts** – Caroline, Steve and Jane met with Matthew Tonts on 28 February at the PHCC (Sutton Street). It was a very productive meeting. At Matthews request Jane has arranged for him to present to the NRM WA CEO meeting scheduled for 10 May.

**WA Feral Cat Working Group** – see Operations Manager, Conservation & Agriculture report. Note Chairman, Tom Hatton, has stepped down due to other commitments. Elisabeth McLellan has accepted the Deputy Chair role. A new Chairman is being sought. The next Symposium is scheduled for February 2023, at UWA.

**Public Environmental Reviews** – Alcoa and South 32 Worsley Alumina – the team is working hard to prepare for the commencement of the PER's for the proposed expansions of both Alcoa and South 32. The Board was asked to consider the draft position statement on the South 32 PER (anticipated to commence in the very near future, once the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment have provided feedback to EPA Services.

**Moved: Paddi Creevey Seconded: Sue Fyfe**

**That the Board endorses the draft PHCC Position Statement on the South32 Worsley Alumina Proposed Mining Expansion, as presented, with delegation to the CEO for any minor modifications.**

**CARRIED**

**Note: Bob Pond and Mark Cugley abstained from discussions and voting on this matter**

**National Landcare Program – Core Services Communications:**

We are meeting all obligations for communications. Details were provided with the Agenda.

**Noongar Participation** – on 25 March Thelma Crook, Jesse Rowley and Jane participated in the development of the Winjan Strategic Business Plan, at a facilitated workshop at Winjan. The Plan was used in the preparation of the application for the Ranger Program (Round 4), which was submitted on 7 April, with support from the PHCC team. Kallan Nannup and Bronte Grant (DWER) were fabulous in pulling the application together. Particular thanks to Bronte for her support to Winjan, which is much appreciated with Thelma stepping back from this role.

Moved: Marilyn Gray      Seconded: Paddi Creevey

That the CEO's Report be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

G.12/04/22 Chairman's Report

Moved: Paddi Creevey      Seconded: Rob Summers

That the Chairman's Report be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

G.12/04/22 Confirmation of next meeting date

The next meeting is a General Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

*The meeting closed at 12:24 pm*

Chair: .....

Date: ..... 16.6.22

Actions arising from General Board meeting held on Thursday 28 April 2022:

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G6/04/22	Jane O'Malley to send Sue Fyfe further information on Director Identification Numbers, as considered by the Finance and Audit Committee at their meeting in November 2021	Jane O'Malley	
G.7/04/22	Mel Durack to link PHCC position statement regarding the South32 Community Environmental Review on the PHCC webpage once endorsed. Also ensuring that PHCC will advertise dates of the South32 information sessions.	Mel Durack	
G.7/04/22	Jane O'Malley to enquire if any other groups have worked on a rehabilitation site register or similar.	Jane O'Malley	



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

Minute No.	DETAILS	RESP.	ACTION
G.10/08/21	The Executive Committee members to consider and discuss <b>how best to engage with and utilise proxy members.</b>	Executive Committee	<b>Complete</b> CEO and Chairman are working with Laurie and Rob in this matter

Actions arising 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. 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.	Nominated Board Members	In progress

