

Healing Bilya - Restoring the Murray and Serpentine Rivers

\$600,000 USD

December 2020-2023 (3 yrs)

The "Healing Bilya-Restoring the Murray and Serpentine Rivers" project aims to improve the ecological health of the Murray and Serpentine Rivers and surrounds, through collaboration with private landholders, Bindjareb Noongar traditional owners and the broader community, and increase knowledge and capacity building within the community.

Through this project the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council will implement on-ground activities with the local community at priority sites, identified through River Action Plans. Activities will help to reduce the impacts on existing bushland and riparian zones from significant threats such as:

- introduced weeds
- feral animals and diseases (eg: dieback)
- land use changes that impact on the biodiversity and cultural values of the waterways and surrounds.

OUTPUTS

Activities include:

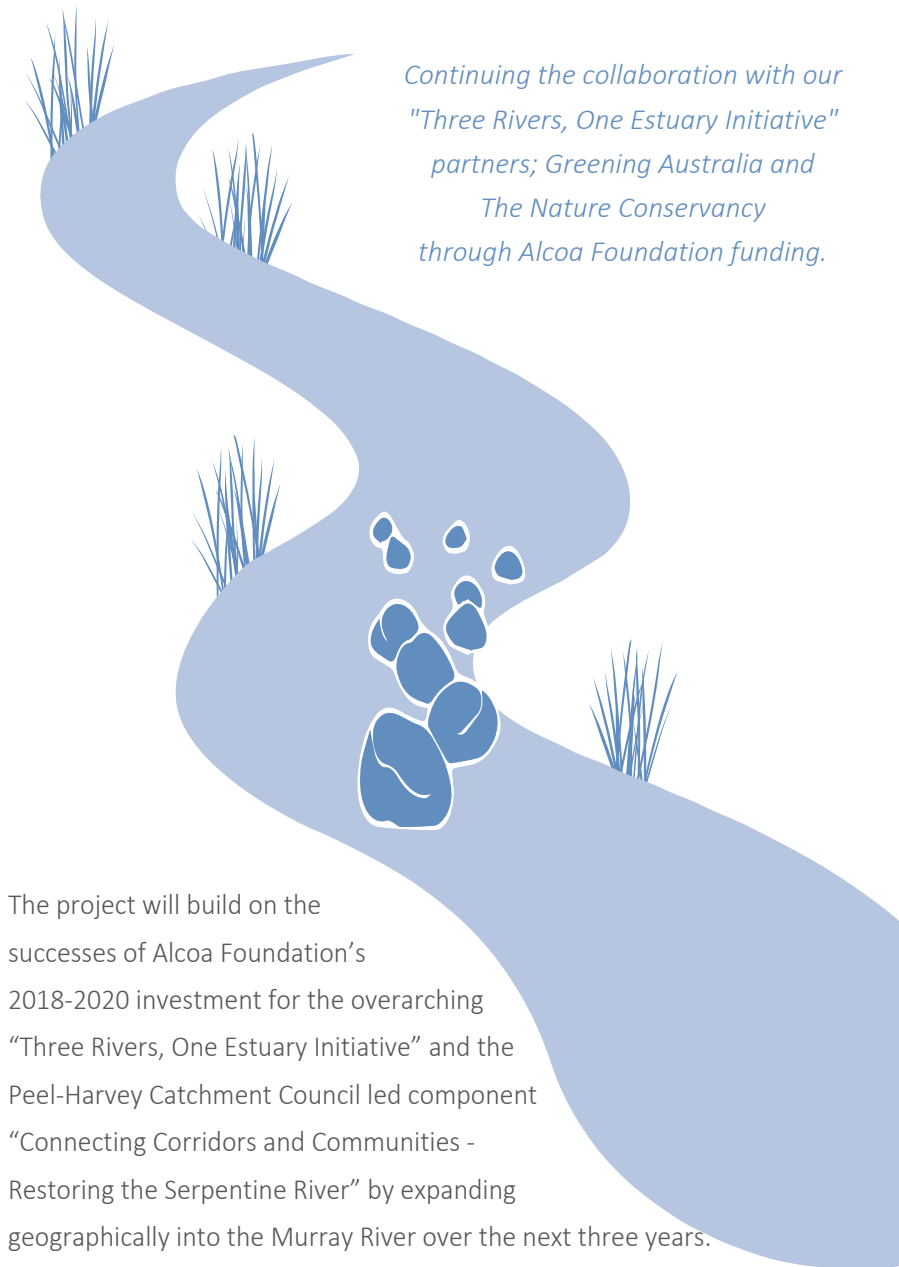
- Community engagement **Events** and **Field days**
- **Fencing** - Protect and conserve existing areas of riparian and bushland vegetation to maintain resilience in the landscape
- **Revegetation** - Reconnect areas of bushland, riparian zones and/or patches of remnant vegetation to create landscape scale ecological corridors
- **Bank stabilisation** to improve water quality and provide food and habitat for native invertebrates and finfish
- **Biosecurity management** – Feral animals, weeds and diseases will be removed to reduce impact and spread, with the aim to improve ecological function
- **Consult** and engage the local **Noongar** community through all aspects of the project
- Develop two **River Action Plans** for the Lower and Middle reaches of the Murray River to guide restoration actions
- **Measurement** and **Evaluation** of the activities using River Health Assessments, Fish Community Index Sampling, and ecological vegetation monitoring

OUTCOMES

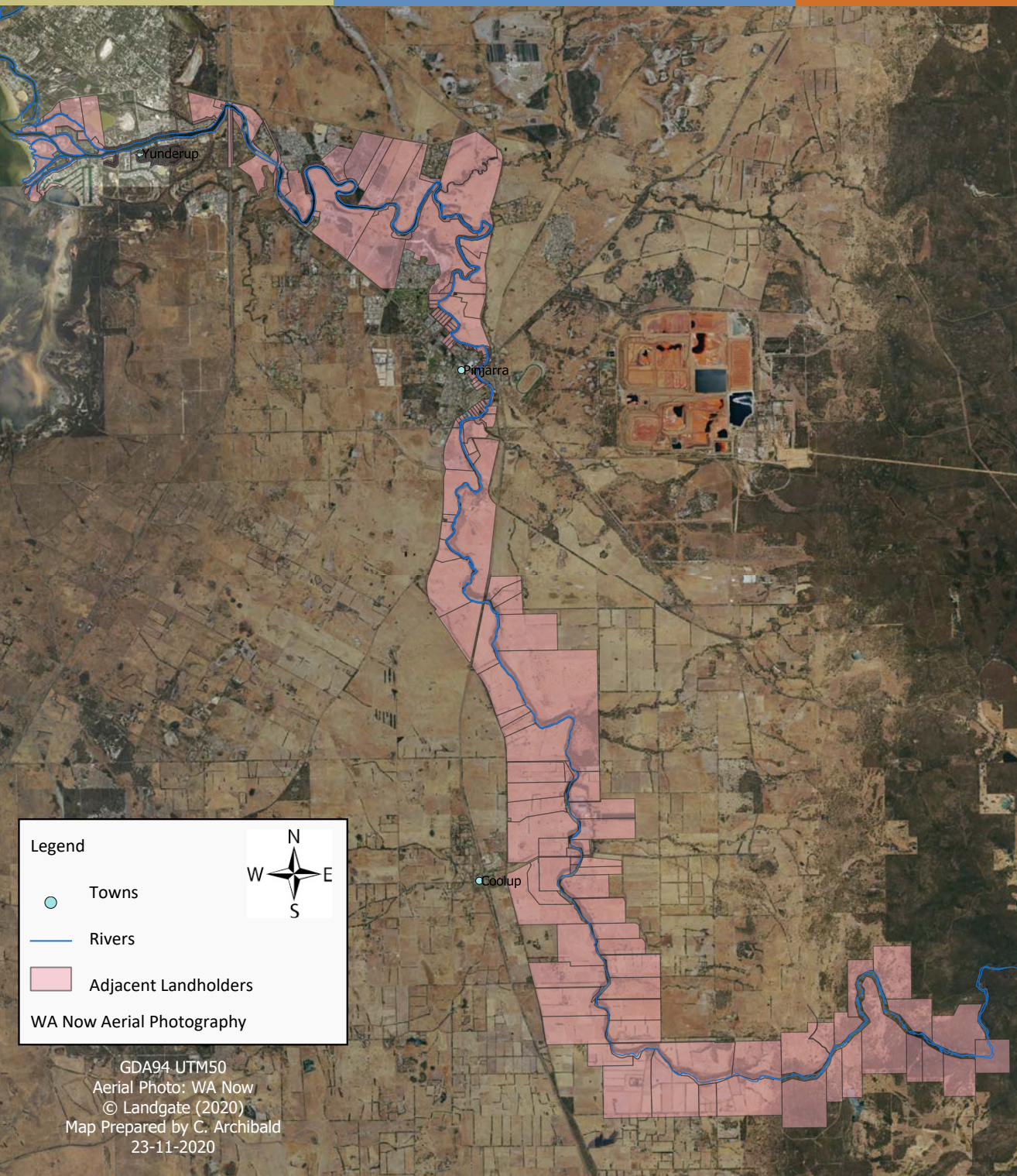
- Priority actions delivered through the River Action Plans to improve the ecological health of river corridors, vegetation connectivity to improve condition and function of aquatic, riparian and terrestrial zones
- Increased knowledge and capacity of private landholders, groups and organisations to deliver on-ground projects
- Established baseline condition of the waterways, measuring the effectiveness of previous and new works using techniques based on solid science
- Enhanced relationship with the Noongar community including the provision of skills and training for future employment opportunities
- Shared knowledge with other organisations through aligned initiatives such as the "Healthy Estuaries Initiative" (Western Australian State Government) and the "Three Rivers, One Estuary Initiative" (Alcoa Foundation)

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*Continuing the collaboration with our
"Three Rivers, One Estuary Initiative"
partners; Greening Australia and
The Nature Conservancy
through Alcoa Foundation funding.*



The project will build on the successes of Alcoa Foundation's 2018-2020 investment for the overarching "Three Rivers, One Estuary Initiative" and the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council led component "Connecting Corridors and Communities - Restoring the Serpentine River" by expanding geographically into the Murray River over the next three years.



Legend

- Towns
- Rivers
- Adjacent Landholders

WA Now Aerial Photography

GDA94 UTM50
Aerial Photo: WA Now
© Landgate (2020)
Map Prepared by C. Archibald
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