MINUTES PHCC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 20 October 2022 (9:00-10:50)

At PHCC Offices, Mandurah WA 6210

Working Together Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

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.

Present:

Caroline Knight

Chair

Darralyn Ebsary

Deputy Chair

Marilyn Gray Paddi Creevey Treasurer Secretary

Bob Pond

Executive Committee (DWER)

Sue Fyfe

Community Member

Amanda Batt

Community Member

Peter Zurzolo

Community Member

Robert Harris

Local Government Member (Inland)

Laurie Snell

Local Government Member (Costal) (Via Zoom)

Mark Cugley

DBCA

Andrew Ward

PDC

Nicholas Dufty

DPLH (Peel) (Observer) (Via Zoom)

In Attendance:

Jane O'Malley

CEO

Mel Durack

Operations Manager, Land Conservation and agriculture

Karen Henderson

Chief Finance Officer

Kellie Beckwith

Manager of Corporate Services/Exec Support (minute taker)

Janine Neeling

Administration Officer

Invited Guests:

Peter Adams

Technical Area Manager, Invasive Species and Environment Biosecurity,

DPIRD (Via Zoom)

Jo Garvey

Landcare SJ (Guest)

Apologies:

Rob Summers

DPIRD

Veronica Metcalf

Community Member

Zoom Attendees (Item 6)

Megan Plant

Field Officer, Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group

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1. Conflict of Interest

NIL

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 18 August, 2022

Moved: Marilyn Gray Seconded: Andrew Ward

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 18 August, 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to update of Actions table at the back of the Minutes.

4. 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.

Marilyn advised that the October Correspondence was not downloaded correctly on the tab on the member's page for October.

ACTION: Janine to check link for Octobers Correspondence on the member's page, and

advise Members when the link was live.

Moved: Paddi Creevey Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted

CARRIED

5. Agency and Members Updates

a. Rob Summers, DPIRD (an apology but provided report ahead of the meeting)
 HEWA – Healthy Estuaries WA

Soil sampling

The 2022 sampling season has commenced and invitations for involvement in the whole farm nutrient mapping have been posted.

The PHCC staff have been carrying out post surveys from last year and now have the survey format for data for this year.

- 17 farms will be contracted under HEWA.
- 20 will be sampled by under the "Do it yourself program" funded by the BDPP.
- 6 have been invited to undertake DIY sampling under the Soil Wise Program.

Online training for the DIY will start from 25/10/2022 to 27/10/2022 with exact times to be announced soon.

uPtake

The uPtake project has trials cross checking the recommendation made from soil tests for phosphatic fertilisers. These trials are in coastal areas from Peel to Albany and this year they are coming to a close. Lysimeters have been installed and have recently been sampled to measure the difference between ordinary superphosphate and SuperSR which is less soluble. This year additional plots are being added to uPtakes sites to demonstrate the important role of each of the other major nutrients: nitrogen, potassium and sulfur.

Early results have been illuminating issues associated with the production of SuperSR. Lower Blackwood field trials for the assessment of recommendations have been harvested. There has also been 2 uPtake field days on the south coast.

Soil Wise

While uPtake was focussed on calibrating the requirement for phosphorus a new series of trials and demonstrations are commencing to measure similar requirements for nitrogen, potassium and sulfur. These will also be extended into glasshouse trials in Perth, Manjimup and Albany examining how these nutrients interact on the different soil types to affect the efficiency of phosphorus uptake and leaching.

A comparison of the Super and SuperSR glasshouse trail at the Murdoch University trials , CSBP trial has been harvested

Response to timing of P application in glasshouse trials on clover in Manjimup and Ryegrass in Albany has been harvested.

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/odf/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/rmtc/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://auchors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S0016-7061(22)00169-0

Summers, R. N. Weaver, D. M. (2022) Lowering the water solubility of phosphorus fertilisers impacts leaching, plant growth and residual soil phosphorus. https://www.publish.csiro.au/sr/SR22037

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

b. Mark Cugley, DBCA

Wheatbelt Region Update

Dryandra and Numbats

Malissa Taylor (Murdoch) has finished her camera monitoring at Dryandra to estimate the Chuditch population, however DBCA hasn't seen the results yet. DBCA is working on placing 2 Felixers (photo mode only) out in the enclosure at Dryandra next week and doing some numbat surveys in November 2022. Natasha Harrison (UWA) is currently translocating Woylies from the enclosure and the main block to Stokes and Continue blocks for a research project. The proposed project provides a unique opportunity to gain insights critical to the success of future translocations by testing the feasibility of translocating havened woylies to non-havened habitats.

Swan Coastal District Update

Feral Pigs at Keralup

DBCA has continued to provide updates to DevelopmentWA and highlight the importance of the feral pig control work undertaken at Keralup in recent years based on funding initially provided by Department of Communities. DBCA will work with PHCC and PDC to try and secure further funding from Development WA for this control work to continue in 2022-23.

Discussion was had on feral pigs between board members, it was suggested to write to DevelopmentWA re Feral Pig Control Keralup

ACTION: PHCC to write to DevelopmentWA asking that they continue feral pig management at Keralup, with PDC to co-sign the letter.

Dolphin incident on 23 June 2022.

DBCA staff met with the Incident Support Group (ISG) on 30 August 2022 that has assisted with other dolphin incidents in recent years, to review the incident involving the dolphin calf that was stranded at Mandurah Town Beach on 23 June 2022. There were some important learnings from this incident, both from DBCA's own internal after-action review and the ISG meeting.

Earlier this month a juvenile male dolphin was reported as being seen with a large laceration in Dawesville. Sally Kirby, Estuary Guardians also confirmed this report. The dolphin was actively foraging and diving but appeared sluggish compared to other dolphins foraging nearby. The dolphin hasn't been sighted since and we await any further reports but have staff, vessels and equipment available.

Weed control activities.

Weed control activities at Lowlands, Hymus Swamp, Carrabungup, Creery wetlands and other sensitive sites have been undertaken in spring.

DBCA-PHCC projects for southern reserve on the Swan Coastal Plain

DBCA and PHCC staff recently finalised a new project for PHCC for Austin bay and Kooljerrenup South for weed mapping, weed control and access management (boulders) for the next three years based on grant funding of \$37,400 (ex GST) from PHCC and \$49,703 (ex GST) as DBCA's contribution. This PHCC grant funding is provided under the "A World for Woodlands – Reducing the threats to Banksia Woodland Threatened Ecological Communities through land stewardship' project.

Consistent with the Conflicts of Interest registered with the PHCC on 11 March 2020 I have acknowledged that I am an agency representative on the PHCC Board, but took no part in the assessment process that considered this projects as a good and valuable use of funds administered by the PHCC.

Question: Darralyn Ebsary asked what's happening with the Bilby breading, is there an issue or any plans try to understand why there is a decline in numbers at Barna Mia? At one stage there was so many breading and now numbers are right down. As Barna Mia is a tourism attraction, with the Bilby one of the main drawcards that visitors like to see.

Response: Mark Cugley advised he will ask for an update and report back.

Action: Mark Cugley agreed that he would ask his DBCA colleagues for an update on

the Bilby numbers at Barna Mia and if there are any actions proposed in respect to their decline in numbers, and report back to the Board.

c. Bob Pond, DWER

Murray River Buoy

The buoy remains operational and delivering good data.

Bindjareb Djilba Planning Committee

The next meeting of the Planning Committee is set for Friday 4 November.

Seasonal Rainfall and Streamflow

A summary of the September 2022 rainfall and streamflow summary is attached.



Kep Katitjin -- Gabi Kaadajan -- Waterwaise Action Plan 2
The Minister for Water has released the Kep Katitjin -- Gabi Kaadajan -- Waterwise Action Plan 2

Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan Waterwise Perth Action Plan 2 Outlines the next steps towards establishing world-leading waterwise communities for Boorloo (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) by 2030. The new, two-year plan further supports the State Government's ongoing commitment to tackling the impacts of climate change on our precious water resources, through water-saving initiatives and the creation of climateresilient, liveable urban spaces.

A PDF version is attached. More information can also be found on the following link:

<u>Program: Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan – Waterwise Perth Action Plan 2 | Western</u> Australian Government (www.wa.gov.au)



Question: Peter Zurzolo asked with the new Director General has there been any changes as a result of the strategic direction?

Response: Bob Pond advised a new Strategic Plan (2022-26) has been released. It is not directing radical change in direction but tends to build on the progression of the last plan. The Director General herself is actively encouraging focus on Aboriginal reconciliation. Bob committed to providing a copy of the new strategic plan to members.

Question: Sue Fyfe asked if Bob knew if the Native Title Settlement would impact on explorative drilling in the forest?

Response: Bob Pond advised the meeting/ workshop he attended with the EPA did not clarify whether Native Title Settlement would 'trump' State Agreements and noted that the next Bindjareb Djilba meeting will include a briefing on this topic and so there may be some more clarity after this.

ACTION: Kellie to send link and PDF of Waterwise Perth Action Plan 2 to Members

d. Andrew Ward, PDC

Restoring the Peel Harvey Waterways BC

- Acknowledgement (thankyou) and confirmation of funding partners Shire of Murray,
 City of Mandurah and PDC. In kind support from PHCC
- Appointment of Urbis to undertake the economic analysis of the waterways. Should be completed Q1 2023. Full BC completed by end of 2023.

e. Nicholas Dufty, DPLH (Planning) Observer (via Zoom) Peel Development Commission / PHCC – Peel Waterways Business Case

Planning Investigation Areas

Media Statement: Media statements | Potential for up to 76,000 new homes with

resolution of Planning Investigation Areas

Planning Document: Perth and Peel@3.5million Planning Investigation Report

(www.wa.gov.au).

On 21 September the State Government announced the resolution of a number of 'Planning Investigation Areas' where a significant amount of new urban and employment development was identified across Perth and Peel. There are some large areas within the Peel Harvey identified for development, such as in Baldivis, Ravenswood and Pinjarra.

Audit of Bush Forever:

Media Statement: Modia Statements - 21 years of keeping bush in the city

Website: Bush forever policy (www.wa.gov.au)

Audit document: Bush Forever Audit 2021 (www.wa.gov.au)

On 14 October the State Government released an audit into Bush Forever. There are a number of lessons learnt from the long running program, many of which are relevant to issues faced by the Peel Harvey Catchment Council:

• Funding has had a major influence on implementation of the plan. A key success of Bush Forever to-date is the funding for land acquisition through the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund and the acquisition of high[1]priority conservation land over the longer term, through mutual agreement and at market rates (with limited claims for compensation). This approach has led to consensual transfers of land to the public estate

in a cost[1]effective manner. Funding for management has been more of a challenge, and as such many Bush Forever areas under public ownership are yet to be assigned to a long-term management entity.

• The differing expectations from industry and community groups about what 8ush Forever can achieve means that there are competing views about the protection of native bushland, and whether too much or not enough has been protected.

The plan will never reach full agreement from everyone on whether it has been successful; however, it has broadly achieved what it set out to, and gave an increased degree of certainty to both industry and the community.

• Integrating the environmental objectives of Bush Forever within the land use planning process and policy mechanisms has been central to the success of the program. In particular, the explicit consideration of the underlying zoning and ownership of bushland area and the establishment of processes that set clear objectives but allow flexibility in how those objectives are achieved has been an effective approach

Question:

Jane O'Malley asked with the audit into Bush Forever will this show how much of area has been protected and whether or not vegetation condition has been looked after and condition is not declining and whether this audit would be extended into the Swan BioPlan area (which is more relevant to the Peel-Harvey as Bush Forever only covers metropolitan areas)

Response:

Nicholas Dufty advised Yes to the first question – 52,000 hectares of vegetation in original documentation plus 400 hectares added and 600 hectares have been cleared. Being 99% rate of success – conditions very important but not part of that audit.

One condition was to retain one of each type for study area, 26 types not conditions. There are no set goals around management and moving into a long term management phase and take custodian as tied up with funding. There has been no condition monitoring to understand health of Bush Forever sites over time. Nicholas advised he was not aware if an audit would be undertaken for the Swan BioPlan areas.

f. Amanda Batt, Community Member

No update to provide, however would like to say thank you to Darralyn for all her guidance and support.

g. Darralyn Ebsary, Deputy Chair

Frost is apparent in the upper catchment, which has an impact on vineyards and flowering crops. Darralyn also raised concerns about flooding on the East Coast, and potential future impacts on our farmers as our climate changes.

h. Marilyn Gray, Treasurer

Forest Products Commission - 2020/21 Annual Report.

https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tabledpapers.nsf/djsplaypaper/4110650 ada2f5733ac9a011c4825876c0028a54b/\$file/tb+650+(2021).pdf

After reading the report Marilyn decided to make a personal submission to the Office of the Auditor General of WA as follows:

"RE: Forest Products Commission Annual Report 202-2021

I am extremely concerned that the FPC is not providing quantifiable benefit to W.A. in its management of timber products from our forests.

The results as outlined in the above report are damning in reference to the inefficiency and lack of profitability of its operations, which surely can no longer be defended given current government policy around wise use of our natural resources, and the banning of logging in native forests.

I note that the last audit of FPC was some years ago. I respectfully suggest that the operations of this body are overdue for close examination."

And

There was a two page advertisement in the West Australian on Wednesday (19/10/22 pp 68-69) regarding a *Notice of an application for the protection of a specified area, being parts of the area known as the Burrup Peninsula and the Dampier Archipelago under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act (1984).*

It seems that, under Section 10 of the Act, the Federal Environment Minister has appointed a Section 10 Reporter to gather evidence and prepare a report for the Ministers consideration in deciding whether she will make a declaration under the Act. What was most notable about this advertisement was that it was written in clear and accessible language which clearly set out the process for Aboriginal people wishing to provide evidence to the Reporter (Ms Alison Stone).

i. Sue Fyfe, Community Member

Draft Forrest Management Plan (2024-2033) — has been released for public comment (closing 18 December 2022). Sue encouraged Members to read the report. Link available on DBCA Website https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-10/Draft%20Forest%20Management%20Plan%202024-2033.pdf

The Shire of Murray - Attended the Community Planning session with \sim 60 people and was pleased to say there was a real focus on protection of environmental values.

Hotham Valley - run a steam train and runs till November. Last Saturday as it left it sparked a bush fire and 3 young boys and volunteer fire fighter kept it under control until the fire brigade arrived. This demonstrates some of the risks to Forest and the need for good management to enable recreation but not risk the Forest.

j. Veronica Metcalf, Community Member Absent No Report Provided

k. Rob Harris - Local Government Representative

South West Native Title Settlement- Concern from Local Governments that future land use of transferred land is not being communicated effectively and that the feedback time frame provided to Local Government is too short to allow for community consultation.

Poparyinning East subdivision local flooding – Mel and Kristy suggested the creation of a wetland area to alleviate localised flooding in the area. This was a preferred option to a significant drain which could compromise river restoration projects along the Hotham River. The suggestion was supported by the Shire of Cuballing.

Changing Agricultural Practices- Increasing broadacre cropping placing pressure on LG and Main Roads. Local Shires devote a large percentage of revenue to road construction and maintenance and with increasing costs and shortages leaving less for discretionary spending. Record harvest will place extra pressure on local roads.

Laurie Snell - Local Government Representative
 No report or update provided

Guest Speaker – Dr Peter Adams, Technical Area Manager, Invasive Species and Environment Biosecurity, DPIRD - "Progress of WA Feral Pig Strategy"

Guests from the PHCC, Landcare SJ, Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group and Peel Alliance were invited to attend this session as there is much interest in the management of Feral Pigs across the Peel-Harvey.

Peter presented and then members had a chance to ask questions:

Question: Caroline Knight asked is there any data feral pig numbers in WA? Peter

advised that this is based on state level numbers and fewer at regional level. The main thing is indirect measures based on reports and areas of concern.

Response: Peter Adams advised that the South West and Mid West have seen an

increase in the number of issues reported on the eastern edge of jarrah forest. Problem in the south west is expanding and moving toward the

Wheatbelt area.

The board thanked Peter Adams for his presentation and Peter and other zoom guests left the meeting.

Biosecurity Groups

Discussions were had amongst the board with regards to Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group and Minister MacTiernan's discussions with respect to NRM Groups role in supporting Biosecurity Groups across WA. A workshop/meeting is proposed on 3 November 2022 to discuss this with DPIRD and as Jane and/or other relevant officers are unable to attend, Jane advised she has requested that Peter Zurolo be allowed to attend as the PHCC representative

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer spoke to her report and Reports provided including financial reports & Credit Card Review, considered read.

Moved: Bob Pond Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary

That the Financial Reports including Credit Card Review and the Treasurer's Report be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

8. Chief Executive Officers Report

The CEO spoke to her report (with supporting slide presentation), providing updates on the team, projects and other highlights, including Water Research Infrastructure Branding The full report was provided with the Agenda:

Goal 1 - Govern, Lead and Manage the PHCC

We are maintaining mandatory isolation for team members with COVID or COVID like symptoms until further notice and COVID leave remains in place to assist with leave entitlements.

We have another unqualified Audit which is fabulous. A huge thankyou to Karen Henderson, Marilyn, Nicole and the whole team for their efforts in keeping our Governance to this exceptional level.

Goal 2 - Secure our Future (Workforce Plan)

Staff - Movements, Professional Development and more

Farewells and Recruitment – Steve Fisher finished up with us on 30 September. We have advertised for the Operations Manager twice with no success and the Science Advisor once, again with no success. The second round of advertising was through a recruiting company.

The team have been fabulous in helping to keep priority actions going and we will continue to work to fill these two positions.

Goal 6 - Engage and enable individuals and communities (Partnerships)

The figure below provides a snapshot of secured and "in progress" funding to 2025/26. In addition to the detail given in the Operation Manager Reports, please note the following: Science Advisor – We continue to work with the PDC and City of Mandurah to formalize agreements for this funding.

Lake Clifton Stewardship - MOU — City of Mandurah (\$50,000 x 5 years) - Extension of our MOU (2017-2022). We have sought this extension and are progressing discussions with the City of Mandurah. The Shire of Waroona's contributions are secured.

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Goal 3 – Influence key decision makers for better catchment governance

Business Case – Restoring the Health of the Peel-Harvey Waterways (~\$110 million over 10 years, from 2025) – PDC have appointed a consultant to prepare the Economic Analysis/Economic Contribution Analysis. The City of Mandurah is contributing \$35,000 and the Shire of Murray \$10,000.

EPA Board Meeting & Site Visit – Mandurah 18 & 19 August – The EPA visit was very productive. Refer to the Chair's report for more detail.

Submissions – We are currently spending a huge amount of time and effort to defend and protect our forest from mining expansion and exploration applications. Please see the Land Conservation report for more detail.

Goal 5 – Deliver quality environmental outcomes

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.

- National Landcare Program Core Services
- Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) Refer Operations Manager, Land Conservation & Agriculture report.
- Communications We are meeting all obligations for communications.
- Noongar Participation Winjan are waiting to see if they were successful with their Round 5 application. We continue to work actively in this space.

Moved: Bob Pond Seconder: Marilyn Gray

That the CEO's Report be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

9. Chairman's Report

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

Moved: Paddi Creevey Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary

That the Chairman's Report be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

10. Other Business

Nil

11. Confirmation of next meeting date

The next meeting is a General Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday 8 December 2022.

The meeting closed at 11.05pm

Chair

Date: 8-12-22

Actions arising from General Board meeting held on Thursday 20 October 2022 (this meeting):

Minute No.	Janine to check link for Octobers Correspondence on the member's page, and advise Members when the link is live.	Responsibility Janine Neeling	Action
5b	Mark Cugley agreed that he would ask his DBCA colleagues for an update on the Bilby numbers at Barna Mia and if there are any actions proposed in respect to their decline in numbers, and report back to the Board.	Mark Cugley	
5b	PHCC to write to DevelopmentWA asking that they continue feral pig management at Keralup , with PDC to co-sign the letter.	Jane O'Malley	
5c	Kellie to send link and PDF of Waterwise Perth Action Plan 2 to Members.	Kellie Beckwith	

Actions arising from General Board meeting held on Thursday 18 August 2022

Minure No.	i Deizilis	Resionalimity	Action
7	South West Forests Presentation Update - Jesse to provide copy of her presentation and links to submissions and website	Jesse Beckerling	Requested – Pending information

Actions arising from General Board meeting held on Thursday 16 June 2022

Minure No	DETAICS	RESP	ACTION
G.7/06/22	Roadside Vegetation - Veronica	Veronica	In Progress -
	Metcalf to provide an outline of the	Metcalf	Veronica will obtain more
	road clearing issue to a future Board		information as this is a big
	meeting, with		issue and timely and will
	recommendations/suggestions for an		aim to provide an update at
	appropriate representative to present		the next board meeting
	to the board on future plans and		
	implications so the Board can		
	understand the issue and can decide		
	on next steps and any engagement		
	with Main Roads.		