

Strategic Directions 2024-2026



We acknowledge the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to all Elders past and present



PHCC
Working Together



From the Chair

So much to do...what do we focus on? Developing our Strategic Plan for the PHCC gives us the opportunity to put our efforts where they can achieve the best outcomes towards a healthy catchment that supports life and livelihood.

In presenting the PHCC's Strategic directions 2024/26 we continue to be a science based organisation with a proven record of working with all levels of government, other Natural Resource Management Organisations, our Aboriginal Community and our wider community. We know that it will take all of us working together to be worthy stewards of this remarkable landscape.

It is not a badge of honour to be in an internationally recognised Biodiversity Hotspot. It means we are stewards of some of the most precious natural areas across our globe but we are not looking after it, and if we don't do better, we will lose our fauna and flora, and all the benefits it provides to us.

Add to this the devastating effects of climate change, with the impacts of our drying climate being seen across our catchment and the lack of rain and stream flows threatening our already stressed wetlands, rivers and estuary.

Guided by science we are endeavouring to mitigate these impacts, as much as we possibly can. With our waterways, forests and farming lands already showing worrying signs, we now focus our efforts on highlighting the urgency on what must be done, and done at an appropriate scale if this remarkable environment that supports so much human activity, ecosystem services, economic and social benefits, is to survive.

We make no apology for shining a light on what is happening. We are determined to continue to find a way to focus on solutions and to invite all those who have responsibility for our environment to join with us to ensure that we can all continue to live and work and care for this very precious place. Our environment must have a higher profile and greater protection. We are a wealthy country and enabling further loss and extinctions is not acceptable.

We maintain that these goals and what we plan to achieve will make a difference to restore and protect our Bindjareb Boodja.

We invite you to work with us....it is worth saving.

Paddi Creevey, OAM



Objective 1

Govern, Lead and Manage the PHCC

We will unite under clear agreed directions, with excellent governance, effective management, inspiring leadership and a flexible organisational culture that supports PHCC strategies

Govern, Lead and Manage

We will govern, lead and manage to serve the needs of our people, embed continuous improvement and enable us to perform at our best

Key goals

- Establish a regular review of PHCC systems and processes to ensure they are appropriate and efficient
- Establish and maintain contemporary induction processes for staff and Board, including appropriate Noongar engagement and protocols
- Implement a Board mentoring program
- Enable leadership opportunities for PHCC staff

Objective 2

Secure our Future

We will operate under a robust business model and strategy that acknowledges uncertainty and builds resilience for a sustainable future

Business Model

Secure revenue streams to achieve financial resilience

Workforce Plan

Maintain and build PHCC's outstanding workforce

Key goals

- Develop suite of landscape scale project designs, to restore high priority landscapes and biodiversity assets, in line with Nature Positive objectives
- Identify and pursue diverse funding opportunities for priority landscapes and biodiversity assets (including fee-for-service and emerging markets)
- Identify return on investment of applying to various funding schemes to determine future efforts
- Prepare and socialise Business Case for landscape scale restoration for the protection of the Peel-Harvey waterways





Objective 5

Deliver Quality Environmental Outcomes

Successful partnerships will result in celebrated projects that demonstrate the PHCC's ability to deliver quality environmental outcomes

Protecting and Restoring our Natural Resources

Implement priority actions of our NRM Strategy (Bindjareb Boodja Landscapes) to address major environmental issues for the protection of our highest priority environmental assets

Key goals

- Determine barriers and enablers to enduring outcomes of previous investment to inform future projects (e.g. review and report on past projects)
- Deliver suite of landscape scale projects to restore high priority landscapes and biodiversity assets, in line with Nature Positive objectives
- Share project learnings and outcomes across the NRM community to inform practice for improved NRM outcomes

**NOTE: the term community is used in the broadest sense. We include all individuals and groups who have a 'stake' in the catchment, including all levels of government, businesses, industries, NGOs, Aboriginals, land owners, residents, community groups, media, etc. Where individual and local community groups are the focus the term 'local community' is used. Where government and industry are discussed separately, they are referred to as Government and Industry.*



Objective 6

Engage and Enable Individuals and Communities*

We will empower our community to be effective catchment managers, instilling confidence and courage to be champions for our environment

Build Community Capacity

Empower and assist our community to improve skills in catchment management, and increase participation in Natural Resource Management

Partnerships

Build relationships to deliver quality environmental projects to meet mutual objectives, and embed environmental protection into decision making processes

Key goals

- Update map of existing NRM groups and key contact details
- Identify needs of NRM groups in or supporting the Peel-Harvey Catchment
- Create opportunities for community to effectively participate in NRM
- Update Noongar Participation Plan to guide capacity and capability building of Noongar Community and PHCC (building relationships and opportunities based on trust and respect)
- Update PHCC Community Participation Plan
- Update PHCC Communications Strategy





Objective 3

Influence Key Decision-makers for Better Catchment Governance

Decision-making and policy at all levels of Government and community will reflect a robust and enduring commitment to the health of the Peel-Harvey catchment, embedded in frameworks that have the environmental health and protection of the catchment at its core

Shaping the Political Environment

Engage and support key NRM decision-makers to shape the political environment in favour of the Peel-Harvey Catchment and the PHCC

Key goals

- Develop a strategy to influence decision makers to improve frameworks to have environmental health and protection of the catchment at its core
- Advocate for the protection of the Northern Jarrah Forest
- Update Bindjareb Boodja Landscapes (NRM Strategy) to complement the Australian Governments Nature Positive Plan
- Update and communicate findings of PHCC Report Cards, including Baseline Report Card for Ramsar 482 and Shorebirds

Objective 4

Facilitate Collaborative Adaptive Management

Catchment management in the Peel-Harvey will be through adaptive management models, grounded in evidence-based practice and science to protect the environmental health of the estuary and catchment

Science Leadership

Provide scientific leadership to inform the state of the Peel-Harvey catchment, foster adaptive management and encourage greater protection and investment, based on the scientific evidence

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Support a collaborative approach to the management of our Matters of National Environmental Significance

Key goals

- Update the Science Strategy for the Peel-Harvey
- Promote the use of Gabi Bidi (waterways science) infrastructure for priority waterways science
- Work with partners to progress the design of a Restoration and Innovation Hub in the Peel-Harvey
- Promote the Peel-Harvey Waterways Business Case to influence collaborative management across the Catchment
- Implement a Ramsar Ambassador Program



Our Vision for the Peel-Harvey Catchment

The Peel-Harvey catchment is once again a flourishing network of interconnected, productive landscapes, with diverse, healthy and resilient ecosystems, globally and locally recognised, acknowledged and embraced for its environmental significance. It is wisely managed by a community that values it – people working together for a healthy environment.

Our Mission as the PHCC

We are key agents for change towards a healthier Peel-Harvey catchment. As environmental stewards we will encourage and enable effective catchment management to create a healthier natural environment in the Peel-Harvey by:

- Building community education and capacity
- Influencing and leading critical thought and environmental pride
- Exemplifying and implementing best practice

Our Principles and Values

Values that guide the interpersonal behaviour of all our people

- Respect
- Trust
- Courage
- Open communication
- Reflective practice
- Integrity

Principles that guide the professional practice of all our people

- Commitment to excellence
- Evidence-based decision-making
- Involving the most appropriate people with the best knowledge and experience when setting priorities
- Demonstrating credibility
- Accountability and transparency

Principles that guide our catchment management practitioners

- Ecologically sustainable development
- Protecting the social, cultural and economic values inherent in our natural assets
- Partnering with people across all sectors of the community
- Treating the cause
- Subsidiarity