



Message from our Chair

Again this year PHCC has achieved some remarkable results across the catchment. This is despite the many challenges our organisation has faced, especially the long delay in being able to finalise contracts for some of our key funding.

It is a credit to the staff and board that they have maintained their focus and motivation and continued to work with our communities. It has been difficult for staff to see the disruption in the good work previously achieved but I commend them for ongoing commitment. Despite these setbacks we have seen improvements across the catchment and our engagements with landowners and community group continues to be strong.

It was significant to see another annual meeting of the Ramsar Technical Advisory Group and the work continuing in this important area.

The science tells us that the condition of the estuaries and rivers is worsening and that we must act to reverse this decline. To this end, the PHCC has been working towards a Business Case to seek funding of the work attributed to PHCC through Healthy Estuaries WA and the Bindjareb Djilba (Peel-Harvey Estuary) Protection Plan. Congratulations to all involved in the detailed work that went into all the components of this Plan. Our thanks go to our partners, particularly the team at the Peel Development Commission for their continued support and guidance with this all important work. We now seek Government support for the funding of this work so that the magnificent waterways we so highly value will not be allowed to further deteriorate.

We still face many challenges as a catchment. The pressure on the Northern Jarrah Forest continues with communities and organisations working so hard to protect this invaluable asset. The impacts of climate change are already being felt in many areas which makes the work we do even more urgent and important.

Thank you to the great Board who have been strong in their commitment to continue our work. Thank you to the many volunteers and partners we work so well with and especially thank you to our highly skilled and committed staff who continue to go over and above in their desire to continue to protect this beautiful landscape we have the privilege to live in.

Science will continue to inform our decisions and we will continue to collaborate with all to heal this environment.

Paddi Creevey OAM

Our Vision

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 Objectives

1. Govern, Lead and Manage the PHCC
2. Secure our Future
3. Influence Key Decision-makers for Better Catchment Governance
4. Facilitate Collaborative Adaptive Management
5. Deliver Quality Environmental Outcomes
6. Engage and Enable Individuals and Communities

15 Members

Community

Paddi Creevey Chair
Peter Zurzolo* Deputy Chair
Marilyn Gray* Treasurer
Sue Fyfe Secretary
Amanda Batt
Kira Batterbee
David Cooling
Brent Johnson
Veronica Metcalf
Denyse Needham

Local Government

Rob Harris (Inland)
Robert Schmidt (Coastal)

Agency

Bob Pond Exec Comm. DWER
David Rowe DPIRD
Melissa Evans DBCA
Andrew Ward PDC
Nicholas Dufty DPLH (observer)

*Member Finance & Audit Comm.



58 Partners

Associate | Investment | Delivery

Australian Government
BirdLife WA
Clean Waterways Working Group
Coastal Waste Warriors
David Rennie
Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF)
Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water (DCCEEW)
Dept of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD)
Dept of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER)
Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA)
Dept of Planning, Lands & Heritage (DPLH)
Estuary Guardians
Friends of the Reserves Boddington (Inc.)
Friends of Saphire Cove
Harvey Aboriginal Corporation
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group
Landcare SJ
Mandjoogoordap Dreaming
Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group
Murdoch University
Newmont Boddington
NRM WA (7 WA NRM Regions)
Numbat Recovery Team
Numbat Taskforce
Peel Development Commission (PDC)
Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group
Project Numbat
Serpentine-Jarrahdale Food and Farm Alliance
South32 Worsley Alumina
The Wetlands Centre
University of WA
Urbaqua
WA Feral Cat Working Group
WA Future Food Network
WA Landcare Network
Water Corporation
Wing Threads (Milly Formby)
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation
Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers
Wilman Noongar Community
Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation

27 Staff

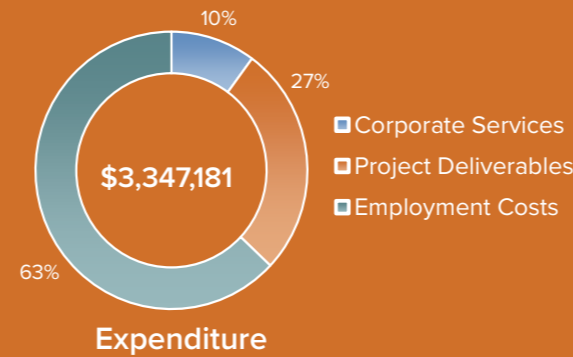
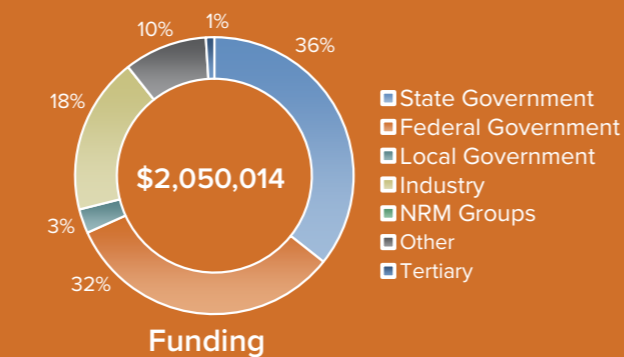
Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer
Mel Durack Ops Mgr Land Cons & Agriculture
Karen Henderson Chief Finance Officer
Danielle Eyre Science Advisor Healthy Waterways
Colleen Archibald GIS Co-ordinator
Renee Barton Acting Ops Mgr Healthy Waterways
Kellie Beckwith Office Manager/Exec Support
Jennie Beeson Waterways Research Officer
Karen Bettink Program Mgr Land Conservation
Victoria Brockhurst Admin Officer - Boddington
Mick Davis RALF
Corrine Duncan Co-ord Land Conservation
Kristy Gregory Co-ord River Restoration
Emily Heller Communications Support

Megan LeRoy Co-ord Healthy Farms & Habitat
Karen Lyons Coordinator Events & Engagement
Rebecca MacKenzie Healthy Estuaries Officer
Julie MacMile Co-ord Graphics & Comms
Peter Muirden Engineer and Hydrologist
Michelle Mullarkey Project Support
Janine Neeling Admin Officer - Mandurah
Nicole Ramsay Finance Officer
Jesse Rowley Healthy Waterways Officer
Patricia Sutton Support Officer
Christine Townsend Co-ord Farmers for Fauna
Amy Williams Co-ordinator, Healthy Farms
Gillian Bryant Exec Officer WAFCWG

168 Volunteers

A big thank you to our regular team of volunteers.

Financials



including 16 Local Governments

Shire of Boddington
City of Cockburn
Shire of Collie
Shire of Cuballing
Shire of Harvey
City of Kwinana
City of Mandurah
Shire of Murray
Shire of Narrogin
Shire of Pingelly
City of Rockingham
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
Shire of Wandering
Shire of Waroona
Shire of Wickpin
Shire of Williams



Annual Report 2023-24



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PHCC
Working Together

The PHCC is an incorporated, not-for-profit, community based Natural Resource Management organisation that promotes an integrated approach to catchment management and the way we protect and restore the environment

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



PHCC Funded Activities

\$131,260*

Jul 2023 - Jun 2024

96 Volunteers 959 Hours
\$33,565 in-kind
* this figure does not include FTE

Implementation of critical and priority works (on-ground, engagement and science) funded by PHCC in gap of NHT funding

Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Partnered with RegenWA to deliver a Regenerative Land & Livestock Management with Bruce Maynard event (Wandering) and the Mulloon institute Landscape Rehydration Workshop (Quindanning)
- Supported Western Beef Association's Grazing Matcher Program (Swan Coastal Plain), Better Hay and Silage event to improve productivity and resilience (Dwellingup) and Rumen8-Beef event (Mandurah)
- Supported Soil Science Australia WA Smart Soils Community of Practice 2023 field trips
- Site visits to previous grant recipients to monitor performance and identify future management needs
- 76 feral cats and 128 foxes culled on properties surrounding Dryandra Woodland National Park through a pest animal control contractor
- 24 feral cats culled by landholders surrounding Dryandra Woodland NP and Tutanning Nature Reserve and recorded into Feralscan, via support from PHCC
- 46 attendees culled 132 foxes and 6 feral cats at the PHCC supported Wandering Community Fox Shoot
- 2 groups received grants to conduct feral pig control with 421 feral pigs culled
- RHDV1-K5 rabbit virus released on 35 properties in the Wandering, Boddington, Williams and Cuballing Shires
- Continued membership on Numbat Recovery Team
- Supported Numbat Taskforce Numbat Monitoring Program drive surveys and numbat collaring
- Numbat foraging survey on Dryandra satellite blocks
- Over 800 people joined our annual Wonders of our Wetlands festival, celebrating our Ramsar 482 system
- > 120 landholders, from 75 properties shared 1,800 seedlings at our annual Seedling Giveaway
- Monitoring of known Black Cockatoo breeding hollows across the catchment during Spring 2023
- Partnered with Birdlife to host a Great Cocky Count workshop in March 2024
- 77 volunteers across 24 teams counted a total of 44,347 waterbirds with 60 species represented contributing critical data to Birdlife Australia's National Shorebird Count and confirming the Ramsar status of the Peel-Yalgourup Wetland
- 20 new volunteers trained in shorebird recognition skills and a further 6 volunteers took part in an advanced ID training and mentorship workshop run by Birdlife Australia

Healthy Estuaries WA

\$904,000

Dec 2020 – Dec 2024

WA Government
[Royalties for Regions]

Driving action in the catchment to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the estuary

Goals 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 10 farmers participated in Soil Testing program, receiving whole farm nutrient mapping and agronomic advice to manage fertiliser use on farms
- 3.3 km of stock exclusion fencing completed across 2 properties
- 2.4 hectares of riparian revegetation completed at 1 property
- 8 agreements in place and works underway for stream restoration projects to complete a further 14.3km of fencing and 12.1 hectares of revegetation
- 70 attendees to the annual "Estuary Forum" with speakers from DWER, PHCC and Murdoch University
- Additional funding secured to incentivise landholder participation through Water Corporation and Local Governments

Science Integration

\$480,000

Jul 2022 – Jun 2026

WA Government [DPIRD]
PHCC

Science Integration to enhance the health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary and Waterways and provide leadership for the incorporation of science into the management of the Catchment

Objectives 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- On-going provision of scientific evidence for the management and monitoring of our waterways
- Convened the annual meeting of the Peel Yalgourup Ramsar Wetland Technical Advisory Group
- Supported development of Economic Valuation of the Waterways and Benefits Cost Analysis for Waterways
- Prepared (with colleagues) Business Case for a 10 Year Waterways Restoration Program
- Continued program of science and awareness to key decision makers, including the Bindjareb Djilba Estuary Protection Plan Policy and Planning Coordinating Committee
- Support and direction for project planning and design to improve the ecological health of the Peel-Harvey Waterways including ongoing trials of nutrient removal at the Peel Main Drain

Gabi Bidi

(Water Research Infrastructure Project)

\$500,000

Oct 2021 – Sep 2024

WA Government [DPIRD]

Providing research and community engagement infrastructure to support a co-ordinated effort to monitor and manage the Peel-Harvey waterways

Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Construction of purpose designed and built towable "Tiny Lab on Wheels" progressed
- Mobile Lab used extensively in the field
- Branding for infrastructure progressed

Healing Bilya

\$600,000 USD

Dec 2020 - Sep 2024

Alcoa Foundation

Improving the health, biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Murray and Serpentine Rivers

Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Plant ID and seed collection training provided to Bindjareb Boodja Winjan Rangers
- 635m of fencing installed to protect the conservation category listed wetlands
- 20 ha of riparian and bushland revegetation areas maintained and managed including two weed control programs and infill planting of 1000 seedlings with 8 Aboriginals Rangers from Winjan

H-W Rivers NRM

\$600,000

Jan 2023 - Dec 2027

Newmont Goldcorp
Boddington

Warlang Boodja

\$625,000

Apr 2021 - Jun 2025

South 32 Worsley Alumina

70 Volunteers 214 Hours
\$7,490 in-kind

Defending Dryandra

\$183,865

Apr 2024 - Mar 2027

WA Government

1 Volunteer 6 Hours
\$210 in-kind

Other Highlights

Implementation of the Hotham-Williams River Action Plan and restoration projects in and around Boddington

Objectives 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- 100ha targeted weed control to encourage natural regeneration of riparian vegetation at 4 priority sites
- 2.2ha revegetation carried out at 3 sites
- Bank rehabilitation methods applied to 120m of riverbank at 2 priority sites
- 3.4km protective fencing on the Williams River in Quindanning
- 6 additional restoration efforts in natural areas in and around Boddington
- 2 presentations and numerous communication efforts for the benefit of the upper catchment community
- Established partnership with the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation to support river restoration works

Targeted feral cat control on farmland surrounding Dryandra Woodland National Park to reduce predation on threatened species

Objectives 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Agreement in place with pest animal control controller to conduct feral cat and opportunistic fox control on priority properties identified as feral cat hotspots near Dryandra Woodland National Park
- 3 x landholder agreements in place, for targeted feral cat monitoring and control
- 11 feral cats culled, including a 7.1kg feral cat. DNA samples taken for future studies and culls recorded into Feralscan
- 21 fauna monitoring cameras set on priority properties to monitor for feral cats and other fauna and identify where to set up 4G cameras for more targeted feral cat control

Governing, Securing, Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Secured funding for our Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator April 2024 to June 2028)
- Applied for \$450,000 for "Resilient Farms, Nature and Communities" Project. Outcome to be confirmed
- Soil Wise Project achieved 3 soil health workshops and 1 nutrient calculator drop-in session; 7 farmers participated in Soil Testing program, receiving nutrient mapping and agronomic advice
- Attended Regenerative Agriculture Conference and completed a 6-week 'Reboot My Soil' online course
- Worked with PDC on Economic Evaluation, Benefits Cost Analysis and Draft Business Case for the Estuary
- Continued hosting and support the Executive Officer for WA Feral Cat Working Group, including securing funding to December 24
- Cultural awareness yarnning circle where staff & board from PHCC spent an afternoon at Koompinkning (Pumphreys Bridge) with Elders from Winjan, Harvey & Williams (Dryandra) Aboriginal Corporations, sharing stories, knowledge and aspirations for continuing to walk together
- In partnership with Murdoch University, Landcare SJ, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, City of Mandurah and the Winjan Rangers delivered our component of Keep Carnaby's Flying Project (2 cockie water troughs, 4 events, 9800 seedlings planted)
- Our outdoor science lab, the Peel Main Drain Project, continued operations and monitoring, showing a significant reduction (>60%) in Phosphorous in water that was treated through the swales over a 16 week period

Bindjareb Djilba Protection Plan

\$771,000

Dec 2021 – Dec 2025

WA Government
[Royalties for Regions]

Driving action in the catchment to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the estuary

Objectives 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 25 farmers participated in the Soil Testing program, receiving whole farm nutrient mapping and agronomic advice to manage fertiliser use on farms
- 5 farmer information sessions and workshops delivered

