

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update



PHCC | Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Edition 94
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NRM is the management of natural resources such as land, water, soils, plants and animals. It brings together land use planning, water management, biodiversity conservation and sustainability of industries such as agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry.



Eat the Invaders?

The red fin or English perch *Perca fluviatilis* although popular to fish, it is a pest species and not welcome in our waterways due to its voracious predation on our native fish and crayfish. For this reason, it is prohibited to introduce them to our rivers and if caught, they are not allowed to be returned to the water.

They were first introduced in SW WA during the late 1800's for recreational fishing. The photo is probably from the 1940's and shows English perch fished from the Hotham River. Since then, they have thrived in slow-flowing rivers, streams and also dams.

English perch are most recognisable from their red/orange fins, and approximately five thick vertical black bands on their body. Because they are considered exotic/noxious, there is no size limit, so if you catch 'em, then eat 'em!

Reference: Redfin perch. Healthy Rivers. (2022, March 24). <https://rivers.dwer.wa.gov.au/species/perca-fluviatilis/>



Above: English perch fished from the Hotham River
(photo credit: Peter Narducci, Lost Pingelly Facebook page)



Left: Redfin Perch
(photo credit: DWER)

Notice of river bank rehabilitation works

PHCC will be continuing with the bank rehabilitation during February on the Hotham and Williams Rivers at Pumphreys Bridge and Williams town site.

We are building on previous bank works in March 2024, as well as ongoing weed control and revegetation efforts. It's all about the River Action Plan developed in 2020, and although we are limited to a step-by-step process on an annual basis, the result will be incremental improvement in health, habitat, resilience and ecological function of the river environment.

The Williams site in particular will be near a public area (Williams Rest Area), so please take note of any barriers and signs in place!



Bank works carried out in 2024

Carnaby exploration surveys are coming!



Birdlife and PHCC are soon undertaking surveys in the Peel-Harvey Catchment searching for Carnaby Black Cockatoo breeding and roosting sites. If you know of any White-tailed Black Cockatoo breeding or foraging sites in your area, please take 5 mins to complete our survey using the QR code above.

Your information helps us to develop targeted restoration projects to protect threatened White-tailed Black Cockatoos.

If you have problems accessing the survey via the QR code, please let our admin team know where you've seen White-tailed Black Cockatoos so our survey team can assess these sites. Please email us at hotham-williams@peel-harvey.org.au

Save the date

Preparing for Feed Shortages and Adaptive Management Event

Date: Tuesday 4 March

Time: 8.30am - 1.30pm

Venue: Coolup Hall - 22 Murray Street, Coolup

Registration essential: <https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/>

victoria.brockhurst@peel-harvey.org.au

www.peel-harvey.org.au