

Annual Report

2024-2025



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



PHCC
Working Together

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



Message from our Chair



Protecting and enhancing our waterways and landscapes across our diverse catchment continues to be the driving focus for PHCC. Our strategic plan review again emphasised the principle of a science based organisation. This, combined with ongoing efforts to work with all levels of government and continued collaboration with so many other organisations and community has resulted in amazing work being achieved.

This is against a backdrop when the needs of the environment has been a low priority for governments. State and Federal elections focussed on cost of living and housing and very little mention of the needs of our environment in a designated environmental hotspot effected by climate change. We needed to have very solid evidence to show the deterioration and the rapid rate of decline in some areas; hence the great amount of work that went into the Business Case, economic analysis and the cost benefit work in an attempt to secure funding for a 10 year restoration program. Although we advocated strongly we were not successful, but we continue to work with government because the science is unequivocal: conditions are worsening, and action is urgent.

The expansion plans of South 32 and Alcoa required comprehensive work and I am proud of the work the PHCC team did in an attempt to protect our precious forests and the wellbeing of surrounding communities.

We are so fortunate to have such a committed and multi talented Board. Your efforts to keep us informed about your areas of expertise across the catchment are significant and appreciated. Our executive team has put in a very great effort over the year. Their wisdom and support is always there. Thank you to our Deputy Chair Peter Zurzolo for his support and his role in NRM WA.

Our long serving Treasurer Marilyn Gray, who has been with us since the beginning is stepping down as Treasurer. Thank you Marilyn for all the years of guidance and vigilance to put us in such a strong financial position.

To our exceptional CEO Jane and all the staff and volunteers. Thank you. We know it has been a tough year in the environmental world. We are proud of you for all you have achieved and congratulate you on the culture and values you continue to demonstrate.

It is my privilege to serve as Chair of this remarkable and effective organisation.

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 Decisionmakers for Better Catchment Governance
4. Facilitate Collaborative Adaptive Management
5. Deliver Quality Environmental Outcomes
6. Engage and Enable Individuals and Communities

Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF)

\$701,190

Apr 2024 - Jun 2028

Aust Government
[Climate Smart Agriculture Program]

Future Ready Farming

\$1,109,046

Nov 2024 - June 2028

Aust Government
[Climate Smart Agriculture Program]

Resilient Farms

\$405,790

Jan 2025 - Dec 2027

WA Government
[State NRM]

1 Volunteer 7 Hours
\$245 in-kind

Science Integration

\$480,000

Jul 2022 – Jun 2026

WA Government [DPIRD]
PHCC

Supporting sustainable agriculture practices through a designated central contact point for farmers, landholders, industry and community groups

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Assisted with delivery of PHCC's Climate Smart Agriculture project Future Ready Farming (see below)
- 12 property visits providing regenerative, perennial pastures, soil and livestock health information
- Farmer groups supported including, SJ Food and Farm Alliance (Festival); Grazing Matcher (monthly farm workshops); and Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group (referrals and collaboration)
- Facilitated 'Preparing for Feed Shortages and Adaptive Management' workshop with the Drought Hub, Grower Group Alliance and SouthWest NRM
- Collaborated to establish a small landholder community of practice
- Information sharing and networking through regional, state and national networks
- Participated in quarterly WA State and National based SAF Network meetings

Supporting farmers to drive agricultural growth, while adopting sustainable natural resource management practices that protect and conserve natural capital and biodiversity

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 2 soil health workshops, 1 regenerative agriculture documentary event & landscape rehydration field day
- 6 communication materials (videos, signage, project summary, information booklet and virtual guide)
- 3.9 km of fencing to protect remnant bushland and revegetation
- 6 ha of weed control to prepare areas for upcoming revegetation activities
- 2 flora survey locations established, across the Hotham Williams and Swan Coastal Plain
- 4 landholders established demonstration plots across 20 ha for climate smart agriculture practices, preparing and seeding of sites including cover cropping, multi-species and perennial pastures
- 2 landholder groups supported with feral pig control

To improve farmers' ability to withstand varying climate conditions through on-ground activities and community events, along with the development of new methodologies to foster an increase in revegetation

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Developed Social Impact Evaluation Framework, to be reviewed as the project progresses
- 198 Feral pigs removed through support to Hotham-Williams community group
- 1.5 km of fencing to protect remnant vegetation which will be supplemented with additional seedlings
- Collaborated with Wilman People Corporation and Winjan Aboriginal Corporation for future projects
- Supported Serpentine Jarrahdale Food & Farm Alliance to run the SJ Food and Farm Fest

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

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

- On-going provision of scientific evidence for the management and monitoring of our waterways
- Convened annual meetings of the Peel Yalgorup Ramsar Wetland Technical Advisory Group and annual Commercial Fishing Industry and Science Community Forum
- 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
- Maintain relationships with researchers and facilitate research projects to provide evidence for better catchment management





Ramsar (Ramsar 482) \$2,950,314

Jul 2023 - Jun 2028

Aust Government
[Natural Heritage Trust]

Restoring Ramsar 482 Wetlands and Waterways

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 6 Reports - Identifying and prioritising conservation activities across 33 sites within Ramsar 482
- Established Monitoring Baseline demonstrate progress against target outcomes. Including:
 - Baseline Carters Mussels Survey (Fauna Survey)
 - Annual Shore Bird Survey (Fauna Survey) (72 volunteers over 24 sites)
 - Fish Community Index Survey (Fauna Survey)
 - 6 x Habitat Condition Assessments
- 1448 ha managing pest animals
- 211 ha of weeds removed
- ~230 people collected 111 bags of rubbish (19,980 items and 1,172 kilos) across Clean Up month in collaboration with Mandurah Environment and Heritage Group
- ~800 people attended the Annual Wetlands Festival on Coodanup Foreshore, with 55 people attending the sold out Wetlands Cruise (birdwatching, wildlife walk, cultural history and more)
- 11 Community events building awareness, fostering engagement & building capacity and stewardship
- 6 Cultural events with Traditional elders fostering cultural awareness, two way learning and incorporating indigenous values into project planning and delivery

Supporting community to protect our endangered numbats

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 3 km of fencing, habitat augmentation and weed control enabled through community on-ground projects
- 5 ha of weed control & revegetation in an important wildlife corridor to improve habitat
- 2 x pest animal surveys including 29 monitoring cameras installed on farmland surrounding Dryandra Woodland and spotlighting in Dryandra satellite blocks
- 2,777 ha pest animal control surrounding Dryandra Woodland NP with 15 feral cats and 49 foxes culled
- 6 feral cat culls reported by neighbouring landholders through the Farmers for Fauna Project
- Feral pig control on farmland to the west of Dryandra with 171 feral pigs culled
- 45 attendees culled 135 foxes, 3 feral cats & 1 pig through Wandering Community Fox Hunt's event
- Supported Numbat Task Force to conduct November and April Drive Surveys in Dryandra Woodland NP
- Continued active Membership on Numbat Recovery Team
- Walked with Wilman community via Barna Mia tour and Wilman Women's Day in Dryandra Woodland National parks where participants learnt how to photograph and identify Dryandra's plants
- Presented to Boddington District High School students, Central South Naturalists Group and Albany Grammar to raise awareness of numbats and their threats

Numbat Neighbourhood \$1,500,000

Jul 2023 - Jun 2028

Aust Government
[Natural Heritage Trust]

7 Volunteers 67.25 Hours
\$2,353.75 in-kind





Gabi Bidi

(Water Research Infrastructure Project)

\$500,000

Sep 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

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Tiny Lab on Wheels completed and registered, with trailer upgrade modifications and delivered to PHCC
- Ministers for Water, Science and Environment visit and admire the Tiny Lab
- 2 x river health assessment trailers replaced, registered, branded and equipped
- 1 x community engagement trailer complete, registered, branded and equipped
- Procedure for Researchers to apply for and use Tiny Lab progressed, including risk assessment and maintenance and management processes (towing, operating in the field, troubleshooting & similar)

Improving the ecological health and condition of the Lower Serpentine River to respond to climate change, to benefit native plants and animals and the ecological character of Ramsar site #482

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Secured funding, completed MERI plan, re-structured and expanded team and established working groups including internal and external partners providing in-kind and/or financial support for delivery
- Completed project overview and Governance Structure, Risk Management Plan, Project Update Report
- Continued Cultural Engagement processes, including on-country visits
- Design works for remediation and habitat management for river continued with collaboration of DWER
- Water quality & quantity monitoring & analysis of swales, wetlands, drain and river continued and expanded
- Developed communication materials including Project summary, social media and e-newsletter articles
- Commenced approval process for works across site

Healing Waangaamap Bilya

\$1,987,210

Jan 2025 – Feb 2028

Aust Government

[Natural Heritage Trust]

Protecting Carnaby's Black Cockatoos for the future

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 4 Cockatubes installed on private properties to enhance breeding resources
- 4 water stations installed on private properties to provide summer drinking in face of declining rainfall
- 2 Cockatubes installed under previous projects maintained
- 1 ha of disease management (Phytophthora cinnamomi dieback) at an important Carnaby foraging site
- 8.3 ha of weed control and 4 ha of pest control on private property to enhance & protect habitat
- 3 km fencing to exclude stock and illegal access from important forage and breeding sites
- Habitat condition assessments and baseline fauna surveys undertaken to better understand the distribution and priority sites for White-tailed Black Cockatoos
- 2 events - Birdlife's Annual Great Cocky Count & preceding workshop, to raise public awareness of Carnaby Black Cockatoos

Moordidjabiny

\$1,000,000

Jul 2023 - Jun 2028

Aust Government

[Natural Heritage Trust]

9 Volunteers 40 Hours

\$1,400 in-kind





A World for Woodlands

\$1,000,000

Jul 2023 - Jun 2028

Aust Government
[Natural Heritage Trust]

Supporting community to protect Banksia and Tuart Woodland Threatened Ecological Communities

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 53 ha of pest control: Lake Clifton Rabbit Blitz (966 rabbit warrens/holes fumigated across 14 properties)
- 146 ha of weed control and 2 ha of revegetation on private property
- 4 ha of disease management (phosphite treatment for *Phytophthora cinnamomi*)
- 2 events: Lake Clifton Rabbit Blitz Workshop, The Frog Files (Restoration from a frog's perspective)
- 110 landholders participate in the Annual Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway
- Noongar community participated in delivery of seed collection and baseline flora surveys
- Baseline flora surveys at 14 sites, building upon a comprehensive data-set outlining vegetation condition of Banksia and Tuart Woodlands across the Catchment

Healthy Estuaries WA

\$904,000

Dec 2020 – Dec 2024
Dec 2024 – Dec 2028

WA Government
[DWER]

Driving action across the catchment to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the Estuary

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

- 7 farmers participated in Soil Testing, receiving nutrient mapping and advice to manage fertiliser
- 11 participants learnt to do their own soil testing at DIY Soil testing field day
- 4 farmers attended the Accu-spread field day
- 13 landholders attended the Soil Microscopy workshop
- 18 landholder agreements executed and completed
- 25.25 km of fencing and 10.3 ha of revegetation across 6 properties
- 50 landholders attended 2 x Riparian Management workshops
- ~100 people attended the annual estuary forum with speakers (DWER, PHCC, Murdoch University)
- Additional funding secured to incentivise participation (Water Corporation and Local Governments)

Bindjareb Djlba Protection Plan

\$771,000

Dec 2021 - Jun 2026

WA Government
[Royalties for Regions]

Driving action across the catchment to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the Estuary

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

- 19 farmers participated in Soil Testing, receiving nutrient mapping and advice to manage fertiliser
- 27 farmers attended 'Grow your Pasture Profits' to receive results of soil tests and learn about managing their soil health
- 6 x one on one sessions to learn Nutrient calculator
- 5 farmers attended Soil Health Assessment workshop with David Hardwick
- 7 landholders engaged in fencing and revegetation activities
- 12.6 km of stock exclusion fencing completed on priority waterways across 4 properties
- 8.6 ha (23,000 seedlings) of riparian revegetation completed on 4 properties
- 12.8 km of stock exclusion fencing in application stage progressing to agreements





Defending Dryandra

\$183,865

Apr 2024 – Mar 2027

WA Government
[State NRM]

1 Volunteer 9 Hours
\$315 in-kind

Hotham-Williams Warlang Boodja

\$600,000

Jan 23 - Dec 27
Newmont Boddington

\$625,000

Apr 2021 - Jun 2025
South32

119 Volunteers 252 Hours
\$8,820 in-kind

Other Highlights

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

Goals 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- 43 feral cats and 37 foxes culled via targeted feral cat control by a pest animal control contractor for 20 hours per month on 3 properties surrounding Dryandra Woodland National Park
- 12 x 4G fauna monitoring cameras installed with images sent to the pest animal contractor to allow for more targeted feral cat control
- Native animals captured on cameras included quenda, numbat, chuditch, echidna and bush stone curlew
- 5 x fauna monitoring reports sent to landholders and pest animal control contractor

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

Goals 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging

- 83 ha targeted weed control to encourage natural regeneration at 5 River Action Priority sites
- 2.5 ha revegetation at 3 sites
- 800 m of bank rehabilitation applied at 2 sites
- 1 km protective fencing on the Hotham River at 2 sites
- 4 presentations and numerous communication efforts for the benefit of the upper catchment community
- Ongoing partnership and project activities with the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation
- ~100 people attend the Koompinkinning (Pumphreys Bridge) River Gathering

Governing, Securing, Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging

- Business Case 2025-2034 "Healing Bilya, Restoring the Peel-Harvey Waterways – Protecting our Greatest economic Asset", seeking \$110 for a 10 year restoration program, completed and presented to Government, seeking an election commitment from State and Federal Governments
- Mike Schultz Memorial Biodiversity Scholarship awarded (for Honours in Conservation & Wildlife Biology)
- Draft Noongar Participation Plan prepared and submitted to the Australian Government
- Commenced membership on the Kalyakoorl Kaadadjin working group for cultural mapping
- Partnered with SW NRM to deliver Future Drought Fund Drought Hub activities under the SW Regional Node within the Peel-Harvey Catchment
- Applied for a large community stewardship grant (up to \$450,000) under the State NRM funding for "Shared Country: Rehabilitation on the Hotham-Williams Rivers".
- Extended MOU with Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering & Williams Shires to support upper catchment NRM
- Assisted Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation with the delivery of their "Preserve, Promote and Protect Our Aboriginal Sites Grant" from Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Grant at Pumphreys Bridge
- All deliverables completed for WA Feral Cat Working Group Lotterywest Grant (hosted by PHCC)
- Introduced new finance system (SAGE) and HR system (Employment Hero) for project efficiencies



16 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.



60 Partners

Associate | Investment | Delivery

Accioly Livestock Industries Services/ Meat & Livestock Australia
Bindjareb Noongar Community
BirdLife Australia
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 Samphire Cove
Grower Group Alliance
Harvey Aboriginal Corporation
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
Lake Clifton-Herron Progress Association
Landcare SJ
Mandjoogoodap Dreaming
Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group
Murdoch University
Newmont Boddington
NRM WA
Numbat Recovery Team
Numbat Taskforce
Peel Development Commission
Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group
Productive Ecology
Project Numbat
RegenWA
Serpentine-Jarrahdale Food and Farm Alliance
SW NRM
The Wetlands Centre
University of WA
WA Feral Cat Working Group
WA Future Food Network
WA Landcare Network
Water Corporation
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation
Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers
Wilman Noongar Community
Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation

26 Staff

Jane O'Malley Chief Executive Officer
Colleen Archibald GIS Co-ordinator
Renee Barton Prog Mgr Healthy Rivers
Kellie Beckwith Office Manager/Exec Support
Jennie Beeson Wetlands Science Officer
Karen Bettink Co-ord Land Conservation
Victoria Brockhurst Admin Officer - Boddington
Shauna Cohen Finance Support Officer
Corrine Duncan Co-ord Land Conservation
Mel Durack Ops Mgr Land Cons & Agriculture
Danielle Eyre Senior Scientist
Kristy Gregory Co-ord River Restoration
Tracey Hudson Wetlands Restoration Assistant

Gen Harvey Project Officer Healthy Farms
Julia Howard Finance Manager
Karen Lyons Coordinator Events and Engagement
Rebecca MacKenzie Healthy Estuaries Officer
Julie MacMile Co-ord Graphics & Comms
Peter Muirten Drainage Engineer
Michelle Mullarkey Project Support
Janine Neeling Admin Officer - Mandurah
Christine Townsend Co-ord Farmers for Fauna
Georgina Warden Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator
Amy Williams Project Officer, Healthy Farms
Nicole Wiltshire Finance Officer
Gillian Bryant Exec Officer WAFWCWG

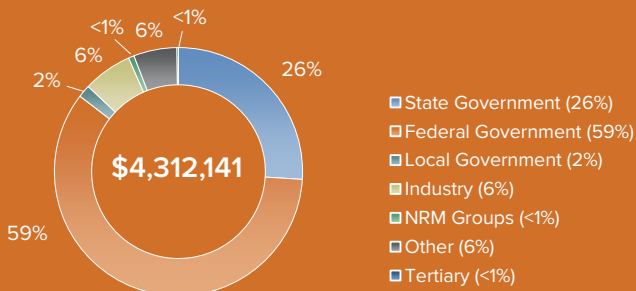
149 Volunteers

A big thank you to our regular pool of volunteers and also those that attend our events and activities

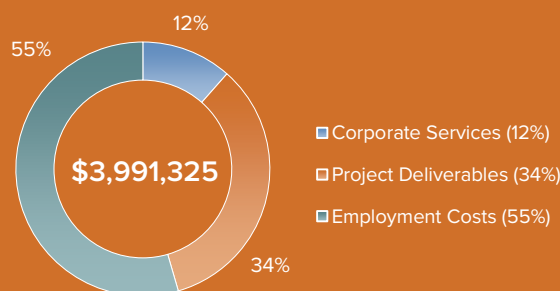
including 16 Local Governments

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 Wickepin
Shire of Williams

Financials



Funding



Expenditure