



Shared Country

Rehabilitation on the Hotham and Williams Rivers



REGIONAL GOALS

People

Biophysical

Ongoing implementation of the Hotham-Williams River Action Plan

The Hotham and Williams Rivers are in urgent need of protection and continued restoration to ensure they are resilient to climate change effects. Our rivers provide critical ecosystem services and are a place of community social and cultural significance, Shared Country. This project will continue to expand on-ground activities, focusing on rehabilitation and restoration at eight priority sites on the Hotham and Williams Rivers, following their specific River Action Plan recommendations.

Restoration, rehabilitation and protection of natural areas is the most urgent and effective method of adapting and being resilient to the effects of climate change. This is due to the ecosystem services provided by healthy vegetation, such as photosynthesis, carbon sequestration, positive impacts on the small water cycle, erosion control, and water/air purification. Rivers provide an extensive network of natural area corridors in an otherwise highly cleared landscape, where 80% of the Wheatbelt is cleared. The Hotham-Williams River Action Plan highlights that while the rivers themselves are not in pristine health, they provide existing natural infrastructure where investment will be beneficial and important to local community wellbeing. As the climate changes in the coming years, pools on the rivers will become even more important, due to their provision of refuges in the summer months, no matter how small.

FUNDING

Western Australian Government: State NRM Program	\$447,481
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PARTNERS

Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation
 Shires of Boddington, Cuballing Wandering and Williams

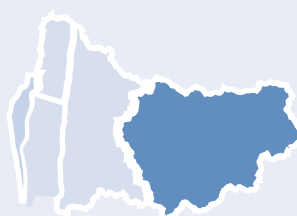
PROJECT TEAM

Mel Durack, Kristy Gregory

STEERING COMMITTEE

Veronica Metcalf
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 Rob Harris
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REGIONAL COVERAGE



natural resource
management program





OUTCOMES

- Improved health and resilience of the Hotham and Williams Rivers and riparian areas, including improved bank and channel stability, improved bank and riparian vegetation, and improved habitat.
- Active participation of the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation in decision-making.
- Improved knowledge and learning of the local and wider community, of the cultural heritage and environmental values of the rivers

PROJECT ACTIONS

- 1.5km fencing along riparian areas for protection of the vegetation and river habitat from stock.
- 1km bank rehabilitation activities for erosion control, habitat enhancement, and to aide appropriate access to the rivers by the community.
- 60ha per year herbicide application within riparian areas of the priority sites to aide revegetation and natural regeneration.
- Revegetation carried out within the priority sites, including planting 24,000 seedlings of local species.
- 9 events including planting days and an annual River Mini-Festival to enhance the community's interaction with and understanding of the rivers.
- Installation of project signage to communicate cultural, environmental and social values of the rivers at the priority sites.



MORE INFORMATION

<https://5rivers.org.au/what-we-do/projects/>