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

Landcare matters

Hotham-Williams sub-catchment update

5 Rivers NRM
Working Together



Edition 109
October 2026

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.

Welcome to our new Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator, Sam Burges

Sam grew up near Cuballing on a multigenerational farm, where he remains actively involved today. He has also worked in agriculture in Norway, Kenya and the Netherlands, experiences that have helped shape his approach to farming and landscape management.

Prior to joining us, Sam coordinated agricultural projects with Rangelands NRM.
Sam is excited to be back in the Wheatbelt and also working across the Swan Coastal Plain, working with farmers and the wider community on the issues that matter most to them while supporting positive landscape outcomes.



Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators are supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program

As the Sun Brings Anew

These are words from one of the new signs installed at Koompkinning-Pumphreys Bridge – "...As the sun brings anew, with Country and water below, memories and stories will continue to flow. And we must respect this place together for tomorrow."



We have been working at this site since 2022 to carry out rehabilitation of the Hotham River and riparian environment. During this time, we have established a partnership with the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation, and we have worked side-by-side throughout the project, where they have provided cultural expertise and guidance. Designing and installing signs at our project sites isn't the sole focus of our on-ground activities, but they sure are a good way of communicating to the wider community about what we and our project partners are trying to achieve. Visitors to the site can see what has been happening 'on the surface' and signs can provide context and background to the project activities. So far there are 3 signs reflective of the environmental works, the cultural significance of the site, and more recent history about the CWA Hall.

The intention is to keep on adding more signs as funding allows, to incorporate layers of historical, cultural and environmental information reflective of the rich history and storylines of Koompkinning.

Thanks go to the Shire of Wandering for installing the signs, which were designed with the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation, the Pumphreys CWA, Lions Club of Wandering, and the Shire. The beautiful artwork was designed by Aurora Abraham.

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program. This project is also supported through funding from Newmont (Boddington)



Wilman Elder Jock Abraham with one of the new signs at Koompkinning

Landcare matters

On the Ground in the Upper Catchment

Community On-Ground Works have had a strong year across the Hotham-Williams.

Working alongside landholders, 5.3 km of stock exclusion fencing has gone in across four properties: 2.1 km at Codjatotine, 1.4 km at Bannister, 1.2 km at Marradong and 0.6 km at Wandering (with a fencing project almost complete at Cuballing). Behind those fences, around 8,798 seedlings have been planted, with 5,823 across 2.8 ha at Wandering and 2,975 across 1.8 ha at Codjatotine, covering 17 and 13 species respectively.



Janet and 5 Rivers NRM project officer Kyle at the Wandering project site

Spiny/Sharp rush (*Juncus acutus*) has been the focus of targeted control on two creeklines, with 2.5 ha treated along Marradong Brook at Boddington and a second stage completed in early July across approximately 3.5 ha along Wandering Brook. A further 2.8 ha was prepared at the Wandering revegetation site before the seedlings went in. Coordinated feral pig control has also continued across the upper catchment in collaboration with a local groups, work that is most successful when neighbouring properties act together rather than one at a time.

We have recently received applications for new projects. These are now being assessed and we will be letting successful applicants know soon.

The Future Ready Farming project, is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program. The Resilient Farms, Nature & Communities project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program

Coming Up

(mid) October 2026
Seasonal update
Webinar with the Bureau of Meteorology

February 2027
Soil Restoration Farming
with Kevin Elmy

(early) April 2027
Landscape Rehydration
with Mulloon Institute & Productive Ecology

Follow our Events page for confirmed dates and locations - https://peel-harvey.org.au/events/

Small Landholder Survey
We want to hear from you!

If you consider yourself a small landholder, semi-rural lifestyle or hobby farmer, we'd love to hear from you.

Complete the survey here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QZK9RDX

Defending Dryandra

Targeted feral cat control continues on 3 properties near Dryandra Woodland National Park (NP) with 103 feral cats culled since the project began in May 2024. 4G fauna monitoring cameras are helping management efforts by giving insights into location and timing of feral cat activity.



Feral cat captured on monitoring camera

As well as feral cats, native fauna has also been captured on camera including a numbat, chuditch, red-tailed phascogale, quenda and recently a critically endangered woylie. This targeted feral cat management made possible through the Defending Dryandra Project is crucial in preventing these feral cats from predating threatened species in Dryandra Woodland (NP).

We are also excited to share that we have been successful in our application for funding for the fourth round of Feral Cat Management Grants for Defending Dryandra – Phase 2. This 3-year project will continue to implement the targeted feral cat control on properties surrounding Dryandra Woodland NP and raise awareness of feral cats and their impacts on threatened species. A summary the Phase 2 project activities will be announced in early 2027.

The Defending Dryandra Project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's Feral Cat Management Grants

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Australian Government

These projects are also supported through funding from Newmont Boddington, and the Shires of Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering and Williams.