



Peel Regional Leaders Forum (Inc) MINUTES

51st General Meeting held via 'Google Meet'
Thursday 23 June 2022, commencing at 10am

Chair Rhys Williams welcomed those present and declared the meeting open at 10.01am

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND CONFIRMATION OF PROXIES

Attendance:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Mayor Rhys Williams | Mayor, City of Mandurah (Chair) (Proxy) |
| Cr Mike Walmsley | President, Shire of Waroona (Deputy Chair) (Proxy) |
| Mark Newman | CEO, City of Mandurah (Treasurer) |
| Dean Unsworth | CEO, Shire of Murray (Secretary) |
| Cr David Bolt | President, Shire of Murray (Proxy) |
| Cr Michelle Rich | President, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (Proxy) |
| Cr Garry Ventris | President, Shire of Boddington (Proxy) |
| John Erren | Chair, Regional Development Australia Peel (Proxy) |
| Liz Prescott | Chair, Peel Community Development Group (Proxy) |
| Caroline Knight | Chair, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (Proxy) |
| Mark Goodlet | CEO, Shire of Waroona |
| Paul Martin | CEO, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale |
| Julie Burton | CEO, Shire of Boddington |
| John Lambrecht | Director, Regional Development Australia Peel |
| Nicci Lambert | Deputy Chair, Peel Community Development Group |
| Jane O'Malley | CEO, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council |
| Andrew Ward | CEO, Peel Development Commission (Observer) |
| Anika Serer | Executive Director |

Apologies:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| David Doepel | Chair, Peel Development Commission (Observer) |
|--------------|---|

2. PRESENTATION: PEOPLE OF PEEL

Kristie Tonkin, Principal Regional Development Officer at Peel Development Commission, will provided a presentation on the 'People of Peel' project.

The Peel Development Commission in partnership with the Peel Capability Collaborative have been undertaking a People of Peel project to provide vital insights into the status of human capital in the Peel region, including the likely future workforce requirements of growth sectors and the likely gaps. The research culminated in a People of Peel: Human Capital Insights Report and Dashboard. Using research insights and in consultation with key stakeholders, a People of Peel Human Capital Roadmap 2022-2027 has been developed to map out priority human capital development initiatives that will position the Peel region to meet its social and economic development aspirations.

Appendix 1: People of Peel Roadmap

Roadmap pillars (key action areas) –

1. Build capacity at all ages;
2. Link local capacity to regional opportunities, and
3. Attract talent to strategic industries.

Initiatives identified will be delivered in partnership with industry, workforce development, education and training sectors. The Capability Collaborative will identify initiatives on an annual basis to be progressed and seek stakeholders to progress. Indicators will be developed to track progress and impact.

Some initiatives include the development of a district leadership group; family support network; network of career practitioners; and health sector staff attraction.

The report and dashboard will soon be available on the PDC website and members will be provided with a Stakeholder Communication Kit which includes the key messages of the project.

PDC is seeking commitment from stakeholders to take time to understand the research, initiatives and engage where possible eg communication with economic development proponents to understand workforce needs and share with educators, colleagues and networks; talking with Principals regarding curriculum for workforce needs into the future, conversations with other government agencies about what we need to drive the economy and build skills to enable that.

Questions/Discussion:

Andrew Ward thanked the contributors to the project and noted that the report is detailed with a concise roadmap. All members are encouraged to engage using their established networks eg schools, community service providers, economic networks etc. There does not necessarily need to be a specific engagement opportunity, use existing practices and include in discussions when out speaking to people, business breakfasts, etc.

John Lambrecht queried how common issues/potential overlap with Peel Away The Mask 3 will be handled. There has been engagement through the development of both projects to make sure they are not contradictory, both projects do note similar issues. PATM3 is more socio economic, People of Peel refers these areas to PATM3; on the other hand a pillar in PATM3 is income and employment, which refers to People of Peel.

The reports have been endorsed by PDC board and should be available on website later this week.

Implementation: A small informal working group of local stakeholders called the Capability Collaborative has responsibility to connect out to external agencies such as JTSI. This currently has representation from PDC, RDA Peel, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, City of Mandurah and South Metro TAFE. *Action: Any other LGAs or organisations that are interested in joining the Capability Collaborative are requested to contact Kristie Tonkin (Kristie will make contact with Dean Unsworth as noted at the meeting).*

The current plan and potential initiatives under each heading highlight what is already happening. There is an action plan that the Capability Collaborative are seeking to undertake in addition to the existing initiatives which the group will come together to prioritise.

Action: Peel Alliance to consider how we share on our website and communicate with stakeholders, and member organisations encouraged to also consider separately

3. PRESENTATION: PEEL AWAY THE MASK 3

Liz Prescott, Chair of PCDG, provided an update on Peel Away the Mask 3 (note this item was deferred to 10.47am following the other agenda items)

Discussion:

Liz advised the draft report is being finalised and expected to take 3 to 4 weeks, this was primarily put on hold as they are waiting for latest data from Census and Australian Early Childhood data has just been released.

Key findings from the draft document are regional data and trends. Some of them are now already incorrect eg traineeships were decreasing in 2021 but are now increasing. In the last 6 months and particularly last 2-3 months things have changed dramatically which need to be updated in the report. These won't change the focus areas for action.

Consultation insights from residents, community service sector, local governments etc have highlighted the challenges facing them and consistent issues eg education challenges are mental health, complex and unstable home environments; transport/access in areas that don't have strong public transport networks.

Growth forecasts highlight the demand for additional educators, child care providers etc across the region.

PCDG will be working with Action groups which will incorporate people across the region to gather information and track progress. 16 priority actions were agreed at a consultation forum on 8 June for the top 3 actions for each of the 5 pillars, and stakeholders committed to action groups. A PCDG member will sit on each of the action groups with impartiality.

John Lambrecht noted that RDA Peel has funding to undertake the costing of the priority areas; timeframes for the next steps in identifying the priorities will be important as they work on advocacy for the 2025 state/federal elections.

There will be a dashboard which will be hosted by FARlane in the short term, showing key data statistics and changes over 5 years.

The findings have highlighted the importance of getting services out to the community, particular smaller services for whom the cost to travel out to the towns can be prohibitive. PDC are going to fund a 6 month trial of using CRC's in each of LGA's to host services once per week— eg domestic violence services one month, children/youth services another time. This will be commencing in July, PCDG will be working with the CRCs to understand what services are needed, where there are gaps and time.

Registrations of interest for participation in the working groups were received at the forum in June; these will be organic as there will be others who want/need to participate who may not have been there. Once the working groups have met PCDG will review and identify in gaps in membership.

Liz thanked the members for their financial and moral support undertaking this project.

4. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES / BUSINESS ARISING – 28 April 2022** [Appendix 2]

Motion:

Moved: Cr Mike Walmsley

Seconded: Cr Michelle Rich

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 April 2022 be confirmed.

Carried Unanimously

5. **PEEL WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE – PROJECT UPDATE**

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 14 June 2022

Background:

The 'Peel Water Supply Initiative' was endorsed at the General Meeting held on 26 August 2021. The objective of the Initiative is to undertake investigations and analysis required to clearly articulate the 'Problem and Opportunity Statement' for sustainable water supply to the Peel region.

Key activities in the initiative include:

1. Facilitated workshop by appropriate consultant with Peel Water Technical Group /agreed stakeholders to develop detailed scope of activities, responsibilities and procurement strategy for technical work package/s. This will include agreement on assumptions and scenarios for demand forecasting; and identify key data and information that is already available.
2. Development of technical work package/s specifications and scope (including available data).
3. Procurement of appropriate consultant/s for the detailed investigation of economic water needs and analysis of scenarios including recommendations.
4. Procurement of appropriate consultant/s to articulate the requirement for environmental water provisions in the region and impacts of not providing this; and make recommendations.
5. Procurement of appropriate consultant to use the information and develop an overarching Problem and Opportunity Statement (publish findings).

Overview of Activities:

Request for Quotation RFQ 01-22 Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative

RFQ01-22 was awarded to Urbaqua at the general meeting held on 28 April 2022, for the value of \$110,850 ex GST. The contract has been executed and project inception meeting held on 19 May 2022, with representatives from Urbaqua, FARlane, Peel Development Commission, DPIRD and DWER.

The first stage of the contract has been completed – inception and initial data review, with an information gap analysis identifying key data required from Water Corp, DWER, DPLH and DLGSC to develop spatial and temporal calculations. The various agencies have been contacted and are compiling the information required.

Funding Overview:

Funding contributions from DPIRD (\$40,000) and Harvey Water (\$5,000) have now been received.

Budget:

| Item | Expected Cost | Funding Committed | Source |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Workshop & Scope development | \$8,500 (complete) | \$ 8,500 | PDC/PRLF* |
| WP1: Community Needs | \$34,200 | \$ 34,200 | PDC/PRLF* |
| WP2: Agriculture Needs | \$20,000 | \$ 20,000 | DPIRD |
| WP3: Industry Needs | \$20,000 | \$ 20,000 | DPIRD |
| WP4: Environment Needs | \$19,000 | \$ 19,000 | PDC/PRLF* |
| WP5: Water Source Options | \$17,650 | \$ 12,650 \$ 5,000 | PDC/PRLF* Harvey Water |
| Contract Allowances | | \$ 5,650 | PDC/PRLF* |
| Contingency | | \$ 10,000 | PRLF |
| Total (excl GST) | \$119,350 | \$135,000 | |

* Total contribution of \$80,000 from PDC/PRLF being reallocation of \$40,000 Transport Funding and \$1:\$1 matching funds from PRLF.

Expenditure to Date:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. Workshop & Scope Development | \$ 8,500 | |
| 2. Urbaqua Progress Payment #1 | \$ 5,487 | (contract value \$110,850) |
| Total | \$13,987 | |

Supporting Documentation:

1. The contractor's progress report was provided under separate cover.

Discussion:

The Executive Director advised that receipt of some of the information from the agencies is taking longer than expected due to COVID and departmental changes affecting the key officers. A meeting with DWER has been arranged for the end of next week to obtain new data and information from their most recent investigations which will be beneficial to this project. Based on receiving all of the information by the end of next week, the project is still on target for completion by the end of November as planned.

PRLF noted the update provided on the Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative.

6. OPERATING PRINCIPLES FOR PEEL ALLIANCE

Author and Title: Rhys Williams, Chair
Date of Report: 15 June 2022

Background:

At its most recent strategic planning session, Peel Alliance members recognised the importance of an agreed set of operating principles to guide the Alliance in fulfilling its mission.

A working group consisting of Cr Rich, Cr Bolt, Cr Walmsley and the Chair was formed to draft the Operating Principles document for consideration at a future General Meeting.

Meeting notes from the working group's first meeting on 11 March 2022 were presented to the General Meeting on 28 April 2022 for review and feedback. Based on the response, the working group has finalised the Operating Principles document for consideration.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 3: Peel Alliance Operating Principles

Motion:

Moved: Cr Michelle Rich

Seconded: Caroline Knight

That PRLF endorses the 'Peel Alliance Operating Principles' and members commit to supporting the values and way of working together.

Carried Unanimously

Jane O'Malley joined the meeting

7. 2022 FEDERAL BUDGET AND ELECTION COMMITMENTS UPDATE

Author and Title: John Lambrecht

Date of Report: 16 June 2022

Background:

In the lead up to the 2022 Federal Budget RDA advocated for Government investment into the 28 initiatives and 49 projects listed in the Peel Region Action Plan (February 2022 edition).

Announcements made in the Budget handed down by the former Coalition Government were:

- \$145 million for the Thomas Road – Dual Carriageway – South Western Highway to Tonkin Highway and interchange at Tonkin Highway
- Additional \$178 million for the Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation – Stages 1 and 2. See Western Deviation - Pinjarra Town Centre and Industrial Activation project.

The current Labor Government is currently reviewing all Budget announcements made by the previous Government and will hand down their revised Budget in October.

During the 2022 Federal Election campaign RDA advocated to both major parties for investment into 25 projects, requesting \$374.4 million; and to the ALP to support the announcements made in the Budget for \$323 million.

Announcements were made during the campaign for funding to be allocated to the following projects:

| Project | Amount requested | Coalition announcement | ALP announcement |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Lakelands-Madora Bay Pedestrian Bridge | \$2 million | \$2 million | \$0 |
| ADF Reserve and Cadet facilities | \$0 – not requested by RDA | \$3.67 million | \$0 |
| MARC Roof Replacement | \$0 – not requested by RDA | \$1.7 million | \$0 |
| Peel Trails Program | \$30 million | \$0 | \$8 million* |

RDA is currently working with stakeholders to identify projects to be recommended to Government for this funding.

RDA has commenced working towards advocacy for the 2025 State and Federal Elections. Stakeholders have been requested to provide updates to the Peel Region Action Plan so the initiatives and projects therein can be presented to the incoming Government.

RDA intends visiting Canberra in late October/early November (post the Budget) for this purpose.

This visit will also focus on advocacy for:

- Peel Water Supply Initiative – communicating the problem, with follow up visits to discuss the proposed solutions and then request the funding investment;
- Transform Mandurah - communicating the problem, with follow up visits to discuss the proposed solutions and then request the funding investment;
- Peel Health Hub 2.0 – requesting financial support for the project, either in full (\$19.9 million) or part (to leverage State investment).

RDA is still attempting to ascertain the current status of Building Better Regions Fund applications lodged for Round 6 and the intentions of the Labor Government in relation to a replacement funding program.

This is currently proving difficult due to:

- Ministerial staff still being recruited (EOIs closed 5th June);
- Departmental staff being seconded to incoming Ministerial offices until permanent staff are recruited.

Supporting Documentation:

Nil

Discussion:

John Lambrecht advised it is RDA Peel's intention to travel to Canberra post budget, seeking to introduce new members to the Peel water initiative, Transform Mandurah and Peel Health Hub. This will also be an opportunity to inform the new government about initiatives across the Peel region – *Action: The Peel Action Plan has been sent out to members and they are requested to provide updates by early August.*

Mark Newman advised that the MARC roof funding commitment in the table was not an election commitment but a funding reallocation from the previous government; this should be removed from the campaign announcements tracking.

Dean Unsworth noted that the Heavy Haulage Deviation also received a \$50m commitment in the state budget so the total funding pledge is \$250m, this may ensure the federal commitment is upheld. The Shire of Murray is hoping to meet with Minister Saffioti to confirm this.

Cr David Bolt joined the meeting at 10.34am

Paul Martin suggested the approach to the 2025 state and federal elections is included for further discussion at the next meeting and time for a workshop is allocated.

Cr Michelle Rich noted that the \$145m commitment for Thomas Road has now been matched by the state (total \$290m) so that project is also now fully funded.

John Lambrecht suggested that the proposed workshop time at the next meeting should include an introduction to advocacy as a lead in. RDA Peel has undertaken significant training and learning over the last several years in effective advocacy and can share this with members.

Action: Workshop time to be included in the agenda for the next General Meeting to discuss principles and framework for Peel Alliance advocacy toward the 2025 state & federal elections, with RDA to provide an introduction and share learnings in this area.

Action: Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Shire of Murray, RDA Peel, PRLF Chair & Executive Director to meet offline to discuss collective advocacy for the state/federal funding commitments made toward the Heavy Haulage Deviation and Thomas Road projects. Agreed actions to be shared with organisation.

John Erren noted that PRLF is a unique entity in country and this is a good time to use that to look different, to be cohesive and have a clear plan. Budgets for advocacy will be important to consider.

8. DRAFT OPERATIONAL FUNDING PLAN 2022-23 AND 3 YEAR FORECAST

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 16 June 2022

Background:

A draft budget for PRLF's 2022/23 operations has been prepared for consideration and feedback. The budget includes forward planning for the following year to enable PRLF and its members to plan and undertake long term strategies.

As per previous years, a fixed and variable element has been applied to the breakdown of the operational funding, with the variable based on local government population. It is noted that 2021 Census data will be released from late June 2022, in the interim the population figures have been updated based on ABS Residential Population Estimates 2020 to provide an indication of changes. It is proposed that the draft budget is revised once the Census data has been released and presented for endorsement.

The fixed element has also been adjusted each year, to maintain a split of approximately 60% fixed and 40% variable in calculating the year's contribution. This is a proposed change from the 3-Year Forecast provided last financial year, which maintained the same fixed/variable split and resulted in significant increases for the LGA's with higher populations, particularly with the updated population estimates.

Key aspects of the draft budget:

1. The 3-year forward plan prepared for the last financial year (21/22) forecast a reduction in the operational surplus by \$60,292 by the end of the 2022 financial year, and \$13,357 by end of 2023. This has been reviewed and smoothed over the next three years to reduce a significant increase in Year 3 (under the previous model the increase would be up to \$54,000 in Year 3 for the highest paying member);
2. The fixed and variable component has been adjusted each year to maintain approximately 60% fixed, 40% variable calculation;
3. Includes a project budget of \$50,000 per year;
4. The opening balance for 2022/23 includes \$113,500 carryover for the Water Supply Initiative, funded by Peel Alliance, PDC, DPIRD and Harvey Water in 2022;
5. The draft budget will be updated once 2021 Census figures are released (expected end June) and presented to the August 2022 General Meeting for endorsement.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 4: Draft 2022/23 Operational Funding Plan

Action:

Feedback on the proposed 2022/23 budget is sought, subject to member organisations seeking their own internal approvals. Confirmation and final approval of the budget will be requested at the PRLF General Meeting to be held on 25 August 2022 (noting that Census population figures are expected late June and will be updated in the budget calculations).

9. PEEL TRAILS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 14 June 2022

Background:

The following documentation is provided in relation to recent Peel Trails Meetings:

Peel Trails Committee: Minutes 14 April 2022

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 5: Peel Trails Committee Minutes 14 April 2022

Discussion:

Cr Michelle Rich: thanked Kelvin Barr for the invitation to the launch of TrailsWA new website which she recently attended. She noted that the last Trails Committee meeting was not held due to Covid.

10. FINANCE REPORT [Appendix 6]

The Financial Performance Report for the period ended 31 May 2022 was noted.

11. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS REPORT [Appendix 7]

The Outstanding Actions Report was noted.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

Peel Development Commission: Andrew Ward noted the success of the Peel Region at the WA Tourism Awards; congratulations to Mandurah receiving Gold for GWN7 Top Tourism Town, Dwellingup receiving Silver for GWN7 Small Tourism Town, and Salt and Bush Eco Tours winning the Golden Guide Award.

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale: Paul Martin & Cr Rich noted the report presented to Council at their Ordinary Council Meeting on Monday seeking endorsement of their ongoing involvement with PRLF as this does not appear to have been formally considered in the past. This was passed by council to continue; a copy of the report and Council's position has been circulated to members. *Action: This will be included on the agenda for exploration of the recommendations at the next General Meeting.*

Cr Rich advised that the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale will be tabling a report at the next General Meeting for a proposal for a new state freight road which will connect Peel to the Great Southern region.

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council: Jane O'Malley advised that the South32 public review for expansion opened on Monday for 8-week period. There is over 1000 pages, however PHCC has developed a position statement and will be helping to guide the community. It was noted that Rio Tinto has also applied for an exploratory licence over a significant portion of the region, and Alcoa will also have expansion plans. *Action: PHCC information on South32 to be circulated to members. If members have a perspective or position, they are requested to provide a copy to the Executive Director. Based on the magnitude of submissions the Alliance can consider if there is a unified position and appetite for a joint submission.*

Caroline Knight noted that Peel-Harvey Catchment Council celebrated 21 years recently, this is a testament to Jan Starr and others who started the organisation and Jane's hard work over the years.

RDA Peel: John Lambrecht advised that the next Peel Bright Minds Trailblazers program will be starting on 11 July at Jarrahdale Scouts Camp. Sponsors of the previous program should have received an invitation to the VIP Event on 15 July. There were 54 applications for 36 places, with attendance from all local government areas. Members are strongly encouraged to attend the VIP Function to show support for the participants.

The program has also been announced as a finalist for the Premier's Science Awards.

Shire of Murray: Cr Bolt advised there will be a soft opening of FIPWA in July, the new tenants will then take possession and commence fit out. The construction of the new Keralup connection near Gull Road is also progressing well.

Dean Unsworth confirmed the FIPWA official opening is also planned for November. Dean provided a snapshot of findings from the recent ALGA National General Assembly in Canberra – emerging issues are climate change, emergency management and how it is approached eg Lismore 97% funding is spent on post disaster management, only 3% on planning/prevention. The Ambassador for Ukraine addressed the convention providing videos and firsthand accounts of the Ukraine crisis, and requested support from the Australian Government. Key discussions included proposing a change to the Constitution for First Nations to have a seat in Federal Government; the growing funding gap for LGA's - in 1980 LGA's got 2% of tax funding, now it is only 0.55%. Also a push for local government to have a seat in the National Cabinet.

Peel Alliance: The Executive Director advised that the Public Transport Authority will be attending the next General Meeting to present an update on the Faster Rail Business Case.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The 53rd General Meeting of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum is proposed to be held at the City of Mandurah on Thursday, 25 August 2022 commencing at 10am.

Meeting closed 11.35am