



PEEL REGIONAL
LEADERS FORUM

Peel Regional Leaders Forum (Inc)
45th General Meeting held at Shire of Murray
Thursday 26 November 2020, 10am

MINUTES

1. 10am – 11.30am PRESENTATION

Dr Fiona Valesini from The Nature Conservancy Conservation Team and Matt Hipsev from UWA provided a presentation on:

- a) ARC Linkage Research Findings: Peel-Harvey Estuary Health
- b) 'Restoring the Peel-Harvey Estuary' Project – Valuing Nature

The Nature Conservancy's Oceans Project Coordinator for the Peel Region, Dr Richard Campbell, was also in attendance and introduced to members.

A copy of the presentation will be available in the PRLF website member resource area.

Q&A:

David Bolt: Shire of Murray has commenced the CHRMAP process. Have the consultants been in contact and connected as there seem to be common themes?

Matt Hipsev (MH): No contact received but happy to be connected.

Rhys Williams: What needs to be done now with this information and findings, does it need to 'find a home'?

MH: The model/hardware is public, DWER are working to build capacity to house and use it.

Jane O'Malley: PHCC are looking at how reports/summaries can be shared publically that engages the community. DWER has expressed interest, PHCC will work with them. Waiting for the Water Protection Plan and Estuary Protection Plan to be released to understand if there is funding available to deliver and scale up.

Mike Walmsley: Regarding the comments about the drying climate, how much less flow is there in the rivers than the 1970's?

MH: Don't have the exact figure available today but it is in the range of gigalitres (not kilolitres) – there has been some 70-80% reduction since early 1900's. Environmental Water Provision needs to be discussed to address this impact.

Dean Unsworth: Using Point Grey as an example where this information has been used to raise community awareness and influence, how can we replicate this on a larger scale?

Fiona Valesini (FV): Engaging DWER as a repository and applying the information will be important to raise understanding.

Paul Martin: What is the impact of the Serpentine River on nutrient flow to the estuary?

FV: About 30% of the nutrient flow is from the Serpentine River, it is quite unique in its structure and different to the Murray River with many shallow areas. It is subject to hypersalinity and devoid areas.

Michelle Rich: Is the impact from clearing of Jarrah/old forests in the Jarrahdale/hills area understood? Noting that reforestation requires more water.

MH: This could be assessed through this framework as an applied exercise.

Andrew Parker: Ongoing perpetual management is critical along with funding – it can't just be the subject of one-off funding announcements, will require ongoing financial support and policy. It is important that the value of the ecosystem is expressed to the community in a way they can understand and appreciate it in asset terms, eg a public open space has infrastructure such as irrigation, turf, carparks which require ongoing maintenance and expenditure.

Earl Schreiber: Is the Hotham River included as part of this research?

MH: The Hotham River flows into the Murray River so captured that way for this exercise.

David Bolt: Boat traffic/tourism is very active in the estuary and rivers, is the impact of this (diesel, oil etc) captured and the impact known of increase in boat traffic?

FV: The investigation didn't look at this specifically but it could be another area for research.

Graham Stanley: Do we have an understanding of the impact of a Cyclone Alby type event?

MH: These types of events are certainly an issue, being in a Mediterranean climate a Summer rain/flood event washes a load of nutrients into the system. Climate change is a driver for these events. An event in 2017 as an example produced a nutrient hit into the system killed significant numbers of fish. Farming practices that reduce nutrient loading need to continue and be implemented at scale.

Paul Martin: Are there any examples of good case studies?

FV: The Peel-Harvey system is unique however a good example is the Coorong, South Australia project 'Healthy Coorong Healthy Basin' at the end of the Murray Darling system, which had about \$30 million federal funding.

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coorong/healthy-coorong-healthy-basin>

Current Status of ARC Linkage Research:

- Data repository is being coordinated with DWER
- Summary report being finalised
- An online ebook and standardisation of information suitable for community engagement is being developed for the public domain

Recommendations:

Adapt – increase scale and diversity of catchment and estuary management

Monitor – estuarine ecology and sediment to provide fuller insights into estuary health and the most effective management interventions

Sustainable growth – plan for development that can support economic growth, without increasing their water and nutrient footprint.

Informed decision making – Continue developing the DSS to house and operationalise new data streams and provide transparency in decision making for sustainably developing the Peel region.

Priorities:

1. Environmental Water Provisions – model sits in DWER where EPA can access and include as a consideration in decision making. PHCC is working with a UWA lawyer to understand where EWP may be lacking.
2. Soil amendment – access to products to reduce nutrient leaching
3. Fertiliser Action Plan – recommend that the original plan is brought back in
4. Reduce clearing
5. Increase buffers to waterways

Comments by Adrian Parker on additional priorities/support for above:

1. It is essential that the framework and data is based where it can be implemented and continually monitored/added – support the transition to DWER
2. Monitoring ecology and sediment
3. Future valuation of ecosystem

4. Linking sustainable growth and nutrient impacts – the subregional framework informs where the growth and development areas will be into the future. PRI fill requirements and minimum performance standards for fill used, especially in industry and commercial developments, to prevent leaching and policy instruments to control these is recommended.

Valuing Nature

This is a community led project developed through a series of engagement and workshops. It involves considering nature as a piece of infrastructure and creating common language to value it as an asset.

Example of similar project: <https://oceanwealth.org/project-areas/australia/>

The project uses The United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 4 step approach:

1. Asset extent – measuring the area covered by an ecosystem asset eg seagrass meadow
2. Asset condition – ecological quality or health
3. Services – measures to flows of services generated by the asset
4. Benefits – describes the way in which these services contribute to peoples' wellbeing

Mapping Australia's Ocean Wealth – it was agreed to focus on 4 services provided by the ecosystem assets – carbon storage, tourism, coastal protection, fisheries. Assets were saltmarshes, mangroves, seagrasses in two focus sites. They were able to measure the benefit these assets provided to the services eg carbon sequestration by the seagrass in Port Phillip is measured at 11,336 tonnes per year, valued at \$157,230.

To progress the Valuing Nature project it is recommended that a scoping study be carried out (estimated cost \$20-\$30k) to define the agreed services (eg tourism), assets (eg seagrass) and extent. This will inform the cost of the overall project. 'Be clear on what you want to ask and what you want to know'.

11.30am – 11.50am ADJOURNMENT FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chair Rhys Williams welcomed those present and declared the meeting open at 11.50am.

2. 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)
Cr Michelle Rich	President, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (Secretary) (Proxy)
Cr David Bolt	President, Shire of Murray (Proxy)
Cr Earl Schreiber	Deputy 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) from 11.50am
Jane O'Malley	CEO, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
Dean Unsworth	CEO, Shire of Murray & Waroona
Paul Martin	CEO, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
Graham Stanley	Acting CEO, Shire of Boddington
John Lambrecht	Director, Regional Development Australia Peel
Anika Serer	Executive Director

Observers:

Adrian Parker Director, Economic and Regional Development, Peel Development Commission

Apologies:

Nicci Lambert Deputy Chair, Peel Community Development Group
 Mark Newman CEO, City of Mandurah (Treasurer)
 Paddi Creevey Chair, Peel Development Commission (Observer)
 Andrew Ward CEO, Peel Development Commission (Observer)
 Cr Garry Ventris President, Shire of Boddington

3. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES / BUSINESS ARISING – 27 August 2020** [Appendix 1]

Motion:

Moved: Mike Walmsley

Seconded: Michelle Rich

**That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 August 2020 be confirmed.
 Carried Unanimously**

4. **PROPOSED 2021 MEETING DATES**

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 1 November 2020

Background:

Proposed meeting dates for the General Meetings and CEO Group Meetings are attached for consideration. The General Meeting dates are intended to precede the WALGA Peel Zone Meetings, however at the time of preparing this report those dates had not yet been confirmed.

Feedback has been received that if there is a short agenda for PRLF General Meetings, this results in a gap of several hours before the start of the WALGA Peel Zone meeting, which is not efficient for those members attending both. To address this, it is intended to review the PRLF General Meeting Agenda prior to circulation, and adjust the starting time if three hours is not indicated to be necessary (eg meeting will commence at 11am rather than 10am). This will be adjusted in calendar invitations and noted on the agenda distribution.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 2: Proposed 2021 Meeting Dates

Motion:

Moved: Mike Walmsley

Seconded: John Erren

That PRLF endorses the proposed meeting dates for 2021 with the following change to align with WALGA Zone Meeting:

Change PRLF meeting on Thursday 26 August to Thursday 19 August.

Carried Unanimously

Note: At the WALGA Zone Meeting following the conclusion of this meeting, it was further agreed to align the August meeting with the original date suggested by PRLF (ie Thursday 26 August) – this will be noted in the next agenda.

5. **PRIORITISATION OF REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS**

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 19 November 2020

Background:

The 2020/21 Business Plan and Activities Plan was endorsed at the August General Meeting, providing direction and priorities for Peel Alliance for the next year. This includes:

- Program of initiatives that respond to specific COVID-19 impacts in Peel
- Collaborative campaign for regional election/budget commitments
- Development of evidence-based project briefs and business cases
- Development of regional programs across mutual themes (suggested priority areas):
 1. Environment
 2. Thriving Industry - Transport, Equine Industry, Business Development Areas (eg town centres, business hubs)
 3. Agriculture and Food Innovation – Integrated Water (also covering Environment, Thriving Industry and Communities)
 4. Tourism Excellence - Regional Trails
 5. Capable People - Education/Skills/Employment
 6. Strong and Resilient Communities - Ageing, Mental Health
- Targeted engagement – development of taskforces/working groups for regional programs including external stakeholders
- Presentations to PRLF meetings by industry and other key external stakeholders eg Westport, Peel CCI, South32, Newmont, state agencies – hosting member to suggest presentations that may be of unique interest to their location
- Regional round table - Annual invitation for local Members across Peel to meet with PRLF

At the CEO Group Meeting held in October, the proposed process and flowchart for the development of the regional programs was discussed and is attached for reference.

In addition to the broad advocacy in the lead up to state and federal elections, it is apparent from feedback that the creation of a framework or process to identify what the upcoming regional programs that the Peel Alliance works on is identified.

Peel Alliance is currently working on three regionally significant projects:

- Peel Trails Strategy: Implementation of the Strategy, advocacy for the business case developed for Stage 1 Trails
- Peel Equine Industry: A regional advocacy position has been developed for the equine industry in Peel; this is being advocated to key decision makers at WAPC and other stakeholders
- Peel Transport Priorities Program: Identified as a priority for the region as an outcome of the Transport Planning Information Session; the framework to develop this is now being defined following the approval of the Business Plan/Priority Activities and proposed process.

The three projects have demonstrated the ability of Peel Alliance members and key staff/stakeholders to work together collaboratively to create informed solutions for regional issues and opportunities.

The proposed process for the development of the Regional Priorities Programs is outlined in the following flowchart (refer to appendix):



Input from members on emerging or significant issues in the region is important to ensure that Peel Alliance is focusing its energy in the most efficient and effective way. Given the broad range of Priority Programs highlighted in the 2020/21 Activities Plan, this is required to define the proposed Regional Priority Programs (ie understand the regional issues seeking to be addressed), prioritise how these should be progressed with available budget and resources, and understand the key stakeholders and role we should play in the development and delivery of programs. To achieve these outcomes, it is proposed to host a workshop in early 2021 to obtain valuable input and agreed prioritisation.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 3: Peel Alliance Regional Priorities Program

Discussion:

Dean Unsworth suggested that projects should be identified and prioritised that are regionally changing, business case ready, and must link into Federal and State prioritisation.

John Lambrecht queried how the advocacy in the PRLF framework will align with RDA's work and its agreed projects for advocacy. These will need to align with Infrastructure Australia, and should identify partnerships with other regions (such as the South West). The success of the Regional Programs will depend on the individual projects' quality and will be assessed individually.

Adrian Parker noted that InfrastructureWA alignment will also be critical for state funding and support. Andrew Ward is the Chair of WARDA (Western Australian Regional Development Alliance) which consists of the CEO's from each of the Regional Development Commissions. They will be hosting an IWA workshop which may provide opportunity to understand priorities from the regional leaders.

Motion:**Moved:** Michelle Rich**Seconded:** Liz Prescott

That the Executive Officer arranges a workshop in early 2021 for PRLF members to define the proposed Regional Priority Programs (ie understand the regional issues seeking to be addressed), prioritise how these should be progressed, and define the key stakeholders and role Peel Alliance will play in the development and delivery of programs.

Carried Unanimously

6. PEEL TRANSPORT FUNDING REALLOCATION

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 12 November 2020

Background:

At the General Meeting held on 27 August 2020 it was resolved that, with regard to the reallocation of \$60,000 funding received from Peel Development Commission toward the development of a Regional Transport Plan:

“That PRLF:

1. *Supports the allocation of \$20,000 from the Transport Funding allocation to Peel Away The Mask 3, and revised contributions as outlined in the table;*

And defers a decision on part 2 of the recommendation (below) pending further information on the ‘Valuing Nature’ project from The Nature Conservancy:

2. *a) Supports the allocation of \$40,000 to the ‘Valuing Nature’ project with \$40,000 co-contribution by PRLF; or*
b) Supports the allocation of \$40,000 to the Peel Transport Priorities Program in accordance with the guidelines outlined in this report, noting a 1:1 contribution by members who opt in to the initiative.”

The Peel Harvey Economic Analysis is outlined at Project Three in the attached “Restoring the Peel-Harvey Estuary - Project Prospectus”, which summarises four key projects that were developed at a Conservation Action Planning Workshop organised by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in March 2019.

This project is intended to assess societal values linked to the health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary, then quantify, in economic terms, the ecosystem services that underpin delivery of those values. Evaluating the ‘natural capital’ provided by the Peel-Harvey, as well as the economic impacts if those services are lost due to poor estuary health, will provide a crucial basis for improved decision-making and management strategy development. An example of this type of assessment can be found at: <https://oceanwealth.org/project-areas/australia/>

At the general meeting on 25 June 2020 the funding reallocation was discussed, and it was requested that alternative proposals also be investigated for consideration. The Transport Priorities Program (TPP) outlined in the PRLF Business Plan will require the development of robust business cases by members to support their individual initiatives. An informal discussion has been held with Peel Development Commission regarding the application of the remaining \$40,000 Transport Funding to supporting the development of the highest priority initiatives in the program, such as cost-benefit and economic impact assessments, or other gaps that may require consultant input. If this proposal is supported it is proposed to be implemented in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Members will nominate two initiatives from the TPP (or new initiatives if priorities have changed) and identify the gaps in the business case development for these that require support or consultant/specialist input;
2. The initiatives will be presented to Peel Development Commission for consideration;
3. Members will co-contribute on a 1:1 basis toward the cost of the consultant/work required;
4. Where there is consistency in the business case gaps, eg economic impact analysis, it is suggested that Peel Alliance undertakes the procurement of the consultancy to deliver best value and standardised information.

The alternative proposal will enable PRLF to retain \$40,000 in its budget for projects and other initiatives; and align with the requirement for the full \$60,00 funding to be allocated and expended this financial year.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 4: Restoring the Peel-Harvey Estuary – Project Prospectus

Appendix 5: Peel Alliance Transport Priorities Program outline

Motion:

Moved: David Bolt

Seconded: Rhys Williams

That PRLF:

Supports the allocation of \$40,000 to the ‘Valuing Nature’ project with \$40,000 co-contribution by PRLF.

Carried Unanimously

7. PEEL HEALTH AND WELLBEING TASKFORCE UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date: 1 November 2020

Background:

Paddi Creevey, Chair - Peel Development Commission, provided the following update to the Peel Health and Wellbeing Taskforce on 13 October 2020:

Due to the re-prioritisation that has occurred for many in the health and government sectors during 2020, the Peel Health and Wellbeing Taskforce (PHWT) has taken a bit of a backburner. It is now timely to provide an update on funding, priority initiatives and next steps.

With regards to priority initiatives discussed at the workshop on 5 August 2019:

- *Following workshops with key stakeholders, GP down south developed a Mental Health Pilot – Care Coordination pilot proposal which was submitted to the WA Primary Health Alliance for funding consideration. Funding for the pilot was approved and the services have been implemented. See attached project update from GP down south.*
- *Following workshops with key stakeholders, SMHS developed a Collaborative health care in Residential Aged Care Facilities: access to GPs and specialist in-reach project proposal. Please see attached update from SMHS.*

With regards to core funding for the taskforce we have had a negative response from the Minister for Health with regards to our request (via Minister Templeman’s office) for funding of core support services to progress the objectives of the Taskforce, please see attached

letter. Without additional resources it will be difficult for the Taskforce to proceed as we would have hoped within existing resource constraints.

As an interim measure, the Commission has taken the initiative to undertake a comparative review of the Public Health Plans developed by four of the five Peel LGAs (with Boddington's yet to be developed), please see attached. We see the value in convening a workshop under the Taskforce banner with the key staff in the LGAs and health services to discuss common issues and strategies identified in the Plans and potential synergies of across region initiatives. Can you please provide Simone Hutton by 23 October, your interest in being involved and contact details of relevant staff in your office – simone.hutton@peel.wa.gov.au

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 6: Clinical Care Coordination at Peel Health Hub Update Mar-Aug 2020

Appendix 7: SMHS Peel Health and Wellbeing Taskforce Update

Appendix 8: Minister for Health Response

Appendix 9: Peel Public Health Plans Report

Recommendation:

That PRLF notes the update regarding the Peel Health and Wellbeing Taskforce and pilot programs; and relevant LGA's provide a response to Simone Hutton regarding participation in the Public Health Plans Workshop.

Noted

8. NOTING OF MINUTES OF CEO GROUP MEETING – 16 October 2020

[Appendix 10]

Noted

9. FINANCE REPORT [Appendix 11]

The Financial Performance Report for the period ended 31 October 2020 is provided. Of note:

1. The Cash Flow Boost from ATO has now been received. The minimum payment that could be applied (and was budgeted) is \$20,000; PRLF has received \$34,293 in total. \$10,000 allocated to the 2020 financial year, and \$24,293 received this year.
2. Annual Leave and Long Service Leave provisions are now being accounted in the report.

Noted

10. PEEL TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 10 November 2020

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

13 August 2020: Minutes

8 October 2020: Minutes and Committee Priorities State Update

The PTTG has developed Terms of Reference for their meetings but are currently reviewing these to include stakeholder engagement with user groups; this will be distributed under separate cover when finalised.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 12: Peel Trails Committee Minutes 13 August 2020

Appendix 13: Peel Trails Committee Minutes & Priorities Status Update 8 October 2020

Noted

11. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS REPORT [Appendix 14]

Discussion:

State Election Advocacy Document: Anika Serer noted that the document has been published and is in the process of distributing to candidates in relevant electorates and seeking meetings to present.

Peel Regional Transport Plan: the next information session will be arranged for early in 2021

Off Road Vehicle Areas: Dean Unsworth advised that the Off Road Vehicle Advisory Committee is undertaking detailed investigation of the Keralup area.

Peel Regional Equine Strategy: the advocacy position document has been published; Anika Serer presented with Brett Flugge to Nicole Lucas-Smith (DPLH) and a short presentation to the Statutory Planning Commission on 24 November which was well received.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council: currently working with DWER on the State Government's 'Green Jobs' delivering training and employment; current activities include seed collection, cleaning and storage.

Also reviewing Environmental Water Provisions which is a priority for PHCC and policy.

RDA Peel: BBRF guidelines have still not been received but the announcement for the opening of the next round is imminent. Please get in touch with John Lambrecht if you are planning to submit a proposal.

PCDG: The Women's Therapeutic Refuge opened today – called Warlang Bidi. It is the first of its kind in WA and a significant partnership between Allambee Counselling and OVIS Community Services.

The RFQ for a consultant to undertake Peel Away The Mask 3 has been issued to consultants with relevant experience, and will close on 11 December.

PDC: There is a vacancy for a Level 7 Economic and Regional Development Officer which closes 30 November.

Note that caretaker mode for the state government is due to take place at the end of January. Andrew Ward will be chairing the WARDA workshop on 8 December.

Shire of Boddington: Foreshore works are nearly complete with carpark currently being finished; a soft opening has been held but formal opening to be advised (waiting on Minister's availability).

Shire of Waroona: 'Good Water Energy' has presented to the Shire recently with a proposal to tap into thermal energy but drilling 10-12km below the surface, using this to steam drive desalination plants and create distilled water/power.

The Shire has partnered with PHCC to reactivate the old Ag Dept building; and are actively pursuing the development of a \$3m intergenerational active space in the town centre with some funding committed to date.

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale: Main Roads WA have commenced the \$52m 'road over rail' project at Thomas Road in advance of the Metronet station at Byford. The State has announced they will investigate elevated rail which the Shire has communicated their desire over the last year, and will be working closely with them on the design and activation of the centre space.

Shire of Murray: Advertising for the zoning change at Point Grey has closed and good feedback has been received from the community; this will be considered by Council in January.

Peel Business Park – a business manager has been appointed for the Agri Innovation Precinct. Tender docs are expected to be issued in January for construction; still seeking

funding for specialised shared equipment and technology.

The Trails Forum was recently held in Dwellingup with a great attendance and broad range of stakeholders, good feedback received.

City of Mandurah: The waterfront redevelopment is underway and going well. The Premier met with the City a few weeks ago to discuss 'Transform Mandurah' the information was well received and it appears he is open to investigating opportunities.

The new Director of Economic Development has been appointed, James Campbell-Sloane has substantial experience and ex-Deloitte.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The 46th General Meeting of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum is proposed to be held at the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale on Thursday, 25 February 2021 commencing at 10 am.

Meeting closed at 12.55pm.