



PEEL REGIONAL
LEADERS FORUM

Peel Regional Leaders Forum (Inc) MINUTES

55th General Meeting held via Google Meet
Thursday 13 April 2023, commencing at 10am

Deputy Chair Cr Mike Walmsley welcomed those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 10.04am

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND CONFIRMATION OF PROXIES

Attendance:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Cr Mike Walmsley | President, Shire of Waroona (Deputy Chair) (Proxy) |
| Mark Newman | CEO, City of Mandurah (Treasurer) (Proxy) |
| Cr David Bolt | President, Shire of Murray (Proxy) |
| Cr Michelle Rich | President, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (Proxy) |
| Cr Eugene Smalberger | Deputy President, Shire of Boddington (Proxy) |
| Nicci Lambert | Chair, Peel Community Development Group (Proxy) |
| Dean Unsworth | CEO, Shire of Murray (Secretary) |
| Jane O'Malley | CEO, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (Proxy) |
| John Lambrecht | Director, Regional Development Australia Peel (Proxy) |
| Paul Martin | CEO, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale |
| Julie Burton | CEO, Shire of Boddington |
| Karen Oborn | Director Infrastructure & Development Services, Shire of Waroona |
| Natalie Lees | Peel Development Commission (Observer) |
| Anika Serer | Executive Director |
| Dan Ferguson | Acting Manager, Water Supply Planning, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation |

Apologies:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Mayor Rhys Williams | Mayor, City of Mandurah (Chair) |
| Mark Goodlet | CEO, Shire of Waroona |
| Andrew Ward | CEO, Peel Development Commission (Observer) |
| John Erren | Chair, Regional Development Australia Peel |
| Caroline Knight | Chair, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council |

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES / BUSINESS ARISING – 2 March 2023 [Appendix 1]

Motion:

Moved: Nicci Lambert
Seconded: Cr David Bolt

**That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 March 2023 be confirmed.
Carried Unanimously**

3. PEEL REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE – UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director
Date of Report: 6 April 2023

Dan Ferguson, Acting Manager Water Supply Planning for Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, will provide an update on the Infrastructure Australia Stage 2 Assessment (Phase 1) of Options for Non-Potable Water Security in Perth and Peel Regions.

Background:

Urbaqua delivered a workshop at City of Mandurah on 10 February 2023 to provide an overview of their findings and draft report to key stakeholders involved in the development of the Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative. Comments and feedback were requested no later than 23 February to enable their review and update of the report.

All comments have now been considered and the draft final report was presented to the Project Control Group (Peel Alliance, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development, Peel Development Commission) for discussion and approval. Two minor edits have been noted (report provided for information):

1. The draft valuation figures of the waterways in the economic evaluation being undertaken by Urbis on behalf of Peel Development Commission and Peel-Harvey Catchment Council has been referenced; these have since been revised and are subject to final approval of that report. This is expected in the next two weeks.
2. Correction to Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale 'Industrial Development' description on page 172 – West Mundijong is categorised as strategic industrial for the purpose of this report (all calculations and references throughout the rest of the report are correct and reflect this).

It is proposed that PRLF endorse the Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative report subject to these changes, which can be made once the economic evaluation report is completed.

Funding Overview:

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 now been completed with no cost variations.

The total cost and funding for the initiative (inclusive of scope development and workshops prior to the Urbaqua contract) is as follows:

| Item | Budgeted Cost | Actual Cost | Funding Committed | Source |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Workshop & Scope development | \$8,500 | \$8,430 | \$ 8,500 | PDC/PRLF* |
| RFQ01-22 Urbaqua Contract (\$110,850 plus GST) breakdown: | | | | |
| WP1: Community Needs | \$34,200 | \$34,200 | \$ 34,200 | PDC/PRLF* |
| WP2: Agriculture Needs | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$ 20,000 | DPIRD |
| WP3: Industry Needs | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$ 20,000 | DPIRD |
| WP4: Environment Needs | \$19,000 | \$19,000 | \$ 19,000 | PDC/PRLF* |
| WP5: Water Source Options | \$17,650 | \$17,650 | \$ 12,650 \$ 5,000 | PDC/PRLF* Harvey Water |
| Contract Allowances* | \$ 5,650 | \$3,102 | \$ 5,650 | PDC/PRLF* |
| Contingency | \$10,000 | - | \$ 10,000 | PRLF |
| Total (excl GST) | \$135,000 | \$122,382 | \$135,000 | |

* Contract Allowances included facility hire and catering for workshops. Unspent balance \$2,548

Next Steps

The contract with Urbaqua did not provide for publication/printing of the final report. Due to its size (220+ pages) it is suggested that two versions are printed – the executive summary (10 pages) for general distribution, and the comprehensive report (incl summary) as a limited run for member organisations, key stakeholders involved in its development and advocacy. Both reports can be made available publically on the Peel Alliance website once ready. The cost of this can be allocated to the Contract Allowance balance.

Peel Development Commission has also offered to contribute up to \$5,000 in matching funds to further tailor the Executive Summary into an advocacy document, identifying looming demand driven pressures to prioritise short-term impacts and responding to the recommendations in the report.

The forecasts provided in the report also identify medium and long term pressure points, and the need for climate-independent water sources where these are currently used. It is recommended these are identified, together with potential stakeholders to collaborate in the process of seeking solutions. These will be highlighted for discussion of the report and agreement on next steps.

Attachments:

Appendix 2: Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative Draft Final Report

Discussion:

Daniel Ferguson provided an update on the work being carried out by DWER for the Stage 2 Assessment of the Infrastructure Australia (IA) 'Perth and south-western coast water security' – Options for Non-Potable Water Security in the Perth and Peel Region. A copy of the presentation will be distributed with the Minutes. Discussion points:

- The study area for the IA listing is Geraldton to Augusta, but this assessment will focus on the Perth and Peel areas to begin
- Water Corp is focusing on assessment of future potable water eg desalination plant in Alkimos; DWER is investigating non-potable water security options. The investigation responds to a number of ad hoc and localised proposals being received; a more co-ordinated approach is required and regional/state/federal context including Commonwealth funding opportunities.
- Expect to see reduction in groundwater as climate change continues to impact its

- availability and increased use of desalination and treated waste water
- WA is unique that is largely self-supplied (55% non-potable water), most of it is licenced
 - If a bore user has a licence for over 10,000KL/year it must be metered and self-readings submitted to DWER (since change to regulations in 2019); generally find that most water users aren't taking their full allocations
 - Study looks at agriculture, heavy industry and urban green space
 - The unmet water demand study indicates 40GL deficit by 2050; bulk of that is industry 25GL, horticulture 9GL, urban green space 7GL; area has not included Waroona at this stage which is potentially another area to include – this is aligned with the Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative
 - Note that the Gngangara groundwater allocation plan includes a 10% reduction in use by 2030, it is expected this policy will be extended to other regions in time up to 2050 due to the reduction in groundwater levels and lower recharge.
 - The study includes a cost-benefit analysis for 5 scenarios:
 1. Potable water scheme supply (desalinated water focus) – base case for point of comparison
 2. Non-potable supply of treated waste water (TWW) & drainage water via managed aquifer recharge (MAR) - decentralised approach
 3. Non-potable TWW & drainage direct supply (ie piped direct to users); attractive to coastal users such as Western Trade Coast
 4. Non-potable TWW indirect supply (ie transferred to dams for storage & then distributed)
 5. Demand management – make users more efficient and recoup/redistribute to higher value uses
 - All options have 2 water efficiency scenarios – traditional irrigation (maintaining similar level of amenity eg green spaces) or reduction in water use eg reduced irrigated turf
 - Options 3 & 5 have the highest performing BCA and are recommended to be included in the sub-regional based analysis as part of stage 3, along with the 'base case' option 1.
 - IA requires a 'do nothing' scenario to be included however this is not seen to be viable as it is not an option.
 - The benefits of delivering solutions will be required to be identified, the Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative findings will be helpful and recommend that the Alliance supports this
 - More work to identify the best mix and scale of solutions at a sub-regional and local scale
 - In a transition from self-supply to different setting under climate change where scheme supplies will be required (networks) – entities that have capacity to undertake this cost and management will be required; Water Corp may have appetite for larger schemes but it is not their usual remit. Need to be clear about cost and funding arrangements, and adaptive.
 - Question: When is the tipping point? It is apparent in certain locations such as Serpentine Jarrahdale already, where DWER are looking at trading and transfers for localised requirements. A mix of solutions will be required, and in some locations where we are efficient as possible a mix of potable/non-potable may be affordable. Larger scale developments such as Keirnan Park require detailed investigations and solutions.
 - Question: Is it suggested that private enterprises take on supply of non-potable water and how could they do this if there is no supply available? It is not suggested that private enterprise take this on. An example of enterprises would be Adelaide where a lot of local governments have built capacity to maintain own local water supply schemes; SA Water supporting larger schemes. It could be possible for WA but the capacity of local governments varies throughout the state.

- Query about the status of MAR investigations at Nambeelup which indicated it would be too expensive? it can be difficult to make direct recharge to MAR cost efficient and commercially feasible, it is dependent on the level of treatment required and attributes of the aquifer. There is progress being made to make it more feasible.
- Who is the agency that should be lobbied to seek funding and investment in infrastructure by the State and Commonwealth? Collaborative approach will be required to solutions and particularly for Commonwealth support, state government joint approach required including Premier & Cabinet/Treasury; and progress to business cases. DWER are not proponents of the infrastructure which makes it difficult to progress alone.
- Question: Using treated waste water requires the demand to match supply. Where the short term solution is to remove waste water, who is responsible for this decision and ensuring it does not jeopardise long term needs? Water Corp is the planner and decision maker for waste water recycling; for reuse in areas such as the scarp it is critical to have inland disposal options as backup. They operate as a commercial entity and need to make commercial decisions, but can be advised by other Departments on public or independent perspectives.
- Question: Trying to develop solutions to get water for specific needs that are a good long term decision can involve multiple agencies/locations/remits. Who should be responsible for coordinating this? The next step would be to undertake these investigations at a local level – Water Corp & DWER should be facilitating this with local stakeholders. A multi criteria analysis would be needed with everyone agreeing on criteria and needs, work together to get ready for investment. This needs to be very collaborative and clear understanding of responsibilities and intended ownership/operating arrangements. DWER & Water Corp are currently trying to work out who should be responsible for leading subregional assessments.
- National Water Grid funding programs historically for regional investments (not metropolitan). Arguments to be had that this is climate proofing outer/fringe metropolitan areas and not business as usual or where a cost-recovery application is possible.

Motion

Moved: Jane O'Malley

Seconded: Cr David Bolt

**That PRLF endorses the *Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative Report* subject to the changes highlighted in this report; and commits \$5,000 to match Peel Development Commission's suggested contribution to further developing an advocacy document.
Carried Unanimously**

4. REGIONAL ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 31 March 2023

Background:

At the General Meeting held on 25 August 2022 the proposed approach to the 2025 State and Federal elections was discussed, and it was noted that Peel Alliance needs to:

1. Determine its advocacy role and plan for it (establish framework) by mid-2023 for the 2025 State and Federal elections; and
2. Commence activity by the end of 2023 (ie publications/media finalised and commence communications)

The Regional Advocacy Principles and Framework document was endorsed at the General Meeting held on 3 March 2023, providing an overarching structure to identify and prioritise initiatives, including level of effort and resources.

It is recommended that the findings of the Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative Report, and Joint Position Statement on Mining, be assessed against State and Federal Government responsibilities to identify appropriate advocacy strategies (eg policy, infrastructure).

Input from member organisations is sought to identify other regionally significant initiatives that meet the principles of the Advocacy Framework and can be presented for assessment. It is suggested that these are provided to the Executive Director in the next two weeks for compilation and a working group assess them to provide a recommendation to the next General Meeting.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 3: Advocacy Framework

Action:

That PRLF members provide details of regionally significant initiatives to the Executive Director that meet the criteria in the Advocacy Framework, and a Working Group is formed to assess and provide a recommendation to the next General Meeting.

The Working Group members will be Paul Martin, John Lambrecht, Mark Goodlet, Dean Unsworth, Mayor Rhys Williams and Julie Burton.

5. JOINT POSITION STATEMENT ON MINING IN THE PEEL REGION

Author: Anika Serer, Executive Director
Date: 5 April 2023

Background

An update is provided under separate cover

Action:

The update was noted.

6. PEEL TRAILS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director
Date of Report: 31 March 2023

Background:

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

Peel Trails Committee: Agenda 30 March 2023 (combined with Technical Group)
Minutes 16 February 2023

Peel Trails Technical Group: Minutes 9 February 2023

A joint Committee and Technical Group meeting was held on 30 March 2023 to review project planning, construction and activity for the next two years. Updates from each of the LGA's are provided in the attached agenda.

A review of the Peel Regional Trails Strategy recommendations is also being undertaken, to monitor and track progress. The review will be informed by the Trails Committee and Technical Group members against the following key objectives:

1. Trail Network: maintain, upgrade and develop a high quality trails network for a broad range of outdoor adventure trail users (identified priority trails)
2. Trail User Experience: ensure quality trail user experiences which will deliver social economic and tourism benefits to the community
3. Trails Infrastructure and Services: well planned and designed facilities and services appropriate to scale and significance of trails and clusters of trails, aimed at encouraging use of the trails network
4. Governance and Management: optimise governance and management structures across trail land owners, stakeholder groups and regional partners to ensure the Peel region is positioned as a trails destination.

This report, and an overview of the next two years' activities (including potential initiatives for 2025 election advocacy) will be presented to the next general meeting.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 4: Peel Trails Committee Agenda 30 March 2023

Appendix 5: Peel Trails Committee Minutes 16 February 2023

Appendix 6: Peel Trails Technical Group Minutes 9 February 2023

Discussion/Actions:

Dean Unsworth queried the status of the \$8 million Federal election funding commitment and when this may be available for delivery of the projects. Anika Serer advised that there had been a teleconference held recently between proponents and the Department of Infrastructure, who appeared to be seeking a single point for funding and project coordination (eg if one of the proponents will take the lead role). Peel Development Commission has been contacted to discuss the possibility – Anika will follow up to seek the outcome.

If PDC is not an option, Shire of Murray can offer the service of its Trails Coordinator but will require funding contributions towards the cost. There was an allocation of \$242,000 for project coordination and marketing in the funding request, there is uncertainty whether this is an issue for the Department of Infrastructure - Anika to investigate. The other LGA's that are proponents for the program are requested to consider funding the coordinator if this is required to accelerate the finalisation of the grant.

Motion:

Moved: Cr David Bolt

Seconded: Mark Newman

That PRLF notes the recent minutes provided by the Peel Trails Committee.

Carried Unanimously

7. FINANCE REPORT

The Financial Performance Report for the period ended 31 March 2023 was received.

8. REVIEW OF INSURANCE COVERAGE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director
 Date of Report: 6 April 2023

Background:

At the last audit of the organisation's financials and operations it was recommended that PRLF review its extent of insurance to ensure appropriate cover. There is currently Workers Compensation in place via LGIS based on wages, but no other coverage.

Integra Insurance Brokers has been contacted to seek quotations for the following additional cover based on current activities and risks:

- Association Liability
- Personal Accident Insurance
- General/Products Liability
- Professional Indemnity

The broker is currently finalising quotations from the insurers, and the proposal will be provided under separate cover when it is received for review.

Update:

The quotation from Integra Insurance Brokers was distributed to members on 12 April 2023. The proposal is \$5,108.42 for a 12-month period.

Motion:

Moved: Cr David Bolt
Seconded: Mark Newman

That PRLF accepts the proposed insurance cover and quotation provided by Integra Insurance Brokers for \$5,108.42, and reviews annually.

Carried Unanimously

9. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS REPORT [Appendix 8]

The Outstand Actions Report was received.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Peel Community Development Group: Nicci advised that PCDG has been workshopping the PATM3 Action Plan, including mapping and scoping initiatives, identifying lead agencies with capacity to take responsibility for driving the top projects, key stakeholders. PCDG will take an advocacy role to support the lead agencies with their limited resources and track progress.

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council: Jane advised that the economic evaluation of the Peel-Harvey Waterways is being finalised and due for completion shortly. This will be a key document in the background to the business case that will be developed to support the 10 year restoration plan of the waterways.

Megan Watts, President of the Commercial Fishing Association, has one of the few remaining commercial licences in waterways and noted that crab stocks have plummeted this season. PHCC will be meeting with them to discuss the low crab poulation and understand advocacy actions that may be required.

Peel Development Commission: Natalie advised that the Peel Regional Investment Blueprint Workshop will be held on 22 May 2023 with stakeholders to set regional priorities; invitations have been sent out via email.

11. LATE BUSINESS OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Author and Title: Mayor Rhys Williams, Chair
Date of Report: 7 April 2023

Background:

A confidential report has been provided under separate cover.

Motion:

Moved: Jane O'Malley

Seconded: Cr David Bolt

That the Peel Regional Leaders Forum:

1. Notes our appreciation to the Executive Director for her ongoing leadership in driving the Peel Alliance's strategy and operations, and congratulates her on a very successful year.
2. Provides the Executive Director with the summary of comments contained in the performance review document as feedback on performance for the period January – December 2022
3. Approves a salary increase of 4% across salary and allowances, as per the approved budget
4. Approves the salary increase in point four be back-dated to February 2023.

Carried Unanimously

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The 56th General Meeting of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum is proposed to be held at the Shire of Waroona on **Wednesday, 14 June 2023* commencing at 10.30am.**

** Calendar invitation will be updated to reflect change of date*