



# Peel Regional Leaders Forum (Inc) MINUTES

## 56<sup>th</sup> General Meeting held at Shire of Waroona Wednesday 14 June 2023, commencing at 10.30am

**Mayor Rhys Williams welcomed those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 10.35am**

### 1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND CONFIRMATION OF PROXIES

Attendance:

Mayor Rhys Williams	Mayor, City of Mandurah (Chair)
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)
Caroline Knight	Chair, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (Proxy)
John Lambrecht	Director, Regional Development Australia Peel (Proxy)
Paul Martin	CEO, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
Mark Goodlet	CEO, Shire of Waroona
Andrew Ward	CEO, Peel Development Commission (Observer)
Anika Serer	Executive Director

Apologies:

Dean Unsworth	CEO, Shire of Murray (Secretary)
Cr Garry Ventris	President, Shire of Boddington
Nicci Lambert	Chair, Peel Community Development Group (Proxy)
Jane O'Malley	CEO, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
John Erren	Chair, Regional Development Australia Peel
Julie Burton	CEO, Shire of Boddington
Kathleen Johnson	Deputy Chair, Peel Community Development Group

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES / BUSINESS ARISING – 13 April 2023 [Appendix 1]

Motion:

**Moved:** Cr Mike Walmsley  
**Seconded:** Cr Michelle Rich

**That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 April 2023 be confirmed.**

**Carried Unanimously**

Mayor Rhys Williams congratulated the Shire of Murray on the recent launch of their Strategic Community Plan.

### 3. PEEL REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE – UPDATE

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

#### Background:

The report for the Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative was endorsed at the General Meeting held on 13 April 2023, subject to minor edits. It has now been finalised and distributed via email to members and the stakeholders that contributed to its development.

At the meeting it was agreed to further develop the Executive Summary into an advocacy document, by identifying the looming demand driven gaps by local government area. This would enable short term issues to be prioritised, and supported by high level assessment of their impact (environmental, economic, community values).

Urbaqua has advised they are available to undertake this work in conjunction with FARlane (now Hatch) which will take approximately 6-8 weeks. Once the short term priorities have been outlined and quantified, consultation with the relevant stakeholders (including LGA's) will be undertaken to confirm and identify any other impacts for assessment.

#### Funding Overview:

A budget of \$125,000 was allocated to the initiative, this stage has now been completed at a total cost of \$122,382, with \$2,548 unspent.

Peel Development Commission and Peel Alliance agreed to commit \$5,000 each at the last General Meeting to the further development of the Executive Summary as outlined above, providing an overall budget of \$12,548 for this work. The proposal from Urbaqua is pending and an update will be provided at this meeting, however it is expected to be within budget.

The last update on the initiative suggested that a limited number of the final report be printed for distribution to members and stakeholders. Unfortunately, as the report is 224 pages long a small batch of 60 copies will cost \$3,000 which does not offer significant value (and will be bulky). It is therefore proposed that only the Advocacy Document (which is expected to be around 20 pages) be printed upon completion, and the full technical report be available for download from the website as a reference if required.

#### Discussion

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

#### 4. DRAFT OPERATIONAL FUNDING PLAN 2023-24 AND 3 YEAR FORECAST

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

Background:

A draft budget for PRLF's 2023/24 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 (source: 2021 Census data)

Key aspects of the draft budget:

1. The 3-year forward plan prepared for the last financial year (22/23) forecast a reduction in the operational surplus to \$95,147 by the end of the year; this has been reviewed and will be closer to \$150,000. This has been smoothed over the next three years to reduce a significant increase in Year 3 (under the previous model the closing balance at the end of 2024/25 was expected to be \$556, requiring significant additional funding contributions the following year).
2. The three-year plan now forecasts a depleted closing balance of \$125 by the end of 2025/26;
3. Includes a project budget of \$50,000 per year;
4. The opening balance for 2023/24 includes \$12,600 carryover for the Water Supply Initiative, funded by Peel Alliance and Peel Development Commission;
5. Figures exclude GST.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 2: Draft 2023/24 Operational Funding Plan

Action:

*The Executive Director will email each of the CEO's with their specific contribution including the separate contribution to the advocacy initiative.*

Motion:

**Moved: Cr Michelle Rich**

**Seconded: Caroline Knight**

**The proposed 2023/24 budget is approved in principle, 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 24 August 2023.**

**Carried Unanimously**

## 5. PEEL TRAILS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director  
Date of Report: 8 June 2023

### Background:

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

Peel Trails Committee: Minutes 30 March 2023 (combined with Technical Group)  
Agenda 8 June 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 minutes.

A review of the Peel Regional Trails Strategy recommendations has also been undertaken, to monitor and track progress. The review was 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 progress report, and an overview of the next two years' activities (including potential initiatives for 2025 election advocacy) is provided for information and discussion.

### Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 3: Peel Trails Committee Minutes 30 March 2023

Appendix 4: Peel Trails Committee Agenda 8 June 2023

Appendix 5: Peel Trails Strategy – Progress Report

### Discussion:

Cr Michelle Rich, Chair of the Peel Trails Committee, provided an update on the outcomes of the last meeting on 8 June –

1. Committee members have provided updates on their progress against the recommendations in the Peel Trails Strategy– it is pleasing to see that a lot has happened. Some recommendations may not be fully achievable due to funding constraints or outcomes of feasibility studies – the next step will be to undertake a review of the Strategy.
2. Off Road Vehicle Areas – an update was provided to the Committee by DLGSC noting that a 200ha area in the Peel region has been set aside by DevelopmentWA for a commercial ORV facility. This approval is valid until May 2025 to allow time for the operator to obtain relevant approvals. This will be a staged development with a focus on 2-wheeled market, but may consider additional markets in the future. DLGSC will investigate the feasibility of subsidising user fees, and continue to work to identify free public ORV areas and the 4-wheeled market. The exact location of the 200ha site has not been published yet as it is subject to approvals and necessary public consultation.

Andrew Ward provided an update on the arrangements for the \$8 million funding for Peel Trails from the Federal election following a recent meeting with the proponents (details below):

1. PDC will be the program grantee, to coordinate the program funds and liaise with the Federal Government on behalf of the group.
2. All to provide the required project information (using the Application form and aligned to the Guidelines requirements) to PDC by **Friday 29 Sept 2023 latest**
3. All to liaise with other project leaders in the group regarding trails which may connect / align to trails in other local government areas, and to align timeframes
4. All to review the land tenure of projects and consider if projects on DBCA land might be better transferred to DBCA to lead and deliver (eg the Jarrahdale Bridle Trails project).
5. The contingency of \$152,700, to be redistributed between the five project delivery organisations (DBCA, COM, SOW, SOB and COM) as a percentage of the original allocated total funding to each organisation. See table below with revised figures and also attached Project Summary.
6. Two additional milestones are available to be used – 25% construction completion and 75% construction completion.
7. PDC will conduct the economic assessment of Criteria 1 on the whole \$8m commitment.
8. PDC will ask the Federal Government if existing in-house staff of an organisation who are re-deployed from their usual duties onto trails construction and signage installation etc, would be considered an eligible expense under the grant.
9. Each project delivery organisation (DBCA, COM, SOW, SOB and COM) will be responsible for their own project acquittals, which PDC will submit on their behalf.

Organisation	Original Project Allocation / \$	Contingency / \$	New Total Funding Allocation
DBCA	1,450,000	29,929 (19.6%)	1,479,929
SOB	985,000	20,309 (13.3%)	1,005,309
COM	1,750,000	36,037 (23.6%)	1,786,037
SOSJ	1,953,300	40,313 (26.4%)	1,993,613
SOW	1,269,000	26,112 (17.1%)	1,295,112

PRLF noted the recent minutes provided by the Peel Trails Committee and the progress report on recommendations in the Peel Regional Trails Strategy 2019.

## 6. REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR ADVOCACY

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director  
Date of Report: 6 June 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.

Available representatives of the Working Group (Rhys Williams, Mark Goodlet, Dean Unsworth, Paul Martin) met on 6 June to discuss the identification and prioritisation of initiatives for advocacy, with a focus on the 2025 State and Federal elections. It was noted at the planning workshop held in 2021 (facilitated by Craig Salt) that the Alliance is most effective by focusing its resources and capacity on a few significant priorities, and this should be a guiding principle to streamline the process. It was agreed that the *Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative* and *Policy Position Statement: Mining and Extractive Industries* should be the key focus for advocacy, along with ongoing efforts to address eligibility for regional funding rounds (eg Growing Regions) and recognition of regional boundaries.

To support members and maximise value, it is suggested that each organisation has the opportunity to submit one significant initiative which will be allocated two pages in the prospectus. These will have a direct point of contact to the organisation for any queries, and where there is a common theme (eg transport/roads) will be grouped into sections.

To enable the prospectus and schedule of advocacy activities to be finalised by the end of 2023, members are requested to submit their initiative to the Executive Director no later than 31 July. A template will be provided, and assistance is available for any high-level economic output figures (ie Remplan).

### Action:

*That PRLF supports the Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative, Policy Position Statement: Mining and Extractive Industries, and recognition of regional boundaries, as its key focus for advocacy in the lead up to the 2025 State and Federal elections. Members will provide details of up to three significant initiatives to the Executive Director no later than 31 July for inclusion in the prospectus and advocacy material.*

## 7. FINANCE REPORT

The Financial Performance Report for the period ended 31 May 2023 was received [Appendix 6]

## 8. SOUTH WEST NATIVE TITLE SETTLEMENT

Author and Title: Cr David Bolt, President Shire of Murray  
Date of Report: 6 June 2023

### Background:

It is requested that Peel Alliance arranges for the Department of Premier and Cabinet to give an update to the group on the South West Native Title Settlement, and engagement with Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation.

### Action:

*That the Executive Director contacts the Department of Premier and Cabinet and CEO of Gnaala Karla Booja to request a presentation at the next General Meeting, allowing 2.5-3 hours.*

## 9. ELIGIBILITY FOR GROWING REGIONS PROGRAM AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director  
Date of Report: 7 June 2023

### Background:

The Government has recently released the guidelines for the Growing Regions program: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/growing-regions-program>

Eligible boundaries exclude the City of Mandurah, and the most populated areas of the Shires of Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale as they are located within the 2021 Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA) as determined by ABS. The mapping tool can be viewed at:

<https://maps.abs.gov.au/?xmin=12739179.8231673&ymin=-3917291.923431449&xmax=13073056.762716787&ymin=-3771144.3253502627&toplayer=ASGS2021:GCCSA>

A copy of the correspondence sent to Hon. Catherine King, Hon. Kirsty McBain and Senator Louise Pratt on behalf of City of Mandurah and Peel Alliance in response to this ineligibility, and seeking an urgent meeting, was provided to members by email on 23 May 2026. Shire of Murray has also sent correspondence in relation to the matter and supporting the request to meet.

At the time of this report a formal response has not been received from any parties.

John Lambrecht has met with Louise Pratt who supports the stance, and advised she will request the Parliamentary Library to review the definitions of regional boundaries used by the department to determine eligibility in the past, and support the request for a meeting with Minister King.

It is noted that the Thriving Suburbs and Urban Precincts and Partnerships programs have not had guidelines released yet, but if these are the intended programs for our areas ineligible for Growing Regions, the assessment will need to consider a level playing field for projects servicing smaller populations compared to metropolitan areas.

Discussion:

It was noted that a formal response had not been received from any parties. If Peel Alliance receives a response with agreement to meet it will be pursued as a matter of urgency, however in the meantime the LGA's impacted by the ineligibility are encouraged to continue to pursue a response noting their differing positions (eg Coolup ineligibility may have a different challenge than Mandurah due to size/remoteness).

**10. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS REPORT [Appendix 7]**

The Outstanding Actions report was received.

**11. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- a) Peel Alliance: An update was provided on the Joint Position Statement on Mining and Extractive Industries and associated activities. Invoices will be raised for the contributing members that have allocated it to the current financial year budget.
- b) Shire of Murray: The implementation of the new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act and the implications for LGA's was discussed. There are concerns that the lack of guidance on implementing the new requirements will have significant impacts on Shire activities (such as working in reserves and parks) and landowners. This item will be discussed further in the WALGA Peel Zone meeting, but CEO's are encouraged to share knowledge and experiences to support each other.
- c) Outgoing Treasurer Mark Newman was acknowledged and thanked for 13 years of service to PRLF, being a foundation member and integral to its creation, and ongoing support. Members wished him all the best on his next adventure.
- d) RDA Peel: John advised that the new Regional Investment Framework was provided in this year's Federal Budget. A formal enquiry has been made to seek the definition of 'regional' as this seems to change between portfolios and applications. John will meet each organisation individually to explain how this will impact the RDA's business plan and Action Plan, and seek an update on projects for inclusion.
- e) Peel Development Commission: a Strategic Workshop was held recently with 40-50 participants to identify two priorities to focus collective regional action for the next five years using the framework of the Blueprint. The two top priorities are 'Restoring the Health of the Peel Harvey Waterways' and 'Decarbonisation Hub and Green Industry'. The key findings and process are provided in an attachment to these Minutes. Meetings with identified stakeholders for both priorities will be held in July to develop the brief and responsibilities.
- f) Peel-Harvey Catchment Council: Treasury will be visiting PHCC on 11 August 2023.

**12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The 57<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum is proposed to be held at the City of Mandurah on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 commencing at 10.00am.

Meeting closed at 12.10pm