



PEEL REGIONAL  
LEADERS FORUM

## Peel Regional Leaders Forum (Inc)

## MINUTES

47<sup>th</sup> General Meeting held at Shire of Boddington  
Thursday 24 June 2021, commencing 10am

### 1. 10am – 11am PRESENTATION

Andrew Geddes and Kelly Colledge, Department of Communities, provided a presentation on the proposed District Leadership Group (copy of presentation attached)

District Leadership Groups (DLG) operate across Western Australia and meet regularly to explore local issues and initiatives.

Membership of the groups include representatives from State and Commonwealth governments, local government, the community services sector, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and industry.

An effective network of strong, self-supporting DLGs across the State will have a fundamental impact on improving outcomes for all Western Australians.

The groups' activities involve:

- regional collaboration and coordination of effort and resources on key local initiatives
- provision of timely and accurate local information to Government and other stakeholders
- fostering partnerships to coordinate services, measure impact and share expertise and resources.

The Department of Communities is acting as the driver and facilitator for DLG development in WA by providing a program of assistance to each region, which may include governance, decision-making, leadership development, and outcomes and priority-setting.

In 2018 the Public Sector Leadership Council endorsed Communities' commitment to the development and support of DLGs. The Department's support is aimed at strengthening the principle of shared ownership.

Key discussion points:

- The South Metro region for Dept of Communities falls within the boundaries of the South Metro Health Service and South Metro Education District, and across two Police Districts (Fremantle and Mandurah). It encompasses 13 LGA's however this does not include Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale which is within the East Metro region;
- Andrew acknowledged the disparity between state agency boundaries and the regional boundaries, and the importance of aligning services within Peel; he would be happy to liaise with the East Metro region to explore a MOU for Serpentine Jarrahdale to be serviced with the rest of Peel in the South Metro catchment;
- If changes cannot be made to the service area boundaries then it is important that the South Metro & East Metro teams engage with us together so that there is one conversation and joint decision making;
- Maintaining 'regional' status is important as it provides the ability to negotiate exceptions in decisions that wouldn't be considered in a metropolitan setting;
- Family Support Networks is a service that is provided in the metro excluding Peel and should be considered for advocacy; this is a gateway/one stop service to provide

family support, early intervention, counselling, homelessness services, family and domestic violence services;

- Acknowledged the shortage of social housing in the Peel region; one of the issues is that the Dept of Communities does not have the level of landholdings in Peel compared to other regions for social housing development. A 60-bed common ground facility has been committed in Mandurah; and the refuge expansion of 6 beds is underway and expected to be completed in October. The identification of appropriate land, with access to support services, is key to developing further facilities.

*Actions:*

- *The Executive Director and Chair to meet with Peel Community Development Group and Andrew Geddes to progress the creation of a District Leadership Group for the Peel region, including identifying potential members and key issues;*
- *Department of Communities to speak offline with Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to discuss how to work through being included with the South Metro DLG and/or East Metro, and how this can be best accommodated.*

**Chair Rhys Williams welcomed those present and declared the meeting open at 11.25am**

## **2. 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)
Cr Michelle Rich	President, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (Secretary) (Proxy)
Mark Newman	CEO, City of Mandurah (Treasurer) (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)
Caroline Knight	Chair, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (Proxy)
Jane O'Malley	CEO, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
Dean Unsworth	CEO, Shires of Murray & 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 (Proxy)
Helen Douglas	Treasurer, Peel Community Development Group
Anika Serer	Executive Director
Andrew Ward	CEO, Peel Development Commission (Observer)

Apologies:

Liz Prescott	Chair, Peel Community Development Group
Paddi Creevey	Chair, Peel Development Commission

### 3. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES / BUSINESS ARISING – 22 April 2021** [Appendix 1]

**Motion:**

**Moved:** Nicci Lambert

**Seconded:** Mike Walmsley

**That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 April 2021 be confirmed.**

**Carried Unanimously**

### 4. **WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE – UPDATE**

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date: 14 June 2021

**Background:**

At the priorities planning workshop held in February members agreed to focus on ‘water supply’ as a key initiative for Peel Alliance focus and advocacy. Several key areas were identified for investigation and to start mapping what the issues and opportunities relating to the sustainable supply of water to the region may be:

- People (growth)
- Industry
- Food/Agriculture
- Conservation/Waterways

The Executive Director was requested to engage with members and assemble all available information into a ‘map and gap’ format to identify:

- a) Common themes throughout the region
- b) ‘What we don’t know we don’t know’
- c) Potential external stakeholders and key players
- d) Program of agreed focus activities and roles, resourcing

A Project Brief is attached providing an overview of the scope and examples of information, considerations and data sought from members. The draft Discussion Paper captures this information and is a living document which is intended to be expanded as information continues to be provided/updated and the challenges defined. A summary of the challenges is provided at the end of the document.

A presentation will be given at the meeting providing an overview of the challenges and issues, and opportunities identified to progress the sustainable supply of water to the region.

**Supporting Documentation:**

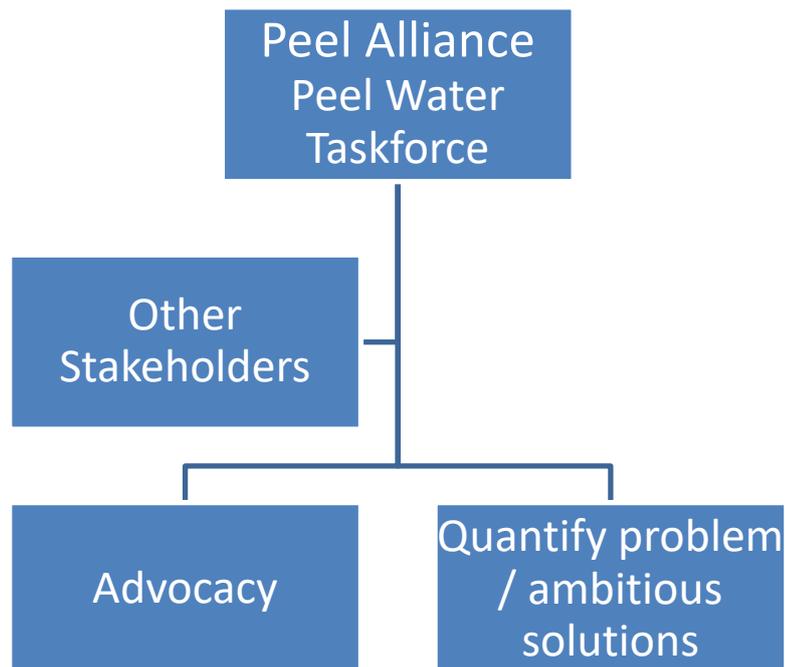
Appendix 2 – Water for Our Future Brief

Appendix 3 – Water for Our Future Discussion Paper (draft)

**Discussion:**

- Anika provided an overview of the Discussion Paper (Powerpoint presentation attached) including key findings and challenges found to date. The paper has been informed by the members’ representatives, considering the four key issues identified at the planning workshop, and developed under PRLF’s three pillars – Community, Economy and Environment. It is intended to be a living document and be expanded/updated as required to inform the PRLF strategy to address water supply issues in the region;
- A significant gap in the planning of water supply to the region was identified in the Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million – South Metropolitan Peel Sub-Regional Planning

- Framework (March 2018) which notes the following actions –
- *'Perth and Peel Regions Water Supply Strategy (Department of Water and Environmental Regulation) which will identify demand gaps, viable alternative supply options, and provide direction for future sub-regional planning'*
  - *'Prepare and implement water management strategies in accordance with the South Metropolitan Peel Regional Water Management Strategy'*
  - These documents appear to either not have been developed or published, and are not publically available.
- The requirements of surface and ground water for the health of the estuary, waterways and wetlands is also a significant consideration, the impacts of climate change and decades of taking surface water and ground water have resulted in the estuary returning to pre-Dawesville Cut health.
  - Andrew Ward provided an update on the water roundtable discussion held at the PDC Board Meeting in Waroona on 14 June 2021. The discussion included a presentation by Adrian Parker (PDC) with an overview of the current status of non-potable water supply to the region, which indicated that current allocation limits of ground water are not sustainable beyond 2030. Harvey Water provided an update on their investigations into securing water resources for their clients in the Peel and South West regions; and Water Corp provided an overview of their planning investigations for the recycling of waste water from the Gordon Road Integrated Water Resource Recovery Facility, and possibly Pinjarra facility.
    - The discussion was attended by representatives from DPIRD, DWER, Water Corp, Harvey Water, Shire of Harvey and South West Development Commission – a key 'take away' was that when the room was asked 'who is responsible for developing the future non-potable water strategy for Peel?' there was not a clear response or commitment for responsibility from any of the agencies, and this has still not been resolved
    - Peel Integrated Water Initiative (PIWI1) is also in limbo – the technical studies, reports and recommendations are complete. It was presented to the Minister for Regional Development for endorsement however she advised that it was the responsibility of the Department of Water where it has been directed – at this stage it has not been endorsed or published.
  - Michelle Rich noted that with the supply of water becoming unsustainable by 2030, this only allows two state election cycles to actively campaign for issue to be addressed. It is important that the environment is included as state agreements for mining in the region expire around 2045 and the environment will be the key asset for future opportunities.
  - A key action is to develop a Problem Statement and Opportunity Statement, enabling the issues to be clearly and concisely articulated.
  - A funding model will need to be carefully considered, economic development/drivers will be a key factor in securing funding from state, federal or private investors.
  - Chair Rhys Williams suggested a potential framework for the progression of the water supply initiative, noting the lack of commitment from state agencies and the opportunity for Peel Alliance to take an appropriate leadership role. A Peel Water Taskforce, led by Peel Alliance, undertaking key activities in 1) Advocacy and 2) Quantifying the Problems and developing Ambitious Solutions; with engagement of key stakeholders such as the state agencies. Potential external stakeholders are noted on the final page of the presentation.



- It was agreed that representatives from the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Shire of Murray, City of Mandurah, Shire of Waroona and Peel-Harvey Catchment Council would meet in the next two weeks to progress the development of the Taskforce, including Terms of Reference and membership; and a future facilitated workshop with all members to progress the objects and funding strategy.

**Motion:**

**Moved: Michelle Rich**

**Seconded: David Bolt**

**That the Executive Director arrange a meeting in the next two weeks for representatives from the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Shire of Murray, City of Mandurah, Shire of Waroona and Peel-Harvey Catchment Council to progress the development of the proposed Peel Water Taskforce, including Terms of Reference and membership; and a future facilitated workshop with all members to progress the objects and funding strategy.**

**Carried Unanimously**

Nicci Lambert left the meeting at 12.20pm

## 5. 'VALUING NATURE' PROJECT UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director  
Date of Report: 12 June 2021

### Background:

At the General Meeting held on 26 November 2020 it was resolved to allocate \$40,000 from the Peel Transport Funding received from Peel Development Commission to the 'Valuing Nature' project proposed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), with a matching \$40,000 co-contribution from Peel Regional Leaders Forum Inc.

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/>

Dr Fiona Valesini from TNC and Matt Hipsey from University of WA provided a briefing to the November meeting, and recommended that to progress the project a scoping study be carried out to define the agreed services (eg tourism), assets (eg seagrass) and extent which would inform the overall project, define the users and proposed application. The funding committed to the project is to be applied to this stage.

A workshop was arranged on 22 March 2021 for representatives from TNC, UWA, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, Peel Development Commission, Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, and Peel Alliance to define the scope/responsibilities for developing the scope to inform the framework of the 'Valuing Nature' evaluation model.

The project brief was discussed, and TNC agreed to provide a suggested scope of works to inform the funding agreement and outcomes for this stage of the project. The draft scope was reviewed by PHCC, PDC and Peel Alliance representatives and a number of queries and requests for clarification were presented to TNC. In particular, it was requested that a 'hold point' or 'decision gate' be put in place following the initial stakeholder discussions and synthesis of priorities to enable Peel Alliance to consider how the development of the accounting framework will be of value to proposed users, and how it might be used, before deciding to proceed further with data assessment. A risk was identified that potential users may not find the platform the most effective tool for their needs following the workshop, and a commitment to continuing the scope (and \$80,000 expenditure) was not value for money. Other queries included:

1. Clarity on the outputs and concise understanding of what will be received from this study; and what will still be required to be undertaken to complete the project (acknowledging that this study will inform the cost of the balance of the project);
2. Further understanding of extent of stakeholder discussions (large proportion of budget) and how they will determine who is involved, what information will be sought;
3. Confirmation that the stylised demonstration will be relevant to proposed application of the Valuing Nature tool for the Peel-Harvey Estuary.

Lengthy delays have been experienced receiving a response and revised scope, which is now attached. The revised scope has addressed many of the queries, however TNC has declined to include a decision point following the workshops, advising that this would be too small a commitment for the project partners.

Based on this feedback, and the time it has taken to reach this point (seven months), it is not recommended that Peel Alliance progress with the 'Valuing Nature' project at this time. Peel Development Commission and Peel-Harvey Catchment Council have been engaged in this

review process and express similar concerns; and through this discussion have identified an alternative concept for discussion at the meeting.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 4: Valuing Nature – Revised Scope

Discussion:

- Jane O'Malley provided an overview of the concept for the 10 Year Plan for the Peel-Harvey Estuary, which requires an investment of ~\$110m over 10 years to undertake critical restoration works and legislative changes to protect the health of the estuary. This will require a business case to seek funding, part of which will include an economic analysis and valuation of the benefits of the estuary. There is an opportunity to apply the funding to the development of the business case and economic analysis, providing key information on the value of the estuary.
- Members had a number of queries around the details in the concept, and it was felt that this should be presented formally to a future meeting when there has been further time to consider the scope of the Peel Water Taskforce and priorities.

Motion:

**Moved: Michelle Rich**

**Seconded: Mike Walmsley**

**That Peel Regional Leaders Forum agrees not to proceed with the 'Valuing Nature' project at this time, and advises The Nature Conservancy accordingly; and notes the alternative concept to be presented by Peel-Harvey Catchment Council at a future meeting once the scope of the Water Taskforce has been defined.**

**Carried Unanimously**

Caroline Knight and Jane O'Malley left the meeting at 12.50pm

## 6. INDEPENDENT CHAIR DISCUSSION

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date: 13 June 2021

Background:

At the Priorities Planning Workshop held on 26 February 2021, the concept of appointing an independent chair to lead PRLF was raised, and it was agreed that a reference group should explore the concept and provide a recommendation to members.

The meeting was held on 17 March 2021 and attended by Rhys Williams, Michelle Rich, Paul Martin and Anika Serer. Key points from the discussion included agreement that it will create a leadership role that is independent of members, enabling them to better engage in open discussion; removes the impost on incumbent Chairs where there may be a perceived or actual conflict of interest, and time required to undertake duties. Further consideration was required about whether the organisation desired a Chair with specific skills/abilities (eg subject matter expert, lobbying experience, ability to connect key decision makers) and the cost that may be associated with this. Funding scenarios are provided in the report '2021-22 Operational Funding Plan' for consideration.

Due to the strategic nature of the proposal and its implications, it was proposed to set aside a time to discuss this separately and enable a focused discussion. A facilitated workshop was arranged for 12 May 2021, this was unable to proceed due to lack of available participants.

The Chair and Executive Director are engaging with each of the LGA members to explore the opportunities and funding implications, and will provide an overview of the findings and recommendation for consideration at this meeting.

Discussion:

- Rhys Williams provided an update on the outcomes of engagement with each of the LGA members, noting that there is a general consensus for the appointment of an independent Chair, however the timing may not be appropriate at this stage as the group is determining the scope and role in the water supply initiative, which may influence the best outcome. It was recommended to continue the discussion with an intention to implement in the next twelve months or so.
- It was noted that any intention to appoint an independent Chair with a financial implication (eg sitting fees or other remuneration) will need to be resolved by February at the latest for consideration in the LGA 2022/23 budgets for funding.
- It was suggested that the facilitated workshop be rescheduled for the next six weeks to discuss and resolve a direction; the workshop will also include progressing the Peel Water Taskforce objects and funding strategy.

Motion:

Moved: Michelle Rich

Seconded: Rhys Williams

That PRLF notes the intention to resolve the appointment of an independent Chair prior to February for 2022/23 budgetary considerations; and directs the Executive Director to arrange a facilitated workshop in the next six weeks to progress this.

**Carried 5/1**

## 7. **2021-22 OPERATIONAL FUNDING PLAN**

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 17 June 2021

Background:

A draft budget for PRLF's 2021/22 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, based on local government population (source: Census). It should be noted that with Census due to be undertaken this year, the 2022/23 figures are likely to change with updated population statistics. Key aspects of the proposed budget:

1. Includes a project budget of \$50,000 per year;
2. The operational surplus will be reduced to \$60,292 by the end of the 2022 financial year, and \$13,357 by end of 2023.
3. Figures have been provided for the following scenarios for consideration:
  - a. 'Business as usual'
  - b. Increase overall funding by \$20,000 per annum
  - c. Increase overall funding by \$50,000 per annum
  - d. Increase overall funding by \$100,000 per annum

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 5: 2021/22 Operational Plan Scenarios

Discussion:

Confirmation and final approval of the budget will be requested at the PRLF General Meeting to be held on 26 August 2021.

## 8. RDA PEEL STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-25

Author and Title: John Lambrecht  
Director of Regional Development, RDA Peel

Date of Report: 8 June 2021

### Background:

The revised RDA Charter requires RDAs to 'co-ordinate the development of a strategic regional plan, or work with suitable existing regional plans that will align with the Commonwealth's regional priorities'.

RDA Peel has previously adopted the *Peel Regional Investment Blueprint to 2050* as its regional plan, however this plan does not easily demonstrate alignment with the Commonwealth's regional priorities nor clearly set out the priority projects for the region and is, by nature of its time frame, somewhat aspirational.

The RDA Peel Strategic Plan 2021-25, designed to be read in conjunction with the Peel Action Plan (updated twice annually), sets out to provide Governments, stakeholders, potential investors and policy and decision makers with a better understanding of the Peel region, its issues and its strategic priorities that will drive development and growth leading to an economically sustainable future.

### Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 6: RDA Peel Strategic Plan 2021-25  
Appendix 7: Peel Action Plan (June 2021)

### Motion:

**Moved: David Bolt**

**Seconded: Michelle Rich**

**Peel Regional Leaders Forum endorse the RDA Peel Regional Strategic Plan 2021-25.**

**Carried Unanimously**

## 9. PEEL AWAY THE MASK 3 UPDATE

Author and Title: Helen Douglas  
Treasurer, Peel Community Development Group

Date of Report: 8 June 2021

### Background:

An update will be provided on the Peel Away The Mask 3 project.

### Recommendation:

For noting – copy of the presentation is provided with these Minutes.

## 10. NOTING OF MINUTES OF CEO GROUP MEETING – 15 June 2021 [Appendix 8] Noted

## 11. FINANCE REPORT [Appendix 9]

The Financial Performance Report for the period ended 31 May 2021 was noted.

**12. PEEL TRAILS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director  
 Date of Report: 13 June 2021

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

Peel Trails Committee: Minutes 13 May 2021 (includes Minutes of Peel Trails Technical Group meeting held on 29 April 2021)

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 10: Peel Trails Committee Minutes 13 May 2021

Recommendation:

The Minutes of the Peel Trails Committee and Peel Trails Technical Group meetings were noted.

**13. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS REPORT [Appendix 11]**

Noted

**14. GENERAL BUSINESS**

None

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

The 48<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum is proposed to be held at the City of Mandurah on Thursday, 26 August 2021 commencing at 10 am.

The Chair closed the meeting 1.15pm.