



PEEL REGIONAL
LEADERS FORUM

Peel Regional Leaders Forum (Inc) MINUTES

52nd General Meeting held at City of Mandurah
Thursday 25 August 2022, commencing at 10am

Chair Rhys Williams welcomed those present and declared the meeting open at 10.10am

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND CONFIRMATION OF PROXIES

Attendance:

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

Apologies:

Mark Newman	CEO, City of Mandurah (Treasurer)
Liz Prescott	Chair, Peel Community Development Group
Caroline Knight	Chair, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
Paul Martin	CEO, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
David Doepel	Chair, Peel Development Commission (Observer)
Andrew Ward	CEO, Peel Development Commission (Observer)

2. PRESENTATION: BUNBURY FASTER RAIL PROJECT

Marius Minnaar, Stakeholder Communications Officer, and Matt Turner, Principal Project Manager, from the Public Transport Authority provided a presentation on the Bunbury Faster Rail Project business case.

Key points:

- The Faster Rail business case has received \$8 million funding as a joint State and Federal initiative
- It was identified as a recommendation to investigate the feasibility in the State Infrastructure Strategy (recommendation 61)

- The business case will align with Infrastructure Australia's assessment framework - Stage 1 Defining problems and opportunities; & Stage 2 Identifying and analysing options
- These stages are expected to be completed mid-2024 with a shortlist of options for further consideration
- Planning investigation areas will consider all transport corridors, including existing, new and hybrid models; it will also consider future connections eg Busselton/Margaret River
- The federal Faster Rail program was established under the previous government with a key objective to connect capital cities with regional centres. Under the new government this is expected to be renamed as a High Speed Rail program
- The different programs relate to the expected speeds of the transport – Faster Rail 160-200km/hr; Fast Rail 200-250km/hr; High Speed Rail 250+ km/hr
- A current service inhibitor for the existing Australind line is the interaction with freight and frequent stops/stations
- The business case is being developed by KPMG with Arup and MER Consulting; Engineering and Land Use is being undertaken by Jacobs together with Element WA and Calibre
- The Steering Committee includes representation from Public Transport Authority, National Faster Rail Agency, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; Department of Transport and Infrastructure WA.
- Once the long list of options has been developed by the consultants there will be working groups and stakeholder engagement to work through the options and determine a short list.
- The key outcome is a long-term public corridor strategy with land identified and protected accordingly

Concern about lack of local/regional representation on the Steering Committee was raised. It was suggested that DPIRD or the Peel & South West Development Commissions are included.

Cr David Bolt noted that emerging technology in air transport will impact how public and passenger transport is delivered, and should be considered in the feasibility of a faster transport project.

Mayor Rhys Williams thanked Marius and Matt for attending the meeting and providing the presentation.

Action: Executive Director and Chair to prepare correspondence for the Public Transport Authority, seeking DPIRD and/or the Regional Development Commissions be invited to the Steering Committee for the project to ensure local representation and oversight of regional planning.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES / BUSINESS ARISING – 23 June 2022 [Appendix 1]

Motion:

Moved: Cr Mike Walmsley

Seconded: Cr David Bolt

**That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 June 2022 be confirmed.
Carried Unanimously**

4. REGIONAL ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 17 August 2022

Background:

At the General Meeting held on 23 June 2022 it was agreed that a workshop should be arranged to discuss the approach to the 2025 state and federal elections. RDA Peel offered to provide an introduction to advocacy as a lead in to this workshop, to share the significant training and learning over the last few years in this area.

A presentation and discussion will be led by RDA Peel to provide context and set the agreed framework for an approach to regional advocacy and agreed priorities.

Key Points/Discussion:

- It was noted that proposals by mining companies such as Alcoa and Rio Tinto is a key risk to regional forests and the environment – this will be discussed under General Business as a specific issue
- RDA Peel is finalising the updated Action Plan which is an overview of all proposals and projects – this will be provided to Peel Alliance once outstanding submissions are received. The intent is to present this to key Ministers and decision makers in Canberra in November.
- Peel Alliance needs to determine its advocacy role and plan for it (establish framework) by mid-2023 for the 2025 state and federal elections.
- Activity will need to commence by the end of 2023 (ie publications/media finalised and commence communications)
- It was noted that manufacturing and low carbon transition are emerging industries that the region may have competitive and comparative advantages to consider

Action:

Executive Director to draft the advocacy framework, including the role of Peel Alliance and planning/communications for discussion; this will need to be agreed and finalised by mid-2023.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SHIRE OF SERPENTINE JARRAHDAL FOR PEEL ALLIANCE CONSIDERATION

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 17 August 2022

Background:

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale reviewed its membership with PRLF at a Council Meeting held on 20 June 2022 to seek its formal commitment from Council for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years. Council resolved to support the membership for this period, with the provision of several requests to be considered by PRLF as follows:

“...Advise PRLF that the Shire will remain a member of PRLF for the 2022/23 FY but requests PRLF to:

- *Complete the Water Initiative Project currently in development and present it to each Local Government Authority for consideration.*
- *Review its membership to consider including the Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a representative of the Traditional Owners.*
- *Develop an advocacy strategy leading into the next State and Federal Government election and provide a commitment PRLF will take an active advocacy role moving forward.*
- *Publish an annual benefit report to members.”*

A copy of the full report to Council is provided as an attachment for information.

The requests are presented for discussion and feedback from PRLF members.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 2: Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Council Report

Discussion:

- Item 1 – Water Initiative Project: it was noted this is currently in development and confirmed the findings will be presented to each Local Government Authority and other Peel Alliance member organisations
- Item 2 – Review Membership:
 - The Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) has been approached informally several times over the last three years to discuss potential membership of the Alliance. Whilst there was no desire indicated to progress the opportunity, it is noted that the Alliance has a good working relationship with PCCI and there are no identified issues in this regard. PCCI could be formally requested to provide regular presentations to the PRLF general meetings and included in the annual schedule, as a starting point to increasing communications and engagement.
 - Members voiced their concern that a single point of representation reflective of the various Traditional Owners groups to the Peel Alliance was unlikely to be achieved given the various family groups and localised stakeholder groups across the Region. It was also noted that membership to Peel Alliance may not be viewed as a desired or preferred engagement by Traditional Owner groups. The members agreed that engagement with Traditional Owners should be undertaken by members directly, and as required by Peel Alliance on an as needs basis with the appropriate stakeholders.
- Item 3 – Advocacy Strategy: confirmed this will be developed as discussed in the preceding agenda item for finalisation by mid-2023
- Item 4 – Annual Benefit Report: An annual report is tabled at the Annual General Meeting; this will be reviewed to ensure it includes an annual benefit report to members as requested

Actions:

The Executive Director and Chair to respond to the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale’s requests noting that items 1, 3 and 4 are confirmed to be delivered. With regard to item 2 (membership review) it is suggested that as a first step to formal engagement with PCCI, PRLF invites PCCI to present to the general meetings on a calendar basis to provide an update on its activities and provide input to discussions.

6. PROPOSED EASTERN FREIGHT LINK CONNECTING THE GREAT SOUTHERN AND PEEL/SOUTH METROPOLITAN AREAS

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 17 August 2022

Cr Michelle Rich from the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale provided an overview of a concept to develop a regional freight route (road) connecting the Great Southern and Peel/South Metropolitan areas.

Discussion:

Cr Rich shared a concept design identifying the opportunity to create an east-west link between Albany Highway, South Western Highway, connecting through to Peel Business Park and Forrest Highway, as illustrated below:



The design is conceptual, and not intended to be the specific route or alignment. It highlights the opportunity to create a regional connection between the Great Southern and Peel/South Metropolitan areas. The general area between South Western Highway and Albany Highway has been part of Alcoa's clearing and mining operations, and may offer the benefit of not requiring additional clearing or removal of native forest. In this concept the connection to Albany Highway is approximately 12km south of the Jarrahdale Road intersection.

The concept is presented for consideration by members and feedback to the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale with any support or concerns. The Shire will develop the concept to present to the Minister for Transport and seek its inclusion in long term regional road planning.

Adrian Parker noted that the Peel Development Commission and Wheatbelt Development Commission had previously discussed a concept for an east-west freight connection. A concept report had been prepared but it was not progressed due to lack of funding and resourcing. The report will be shared with the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for information.

PRLF members noted the presentation and concept design.

7. UPDATED OPERATIONAL FUNDING PLAN 2022-23 AND 3 YEAR FORECAST

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director
Date of Report: 17 August 2022

Background:

A draft budget for PRLF's 2022/23 operations was presented at the General Meeting held on 23 June 2022 for consideration and feedback. The budget included forward planning for the following two years to enable PRLF and its members to plan and undertake long term strategies.

As per previous years, a fixed and variable element has been applied to the breakdown of the operational funding, with the variable based on local government population. It was noted that 2021 Census data was planned be released from late June 2022, in the interim the population figures were updated based on ABS Residential Population Estimates 2020 to provide an indication of changes.

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

Key aspects of the budget:

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

Census data relating to population has now been released and the operational funding plan has been updated to include these figures. There are some slight differences between the estimated and actual population for each of the local government areas, which has resulted in proposed adjustments to the proportioning of funding contributions as follows:

Year 1	Estimate (June 2022)	Revised (Census actual)	Difference
City of Mandurah	\$ 84,207	\$ 85,483	\$ 1,276
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	\$ 50,875	\$ 49,767	-\$ 1,109
Shire of Murray	\$ 41,205	\$ 41,101	-\$ 104
Shire of Waroona	\$ 17,626	\$ 17,601	-\$ 25
Shire of Boddington	\$ 16,086	\$ 16,048	-\$ 39
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
Peel Community Development Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$210,500	\$ 210,500	\$ -

Year 2			
City of Mandurah	\$ 89,719	\$ 91,066	\$ 1,347
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	\$ 54,535	\$ 53,365	-\$ 1,170
Shire of Murray	\$ 44,328	\$ 44,218	-\$ 110
Shire of Waroona	\$ 19,022	\$ 18,996	-\$ 26
Shire of Boddington	\$ 17,397	\$ 17,356	-\$ 41
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
Peel Community Development Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 225,500	\$225,500	\$ -
Year 3			
City of Mandurah	\$ 94,935	\$ 96,381	\$ 1,446
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	\$ 57,159	\$ 55,902	-\$ 1,256
Shire of Murray	\$ 46,199	\$ 46,081	-\$ 118
Shire of Waroona	\$ 21,226	\$ 21,198	-\$ 28
Shire of Boddington	\$ 19,481	\$ 19,437	-\$ 44
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
Peel Community Development Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 239,500	\$ 239,500	\$ -

The breakdown of fixed/variable contributions and the population figures used in the revised calculations are provided in the attached Operational Funding Plan. There are no proposed changes to the overall budget or expenditure from the draft budget presented in June.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 3: Updated 2022/23 Operational Funding Plan

Motion:

Moved: Cr Mike Walmsley

Seconded: Cr Garry Ventris

That PRLF approves the revised 2022/23 Operational Funding Plan and three-year forecast as attached.

Carried Unanimously

8. PEEL TRAILS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 17 August 2022

Background:

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

Peel Trails Committee: Agenda and Minutes 11 August 2022

Peel Trails Technical Group: Minutes 26 May and 26 July 2022

At the Peel Trails Committee held on 11 August 2022 the following actions were requested to be presented to the PRLF General Meeting for discussion:

1. Request through Peel Alliance for RDA Peel to provide full details of the region's projects (with respect to the \$8m election commitment) and the process and timeline for allocation and distribution of the funding.
2. As a strategic risk for trails in the region, the growing concern of feral pigs on trails and in National Parks is to be raised at the next Peel Alliance meeting.

With regard to item 2 (feral pigs), Peel Development Commission sought advice from a Biosecurity Manager in DPIRD who advised that feral pigs should be reported to the below contact:

DPIRD Pest and Disease Information Service 1800 084 881 or at info@agric.wa.gov.au

It was noted that if the feral pigs are on DBCA land there may not be anything that DPIRD can do to assist as they are not authorised to manage feral pig control in these areas. Further advice from DBCA is being sought in this regard.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 4: Peel Trails Committee Agenda 11 August 2022

Appendix 5: Peel Trails Committee Minutes 11 August 2022

Appendix 6: Peel Trails Technical Group Minutes 26 May and 26 July 2022

Discussion:

- Item 1 \$8m election commitment: RDA Peel advised that it has made recommendations to the Minister and is awaiting a response. The new ministerial appointments have only recently been confirmed and it is expected there will be a delay whilst they work through new staffing, responsibilities and budget reviews. Information will be provided to the Steering Committee as it becomes available.
- Item 2 feral pigs: PHCC advised there is a State Feral Pig Strategy, and has requested DPIRD to provide an update at its next committee meeting. PRLF members are welcome to join the meeting online for the DPIRD presentation if it is confirmed.

Action:

The Executive Director will advise the Peel Trails Committee that RDA Peel is awaiting a response from the Minister regarding the \$8 million funding commitment to trails and how this will be executed; and PHCC to provide an invitation to members to attend the DPIRD presentation on biosecurity if it is confirmed for its next committee meeting.

9. PEEL WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE – PROJECT UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director
Date of Report: 19 August 2022

Background:

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

Key activities in the initiative include:

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

Overview of Activities:

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

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

The first stage of the contract has been completed – inception and initial data review, with an information gap analysis identifying key data required from Water Corp, DWER, DPLH and DLGSC to develop spatial and temporal calculations. The various agencies have been contacted and most of the information has been provided, however we are still waiting for some key data as identified in the project progress report. The agencies have provided reassurance they are in the process of compiling this, however some of it needs to be extracted from broader datasets and is requiring additional time. The information is critical to undertaking the next deliverable - calculating current and forecast water use/production across a range of uses, for mapping purposes.

The provision of all data is taking longer than allowed in the project schedule (proposed to be received by 1 July 2022) which may impact the expected project completion date of 25 November 2022. Urbaqua is currently reviewing the schedule but is confident the project can still be completed by the end of the year if data is received soon. Once it has been received and assimilated a workshop will be arranged with the key stakeholders to review proposed scenarios for future planning and agreed assumptions.

The updated project schedule and proposed timing for the workshop and key stakeholder engagement activities will be provided to members when it comes to hand.

Funding Overview:

Budget:

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

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

Expenditure to Date:

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

Supporting Documentation:

- Appendix 7: Urbaqua Progress Report June/July 2022 as sent to members 29 July
(Note the next progress report due end of August will be sent to members separately)

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

10. FINANCE REPORT

The Financial Performance Report for the period ended 30 June 2022 was received.

11. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS REPORT [Appendix 8]

The Outstanding Actions Report was received.

12. GENERAL BUSINESSExpansion of Extractive Industries in Peel Region

There are a number of expansion and exploration applications underway at the moment in the forest and scarp areas, such as South32, Alcoa and Rio Tinto. Members shared their concern about the significant environmental impacts from the expansion of these industries, and cumulative effect of the various applications.

It was agreed to form a Working Group to formulate a position and response from Peel Alliance in response to current and future extractive industry applications. The Working Group will include representatives from Shire of Murray, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Shire of Waroona, City of Mandurah, Shire of Boddington and Peel-Harvey Catchment Council.

Action:

Executive Director to liaise with the working group members and arrange a meeting to discuss the concerns about the expansion of extractive industries in the region and a formal position of Peel Alliance in response to this.

Peel Development Commission: advised that RED Grants have now closed and 25 applications have been received.

Peel Community Development Group: PCDG is meeting with FARlane next week to finalise the Peel Away The Mask III report.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The 54th General Meeting of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum is proposed to be held at the Shire of Murray on Thursday, 24 November 2022 following the Annual General Meeting (to commence at 10am).

Meeting closed 12.50pm