



PEEL REGIONAL
LEADERS FORUM

Peel Regional Leaders Forum (Inc)
61st General Meeting held at Shire of Waroona
Friday 19 April 2024, commencing at 11am

MINUTES

Chair, Cr Mike Walmsley, welcomed those present and declared the meeting open at 11.10am

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND CONFIRMATION OF PROXIES

Attendance:

Cr Mike Walmsley	President, Shire of Waroona (Chair) (Proxy)
Dean Unsworth	CEO, Shire of Murray (Secretary) (Proxy) (online)
Cr Rob Coales	President, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (Proxy)
Paddi Creevey	Chair, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (Proxy)
John Lambrecht	Director, Regional Development Australia Peel (Proxy)
Liz Prescott	Peel Community Development Group (Proxy)
Julie Burton	CEO, Shire of Boddington (Proxy)
Mark Goodlet	CEO, Shire of Waroona
Paul Martin	CEO, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
Jane O'Malley	CEO, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
Andrew Ward	CEO, Peel Development Commission (Observer)
Anika Serer	Executive Director

Apologies:

Mayor Rhys Williams	Mayor, City of Mandurah (Deputy Chair)
Casey Mihovilovich	CEO, City of Mandurah (Treasurer)
Cr David Bolt	President, Shire of Murray
Kathleen Johnson	Chair, Peel Community Development Group
Cr Garry Ventris	President, Shire of Boddington
Nicci Lambert	Deputy Chair, Peel Community Development Group
John Erren	Chair, Regional Development Australia Peel
David Doepel	Chair, Peel Development Commission (Observer)

Harvey Water Presentation

Stephen Cook, Operations Manager at Harvey Water, provided a presentation regarding the proposed initiative 'Wellington for Ag' (previously known as market led proposal 'Collie to Coast') Also in attendance for the presentation: Adrian Parker – Principal Project Manager, Land and Water Development Branch, DPIRD; Danielle Eyre – Senior Scientist, Healthy Waterway, PHCC.

A copy of the presentation is attached to the Minutes.

Key additional discussion points/project components:

- Open irrigation channels are currently responsible for 20GL water loss through evaporation and seepage – installing a pipe network & automating delivery system is a key component of the initiative to improve efficiency
- Extending the pipe network north to Pinjarra will enable expansion of customer base; Harvey Water currently has a licence area that extends to North Dandalup. Opportunities to look at other areas in the future (it will be designed with additional capacity).
- Wellington Dam holds 186GL water – salinity is the issue with levels over 1500 parts per million (ppm), as a comparison livestock drinking threshold is 1200ppm and target is 600-700ppm. The salinity was slightly managed in the past by tree planting in the catchment surrounds but these have now been harvested.
- Desalinating 50% of the stream flow below the dam, then recombining with stream flows below the Burekup Weir will achieve target salinity (600-700). This will improve water quality and usability, and reduce salinity build-up on irrigated land.
- Recycled water: Harvey Water is recycling water at Harvey Fresh, treating it to a similar quality to existing water in Harvey Dam and transferring it to the dam to top up volumes (existing source of non-potable water). Also potential to look at other sites in the future subject to feasibility.
- Managed aquifer recharge: Study is being undertaken to determine feasibility for harvesting winter drain flows and storing in the Myalup aquifer for later use. The study will need to prove it is environmentally sustainable, and look for an opportunity to capture and divert the first winter flush which carries nutrients built-up over the summer months into the estuary.
- Harvey Water is currently negotiating the project with DPIRD, subject to a successful outcome it is hoped by June there will be agreement to develop the final business case and funding strategy.

The Chair thanked Stephen and Adrian for their time and presentation.

2. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES / BUSINESS ARISING – 22 February 2024** [Appendix 1]

Motion:

Moved: Cr Rob Coales

Seconded: Julie Burton

**That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 February 2024 be confirmed.
Carried Unanimously**

3. **SUPPORT FOR UPGRADES TO PINJARRA WILLIAMS ROAD**

Author and Title: Julie Burton, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Boddington

Date of Report: 9 April 2024

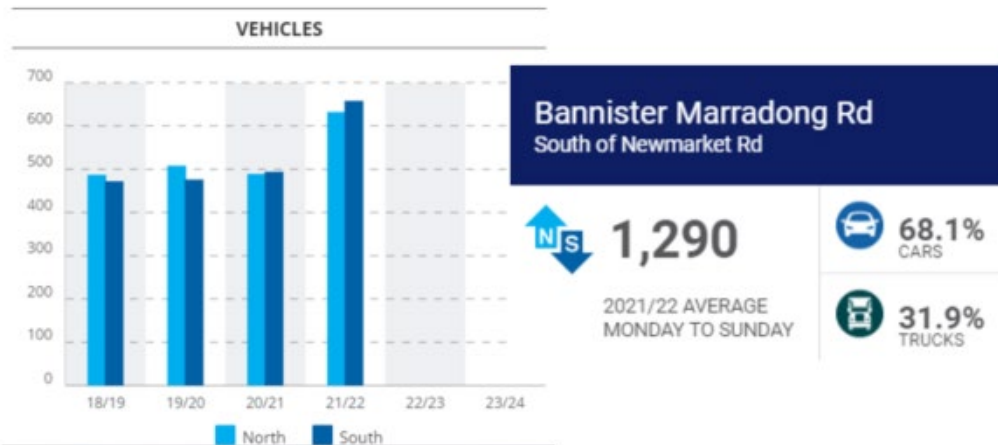
Background:

The Shire of Boddington is seeking support from Peel Alliance by way of a letter of support for upgrades to Pinjarra Williams Road (also inclusive of a stretch of Bannister Marradong Road), between the townsite of Boddington and Dwellingup. This is a significant safety issue and a high priority for the Boddington community and the stakeholders who use this stretch of road.

This project is relevant to the Peel Region due to the large amount of intra-regional travel that occurs to and from Boddington, particularly in relation to the mining workforce and associated contractors.

The need for enhancements is derived from:

- Traffic count data showing in excess of 30% of trucks along this route, doing low speed (<20km/h) up hills
- Significant and long term concern from road users evidenced by a recent community survey
- Ongoing fatalities, accidents and near misses
- A lack of overtaking opportunities for the 50km stretch between the two towns.



In 2022 during the Shire's Strategic Planning process, the community indicated that an upgrade of Pinjarra Road remains a significant issue. The frustration increased when the speed limit was reduced from 110 to 100, and also, at a similar time, removed a significant number of overtaking options through the installation of double white lines where broken white lines previously existed.

Further frustration was noted when it was apparent that some options that appeared suitable for overtaking were removed (on long straight stretches), however, some sections of the road on which broken lines remained had higher levels of safety issues e.g. due to being within close proximity to a corner or crest.



A letter of support will provide assistance to the Shire of Boddington during upcoming discussions with Main Roads WA and Members of Parliament.

Supporting Documentation:

Nil

Discussion:

Jane O'Malley noted that there are areas of native vegetation along the road, and requested that minimising impact to these be considered during planning and design. Julie advised that the potential areas identified would require minimal disruption and are focused on smoothing of dips or bumps in the existing road.

Motion:

Moved: Paddi Creevey

Seconded: Cr Rob Coales

That the Peel Alliance issues a letter of support for upgrades to Pinjarra Williams Road, to be used as a part of the Shire of Boddingtons Advocacy efforts for this project.

Carried Unanimously

4. 2025 STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTION ADVOCACY UPDATE

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 11 April 2024

Background:

The current draft text copy of submissions received for inclusion in the 2025 State and Federal Elections advocacy document is attached for information. The submissions are currently being reviewed by members to provide any required updates.

The *Peel Regional Water Supply Initiative* and suggested State/Federal requests is included as the Peel Alliance regional initiative.

Professional graphic design and publication will be arranged once all submissions are received/reviewed. It is recommended this is completed by end of April to enable formal advocacy approaches to commence.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 2: Draft 2025 State and Federal Election Submissions

Action:

The update was noted; also discussed the potential for a review of Federal electorate boundaries prior to the election.

5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 11 April 2024

Background:

The Work Health and Safety (WHS) Management System and Manual was endorsed by PRLF at the general meeting held on 23 November 2023.

As part of its implementation, a progress report is provided to members at each general meeting.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 3: Executive Director WHS Report April 2024

PRLF received the WHS Report for the period March 2024 - April 2024.

6. POLICY POSITION STATEMENT: MINING AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director
 Date of Report: 10 April 2024

Background:

At the general meeting held on 22 February 2024 a business update was provided by Alcoa representatives on current and planned activities, along with a discussion regarding the Alliance's Policy Position Statement: Mining and Extractive Industries.

Following the presentation Alcoa has contacted the Alliance to seek to continue discussions and work together on aligned priorities in the Policy Position Statement. It was suggested that key stakeholders (for example, local governments in Alcoa mining areas) may form a working group to meet with representatives every few months to identify initiatives and agreed actions.

Feedback is sought from members interested in forming a working group to continue to meet with Alcoa on timing, format and proposed outcomes.

It was also agreed at the meeting that an internal engagement strategy should be developed to progress the Alliance's priorities, and an update provided on any key progress or changes since it was first developed.

An overview of known progress/changes and suggested target audience has been drafted for review and further input. In developing the review, it was noted that some of the requests require further clarification/joint agreement from members on what the actual 'ask' is (for example, what actual changes should be made to State Agreement Acts if they are modernised?) to support future discussions, and before further engagement. Some suggested context has been included in the review where known, but further input is requested from members (suggest this is discussed at the conclusion of the meeting).

The Executive Director has also contacted Newmont and South32 representatives to seek a meeting to present the Policy Position Statement for discussion. A further update will be provided at this meeting.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 4: Mining Position Statement Progress

Discussion:

It was agreed that Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Shire of Murray, Shire of Waroona and Shire of Boddington representatives would meet after the conclusion of the general meeting to discuss the proposed working group with Alcoa and provide updates on progress of individual discussions with mining companies in the region. Minutes will be provided separately.

Danielle Eyre (PHCC) advised that the Mining and Management Program Liaison Group (MMPLG) for Alcoa is being replaced by ATAF (Alcoa Transitional Approvals Framework). This is being administered by JTSI and will include stakeholder consultation on the development of the framework. *Action: Executive Director to seek further information and contact JTSI proactively requesting consultation.*

Jane O'Malley advised that Alcoa has ASI Certification (Aluminium Stewardship Initiative) however the process for auditing performance does not reflect the reality or feedback provided

by stakeholders. This should be considered in the Mining Position Statement. Noted that South32 has also received ASI Certification.

The Chair and Executive Director are meeting with South32 on Wednesday 1 May, and Newmont on Wednesday 15 May to present the Position Statement and discuss.

7. FINANCE REPORT

The Financial Performance Report for the period ended 31 March 2024 was received [Appendix 5]

Action: Executive Director to investigate interest-bearing account options for consideration

8. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS REPORT [Appendix 6]

The Outstanding Actions Report was received.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale: Cr Rob Coales (along with Shire of Murray and City of Mandurah) was invited to meet the US Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and Admiral Daryl Caudie Commander, to discuss the growth and opportunities for the northern Peel region with a potential 2000 sailors based at Garden Island from 2027. Appropriate housing will be required within a 20-30 minute commute from the island, with important factors being availability of secondary employment (for partners), education and services.

RDA Peel: A presentation will be made at the next PRLF meeting to provide an update on the work being carried out with PCDG to develop projects and programs, particularly quantifying funding gaps for services needed in the region.

All election commitment requests will be required by 30 June, with supporting evidence (feasibility study at a minimum); briefings will commence in July and RDA is expecting to travel to Canberra in August for further meetings and advocacy activity.

Peel Development Commission: The state budget lunch will be held on 10 May 2024, attended by the Premier and all Peel local MPs.

The funding agreement for the \$8 million trails election commitment has now been signed by the Federal government and PDC. The agreement allows for \$1.6 million to be released this financial year. A meeting is being held on 29 April with stakeholders/proponents to update and confirm next steps.

The PDC is funnelling information on social housing projects being undertaken in the region and is aware of 12-14 projects. Members are encouraged to provide information on any developments they are aware of. Dean Unsworth advised that DFES is objecting to any social housing projects or developments inland between Keysbrook and Collie, and is not responding to correspondence. Support is needed in this area as it is constraining the ability to supply much needed land to meet housing shortages.

Liz Prescott advised that the WA State Government has announced an additional \$92.2 million for critical homelessness services. This will include funding to expand the Housing First Support Services pilot program in regional areas (Geraldton, Albany & Kalgoorlie) and is currently run in Mandurah by St Pat's.

PCDG: RDA Peel is assisting PCDG with the development of priorities identified in Peel Away The Mask 3, to include for advocacy in the state and federal elections. This will include funding deficits for critical services and programs developed across the pillars of education, primary prevention of domestic violence, housing and homelessness, health & community.

Shire of Murray: Dwellingup has just received accreditation as the first Top Trail Town in Western Australia.

The Murray Heritage Railway Precinct vision is progressing, with the donation of 4 Australind railcars and 13 heritage carriages for future refurbishment as short-stay accommodation and food/beverage venues.

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council: Jane introduced Danielle Eyre who has recently been appointed as the new Senior Scientist, Healthy Waterways.

The business case for the restoration of the waterways (\$110 million request) is progressing well, the BCA has been done, draft is expected to be completed by end April with final completed by 30 June.

There are significant ongoing cashflow management challenges with federal funding for Regional Land Partnerships still not released by the Federal government (from June 2023). An impact of this has been a decision not to replace 7 staff vacancies in the immediate term. It has had a significant impact on other organisations that rely on the funding to undertake their activities.

Shire of Waroona: Cr Mike Walmsley expressed the Shire's thanks to all local governments, bush fire brigades, volunteers and services that provided support in the recent Nanga bushfire.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The 62nd General Meeting of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum is proposed to be held at the Shire of Boddington on Thursday 20th June 2024 commencing at 11am.

Meeting closed at 1.15pm