PEEL INLET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

1st meeting held on Friday, 19th May 2004
at the Tuckey Room, City of Mandurah

The meeting commenced at 9:00am.

ATTENDANCE:
John Hughes  Chairman
Bruce Tatham  Community
Martin Baird  Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Kim Wilson  Community
Chris Thompson  Shire of Murray
Christine Steer  Peel Development Commission
Morris Bessant  Community
Heidi Greif  Department of Fisheries
Zita O’Reilly-Carter  Shire of Waroona
Phil Curren  Community
Brian Joynes  City of Mandurah
Marilyn Gray  Community
Murray Love  Department of Conservation and Land Management
Christine Towes  Community

APOLOGIES:
Cameron Bulstrode  Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Planning)

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:
Debbie Colquhoun  Minute Secretary, Department of Environment
Bob Pond  Department of Environment
John Pszczola  Department of Environment

1. WELCOME

The Chairman declared the meeting open and advised that he was acting as interim Chair until a permanent Chairman is appointed.

The Council will be involved in the management and protection of the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary and associated rivers and foreshores. The Council will have an interest in the Peel Harvey Catchment Council (of which Morris Bessant and Marilyn Gray are
members, and Kim Wilson an ex-officio member) and working cooperatively not only with the Council but also the Department of Environment to address broader catchment management issues. Community members are also appointed to the Peel Regional Park Plan Community Consultative Committee.

2. **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

The Partnership Agreement was adopted by the Water and Rivers Commission Board in April 2003. On 2 May 2003, the Water and Rivers Commission delegated its functions and powers under Sections 46 and 47 of the Waterways Conservation Act 1976 to the Kwinana Peel Regional Manager and Program Manager for Catchment and Waterways.

The Agreement also needs to refer to the Peel Harvey Estuary as being RAMSAR and CAMBA listed.

**Item 3 – Mission Statement**

It was requested that the Peel Harvey Catchment Council’s draft Natural Resource Management Plan, the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan for the Peel Waterways, the Peel Regional Park Plan be included in the Statement.

Mr Pond stated that the Agreement details in broad term the agreement and framework for interactions and cooperation between the Board and PIMC.

Mr Pond explained that approximately $15m in funding over 5 years has been nominated for the South West Catchments Council, of which the Peel Harvey Catchment Council is a member.

**Item 7 – Proposed Structure**

The penultimate and final paragraphs are contradictory.

**Item 8 - Terms**

Members have been advised individually by the Minister for Environment of the expiry terms of the appointment.

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<th>Action:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Item 7 needs to be amended as follows:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a) line 1 – change the number to 17</td>
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<td>(b) subpara 1. – change the number to 8</td>
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<td>(c) delete the penultimate paragraph</td>
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<td>2. Item 9 needs to be amended - change the number of community members from 6 to 8 where appropriate</td>
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<td>3. Item 12(1) – a quorum consists of 9 members.</td>
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<td>4. The amended Partnership Agreement be forwarded to members prior to the next meeting.</td>
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<td>5. The status of the Partnership Agreement with the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission after 30 June 2004 be advised at the next meeting.</td>
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3. **PIMA BOATING FACILITIES, JETTIES AND STRUCTURES POLICY NO. WS3.4**

Mr Pszczola outlined the history behind the proposal by the developer of the Mandurah Marina to construct private jetties into the entrance channel and the Peel Inlet Management Authority’s resolution on 28 May 1996. He also advised that the City of Mandurah is investigating the creation of an “Urban Waterway Precinct” from the Ocean Entrance to the Mandurah Estuary Bridge.

**Resolution:**
The current Peel Inlet Management Council Boating Facilities, Jetties and Structures Policy No. WS3.4 is endorsed.

4. **REVIEW PEEL REGION BOATING FACILITIES STUDY 2003**

The initial Study was released in 1996 by the Department of Transport following extensive public consultation. 29 recommendations were adopted to improve public boating amenities in the Region.

The program to progressively upgrade all boating facilities and land-based infrastructure has been progressing. Projects are jointly funded between the Department for Planning and Infrastructure (previously Department of Transport) and the local government authorities.

Mr Baird gave an outline of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure’s role in boating facilities and a progress report on the review of the 1996 Study.

5. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Plan has 97 recommended strategies. An Implementation Committee was established approximately 12 months ago. The strategies have been prioritised and the Committee is currently preparing project templates for each strategy.

Some of the strategies are very broad, while some of them have commenced, ie the 5 knot speed trial on the Murray and Serpentine Rivers, enhancing waterways habitats in canals (reef balls).

Ms Steer briefed the members on the current status of the proposed Peel Waterways Institute.
6. CURRENT DREDGING AND DISPOSAL LICENCES

Dredging and Disposal Licences have been issued for a number of developments under delegation to the Water and Rivers Commission. In 2003-04, 12 licences have been issued in the Region.

The current licences are:
1. Eastport Stage 4
2. Mary Street Lagoon entrance channel
3. Mandurah Ocean Marina - removal of bund/final bed level
4. Mariner’s Cove Stage 4CA

Any request for a dewatering licence now requires the proponent to also obtain a groundwater licence.

Discussion ensued on the acid sulfate soil issue associated with developments in the Region.

7. ACID SULFATE SOILS AND DREDGING ISSUES IN THE PEEL HARVEY ESTUARINE SYSTEM

A Working Group has been established to investigate potential acid sulfate soil areas in the Peel Harvey Estuarine system as a result of dredging activities. Approximately 46 areas have been identified as having the potential to require dredging in the future. The Group is working on a plan which plots areas used for the disposal of dredge spoil and the preparation of a long term dredging plan for the Region.

It was noted that the Shire of Murray has not provided a management plan for the dredging of the South Yunderup entrance channels, which was a condition of the dredging licence issued in 1999. Mrs Thompson agreed to investigate the status of this Plan and report back to the next meeting.

Discussion ensued on dredge spoil material being used for building pads in the Shire of Murray and concern for potential acid sulfate soil impacts.

**Action:**
A briefing on the acid sulfate soil issue be presented at the next meeting.

8. PROPOSED SOUTHERN CATCHMENT TOUR

Ms Wilson to provide a presentation on catchment management projects at a future meeting.

A tour of the western side of the Peel Harvey Estuary highlighting the route of the proposed Peel Deviation and the Peel Regional Park be conducted on 30 June 2004.
9. **MURRAY RIVER REACH ASSESSMENT**

A Murray River Action Plan is currently being prepared and should be available towards the end of June 2004.

10. **MURRAY RIVER WORKING GROUP**

This Group was convened by the Friends of Rivers Peel in May 2002 to discuss waterways management issues, river erosion, speeding vessels etc. The Group have commenced enacting recommendation numbers 7, 8, 14, 44 and 66 of the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan.

It was noted that the 5-knot speed limit on the Murray and Serpentine Rivers is still a trial.

Of major concern is the issue of septic tank leachate and the connection to scheme sewerage where possible. Mr Pond advised that the Water Corporation will be passing on to appropriate residents a copy of the Peel Harvey Catchment Council’s correspondence highlighting the environmental benefits of connecting to scheme sewerage.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) A list of members and their contact details be circulated to all members.

(b) Where possible, the following documents be provided to members:
   - Boating Facilities Study
   - NRM Strategy for the South West (when available)
   - Peel Harvey: Decline and Rescue of an Ecosystem by Keith Bradby
   - Peel Harvey Catchment - Natural Resource Atlas by the Department of Agriculture
   - Department of Environment policies, where appropriate

(b) Mr Love briefed members on a recent trip to Boodalan Island to look at erosion on the island. It is proposed to rehabilitate the island in July 2004.

Mr Love also briefed members on Boundary Island, which is currently unvested. The vesting will be reviewed under the Peel Regional Park process.

(c) The recommendation to appoint the Chairman has been sent to the Water and Rivers Commission Board for a decision. It is hoped that a decision will be made prior to the next meeting.
12. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE

The meeting closed at 11.20am. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 21 July 2004.**

Chairman