PEEL INLET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

8th meeting held on Wednesday, 17th August 2005
at the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah

The meeting commenced at 9am.

ATTENDANCE:

John Hughes  Chairman
Cr Shonagh Bradstock  Shire of Murray
Cameron Bulstrode  Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Planning)
Tony Cappelluti  Department of Fisheries
Phil Curren  Community
Murray Love  Department of Conservation and Land Management
Paul Stephens  Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Bruce Tatham  Community
Kim Wilson  Community

APOLOGIES:

Morris Bessant  Meeting Chairman
Marilyn Gray  Community
Cr Brian Joynes  City of Mandurah
Dorothy Lucks  Community
Cr Zita O’Reilly-Carter  Shire of Waroona
Colleen Yates  Peel Development Commission

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:

Debbie Colquhoun  Minute Secretary, Department of Environment
Bob Pond  Coordinator, Peel Waterways Centre
John Pszczola  Executive Officer, Department of Environment

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

The Chairman opened the meeting. He introduced Tony Cappelluti from the Department of Fisheries who replaces Heidi Greiff.
2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:
That the minutes of the seventh meeting held on 15 June 2005 are confirmed as a true record of proceedings, subject to the following amendments:
(a) Page 1, item 1, 2nd paragraph – replace the word “Murphy” with “Mulvay”;
(b) Page 3, penultimate paragraph in Item 6 – insert the word “new” between the words “no” and “facilities”;
(c) Page 5, item 10, line 3 – replace the word “policies” with “guidelines”.
Moved: S Bradstock
Seconded: B Pond

3. WILGIE CREEK RESTORATION GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT

Cr Bradstock read out an update report on the Northern Bank revegetation project (Attachment 1).

4. REVIEW PEEL REGION BOATING FACILITIES STUDY 2003

Mr Stephens reported that he was including the data on existing facilities in the Peel Region from the 2002 report by Worley Pty Ltd into the draft Boating Facilities Study including any additional works since that report.

The outcomes from the Peel Regional Park Workshops will also be considered.

5. CURRENT DREDGING, DISPOSAL AND RETAINING WALL LICENCES

(a) Mariner’s Cove Stage 5CA
Current to November 2005.

(b) Southport Stage 5 Disposal and Dredging Application
Current to September 2005.

(c) Crosse – Lot 122 Culeenup Road, North Yunderup – Murray River Retaining Wall
Cr Bradstock reported that the Shire of Murray has inspected the site and taken photographs. The owner has been notified of the breach to the stream and that the Shire will prosecute if required.

(d) City of Mandurah Artificial Beach Riverside Gardens
The proposal is for a canoe launching facility. The project will commence when funding becomes available.
(e) Cox Bay Stage 8 - Roadworks and Drainage
The project will last approximately 3 weeks. The proponent has adequately addressed any potential acid sulfate soil issue.

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PEEL WATERWAYS – PROGRESS REPORT

Mr Pond reported on the following projects:

1. Murray River Action Plan
6km of fencing and revegetation of foreshores completed along the Murray River. A further $70,000 will be allocated from the Peel Waterways Centre funding for additional works along the Murray River.

2. Eastern Estuary Environmental Assessment and Guidelines
The tender has been let to URS for a contract price of $135,000. The Peel Harvey Catchment Council will be contributing $30,000 towards this project. The terms of reference are included as Attachment 2.

3. Peel Harvey Catchment Council funded projects
Ms Wilson will be managing the following recently funded projects for the Council:
(a) Ramsar Management Plan
(b) Nominating the Peel Harvey system as a Unesco Biosphere Reserves

<table>
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<th>Action:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ms Wilson to brief members at the next meeting. (Ms Wilson)</td>
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4. Strategic Recreation Sites
The City of Mandurah and Shire of Murray have met to refine the sites recommended in the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan for the Peel Waterways. They will be reporting on their progress to the next Ec Rec Committee meeting.

Mr Pond also advised that he will be investigating opportunities for Commonwealth funding for the following:
(a) Fish habitat assessment studies and long term program of habitat restoration and enhancement (recommendations 53 and 54);
(b) Expansion of the Reef Ball project, including investigating a commercial opportunity for Peelcon, a local employment agency which creates jobs for people with disabilities in the Peel Region.
Mr Pond gave a breakdown of rivercare projects to be funded in the Peel Harvey Catchment during 2005/06 by a number of agencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proponent</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Investment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DoE – Peel Waterways Centre</td>
<td>Murray River on-ground works</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey River Restoration Taskforce</td>
<td>Harvey River Basin</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel Harvey Catchment Council</td>
<td>Catchment wide Rivercare projects</td>
<td>$365,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Mandurah</td>
<td>Lower Serpentine River foreshores and 5 reserves on the western foreshore</td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel Harvey Catchment Council</td>
<td>Rivercare training</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
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Other related projects include:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proponent</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Investment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South West Aboriginal Land and Seas Council</td>
<td>Goegrup and Black Lakes wetland planning</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel Harvey Catchment Council</td>
<td>Targeted Biodiversity Incentives</td>
<td>$108,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel Harvey Catchment Council</td>
<td>Ramsar Management Planning</td>
<td>$84,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel Harvey Catchment Council</td>
<td>Peel Biosphere Nomination</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DoE</td>
<td>Eastern Estuary Catchment Environmental Assessment and Planning</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
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</table>

Mr Pond reported on a recent meeting between the Chairmen of the Peel Inlet Management Council, Peel Harvey Catchment Council Inc, and the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan for the Peel Waterways Implementation Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10am and resumed at 10.10am.

7. MURRAY RIVER WATER QUALITY PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT PHYTOPLANKTON ECOLOGY UNIT

The Chairman introduced Dr Laura Cunningham, Dr Helen Astill and Taren Reitsma from the Department of Environment.

Dr Cunningham gave an overview of the various types of algae, a history of scum events since the opening of the Dawesville Channel, and presented draft results from the
community scum watch and pilot water quality monitoring program funded through the Murray River 6 Point Action Plan.

Mr Reitsma reported that from the first coprostanol test undertaken the results indicated that the bacteria is not from human source. However, further coprostanol tests will be undertaken when routine sampling indicates high bacterial levels in the Murray River.

The Chairman thanked the presenters and they left the meeting.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS’ REPORT

(a) Guideline Review

It was agreed to review the policies every 5 years.

(b) 2005/06 Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for 2005/06 was approved.

(c) Sitting Fee Remuneration

It was agreed that sitting fees be paid every 6 months.

(d) Report

(i) Item 13 – 3 Chairs meeting

The 3 Chairmen discussed a proposal for the Council to progress the Ec Rec Plan and dissolve the Implementation Committee. This would require the Council establishing a separate Working Group to progress the recommendations in the Ec Rec Plan. The Implementation Committee is to be consulted on this issue before the Council can consider this proposal.

(e) Indigenous Catchment and Waterways Tour

The tour will be held on Friday, 23 September 2005. Attendance to be confirmed by 16 September 2005.

Action:
3. Peel Inlet Management Area Guidelines to be reviewed approx. 5 yearly.
4. 2005/06 meeting schedule approved.
5. Sitting fees to be paid every 6 months.
(Mr Pszczola)

9. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Acid Sulfate Soils & Peel Harvey Long Term Dredging Strategy

The Chairman welcomed Mr Appleyard and Mr Wong from the Department of Environment and invited them to address the meeting.

Mr Appleyard briefed the members on acid sulfate soils (ASS) and sustainable urban development in the Peel Region, impacts of disturbing acid sulfate soils, impacts on the built environment, and some indicative liability costs of managing acid sulfate soils throughout Australia.

Mr Pond advised that there are 20 sites in the Peel Harvey which require periodic dredging for navigation channels. The timeframe for considering dredging applications has increased due to the need to consider potential acid sulfate soil issues.

Discussion ensued on the ban on canal developments in New South Wales due to these type of issues and potential liability. It was also noted that Queensland has very strict controls on establishing new canal estates and other developments within high ASS risk areas.

Community and Local Government Representative Members of the Council Resolved that:
1. A moratorium should be imposed on new developments within high risk acid sulphate soil areas if those developments are likely to involve high levels of disturbance of ASS until ASS risk, impacts, and management techniques are better understood and management capability increased;
2. A permanent ban on activities of gross disturbance of ASS such as new canal estates similar to that imposed in New South Wales should be considered;
3. Failing Item 2 above, consideration be given to much stricter controls on development in high ASS risk areas using the management model used in Queensland; and,
4. That correspondence be sent to the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission, (with copies to relevant Ministers if appropriate), on behalf of the Community Members of the Council stating items 1-3 above. The correspondence will also highlight the potential impacts on the environment as a whole and that the Peel Yalgorup system is a Ramsar wetland of international importance.

Moved: J Hughes  
Seconded: S Bradstock  
State Agency representatives abstained from voting on this matter.
Mr Appleyard agreed to forward more information regarding the positions on ASS taken by New South Wales and Queensland which could be included in the correspondence.

It was agreed that a draft would be sent to all community members for comment prior to sending the correspondence.

**Action:**

7. That the Council write to the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission highlighting the Council’s concern with canal, dewatering and major developments in high risk acid sulfate soil areas in the Peel Region. *(Chairman)*

10. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

(a) **Term of Membership**

It was noted that the following terms of membership for community members expire on 31 December 2005:

- Morris Bessant
- Marilyn Gray
- Dorothy Lucks
- Bruce Tatham

As the community members also serve on the Peel Regional Park Plan Community Consultative Committee and there is a need to ensure continuity of membership on that Committee, investigations are to be carried out to roll over those terms of membership expiring on 31 December 2005 to coincide with the term of the Committee.

**Action:**

8. Investigate rolling over the terms for those community members whose membership expire on 31 December 2005 to coincide with the term of the Peel Regional Park Plan Community Consultative Committee to ensure continuity. *(Mr Pszczola)*

(b) **Mandurah Foreshore Focus 2020**

Ms Wilson advised that she is concerned that some of the proposals put forward could have significant implications for the Council in that there could be an expectation that what is identified in the Plan could become reality when they are not in accordance with the Council’s guidelines. It was noted that the plan will be open for public comment in October 2005.
(c) **Hedges Gold Mine - Flushing**

Mr Curran asked about information regarding flushing of mine dams into the Hotham River. Mr Pond stated that Mrs Crook from the Department of Environment has been involved in the process, working with the local community to monitor the flushing events. Mr Pond agreed to have Mrs Crook provide information to the members.

**Action:**
9. Information on the flushing from the Hedges Gold Mine to the River be provided to members. *(Mr Pszczola)*

(d) **Peel Deviation**

A query was raised regarding the crossing of the proposed Peel Deviation over the Murray River and the position of the pylons for the bridgework. Mr Pond advised that the Department’s Floodway Branch had approved the location of the proposed bridge.

**Action:**
10. That information on the crossing of the Peel Deviation over the Murray River be presented to the Council. *(Mr Pszczola)*

11. **NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm.

Items for the next meeting:
1. presentation by Kim Wilson on projects funded by the Peel Harvey Catchment Council Inc in which she is involved;
2. presentation on the Water Quality Improvement Plan and the Coastal Catchments Initiative.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 19 October 2005 at the Peel Waterways Centre, Suite 6 Sholl House, 21 Sholl Street, Mandurah.**

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Chairman