PEEL INLET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4th meeting held on Friday, 15th December 2004
at the Tuckey Room, City of Mandurah

The meeting commenced at 9:05am.

ATTENDANCE:

John Hughes Chairman
Cameron Bulstrode Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Planning)
Phil Curren Community
Heidi Greif Department of Fisheries
Murray Love Department of Conservation and Land Management
Zita O’Reilly-Carter Shire of Waroona
Chris Thompson Shire of Murray
Bruce Tatham Community
Christine Towes Community
Kim Wilson Community
Colleen Yates Peel Development Commission

APOLOGIES:

Martin Baird Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Morris Bessant Community
Marilyn Gray Community
Brian Joynes City of Mandurah
Dorothy Lucks Community

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:

Debbie Colquhoun Minute Secretary, Department of Environment
Bob Pond Program Manager, Department of Environment
John Pszczola Executive Officer, Department of Environment

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Mr Pond opened the meeting and announced that he had received verbal advice that the Ministers for Environment and Planning and Infrastructure have jointly approved the appointment of Mr Hughes as Chairman of both the Peel Inlet Management Council and the Peel Regional Park Plan Community Consultative Committee. Written confirmation is expected in the near future. Mr Hughes assumed the Chair.
A copy of a discussion paper on the Protection of Blue Swimmer Crab Stocks in the Peel Harvey Area was distributed to each member.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:
That the minutes of the third meeting held on 15 September 2004 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings, subject to the following amendment:
   Page 2, Item 2 – replace the words “15 September 2004” with the words “21 July 2004”.

Moved: K Wilson
Seconded: H Greif

3. BUSINESS ARISING

(a) Item No. 3 – Wilgie Creek Restoration Group – Progress Report

The Group has been suspended for the time being and will meet as required.

(b) Item No. 11(b) – Reserve adjacent Lot 2 Estuary Road, Bouvard – Illegal Retaining Wall

Lot No 2 owner has obtained approval on 16 November 2004 from the City of Mandurah to remove the retaining wall from the reserve.

Action:
1. Report at the next meeting on the progress in removing the illegal retaining wall adjacent to Lot 2 Estuary Road, Bouvard. (Mr Pszczola)

4. WILGIE CREEK RESTORATION GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT

Mr Pond reported that on 5 October 2004 the pump was turned on to maintain a fairly static water level in the Creek. Fortnightly water quality samples are taken and monthly reports emailed to people living along the Creek.

Mr Pond advised that the survey pegs were in place and he will now discuss the construction of the fence with Mr McKay.

The meetings are convened by the Shire of Murray.

5. REVIEW OF PEEL REGION BOATING FACILITIES STUDY 2003

Deferred to the next meeting.
6. CURRENT DREDGING AND DISPOSAL LICENCES

(a) Mary Street Lagoon Entrance Channel – Dredging Licence
115m$^3$ was removed by suction pump into a bunded area, which has since been removed.

Work on the retaining wall in the vicinity of King Carnival on the western foreshore was completed on 10 December 2004. Work is progressing on the War Memorial site.

(b) Mandurah Ocean Marina – removal of bund/final bed level – Dredging Licence
Completed.

(c) Mariner’s Cove Stage 4CA and 5CA – Dredging Licence
The contractor will be reapplying for dredging licences for stages 5CA and 6CA.

(d) Murray and Serpentine Rivers Entrance Channel – Dredging Licence
Dredging was completed on 7 December 2004. Brindley Shoal will continue to be monitored for stabilisation.

The Peel Inlet Management Authority had approved the use of Brindley Shoal for 20 years, ie disposal every 5 years. The site has been used twice, therefore two more lots of dredged material totalling 40,000m$^3$ can be disposed of under the original approval.

Concern was expressed at the continuing use of Brindley Shoal as a dredge spoil disposal site, the possibility of acid sulfate soils on the site, and setting a precedent for future disposal sites in the Estuary.

**Action:**

2. Raise the issue of future dredge spoil disposal sites with the Acid Sulfate Soils and Peel Inlet Estuarine Long Term Dredging Working Group. *(Mr Pszczola)*

(e) Southport Stage 4 – Dewatering Licence
The contractor has now reinstated their original applications submitted in October 2003 for dewatering and dredging the proposed canal off the Dawesville Channel.

Prior to any licences being issued, the contractor still requires to advertise his intention to take groundwater for dewatering, investigate the previous land uses of this site for soil or groundwater contamination (previously a rubbish tip) etc.
7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Mr Pond briefed the members on the recent additional funding announcements by the Minister for the Environment:

$150,000  Environmental Assessment and Guidelines for the Eastern Estuary Catchment
Undertake a full environmental assessment for lands between the Peel Deviation and the Estuary. Develop guidelines and environmental assessment criteria for land use change within the eastern catchment zone. Critical issues in this zone include wetland management, fauna habitat protection, groundwater protection, surface water and drainage management, acid sulphate soils, and nutrient management. The Peel Deviation is likely to significantly increase pressure for land use change in this area.

$135,000  Review Zoning and Land Use of Strategic Recreation Sites
Undertake detailed planning work for strategic recreation sites identified in Peel Waterways Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan. The identified sites have potential to provide value recreational resources in to the future, but need to be adequately conserved and planned for.

$370,000  River Action Planning and Implementation
Implement actions identified in the Murray River Action Plan, include riparian revegetation, habitat enhancement, and nutrient and erosion protection works in conjunction with community organisation. Continue River Action Planning along Murray River tributaries and above the Pinjarra Weir.

These projects were identified as having a high priority in the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan for the Peel Waterways.

The Minister has also recently announced funding of $350,000 to establish a Peel Harvey Shop Front. The Department is investigating the option of leasing Suites 6 and 7 Sholl House while a longer term option for the Shop Front and office for the Department of Environment is investigated. The funding will cover accommodation expenses, appointment of a coordinator, reception, and assist with projects.

Mr Pond also advised that he had been taken off line from his normal duties to concentrate on waterways and natural resource management issues.

Four sites have been identified by the City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray and Department of Environment in the Review Zoning and Land Uses for Strategic Sites funding as follows:
- Herron Point
- Serpentine River mouth
- Coopers Mill
- Ravenswood (near the Hotel, caravan park and regional open space)
Mr Tatham suggested that the land surrounding the proposed bridge where the Peel Deviation will cross the Murray River should also be given a high priority as this land could be developed for public recreation. Mr Pond advised that he would discuss this with the Shire of Murray and City of Mandurah.

**Action:**

3. Discuss the development of the land surrounding the proposed bridge over the Murray River for the Peel Deviation with the Shire of Murray and City of Mandurah. *(Mr Pond)*

8. **DRAFT PIMC FERRY BOAT OPERATION POLICY**

Queries raised in relation to the draft policy include:
- Item 4.1 - define type of vessels considered to be a “ferry” under the policy
- Item 5.1.1 – state the purpose of the policy not just refer to other policies
- Item 5.1.2 – requires more information
- Item 5.1.7 – requires more information
- Are there any specific licences or limitations on the number of ferries permitted in the Region?

Ms Greif advised that the Department of Fisheries places a restriction on the number of charter and eco-tour vessels that can operate in specific areas.

This matter to be deferred to the next meeting to allow members to further consider the draft policy and for a number of the paragraphs to be rewritten.

**Action:**

4. At the next meeting Ms Greif to advise the number of vessels that are licensed to operation in the Peel Region. *(Ms Greif)*

5. The draft policy to be further reviewed at the next meeting. *(Mr Pszczola)*

The meeting adjourned at 10am and resumed at 10.15am.

9. **PEEL HARVEY CATCHMENT COUNCIL**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Wight-Pickin and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr Wight-Pickin briefed the meeting on the background to the establishment of the Peel Harvey Catchment Council, the preparation of the South West Natural Resource Management Strategy, and the calling for projects to be funded from the first Investment Plan of $13 million for the 2005/06 financial year (of which $4 million are for projects in the Peel-Harvey), followed by a 3 year program upon accreditation of the Regional Strategy.
The Council published a draft Peel Harvey Catchment Plan for Natural Resource Management in May 2004. The Plan highlights a number of priority actions, including:

**On-Ground Works**
- Dryland salinity/better water management systems
- Drainage reform and modifications
- RAMSAR wetland management plans
- Reinvigoration of programs for use of soil amendment/conditioners
- Expansion of infill sewerage programs
- Expansion of rivercare programs
- Expansion of ICLEI water campaign
- Extension of Peel Harvey biodiversity project

**Planning**
- Aligning NRM and local government planning processes
- Establishing development criteria for protection of eastern side of estuary
- Biosphere pre-feasibility study

**Resource Assessment**
- Development of agricultural and aquaculture land use options responding to climate change
- Acid sulfate soils research
- Recreational uses of the estuary
- Sedimentation of first order streams
- Survey of nutrient impacts of peri-urban development

**Capacity Building**
- Peel-Harvey website development
- Establishment of Peel Waterways Institute
- Land management extension and capacity building
- Healthy Soils extension project

The Council has provided assistance for a number of projects in the Region, including appointment of 2 rivercare officers, a water campaign officer, reef ball project, fencing 60km of foreshore, planting 50,000 seedlings etc.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wight-Pickin for his presentation and he left the meeting.

10. **MURRAY RIVER WORKING GROUP**

Ms Wilson briefed the members on the outcome of the last meeting of the Group, which was held on 20 September 2004.
11. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) **Herron Foreshore**
Members were briefed on the unauthorised activities on this part of the foreshore by various caravan parks, including placing of sand, building encroachment, commercialised camping.

The owners of the caravan parks in question were advised of the offence under the Waterways Conservation Act 1976 and requested to remove any unauthorised material, which has since been complied with. The City of Mandurah and Department for Planning and Infrastructure were advised of the offences.

(b) **Vessel Speed Management**
The North Yunderup Community Association has written to the Department expressing its concern about speeding vessels. The correspondence was directed to the Department of Fisheries Marine, which is the agency responsible for vessel management in the Peel waterways.

Discussion ensued on the possibility of having land based patrols, the use of speed guns, and a warning sign similar to those on the freeway which indicate to a driver what speed they are travelling.

(c) **Murray River Water Quality Monitoring Program**
Mr Pond briefed the meeting on the volunteer water quality monitoring program to be carried out on the Murray River over the next 6 weeks. Volunteers will undertake daily monitoring between 10am and 3pm, record any incidence of scum, the level of boat traffic, take photos, and some volunteers will take surface water quality samples. All equipment will be supplied by the Department of Environment.

The Department of Environment will also increase its regular sampling at the Murray Delta, Yunderup area, Ravenswood Hotel and upstream of Rodoreda Crescent to just before Christmas, mid and end of January 2005 for the presence of algae likely to result in the scum.

Identification of the bacteria recorded during the sampling in the Murray River undertaken by the Shire of Murray needs to be determined. It is noted that the sampling was not conducted in accordance with ANZECC guidelines.

(d) **Serpentine River – algal bloom**
An algal bloom has been detected in the Serpentine River in the Lakes Road area. The sampling regime will now increase to weekly.

(e) **Reef Balls**
The reef balls are being placed in the water over the weekend.

(f) **Weed Harvesting**  
A number of complaints have been received regarding odour from the decomposing weed in Coodanup and Cox Bay. Beach cleaning in these areas are being carried out this week using the Swan River Trust’s front end loader.

The Department of Environment cleared weed from the Yunderup Canals entrance channel last week. The cost of this work will be recouped from the Shire of Murray.

(g) **Induction Tours**  
Members were requested to forward any ideas for further induction tours.

(h) **Peel Regional Park Plan Community Consultative Committee**  
Mr Bulstrode advised that he will been meeting with the Chairman and calling the first meeting of the Committee prior to conducting Public Workshops in February 2005.

Members expressed concern that they had undertaken extensive induction, had not yet convened as the Peel Regional Park Plan Community Consultative Committee, yet half the members’ terms of appointment would finish on 31 December 2005.

12. **NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 11.25am.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 16 February 2005.** The first 3 meetings in 2005 will be held at the Shire of Murray, Pinjarra.

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Chairman