PEEL INLET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

9th meeting held on Wednesday, 19th October 2005
at the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah

The meeting commenced at 9am.

ATTENDANCE:
John Hughes Chairman
Martin Baird Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Cameron Bulstrode Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Planning)
Phil Curren Community
Cr Brian Joynes City of Mandurah
Bruce Tatham Community
Cr Christine Thompson Shire of Murray
Kim Wilson Community

APOLOGIES:
Morris Bessant Meeting Chairman
Tony Cappelluti Department of Fisheries
Marilyn Gray Community
Murray Love Department of Conservation and Land Management
Dorothy Lucks Community
Cr Zita O’Reilly-Carter Shire of Waroona
Colleen Yates Peel Development Commission

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:
Leon Brouwer A/Manager, NRM & Waterways, Department of Environment
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 Craig Perry who is the Waterways and Wetlands Officer with the Peel Harvey Catchment Council. He will be briefing the PIMC on the RAMSAR management plan project which has been funded through the South West Catchments Council Investment Plan.
(a) **Leave of Absence – Morris Bessant**
Mr Bessant has requested a leave of absence from PIMC for up to 3 months commencing 16 September 2005.

**Action:**
1. A letter of acknowledgement be sent to Mr Bessant. *(Mrs Colquhoun)*

(b) **Cabinet Reappointment of PIMC Members**
Copies of the signed Cabinet Appointment to Boards and Committees for the community members were circulated to all members for their information. The request to extend community members’ appointments to coincide with the term of their membership on the Peel Regional Park Plan Community Consultative Committee will be discussed at the November 2005 meeting of the Water and Rivers Commission Board.

(c) **Shire of Murray Representative**
Cr Bradstock has resigned her membership of PIMC. Cr Christine Thompson will be the Shire of Murray’s representative. The Chairman welcomed Cr Thompson to PIMC.

**Action:**
2. A letter of appreciation be sent to Cr Bradstock. *(Mrs Colquhoun)*

2. **ACTION LIST**

**Minute no. 3(a), 15 June 2005 – Lot 2 Estuary Road, Bouvard – Removal of Wall**
The wall has been removed.

**Minute no. 3(b), 15 June 2005 – Murray River Community Scum Watch**
The community presentations will be held today.

**Action no. 7, 17 August 2005 – Acid Sulfate Soils and Peel Harvey Long Term Dredging Strategy**
The correspondence has been sent to the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission. The Chairman will be addressing the Board on PIMC’s activities in general over the last year. The Department of Environment’s Contaminated Sites Branch will also be addressing the Board on acid sulfate soils issues.

Cr Thompson tabled a letter from the Shire of Murray to PIMC dated 19 October 2005. The correspondence states that the Shire supports development as the risks associated with acid sulfate spoils can be controlled, and requesting a working group be formed to develop strategies to deal with acid sulfate soils issues within the Shire of Murray.
Mr Pond advised that the Department welcomes the formation of such a working group. He also reported on legislation on canal developments in New South Wales and Queensland.

**Action no. 10, 17 August 2005 – Peel Deviation**
The Contaminated Sites Branch has been in discussion with the Department of Main Roads regarding potential acid sulfate soils issues during the construction of the Peel Deviation.

The Department of Environment’s Floodplain Branch advice to the Department of Main Roads on the design drawings of the crossing over the Murray River was circulated at the meeting. The consultant will be submitting amended designs for the Department’s consideration.

**Item no. 10(b) – Mandurah Foreshore Focus 2020**
The plan will be open for comment in November not October 2005.

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

   **Resolved:**
   That the minutes of the eighth meeting held on 17 August 5 2005 are confirmed as a true record of proceedings.
   **Moved:** K Wilson  
   **Seconded:** J Hughes  
   **Against:** C Thompson

4. **WILGIE CREEK RESTORATION GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr Pszczola reported that the Department will shortly be formulating its pumping program for 2005/06. Local residents are monitoring any odour from the Creek.

The Water Corporation has agreed to the removal of a tank, foundation and fencing on Mr McKay’s property which they no longer require.

5. **PEEL HARVEY CATCHMENT COUNCIL FUNDED PROJECTS**

Ms Wilson advised that the Biosphere project was still under development.

Mr Perry briefed the meeting on the progress to date of the management planning project for the RAMSAR listed Peel Yalgorup System.

Discussion ensued on whether referrals need to be made to the State or Federal Environmental Protection agencies on issues that may affect the RAMSAR listed wetland, and also increasing the boundary to include such areas as the Serpentine Lakes system.
3. Write to the Department of Health advising PIMC’s concerns and seeking their advice on the potential for the spread of the bird flu virus from migratory birds. *(Mrs Colquhoun)*

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

Mr Baird reported that the Department had underestimated its predictions in the growth rates for the recreational sector in Perth. With that in mind, the Department is reviewing its previous assessments for the demand and facilities required for the Peel Region. The revised estimates will be reported back to PIMC.

Mr Baird will be meeting with the City of Mandurah regarding their Foreshore Focus 2020.

Management of these facilities will be addressed in the Peel Regional Park Plan.

At the December meeting, Mr Baird to present the latest information on boating and facilities in the Peel Region followed by discussion on the management of the Peel waterways, including the capacity of the waterways for increased boating activity.

4. Presentation and discussion on boating capacity and management of the Peel Waterways at the December 2005 meeting. *(Mr Baird)*

6. **CURRENT DREDGING, DISPOSAL AND RETAINING WALL LICENCES**

(a) **Mariner’s Cove Stage 5CA Dredging and Disposal Licence**
Current to November 2005.

(b) **Southport Stage 5 Dredging and Disposal Licence**
Mr Parker joined the meeting. He reported that the developers had not informed the Department that it was commencing dredging and disposal on 8 August 2005. On Friday, 14 October 2005 a turbidity plume was noticed entering the Dawesville Channel from the dredging operations.

The operation was shut down until adequate filtration measures were in place. These are now in place and regular monitoring is being carried out.

(c) **Crosse – Lot 122 Culeenup Road, North Yunderup – Murray River Retaining Wall**
No further information is available.
5. **Action:**

Cr Thompson to report back on the Shire of Murray’s progress on this matter. *(Cr Thompson)*

(d) **City of Mandurah Artificial Beach Riverside Gardens**
Funds have not yet been made available for this project. The proposal is to separate powered and non-powered vessels in this area.

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

Mr Pond reported on the following projects:

1. **Eastern Estuary Catchment**

   Consultants have been appointed. The Department is seeking a quotation to extend the area of the study.

2. **Strategic Recreation Sites**

   The City of Mandurah and Shire of Murray have commenced planning for the development of key strategic recreation sites.

3. **Review of Ec Rec Committee**

   The Department is considering an appropriate management and reporting framework for the Ec Rec Committee and the links with the PIMC and the Peel Harvey Catchment Council. The Ec Rec Committee is amenable to that Committee being managed by the PIMC.

4. **Murray River Action Plan**

   A Green Corps team will be assisting with planting during the coming season.

The meeting adjourned at 10.15am and resumed at 10.25am.

8. **HOTHAM RIVER WATER QUALTY**

Mr Parker circulated the following reports:

(a) Environmental and Chemical Data

(b) Boddington Rivers Action Group (BRAG) independent consultant’s report to review results of (a)

(c) Compliance report prepared by Alcoa for reporting back to the Environmental Protection Authority.

Copies will be made available to members on request.
He advised that there are 2 major dams on the site, tailings and river water. Only the river water dam is flushed into the Hotham River. The water is monitored and only released in accordance with ANZECC guidelines. This year 470 megalitres was released from 2\textsuperscript{nd} to 10\textsuperscript{th} October. This has reduced the standing water level in the dam by 20 megalitres from the previous year.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS’ REPORT

(a) Item 17 – Spraying of Diesel at Mandurah Ocean Marina Boat Show 2005
Concern was expressed that the spraying of diesel for access pathway construction could be used in other circumstances near waterways and possibly impact on water quality.

Action:
6. Investigate this issue with the City of Mandurah and Shire of Murray. 

(Mr Pszczola)

(b) Item 18 – Canoe Launching Sites
The sites need to be formalised and the community consulted. The information to be included in the Boating Facilities Study.

(c) Dredging Licences
Messrs Parker and Pszczola met with the Department’s legal officer to assess the conditions placed on dredging licences to ensure they are enforceable.

10. PIMC INVOLVEMENT IN STRATEGIC LANDUSE PLANNING

There have been a number of reports in the newspaper regarding proposed large scale developments in the Region, ie Amarillo, Lake Clifton, which would be of interest to the PIMC.

It was agreed that the agenda include a 10-minute briefing on strategic land use planning proposals. The PIMC could then request a more detailed briefing from the officer involved in assessing the proposal.

Action:
7. An item be included in the agenda for an update on Strategic Land Use Planning proposals. 

(Mr Pszczola)
11. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Peel Deviation – Murray River Crossing
Mr Curren expressed concerns over the amount of pylons and the crossing over the Murray River. The Department has provided the design criteria for the pylons to the developers.

**Action:**
8. A presentation by the Floodplain Branch on the crossing of the Murray River for the Peel Deviation to be arranged. *(Mr Pszczola)*

(b) Department of Water

A media release and recent newspaper article were circulated to the members.

This involves the water allocation, planning and monitoring sections of the Department.

The Acting Director General for the new Department of Water will be Paul Frewer. The new Department is proposed to commence on 1 December 2005. The offices of both the Departments of Environment and Water will be co-located.

(c) Friends of Rivers Peel AGM

Mr Curren reported on a briefing by a female Aboriginal Elder who is interested in river restoration works to the AGM of the Friends of Rivers Peel.

(d) Peel Regional Park

Mr Bulstrode agreed to provide a regular briefing on the progress of the Peel Regional Park Plan at future meetings of PIMC.

**Action:**
9. Regular briefings on the progress of the Peel Regional Park Plan to be included in the agenda. *(Mr Bulstrode)*

(d) Eastport Stage 5

Mr Baird reported that a study of the Eastport Stage 5 canal indicates it will not flush very well.
12. **NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE**

The next meeting will be abbreviated due to the date of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.35 pm.

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

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