PEEL INLET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

7th meeting held on Wednesday, 15th June 2005
at the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah

The meeting commenced at 9am.

ATTENDANCE:
Morris Bessant       Meeting Chairman
Shonagh Bradstock   Shire of Murray
Phil Curren          Community
Brian Joynes         City of Mandurah
Dorothy Lucks        Community
Murray Love          Department of Conservation and Land Management
Zita O’Reilly-Carter Shire of Waroona
Paul Stephens        Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Colleen Yates        Peel Development Commission

APOLOGIES:
Cameron Bulstrode    Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Planning)
Marilyn Gray         Community
John Hughes          Chairman
Bruce Tatham         Community
Kim Wilson           Community

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 Shonagh Bradstock who replaces Christine Thompson as the Shire of Murray representative and Declan Morgan, the Acting Regional Manager for the Kwinana Peel Region of the Department of Environment.

Mr Love introduced Miles Mulvay who is assisting at the Department for Conservation and Land Management in Mandurah.
2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:
That the minutes of the sixth meeting held on 15 June 2005 are confirmed as a true record of proceedings.
Moved: B Joynes
Seconded: C Yates

3. BUSINESS ARISING

(a) Minute No. 3(a) – Reserve 34177 adjacent Lot 2 Estuary Road, Bouvard – Illegal Retaining Wall

Legal opinion has been received which confirms that the steps and process undertaken by the Department in seeking the removal of the illegal retaining wall was correct and that there is no statute of limitations for the work to be carried out.

Mr Joynes advised that the City of Mandurah had approved a request for subdivision of this block of land into 4 individual lots. The matter was now with the Western Australian Planning Commission for subdivision approval.

(b) Minute No. 3(b) - Murray River Scum Watch

The proposed full day monitoring on 23 May could not proceed due to inclement weather. A community meeting will be convened to advise participants of water quality monitoring results later in the year.

(c) Minute No. 9(2) – Review Jetty Policy as part of the Retaining Wall Policy

Deferred to later in the meeting.

(d) Minute No. 11(3) – The need for Research and Management of Aquatic Fauna of the Peel Harvey Estuaries and Associates Waterways

A response has not yet been received from the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan Implementation Committee on this issue.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Department of Environment – Algal Bloom Management Workshop

Ms Wilson represented the Council at the Workshop.

Mr Pond reported on the Workshop which was held on 10 June 2005. A copy of the State Algal Strategy will be made available to members when it is available.
He also advised that the Murray River Working Group has sought information from the Water Corporation on the number of residences that have connected to reticulated sewerage.

(b) Peel Preservation Group – Lake McLarty - Lot 67 Birchmont

Mr Pond advised that the Department had provided its advice on the proposed development to the Western Australian Planning Commission. The Department supported most of the Group’s recommendations. The exception is their request to increase the buffer zone around the Lake from 50 metres to 150 metres. The Department recommended a 50 metre buffer.

Mr Love advised that the Department of Conservation and Land Management also has concerns at the small buffer zone and had advised that the Planning Commission that the current proposal was unacceptable in its present form.

Resolved:
The draft letter to the Peel Preservation Group acknowledging their correspondence was approved.

Moved: M Love
Seconded: S Bradstock

Action:
1. Send a response to the Peel Preservation Group in accordance with the draft letter in relation to Lot 67 Birchmont. (Mr Pszczola)

5. WILGIE CREEK RESTORATION GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT

Mr Pszczola reported to the Group on the outcome of the pumping trial, the estimated cost to vegetate the northern bank of the Creek. Ms Bradstock advised that the Group will be paying for the remediation in the sum of $11,500.

6. REVIEW PEEL REGION BOATING FACILITIES STUDY 2003

Mr Stephens reported that there are 26 boat launching facilities in the Peel Region. The launching facilities are graded from a basic facility to a boat harbour.

The Department will be presenting their data and recommendations on the review of the Study. They are also waiting for the results from the Peel Regional Park Workshops. He advised that there will be no new facilities in the Region with the possible exception of Mariner’s Cove.

He also advised that there is approximately $1 million funding available each year for grants to local governments for the upgrade of existing facilities on a 50/50 shared basis.
Mr Stephens agreed to pass on members comments that the wording of speed limits in the Boating Guide needs to be reviewed.

Discussion ensued on the need to consider specific zoning and restrictions over the Peel Harvey ahead of the anticipated increase in boating population in the Region and the pressure on sensitive areas.

7. CURRENT DREDGING, DISPOSAL AND RETAINING WALL LICENCES

(a) Serpentine River Retaining Wall – Brown, Jenkins and Websey
Cancelled at the request of the applicant.

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

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

(d) Crosse – Lot 122 Culeenup Road, North Yunderup – Murray River Retaining Wall
Photos circulated of the excavation into the river bank to create a small canal. The Shire of Murray will be investigating the excavated canal with the lot owner.

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

Mr Pond reported on the last meeting held on 6 May 2005. This was essentially a review of the Committee’s progress as, due to Government elections in February 2005, the Committee had not met since late 2004.

The Committee agreed to continue to prepare business planning templates for each of the recommendations in the Plan so that the relevant agency was ready to apply for appropriate funding to progress that recommendation.

He also reported on the following Peel Waterways initiatives:
1. Peel Waterways Centre – staff are slowly moving into the Centre
3. Eastern Estuary Environmental Planning – tenders for Consultant closed. The budget will be carried forward to the 2005/06 financial year. This will also feed into the review of the Peel Region Scheme by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.
4. Strategic Recreation Sites – framework for cooperation signed by all parties and the funds transferred to the City of Mandurah as the lead agency.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50am and resumed at 10.10am.
9. PRESENTATION BY A/REGIONAL MANAGER, KWINANA PEEL REGION, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

The Chairman introduced Declan Morgan, the Acting Regional Manager for the Kwinana Peel Region of the Department of Environment, and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr Morgan briefed members on the Department’s corporate business plan for 2004/05 and its strategic direction for the next 5 years.

Discussion ensued on the need to rationalise the various Councils and Committees in the Region which have an involvement in waterways management. The Chairmen of the Council and the Peel Harvey Catchment Council will meet to discuss how the Councils can work together. However it is noted that there is some cross membership on both Councils and the Peel Regional Park Plan Community Consultative Committee.

It is anticipated that with the establishment of the Peel Regional Park Board a more rationalised approach to waterways management can be achieved. It is planned for the Peel Regional Park Plan to be released in the first quarter of 2006.

The Chairman thanked Mr Morgan for his presentation.

10. DRAFT RETAINING WALL & DEWATERING POLICY

Mr Pond advised the meeting that as the Council is not a statutory body and not a legal decision-maker, it cannot have policies. However, they could be termed “Peel Inlet Management Area guidelines” and be used by the Department in guiding its decision-making.

Resolved:
Retaining Wall and Dewatering Policies be endorsed.
That the policies of the previous Peel Inlet Management Authority be endorsed as Peel Inlet Management Area Guidelines. Moved: S Bradstock Seconded: D Lucks

Resolved:
That a list of endorsed policies and timelines for policy review be prepared.
Moved: D Lucks
Seconded: C Yates

11. MANDURAH FORESHORE FOCUS 2020

The Chairman welcomed Tony Free, the Director of Planning and Development at the City of Mandurah, and invited him to address the meeting.
Mr Free circulated a map depicting the study area, structure and roles of the various groups and consultancy, and summary of group discussions from the community workshops on 18 May (206 attendees) and 1 June 2005 (94 attendees).

It is proposed that the final plan will be adopted by the City of Mandurah by the end of 2005 prior to formal advertising.

Mr Free agreed to provide an updated map including the location numbers.

The Chairman thanked Mr Free for his presentation and he left the meeting at 11.20am.

**Action:**

2. Circulate an amended map of the Mandurah Foreshore Focus 2020 Study Area showing location numbers to members when available.  
(Mr Pszczola)

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12. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

The Executive Officer’s report was received.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Murray River Water Quality Monitoring Program

Mr Pond gave an update on the progress of the 6 Point Action Plan for the Murray River and results of some of the sampling undertaken to date. It is anticipated to have a report to the community from the community sampling program later in the year.

(b) Serpentine River Water Quality Monitoring

The Serpentine River has returned to its normal winter condition.

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

(a) Arbor Day

Mr Love advised that there plenty of Arbor Day posters available for interested members.
(b) Dredging

Mr Bessant advised that the Shire of Murray is considering employing Curtin University to carry out a study of any potential environmental impacts from the dredge spoil disposal site at South Yunderup.

Mr Pond advised that the Shire has not fulfilled the conditions of its last dredging licence, ie that a long term dredging management plan be prepared for the Department’s consideration.

15. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE

The meeting closed at 11.50 am.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 August 2005 at the Peel Waterways Centre, Suite 6 Sholl House, 21 Sholl Street, Mandurah.

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Chairman