PEEL INLET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

17th meeting held on Wednesday, 21st February 2007
at the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah

The meeting commenced at 9am.

ATTENDANCE:

John Hughes        Chairman
Cameron Bulstrode  Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Planning)
Tony Cappelluti    Department of Fisheries
Phil Curran        Community
Cr Brian Joynes    City of Mandurah
Murray Love        Department of Environment and Conservation
Dorothy Lucks      Community
Bruce Tatham       Community
Cr Christine Thompson Shire of Murray
Kim Wilson         Community
Colleen Yates      Peel Development Commission

APOLOGIES:

Martin Baird       Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Leon Brouwer       A/Regional Manager, Kwinana Peel Region,
                   Department of Water
Marilyn Gray       Community
James Holder       Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Cr Zita O’Reilly-Carter Shire of Waroona

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:

Debbie Colquhoun   Minute Secretary, Department of Water
Adrian Parker      A/Program Manager, Catchment and Waterways
                   Management, Department of Water
Bob Pond           Coordinator, Peel Waterways Centre
John Pszczola      Executive Officer, Department of Water
1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

The Chairman opened the meeting and announced the apologies.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:
The minutes of the sixteenth meeting held on 13th December 2006 were received and adopted.
Moved: Bob Pond
Seconded: Murray Love

3. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Marine Safety):
Review of the 1996 Peel Region Boating Facility Study – Moorings

Mr Bulstrode advised that a meeting was held on the 8 February 2007 with officers from the Marine Section of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, local government and Department of Water to discuss the increasing requests for moorings in the Region’s waterways and the need to establish a mooring control area to manage this issue.

The first meeting discussed a range of issues, including public launching ramps, with the next meeting to focus on the mooring issue.

Ms Wilson commended Mr Bulstrode for bringing the relevant parties together to highlight this issue in the Region.

Mr Pond commented that people appear to be living on a sailing boat in Manjar Bay and on a houseboat in Dawesville.

The Department for Planning and Infrastructure Marine are currently investigating moorings in Mangles Bay and preparing a Statewide Strategy.

The next meeting is to be held on 29 March 2007.

(b) City of Mandurah:
Proposed Jetties and Mooring Piles – No 19 (Lot 190) San Marco Quays, Halls Head

Noted.
(e) City of Mandurah:
Safe Navigation Concerns – Mandurah Ocean Entrance & Environs

Noted.

(d) Members’ Reappointments

The Water and Rivers Commission Board has approved the reappointment of the Chairman and community members to the Council from 1 January to 31 December 2007.

**Action:**
1. Ascertain when the reappointment letters will be sent to members. *(John Pszczola)*

4. PEEL BOATING COMMUNITY GROUP – MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2006 were noted.

Mr Curran advised that he had been unable to attend the meeting in February 2007 and that the next meeting has been postponed to 16 May 2007.

Item 5.2 was discussed. The Group has identified the lack of personnel to police the waterways and the need for a volunteer system to be established.

5. CURRENT DREDGING, DISPOSAL AND RETAINING WALL LICENCES

(a) Mariner’s Cove Stage 6CA Disposal
Negotiations are proceeding with the Department for Planning and Infrastructure Marine Branch regarding the reconstruction of the northern groyne. Works should commence shortly and bund removed in approximately 2 weeks.

(b) City of Mandurah Stingray Point Retaining Wall
This has been put on hold due to the construction work for the new hotel. Mr Pszczola advised that the Stingray Point commercial service jetty in the vicinity has collapsed. The City of Mandurah has installed fencing and signage advising that the area is unsafe.

(c) Lot 189 Pinjarra Road, North Yunderup Retaining Wall
The applicant has been advised to provide appropriate design plans.

(d) Perth to Bunbury Highway
Mr Parker advised that the Department has received applications for dewatering and disposal licences for construction of the bridge over the Serpentine River for
the Perth to Bunbury Highway. Other applications to follow in due course will be for the Murray River and Clifton Park crossings.

The Serpentine River application is currently being assessed for floodway issues. Signs will be placed at relevant boat ramps advising of the proposed works.

(e) **Port Mandurah Agitation Trial**
The City of Mandurah agitation dredging trial review is ongoing. An application for a licence to dredge and dispose of the dredge material on the town beaches has been received and is currently being assessed by the Department.

(f) **South Yunderup Entrance Channel**
The Shire of Murray is hoping to utilise the barge and dredge this winter when it is in the area. At this stage it is proposed to dispose of the dredge material at the Warma Way, Goongoolup Island site.

Discussion ensued on the use of Boodalan Island, which would require Conservation Commission approval. Mr Love to discuss with the Shire of Murray.

The Department for Planning and Infrastructure are conducting a hydrographic survey of all entrance channels including the South Yunderup Canal Entrance Channel for the Shire of Murray.

Ms Wilson advised that the proponent would need to seek approval from the Federal Government under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act for any proposed works being undertaken in a Ramsar wetland.

**Action:**
2. Advise the Shire of Murray of the possible use of Boodalan Island as a dredge spoil disposal site. *(Adrian Parker)*

(g) **Murray River Country Estate – advertising boat ramp**
An application for a boat ramp at this location has not been received. The developers have yet to submit an ODP to the Shire of Murray.

Ms Yates joined the meeting at 9.45am.

6. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PEEL WATERWAYS**

Mr Pond reported on the status of the following strategies:
(a) **Reef Ball project**

A further funding application has not been submitted, although it is still being considered. Mr Curran advised that Peelcon have restructured and are not able to undertake this work.

Mr Pond advised that he had undertaken an underwater inspection of the various sites with David Lennon. The Mandurah Performing Arts Centre has only been in a short time and the water clarity at Mariners Cove was too turbid to see anything. However the site at Northport was being used by some fish as protective cover. A better assessment needs to be conducted at a later date.

(b) **Strategic Recreation Sites**

The funds have been returned to the Department from the City of Mandurah. The terms of reference to engage a consultant are currently being prepared.

(c) **Rivercare**

Work is progressing well in the Murray and Serpentine Rivers. The area from the weir to the scarp is currently being considered and the installation of a fish ladder on the weir is being investigated. A management plan for the Serpentine River is being prepared. Most of the reserves along the western bank of the Serpentine River are managed by the City of Mandurah.

(d) **Peel Waterways Institute**

The first meeting of the strategic group will be held next week.

7. **PEEL REGIONAL PARK – PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr Bulstrode advised that they had advertised for extra planning officers in the Peel Region, and had made a selection for a Peel Regional Park Project Officer, which is currently in the appeal stages. However he cautioned that a number of other positions have not been able to be filled and this project may need to be delayed. The Department and the Minister are aware of the problem being faced with recruiting and retaining planners.

The meeting adjourned at 9.55am and resumed at 10.10am. Mr Bulstrode left the meeting during the adjournment.

8. **ACID SULFATE SOILS – PROFESSOR LEIGH SULLIVAN’S REPORT**

Mr Pond briefed members on the Workshop and showed the Professor’s presentation on the findings in his report dated November 2006. The Peel Development Commission is being briefed this month.

His recommendations are being progressed internally through the Department of Water and through applications for funding under the NHT Strategic Reserves Project and CRC
CARE (Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment).

A briefing on the Strategic Reserves Project will be organised for members and through the lecture series for the general public.

9. STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING

Mr Parker provided members with updates on the following:
(a) Eastern Estuary Environmental Assessment
(b) Southern Metro and Peel Planning

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

The Executive Officer’s report was received.

The following items were noted:
(a) Soldiers Cove – installation of signage
(b) “prickly” algae in the Estuary
(c) Sale of weed harvester

11. SEPARATION OF DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Mr Parker advised the following responsibilities for each agency:

Department of Water
Waterways, allocation, public water drinking supply areas, urban and rural drainage, floodplain management and protection

Department of Environment and Conservation
Wetlands, acid sulphate soils, native vegetation protection, Part 5 licensing and previous CALM responsibilities

Correspondence has been sent to the relevant local government agencies and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure informing them of the new arrangements.

The Department of Water is currently reviewing all water legislation.

Mr Pond showed a proposed governance structure for the Region. It is ready for submission to Cabinet, however, it is dependent on the completed Water Quality Improvement Plan, which has been delayed.
12. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Serpentine River Lyngbya
The algae is still being detected in Lake Goegrup and on the Serpentine River from Barragup Bridge upstream to Stakehill. The Department’s Aquatic Science Branch hopes to undertake a study so that an early warning system can hopefully be developed.

(b) Lake Clifton – algae and fish deaths
On 14 February 2007 the Department investigated a fish death incident on Lake Clifton where approximately 600-800 black bream had died. A red algae was taken for analysis.

The salinity level of the lake was recorded at twice the level of sea water.

Ms Yates advised that algae is being investigated as a source of feedstock for biodiesel.

(c) Crabfest
The Department will have a stall at the Crabfest on the weekend of 17-18 March 2007. The Department requires volunteers to man the stall over the weekend.

(d) Joe Walley
The Council acknowledged the valuable advice and assistance received from Joe Walley in the past and that his death is a huge loss to the community.

Ms Yates advised that the Commission had written to the South West Land and Sea Council seeking their advice on an appropriate person to contact as a replacement for Mr Walley.

(e) Drainage Reform
The submission period has been delayed.

(f) Fish Deaths
Mr Curran advised that fish deaths have been linked to mining operations in Canada.

(g) Dwellingup Bush Fires
The Chairman acknowledged the work undertaken by Cr Christine Thompson and the Shire of Murray during the recent bush fires in Dwellingup.

14. NEXT MEETING/CLOSE

The meeting closed at 11:20am.
The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 18 April 2007** in the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah.


Chairman