

PEEL INLET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

13th meeting held on Wednesday, 21st June 2006
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
John Breeden	Department of Fisheries
Marilyn Gray	Community
James Holder	Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Dorothy Lucks	Community
Cr Zita O'Reilly-Carter	Shire of Waroona
Bob Pond	Coordinator, Peel Waterways Centre
Bruce Tatham	Community
Kim Wilson	Community
Colleen Yates	Peel Development Commission

APOLOGIES:

Martin Baird	Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Morris Bessant	Community
Leon Brouwer	Manager, NRM & Waterways, Department of Environment
Phil Curran	Community
John Edwards	Department of Conservation and Land Management
Cr Brian Joynes	City of Mandurah
Murray Love	Department of Conservation and Land Management
Cr Christine Thompson	Shire of Murray

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:

Debbie Colquhoun	Minute Secretary, Department of Environment
Adrian Parker	A/Program Manager, Catchment and Waterways Management
John Pszczola	Executive Officer, Department of Environment

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

The Chairman opened the meeting and announced the apologies. He welcomed Mr John Breeden who is the Compliance Manager with the Department for Fisheries for the southern part of the Metropolitan Region which takes in the Rockingham and Mandurah areas.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:

The minutes of the twelfth meeting held on 19th April 2006 were received and adopted.

Moved: ***John Hughes***

Seconded: ***Bob Pond***

(a) Action List

(i) Acid Sulfate Soils Workshop

The report is expected in November 2006 after which time the Workshop will be held.

(ii) Action Item 1 – Review of the Peel Region Boating Facilities Study 1996

Deferred to item no.3.

(iii) Action Item No. 2 – Speeding Vessels on the Peel Harvey Estuary

Mr Pszczola presented his report.

Mr Breeden advised that once an area has been gazetted as a water ski area, vessels using that area are not restricted to 8 knots. It is noted that this conflicts with the advice in the Recreational Skipper's Ticket Workbook that a powerboat may not be driven at over 8 knots in any water less than 3 metres deep, which would include the whole of the Peel Harvey Estuary. The local navigation map also shows open speed zones in the Estuary.

It was agreed that it is time for a review of designated areas in the Estuary due to the increase in jetskis and fan boat type vessels in the Estuary and the need to protect bird habitat areas. A review of boating traffic could also be part of the planing process for the Peel Regional Park.

Resolved:

That the Department for Planning and Infrastructure be requested to review the current boating restriction areas in the Peel Harvey Estuary due to:

- (a) the increase in jet skis and other powered vessels in the Estuary;*
- (b) the conflict with designating areas in the Estuary for certain types of vessels in contradiction with the Recreational Skipper's Ticket Workbook;*
- (c) protecting bird habitats in and around the Estuary.*

Moved: **Bruce Tatham**

Seconded: **John Hughes**

Action:

1. Write to the Department for Planning and Infrastructure to request a review of boating restriction areas in the Peel Harvey Estuary. (**John Pszczola**)

(iv) Action Item No. 3 – Shire of Murray proposed South Yunderup Channel Dredging

Cr Thompson has provided a written response from the Shire of Murray on this issue.

The Shire of Murray has preliminary advice that one dredging campaign would amount to approximately \$550,000 which is beyond their financial capability. The Shire is continuously approaching the Department for Planning and Infrastructure to assist in the management of the channel or take back the management of the Yunderup approach channel. The Shire is waiting for feedback from the Minister for Planning on this issue.

The advice was noted.

(v) Action Item No. 4 – Strategic Recreation Sites

Mr Pond reported that he had drafted a consultants brief which was considered by the last meeting of the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan for the Peel Waterways Implementation Committee.

Four sites have been identified:

- Ravenswood
- Serpentine and Murray River mouth, including Nairns
- Herron Point camping ground
- Boundary Island (not previously listed as a strategic recreation site)

(vi) Action Item No. 5 – Review Membership Structure

It was agreed to proceed with current arrangements until the governance issue had been further progressed.

(vii) **Item 13(b) – Recreational Net Fishing**
Mr Pszczola presented his report.

Mr Breeden reported that Wednesday night is still the only night for recreational fishing in the Peel Region.

3. **REVIEW OF THE PEEL REGION BOATING FACILITIES STUDY 2003**

Mr Holder gave an update on the progress to date. The preliminary findings indicate that the existing ramp facilities are capable of launching between 940 (6 minutes) and 1,222 (8 minutes) boats in a peak period of 2 hours, which should meet peak demand until 2010.

Current recreational boating facilities are considered adequate for the next 5-10 years but require some upgrading, including numbers of berths provided in the ramp lanes. It is anticipated that by 2025 an additional two new four lane ramps or equivalent will be required to meet the remaining demand.

Discussion then ensued on the need for demand management on the waterways; houseboats, jetties, and the impact of increased boat size (particularly in the Murray River and canals) on dredging, boat wash, sullage.

Mr Holder advised that the Department will be insisting that the developers for Mariner's Cove install boat launching facilities in accordance with their approved development.

This review is being undertaken in parallel with the review of recreational boating facilities in Perth and therefore he is unable to provide a timeframe for finalisation of either Review.

An updated copy of Mr Holder's presentation will be provided to members.

Action:

2. Provide a copy of Mr Holder's powerpoint presentation to members. (*John Pszczola*)

4. **STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING**

Mr Parker provided members with updates on the following:

- (a) State of the Environment report
- (b) Austin Cove development
- (c) Peel Deviation
- (d) Waroona townsite bypass
- (e) Eastern Estuary Environmental Assessment

5. CURRENT DREDGING, DISPOSAL AND RETAINING WALL LICENCES

(a) **Mariner's Cove Stage 6CA Disposal**

No problems.

(b) **Southport Stage 5 Disposal**

Mr Parker reported ongoing problems with turbidity. The Western Australian Fishing Industries Council (WAFIC) has complained that pots have been filling up with particulate material caused by the dewatering for this development. The environmental consultants have responded directly to WAFIC. The developers were not pumping and there was an outgoing tide at the time of the alleged incident.

(c) **The Palladio, Mandurah Ocean Marina Disposal**

No problems.

(d) **City of Mandurah Stingray Point Retaining Wall**

No problems.

(e) **Lot 800 Pinjarra Road, Ravenswood Retaining Wall**

No problems.

(f) **City of Mandurah Port Mandurah Entrance Channel agitation dredging trial**

The trial lasted 1 week. Monitoring data has indicated that the trial was successful. A meeting will be held with the City of Mandurah to discuss the trial and this year's dredging programme.

The meeting adjourned at 10.15am and resumed at 10.30am. Mr Holder left the meeting during the recess.

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

Mr Pond reported on the status of the following strategies:

- (a) Strategic Recreation Sites
- (b) Reef Ball project
- (c) Peel Waterways Institute

7. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT WATERWAYS INITIATIVES – OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Mr Pond reported on the status of the following projects:

- (a) Murray River 6 Point Action Plan
- (b) Aquatic habitat survey

(c) South West regional funding

8. PEEL REGIONAL PARK – PROGRESS REPORT

Mr Bulstrode reported that this had not progressed due to limited staff resources within his Department. He will be meeting with the Chairman of the Western Australian Planning Commission shortly to discuss this and other key projects in the Region.

It was noted that the Chairman of the Peel Inlet Management Council had written to the Minister for Planning seeking financial support for planning for the Peel Regional Park. The Chairman of the Peel Development Commission has also written to the Minister for Planning highlighting the shortage of planners in this Region.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Executive Officer's report was received.

10. ACID SULFATE SOILS AND PEEL HARVEY ESTUARY LONG TERM DREDGING WORKING GROUP

Mr Sullivan's report is expected in November 2006.

11. DEPARTMENT OF WATER/DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION UPDATE

Mr Pond provided an update on the current status of the formation of the Department of Environment and Conservation which will take effect from 1 July 2006.

12. PIMC FORWARD PLANNING 2006/07

The meeting dates were adopted, subject to the December meeting being held on 13 December 2006.

Mr Pond advised that he will be meeting with Sally Talbot MLA and the Chairman of the Peel Inlet Management Council to discuss forward planning for the Peel Waterways Centre. The discussion will also involve forward planning for the Council. It was agreed to invite the Chairman of the Peel Development Commission to this discussion. Any member wishing to attend this discussion should advise Mr Pond.

Action:

3. Arrange meeting with Sally Talbot MLA, the Chairmen of the Council and Peel Development Commission, and interested members to discuss forward planning for the Council and the Peel Waterways Centre to discuss forward planning. (*Bob Pond*)

13. OTHER BUSINESS**(a) Moratorium on High Risk Acid Sulfate Soils**

The Chairman requested an update on a response to his correspondence to the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission on a proposed moratorium on development in high risk acid sulfate soil areas in the Region.

Mr Pond advised that he was aware of discussions between Mr Brouwer and the Environmental Protection Authority Service Unit on this issue. It was noted that the City of Mandurah would be meeting with the Chairman of the EPA to discuss their concerns on a number of issues.

A report on the progress of this issue to be sent to members. The Chairman to again write to the Board if members are not happy with the response.

Action:

4. Obtain a response on the correspondence to the Board on a proposed moratorium on development in high risk acid sulfate soil areas in the Region.
5. Provide a progress report to the members.
6. The Chairman to write to the Board following an unsatisfactory report on the Chairman's correspondence. (*Bob Pond*)

(b) Water and Rivers Commission 2005/06 Annual Report

The report on the Peel Inlet Management Council for the Water and Rivers Commission 2005/06 Annual Report was noted.

(c) Power Boating Prohibited Area – Upper Serpentine River

Mr Pszczola presented his report.

Lakes Road will be widened as part of the planning for the Peel Deviation which may mean the removal of the informal facility at the Stakehill Road bridge. This matter to be discussed with Main Roads Western Australia as part of the planning for the Peel Deviation.

(d) Integrated Fisheries Management Programme

Mr Tatham highlighted that one of the conditions under the ERMP for the Peel Deviation relates to monitoring fish stocks, which has not been undertaken.

The aquatic habitat study currently being undertaken by Murdoch University was discussed.

14. NEXT MEETING/CLOSE

The meeting closed at 11:15am.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 16 August 2006** in the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah.

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Chairman