

Consultation Document

Biodiversity and Agricultural Natural Capital Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

PHCC has been engaged by DCCEEW and DAFF to prepare a Biodiversity and Agricultural Natural Capital Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).

The project comes in response to lessons learned from the 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfires in Victoria, after three billion animals were killed or displaced – one of the worst wildlife disasters in modern history.

Part of this task is to identify 'biodiversity and agricultural assets' across the region, and determine emergency scenarios and susceptibility of each asset, preparedness actions, and asset response during and post event.

Although PHCC's role in supporting emergency preparedness and response in our management units is limited by funding constraints, we have several important projects with resources to draw from (Ramsar, Banksia/Tuart Woodland, Numbat, Black Cockatoo Projects). PHCC is able to support emergency preparedness and response actions where they align with one of these projects. Actions may include revegetation, disease and pest control, weed control and raising community awareness.

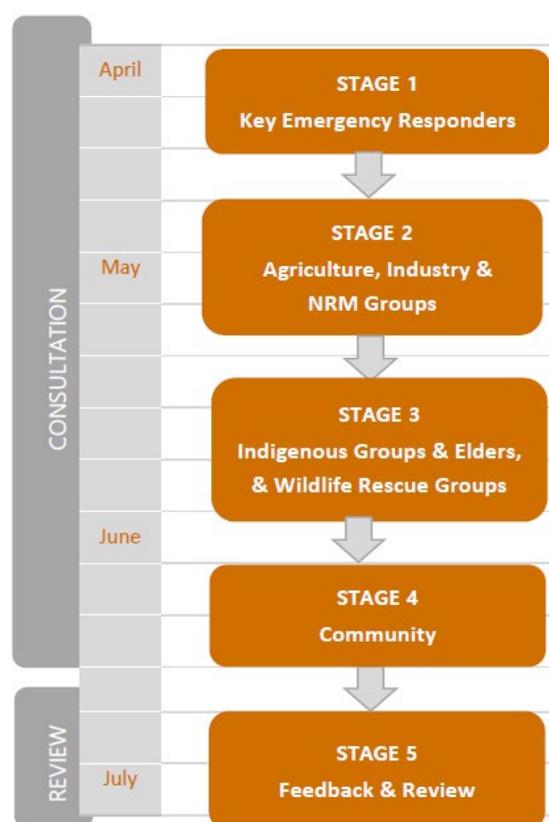
Our community has phenomenal capacity to respond to emergencies, however, many of our wildlife rescue groups, community Landcare groups and Indigenous groups are under-resourced and under-utilised during emergency events. These gaps will be outlined further in the Plan.

Our Stakeholder Engagement Approach

Through the stakeholder engagement process, we have already begun to identify our community's capacity for emergency preparedness and response, including key gaps or barriers to effective response actions.

The aim of the stakeholder engagement process is to assist with:

- Identifying suitable emergency preparedness and response actions for biodiversity and agricultural assets, and
- Determining who is best placed to undertake the emergency response actions during and post event.



What we would like to know

1. What biodiversity and/or agricultural assets are most important to you?
2. What actions are needed to **prepare** for an emergency or natural disaster, should it occur in your identified asset?
3. Is there anyone, or any group, within your local area that may have capacity to assist with emergency **preparedness**?
4. Are you aware of any local groups who may be able to assist with emergency **response** during and post event? If so, who are they and what emergency response actions could they potentially assist with?
5. What do you think is needed within your local community to effectively **respond** to emergency scenarios including bushfire, pest/disease outbreak, heatwaves, flood, etc?

How we've identified priority biodiversity assets:

There are hundreds of biodiversity assets in the Peel-Harvey Catchment. High priority biodiversity assets are those with high MNES (Matters of National Environmental Significance) and high historical investment. MNES include Aboriginal Heritage sites that are formally registered, however, does not assess Aboriginal sites that are NOT formally registered.

This limitation will be acknowledged in the Plan, along with recommendations for improved identification and mapping of important Indigenous sites. A summary of MNES at each site is included below. The list does not include all biodiversity assets (such as the Jarrah Forest and Rivers or Waterways) because, despite their significance, there is limited MNES data available for these sites.

Asset Name	No. of TECs/ PECs	TEC/PEC area (ha)	WA T&P Herbs	T&P Flora	T&P Fauna	Migratory Species	Black Cockatoo Breeding/ Roosting	Ecological Linkages	Ramsar	No. of investments
Dryandra Woodland NP Dryandra	1	18,041	86	8	20	6	1	8	0	286
Lake Mealup Point Grey	1	24	0	0	3	31	0	1	1	31
Lake McLarty Birchmont	1	5	3	0	32	52	0	1	1	87
Austin Bay & Robert Bay South Yunderup	5	308	25	18	11	54	0	1	1	21
Geogrup and Black Lakes Barragup	2	117	4	1	11	32	0	3	1	4
Thrombolites Lake Clifton	2	597	0	1	8	29	0	1	1	55
Nine Mile Nature Reserve West Coolup	1	209	0	3	1	10	0	1	0	19
Lowlands Nature Reserve Mardella	2	1,044	11	13	5	9	1	1	0	53
Treasure Block Lake Clifton	3	1,147	0	3	4	27	10	4	0	20
Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve West Coolup, Birchmont	5	625	20	21	5	52	0	1	1	36
Yalgorup Lakes System Preston Beach, Lake Clifton	4	2,243	53	17	22	68	2	7	1	83
Marlee Reserve Parklands	2	13	0	0	4	9	7	1	0	10

TEC Threatened Ecological Community PEC Priority Ecological Community T&P Threatened and Priority

Our Agricultural Assets:

- Agricultural assets include the Hotham-Williams area (includes Wheatbelt) and the Harvey Water Irrigation areas on the Swan Coastal Plain.
- Agricultural assets will be further refined using the following spatial data: Vegetation Cover, Potentially Arable Land, Agricultural Capability (i.e., cropping or grazing), Soil Risk (salinity, wind erosion, acid sulphate soils) and Agricultural Productivity.



Comments

If you would like to provide comments or feedback to our Plan, or believe your organisation has capacity to support emergency preparedness and response actions for Biodiversity or Agricultural Assets in the Catchment, please go to <https://peel-harvey.org.au/public-consultation/>

Stakeholder comments and feedback must be provided by 21/06/2024, at the latest.

Contact

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