

Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group

...Protecting our agricultural and natural environment

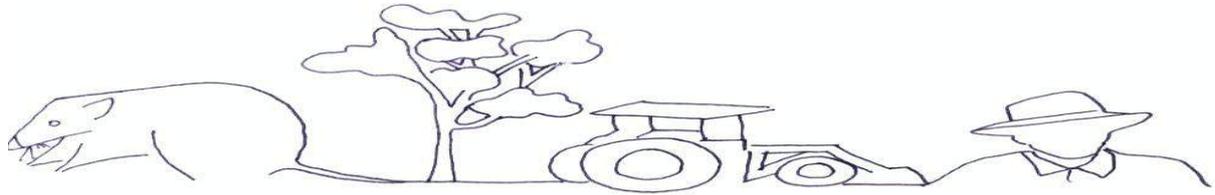
Annual Report 2015

- The Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group (PHBG) in partnership with Landcare SJ and the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, formed in 2014. The Group is a community organisation with the committee consisting of farmers, land managers, and representatives from State Government Agencies, Landcare SJ, and the Local Governments of Serpentine- Jarrahdale, Murray, Waroona, Harvey and Mandurah.
- **Vision:** That Declared Pests have no environmental, economic or social impact on the Peel Harvey Area (defined as the combined local government boundaries of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Murray, Waroona, Harvey and Mandurah).
- **Purpose:** To initiate, promote and foster the control of declared and other established pests in the Peel Harvey Area.
- **Key Goals:**
 - That all Cotton Bush is reduced by 75% in the PHBG high priority target areas and 100% of mature plants removed in those areas by 2019; and,
 - That a self sustaining biosecurity group is in place by 2018.



Our supporters...





Chairperson's Report

On the 28 November 2013 the Shire of Murray called a public meeting to discuss the wide spread of cotton bush and feral animals, within the shire.

This was followed by a meeting with Bevan Bessen; Bevan also attended several other meetings as our facilitator, setting a procedure for us to follow.

We formed a committee and had regular meetings; also attending field days and agriculture shows.

Michelle Mullarkey joined as our secretary, and has done an outstanding job. Thank you Michelle.

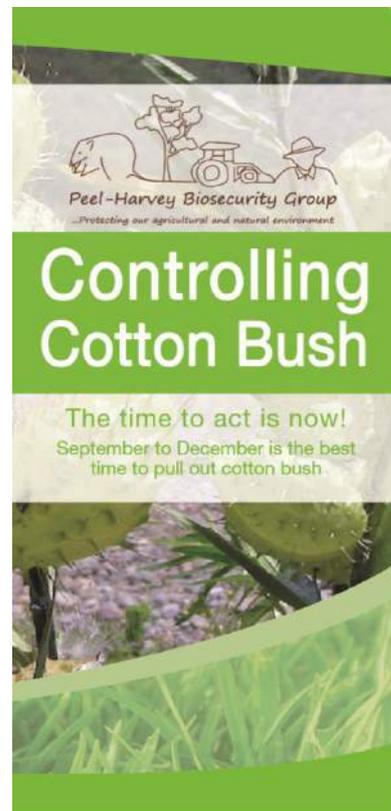
I believe we have made the farmers and general public very aware of Cotton Bush, with positive response to mapping heavy infestations of cotton bush in the four Shires and the City of Mandurah.

DAFWA issued work orders on several property owners. They successfully treated their properties, which was excellent.

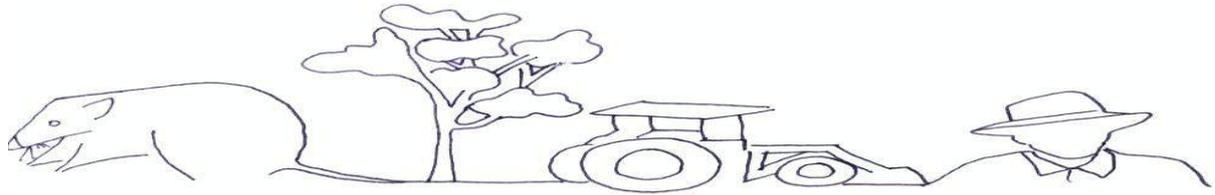
We have been concentrating on cotton bush so far as it is a major pest. In time we will be also concentrating on a wider range of pests.

I would thank all who have attended the PHBG meetings, and acknowledge their input which has been most helpful

Barrie Thomson
Chairman



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Organisational Outputs

- Co-operation and commitment of five Peel Local Governments established;
- Committee and sub-committee formed, regular meetings held;
- Signed MoU with Landcare SJ;
- Staff employed – Administration Assistant (April 2014 - 0.2 FTE) and Project Assistant (March 2015 – 0.2 FTE); and,
- Development and adoption of PHBG logo, Governance Guidelines and Strategic and Operational Plans.

Community Engagement Outputs

- Introductory letter to all properties in the Peel area over 5 Ha;
- 4000 Cotton Bush Flyers printed over half distributed (funding support from PHCC);
- 120 members generated in first year;
- Promotional and roadside banners used to promote cottonbush control;
- Facebook page established (65 likes);
- Chemical and Spray Pack Giveaway (67 vouchers issued, 42 vouchers redeemed);
 - Promotions at Pinjarra Festival, Waroona Show, Brunswick Show, Lake Clifton Fair;
- Workshops:
 - Cotton Bush Workshop – Dwellingup [Funding partners- Shire of Murray and DAFWA];
 - Feral Animal and Weeds Workshop – Waroona (35 attendees) [Funding partners- Waroona Landcare Centre, Landcare SJ, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, DPaW and DAFWA];
 - Weed Awareness Workshop – Pinjarra (30 attendees) [Funding partners- Peel Harvey Catchment Council, Shire of Murray and DAFWA];

Cotton Bush Control – Compliance Outcomes

- Target areas were nominated by PHBG Community Area Representatives for compliance as part of the DAFWA “community lead approach”;
- The Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) successfully completed its 2014 cotton bush compliance response across the Peel – Harvey and Leschenault catchment areas. This is the first response of its kind delivered under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act). The response involved 32 notifications across eight shires, more than 80 property inspections, issuing seven pest control notices with several properties requiring remedial action;
- Cotton Bush control in non-target areas close to target areas has been positive with many surrounding properties taking their own action.



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Financial Statements

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Statement of income and expenditure to period ending March 16, 2015

Income

DAFWA initial	\$	5,000	
Local Government contributions	\$	54,500	
SJ LCDC contribution	\$	5,000	
DAFWA matched	\$	58,500	\$ 123,000

Expenditure

Wages Michelle to March 13, 2015	\$	9,819	
Wages Teele to March 16, 2015	\$	522	
Administration fees to March 16, 2015	\$	9,020	
Operating costs	\$	8,415	
Vouchers redeemed	\$	1,190	\$ 28,966
net income			<u>\$ 94,034</u>

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at March 16, 2015.

Assets

Cash at Bank	\$	94,034
Total Assets	\$	94,034

Liabilities

Creditors	\$	1,700
Total Liabilities	\$	1,700
Net Assets	\$	<u>92,334</u>

Grant funding

Grant proposal submitted to DAFWA/Royalties for Regions biosecurity research and development fund for partnership project with ArborCarbon "*Using innovative remote sensing technologies and methods to map the distribution of cottonbush in the Peel-Harvey Region*" UNSUCCESSFUL. However, Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group has been asked to participate in a UWA/CSIRO partnership project under the same funding "*Structured Decision Making in Recognised Biosecurity Groups*," which, if granted, will result in approximately \$40 000 being allocated to PHBG for its participation [currently under assessment, announcement due late April 2015].

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and other established pests in the Peel Harvey Area.*