

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16



Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group

Protecting our agricultural and natural environment from pests

This report highlights the accomplishments of the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group made possible through its dedicated members, staff and partners.

For further information please email:
info@peelharveybiosecurity.info

Please cite this document as;

Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group (2016). *Annual Report 2015-16*. Mundijong, Western Australia:
Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group.

Our Vision

The impact of **priority pests** has been reduced to an acceptable level within the operational area of the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group.

Our Mission

To have the management of **priority pests** on the day-to-day agenda of all individuals, businesses, industry groups, community organisations and government departments who either reside, work or function within the operational area of the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group.

Our Role

To implement management and activity plans for **priority pests** that encourage landholder participation, foster education and knowledge exchange, support stakeholder communication and consultation, facilitate effective partnerships, build good governance structures and long-term funding mechanisms.

Our Backstory

A public meeting in 2013 indicated that pests, particularly cotton bush, are a major concern in the Peel-Harvey Region. In 2014 the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group formed to *initiate, promote and foster* the management of cotton bush and other established pests.

Our People

The PHBG committee is comprised of local government and community representatives from the City of Mandurah, as well as the Shires of Harvey, Murray, Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Waroona.

The PHBG is supported by two part-time positions; an executive officer and a communications/project officer.

The skill set common to all committee members and staff include big picture thinking, influencing skills and the ability to work cooperatively.

PHBG Local Government Representatives

Harvey – Samantha Pickering

Mandurah – Eryn Jackson

Murray – Tom Lerner

Serpentine Jarrahdale – Chris Portlock

Waroona – Leonard Long

PHBG Community Representatives

Harvey – Marion Lofthouse

Mandurah – Fiona Brown

Murray – Vaughn Byrd

Serpentine Jarrahdale – Athol Wigg

Waroona – Anthony Snell



Executive Officer, Jonelle Cleland, manning the PHBG stall at the Food and Farm Fest 2016.



Communications and Project Officer, Teele Hooper-Worrell, with bagged watsonia.

Glossary

Pest

An organism is considered a pest if the benefits (of it being present) are outweighed by the damage it will, or is causing to assets such as productive agricultural land, livestock, fisheries, forests, nature reserves and public infrastructure. Social assets, such as sense of place and well-being, can also be part of this equation.

Priority Pest

The pest status of an organism is dependent on the values and attitudes of the people who are concerned with its benefit and/or damage. It can differ between stakeholders, and change between localities and over time.

The significance of a weed will depend on whether a national, state, regional or local perspective is taken, and what criteria are considered. There is an increasing need to prioritise pests so that government and community groups can direct their limited resources to yield the greatest return. The Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group has compiled a provisional list of priority pests. This list will be available for public comment and can be adjusted according to feedback.

Operational area

At this point in time the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group includes the local government areas of Harvey, Mandurah, Murray, Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Waroona. There has been some discussion regarding expanding the operational area to more closely align with Peel-Harvey catchment boundary¹. If there is sufficient interest, this could see the inclusion of the Shires of Boddington, Williams and Wandering.

Recognised biosecurity group

The Minister for Agriculture and Food can accept a body as a Recognised Biosecurity Group under section 169 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) so long as its purpose includes managing declared pests² in a specified area. The BAM Act does not detail a process for recognition; however, the Minister must be confident that a prospective body (i) will undertake activities consistent with the BAM Act, (ii) can operate at a sufficient scale to effectively control declared pests across landscapes, (iii) has the capacity to manage any public funds it receives, and (iv) has legitimacy within its community to decide how to allocate these funds.

¹ Biosecurity is a key deliverable of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council; it has an established network of support staff located in Mandurah, Waroona and Boddington; and it engages with community groups throughout the region with on-ground investments in landcare and natural resource management.

² The BAM Act allows for organisms to be declared as pests in all or part of the State, and be categorised into different control and keeping categories.

Table of Contents

Our Vision	3
Our Mission	3
Our Role	3
Our Backstory	3
Our People	4
Glossary	5
Highlights	7
Key result areas	10
Priority pest management	11
Landholder participation	13
Communication & consultation	15
Education & knowledge exchange	19
Governance, partnerships & funding	21
Financial summary	25
Our partners	26

Highlights

The Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group (PHBG) continues to build its profile with new partnerships, consultation programs and awareness-raising campaigns.

“Forging new partnerships are critical for a community-based organisation such as ours – our resource and volunteer base has its limits. Besides, biosecurity is too big an issue to tackle in isolation”.

Vaughn Byrd, Acting Chairperson, PHBG.

In terms of garnering support and establishing new relationships, the PHBG’s top five achievements for 2015-16 were:

1. A contract with Repay WA (an initiative of the Department of Corrective Services) to remove infestations of cotton bush from the Serpentine and Yalgorup National Parks.
2. Sponsorship from the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, to host the National Rabbit Roadshow and a field day on Apple of Sodom and cotton bush.
3. A prospectus for students at Murdoch University to undertake research in the PHBG operational area as part of their post-graduate studies in biosecurity.
4. A partnership with Waroona District High School to deliver a pest curriculum to students in the Bush Cadets program. Funding has been secured to roll-out pest curriculum to primary and secondary schools across the PHBG operational area.
5. An invitation from the Western Australian Weeds Society to coordinate a field tour for the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference that was held in Perth.



Rangers from the Department of Parks and Wildlife involved in the Repay WA program at the Serpentine National Park.

“Getting out there and talking to people is a necessary part of getting our facts straight and being confident that we are taking on board the interests and concerns of our stakeholders”.

Jonelle Cleland, Executive Officer,
PHBG.



The PHBG sponsored a local trapper to attend its information stall to get people talking about vertebrate pest management.

With regards to providing avenues for feedback and building consultative networks, the PHBG’s top five achievements for 2015-16 were:

1. Permission to survey electors outside polling booths across the PHBG operational area on the day of the 2016 Federal Election.
2. Piloting a survey on cotton bush management at the Food and Farm Fest 2016 to be rolled out to landholders in the PHBG operational area.
3. Piloting a survey with committee members on governance and funding mechanisms to be rolled out to PHBG members.
4. Invitation to represent biosecurity groups across Western Australia as a member of the steering committee for the preparation of the *Invasive Species Post Border Surveillance and Diagnostic Strategy for Western Australia 2016-2021*.
5. Invitation to be part of the Natural Environment Fire Recovery Committee and sit on the Declared Plant Reference Group.

“We need to be smart about how we raise awareness of biosecurity issues – it isn’t just a matter of bombarding people with loads of information. We need to distil the main points ... What are the key features of the pest? What are the benefits/ repercussions of action/non-action? What are the most effective treatment options?”

Teele Hooper-Worrell, Communications Officer, PHBG.

The PHBG has been very active in developing a range of products and media for the PHBG cotton bush campaign. In this space, the PHBG’s top five achievements for 2015-16 were:

1. Car bumper stickers to raise awareness of the cotton bush seed pod (i.e. critical life stage for control efforts) and a call for community action.
2. Banners and signs to place along roadsides and at community events to alert the public of key times of the year to concentrate on cotton bush control.
3. Feature articles in newsletters, newspapers and on the PHBG website on effective treatment options.
4. Development of a Do’s and Don’ts flyer, supported by a Cotton Bush Management Plan for the PHBG operational area.
5. A joint funding submission (with the Serpentine Jarrahdale Men’s Shed) to preserve cotton bush seed pods in resin for education in schools, raising public awareness and possible sale as ‘biosecurity souvenirs’.



Cotton bush bunting hanging from the marquee set up at the Food and Farm Fest 2016.

Key Result Areas

The PHBG is currently developing its strategic framework for 2017-2020. The framework will be finalised after extensive and rigorous consultation with stakeholders and members of the public.

In the meantime, the operations of the PHBG are guided by five key result areas which include;



The following sections provide a brief overview of what has been achieved in each key result area for 2015-16. It also captures the PHBG's intentions for 2016-17.

Priority pest management

In most facets of life and business, resources are limited and some type of prioritisation process must happen to determine what is most important, and what happens next. The same process is applied to public expenditure, and in more recent times, fiscal constraint has seen budgets cut and a greater emphasis on returns on investment.

Pest management is no different. Voters and politicians set the funding agenda: government departments determine their priorities and fund programs and works according to their available budget. Businesses and individuals also make decisions about where they should invest their available resources.

In this context, it is essential that the PHBG prioritises its efforts. This will ensure that its limited resources are used efficiently, and it also means that the PHBG will be in a stronger position to lobby and advocate for greater public and private expenditure on its top picks. In devising its listing of priority pests the PHBG will consider the values and attitudes of its stakeholders, as well as scientific and socio-economic criteria.

The provisional list of pests includes:

Provisional list of priority pests:

Vertebrates

- Rabbits
- Foxes
- Feral pigs
- Rainbow lorikeet

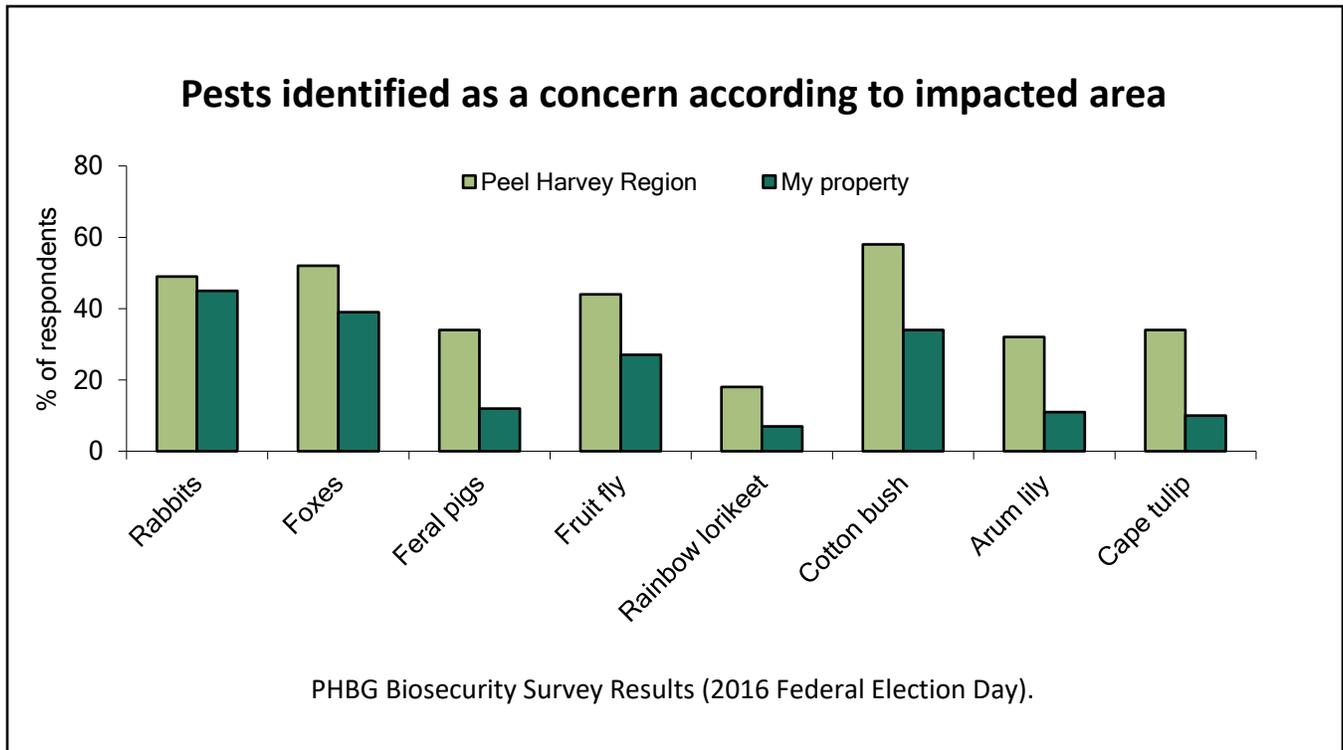
Plants

- Cotton bush
- Apple of Sodom
- Arum lily
- Cape tulip

Invertebrates

- Fruit fly

So far, feedback on the listing has been sought through a public survey conducted on the 2016 Federal Election Day. There was a high level of familiarity with listed pests, and respondents distinguished between perceived impacts on their property as compared to the region (see below).



Additional species noted by three or more respondents included feral cats, wild dogs and thistles. Subsequently, Apple of Sodom has been added to the list due to committee feedback and landholder interest.

A template is being developed for preparing management plans for each of the PHBG priority pests. The template is being formulated and tested on cotton bush, and the PHBG has received funding to prepare a management plan for an additional pest in 2016-17. All management plans will be written so that they can easily inform the preparation of a;

- A simple do's and don'ts flyer.
- A treatment calendar.
- A landholder engagement campaign.
- A stakeholder communication plan.

The PHBG is also mindful that landholders who responded to the survey conducted on the 2016 Federal Election Day, were most interested to receive information on cost effective control methods. There is a paucity of this type of information, and the PHBG intends in 2017-2016 to engage with landholders, farm advisors, pest contractors and government department officers to build a set of case studies that outline the costs and effectiveness of different treatment options for each priority pest.

Landholder participation

Whilst it is essential to have overarching policies and management plans in place, these can fail to have a positive impact at a local level if there is a lack of connectivity to people and place. Various options have been proposed to overcome this obstacle (coercive through to 'big-stick' approaches) and much research is being dedicated to the topic.

Based on the experiences of the PHBG to date, particularly in relation to the reduction of properties with cotton bush in the Shire of Harvey, there is a strong feeling that backing the local 'champions' for pest management is a good way to go. Towards this end, in 2016-17 the PHBG will actively promote landholder achievements and recruit those landholders who are leading the way in pest management.

“In early 2014 the Shire of Harvey had at least 90 properties with cotton bush. This number is now down to 30 properties. I wish to thank property owners who treat their cotton bush – their work is appreciated by neighbours and other community members”.

Marion Lofthouse, Community Representative,
PHBG.



Building informal networks of landholders is also another promising avenue for encouraging wider participation. General landholder inquiries to the PHBG now include a conversation about the importance of talking to neighbours about local pest issues and taking coordinated action for the management of priority pests. The PHBG can facilitate the formation of such networks, and has already done so with the establishment of a local cotton bush action group.

Whilst the PHBG endorses a community coordinated approach to biosecurity, and appreciates that the majority of people want to do the right thing, it believes there is still a place for compliance action. More so, given that it is the landholder's legal responsibility to manage declared pests on their property. Whilst compliance is currently administered by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, their shrinking operational budget requires attention. This could be achieved via lobbying, or

novel approaches using the provisions of the BAM Act (e.g. the Shire of Murray is presently exploring the option of pest fines issues by local government officers) and are matters open for consideration by the PHBG in 2016-17.

PHBG Biosecurity Survey Results

(Federal Election Day 2016)

“The vast majority of respondents agreed that their responsibility is to control pests on their property. Furthermore, the majority of respondents considered it was their responsibility to prevent the spread of pests. This implies that respondents are already receptive to pest management”.

Communication and consultation

The PHBG continues to be housed at the Mundijong office of Landcare SJ. This arrangement is highly beneficial – it means that the PHBG is accessible to members of the public any day of the week. Where the PHBG has limited support staff (that work in a part-time capacity), Landcare SJ staff are willing to engage with people who call in to talk about biosecurity matters, or alternatively take messages for PHBG staff to follow up.

However, it is acknowledged that the Mundijong office is located at the northern end of the PHBG operational area, and that the PHBG must provide opportunities and avenues for members of the public located in other areas to receive information and engage with the PHBG. Likewise, department offices are located in bigger regional centres or in Perth, and additional effort is required to set up personal relationships with key personnel.

In 2015-16 these challenges were addressed in a number of different ways, including; surveys, information stalls and events, representation on committees and setting up meetings with key individuals, media coverage through radio and newspaper features, traffic through social media, and roundtables and public meetings.

Surveys

After gaining approval from the Electoral Commission, the PHBG conducted a short survey of people leaving polling booths on the day of the 2016 federal election. Seventy seven people were interviewed by committee members and PHBG staff, with viewpoints elicited on priority pests, landholder responsibilities, and information needs. The PHBG also piloted a survey on cotton bush management at the Food and Farm Fest 2016. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with 12 people visiting the PHBG information stall. The survey has been refined according to respondent feedback, and will be available on the PHBG website in the coming months. Most recently, the PHBG piloted a survey on governance structures and delivery mechanisms with its committee members. Once adjusted according to committee feedback, it will be administered to its current membership base of 152 people.

Information stalls at community events

The PHBG ran a highly successful information stall at the Food and Farm Fest 2016. Many families were drawn into the stall with an engaging children's activity on offer. The activity involved children following a series of steps to make a cotton bush seed pod out of play dough, matchsticks, glitter and funny eyes. This provided an opportunity to talk to parents whilst their children were amused, and offered an opportunity to connect with a demographic that can be difficult to access in natural resource management. Many small landholders were not aware that cotton bush was an issue in the region.

In 2016-17 attendance at community events will be a high priority for the PHBG. The Group will pursue avenues to join with other organisations on their stands, in order to access people outside its network.

This approach is being taken for the 2016 Waroona Show, whereby the PHBG will join with the bush cadets from Waroona District High School.



Children busy creating cotton bush seed pods at the Food and Farm Fest 2016.

PHBG information events

Organising information events on specific topics are a good tactic, but can be incredibly disappointing if the turnout is low. In 2014-2015 the PHBG had a bad run with events not having a good turnout, or having to be cancelled.

For this reason, the PHBG looked for opportunities where it was backed by organisations with a large outreach and audience. In May of this year the PHBG coordinated an information session in Waroona on the MyWeedWatcher app (state government initiative), and on rabbit biocontrol and the RDH Boost Project (federal government initiative). The turn-out was adequate given local circumstances (i.e. many landholders were focused on fire-recovery).



People gathered for a PHBG sundowner and information session on reporting weeds and rabbit management.

A big item on the events calendar is the upcoming field day on cotton bush and Apple of Sodom. Registrations are high, which is largely due to the committee spreading the word amongst landholders

and key stakeholders. This is a critical factor in determining the success of the event, and should be carefully contemplated in the planning of future events.

Representation on committees and setting up meetings with key individuals

At a state-level, the PHBG is representing the interests of biosecurity groups across Western Australia in the preparation of the *Invasive Species Post Border Surveillance and Diagnostic Strategy for Western Australia 2016-2021*. The PHBG also now sits on the Declared Plant Reference Group. These positions have been highly valuable in terms of making acquaintances with personnel at directorial and managerial level. This was very helpful for directing requests for support for the Repay WA program in the Department of Parks and Wildlife. It has also lead to an offer of support from the Invasive Animals CRC, which is very encouraging given its national profile in research and engagement.

At a regional-level, the PHBG is a member of the Natural Environment Fire Recovery Committee. This has been a very productive role, with the PHBG attracting corporate funding to deal with a post-fire recovery issue (i.e. rodents in Yarloop townsite) and supporting local government in their applications for funding.

The PHBG has also been proactive and set up meetings with key individuals to find synergies and opportunities for collaboration. An example of such a meeting was with the academic chair of biosecurity and food security at Murdoch University, to establish the possibility for research being conducted in the PHBG operational area. Indeed, the PHBG has been provided with the opportunity to write up research proposals for honours and post-graduate research.

Media coverage

The PHBG has issued media releases and been sought for comment on a range of biosecurity issues by local and regional media outlets. Radio interviews were on the topic of the use of the MyWeedWatcher App and pest management after fire. Newspapers have been used to great effect to promote the upcoming PHBG field day – the PHBG initially issued a media release (that was picked up as a feature story), facilitated a follow-up interview and photo opportunity, and paid for advertising space over number of weeks.

In 2016-17, the PHBG will be more active in pursuing opportunities to promote its growing number of *achievements* through newspaper and radio outlets in the region.

Traffic through social media

The PHBG regularly posted local stories and links to important biosecurity news and bulletins (state and national) on its website and Facebook page. The content is increasingly becoming more diverse in its focus including weeds, as well as vertebrate and invertebrate pests.

As a result through the 2015-2016 year the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Facebook page has seen a rise in its 'likes' and 'reach' growing from 65 likes to 185 (as of September 2016). Post reach has grown as more people interact with the group and last week's reach was over 600 people, with an average of 130.

The PHBG have been involved with more combined events alongside government stakeholders. This has provided an avenue to link social media posts and articles which has resulted in a broadening of the PHBG media reach. Every time this happens the PHBG brand is introduced to new people and networks, growing the community reach and position of the group. Social media is a relatively new but growing avenue for groups such as the PHBG to interact with its community. Through events, articles and sharing of interesting stories the PHBG will seek to continue the growth and popularity of its social media and continue to develop it as a communication tool in 2016-17.

Roundtables and public meetings

The PHBG has been successful in securing funds to run a series of roundtables and a public forum in 2016-17. There will be separate roundtables for;

- Government stakeholders including local government authorities, Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Main Roads, Water Corporation and the Department of Planning.
- Industry and business stakeholders with large or strategic land holdings, including Brookfield Rail, ALCOA, MZI, etc.
- Representative, advisory and advocacy groups including the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, Landcare groups, ratepayers associations, WA Farmers, etc.

The outcomes of each roundtable will be reported at the public forum, and a mandate for biosecurity will be proposed and discussed.

Education and knowledge exchange

In 2015-16, the PHBG actively sought the guidance of a number of teaching professionals (both within and outside the PHBG operational area) to formulate its position on education and knowledge exchange for pest management. It has been determined that the PHBG will take a holistic approach, with efforts to be directed across the full spectrum of learning (i.e. primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary levels). Many opportunities exist in this area; for example, Murdoch University is increasing its presence in the region and there are many new schools opening in the growth zones.

Funding has been secured for 2016-17 to engage with local primary and secondary schools to develop curriculum and resources that have local relevance and meet teacher needs under the Australian Curriculum. Early discussions have raised the possibility of the secondary pest curriculum being used toward vocational training and certification. The PHBG is actively seeking partners in this space: the PHBG has already submitted a grant application with the Serpentine Jarrahdale Men's Shed to preserve cotton bush seed pods in resin as an education resource. It also opens the door for knowledge exchange, and opportunities for innovation, with groups outside natural resource management.

The PHBG will also anticipate that it will be a conduit for other organisations to train people in pest management. The PHBG recently organised for local government and environmental officers to be trained in the use of the MyWeedWatcher, developed by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia.



The PHBG coordinated a MyWeedWatcher training session for local government and environmental officers in the region.

Governance, partnerships and funding

Good Governance

In short, good governance keeps an organisation honest and out of trouble. For an organisation in its infancy – which is the case for the PHBG – it is about the establishment of policies and procedures, and monitoring their implementation. Over time, these practices will transform into a philosophy and culture unique to the PHBG. Indeed, the PHBG's ability to attract partners and funding into the future will be heavily reliant on its reputation for delivering on criteria such as performance, legitimacy and transparency.

With this said, it is important to note that there is a large transaction cost in building governance structures. This underlies why the PHBG, to date, has been operating under the umbrella of Landcare SJ³.

The PHBG *is* transitioning to become an independent and incorporated body in 2016-17. Towards this end the PHBG has registered its name with the Department of Commerce, reviewed the new model rules and started discussing the parameters of its own constitution. This conversation also raised the option of a collaborative governance arrangement with the State Government. On this point, the PHBG attended an information session on becoming a Recognised Biosecurity Group (see Glossary, page 5) hosted by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, in May of this year. It also attended a networking forum to hear the thoughts of other biosecurity groups in the South West Land Division, and hosted a representative from the Western Australian Local Government Association to talk about their position on the matter.

The PHBG supports becoming a Recognised Biosecurity Group *in principle*. However, the PHBG is mindful of managing public perceptions around this collaborative governance arrangement. The PHBG will seek recognition in 2016-17, but it has no intention of negotiating a Declared Pest rate unless there is community interest and support to do so.

Effective partnerships

For the PHBG, functioning at a regional scale necessitates the formation of partnerships that operate 'upwards', 'downwards' and 'sideways'. Alternatively, this can be thought of as forming partnerships with the big players, little players and players on a similar footing.

³ Since its inception the PHBG has been supported by Landcare SJ and the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale through their administration, human resource and financial accounting and management systems (under a memorandum of understanding). In turn, the PHBG has adhered to the policies and procedures of its sponsors.

Interestingly, partnerships formed by the PHBG in 2015-16 have morphed to include elements of each. Getting organisations and individuals to ‘jump on board’ is proving to be very effective way to garner additional support and resources, as well as extend or expand the outcomes of the initiative.

This is illustrated in the table below.

Initiative/project	Who made initial contact with the PHBG?	Who did the PHBG initially approach to partner with?	Who else came on board?	What was the follow-on investment or spin-off?
National Rabbit Roadshow	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia	Peel-Harvey Catchment Council	Landcare Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Release site for virus - Monitoring initiative - Training initiative
On-ground community/ environmental works program	Peel-Harvey Catchment Council	RePay WA	Department of Parks and Wildlife	Works programs in two National Parks
International weeds conference	Weeds Society of Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landcare Groups - Local businesses - Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Parks and Wildlife - Heritage Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Product for use in the field - Social media network expanded
Field day	NA	- Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local businesses - Local media - Other biosecurity groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Product for use in the field (see letter below) - Landholder network
Fire recovery (pests)	Natural Environment Fire Recovery Committee	- Big business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local and regional media - Fire Recovery Centre 	- Donation of product to local residents (see photograph below)

Hi Jonelle, thanks so much for your work in organising this field trip. In appreciation, I'm giving the Peel-Harvey BG this amazing new Fiskers Weed Puller! I hope you and other members of PHBG can try it out and put it to good use 😊

Sandy Lutzel
President, Weeds Society of WA Inc.

Letter from the President of the Weeds Society of Western Australia acknowledging the efforts of the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group.



PHBG's acting chair, Vaughn Byrd, presenting a set of rodent repellents to a local resident of Yarloop at the six month anniversary (after the January fire) morning tea.

Long-term funding

In 2015-16 the PHBG was successful with two funding applications under state government programs that have monies dedicated to capacity building for newly formed biosecurity groups. This has boosted income to the group by a total of \$105,000. However, these programs have clear expectations around how monies should be spent and there is a considerable shortfall in funds for employing staff and supporting their roles (e.g. travel to different parts of the PHBG operational area as part of their day-to-day duties).

At this point in time, local government contributions for 2016-17 have only been approved by the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. The Shire of Murray has made an allocation, however, this will only be forthcoming if cotton bush remains on the listing of declared pests which is presently under review. The Shire of Harvey has been approached to consider whether they would make an allocation under a memorandum of understanding on how the monies would be spent.

The PHBG is in a challenging position with regards to long-term funding. The state government has proposed a funding model whereby recognised biosecurity groups raise a rate (matched dollar for dollar by the state government) each year to complete an annual activity plan. However, this model has generally not found favour with local governments across the South West Land Division. An alternative proposal put forward is that local government contributions to biosecurity groups are matched dollar for dollar by the state government. This was the case in the start-up phase of biosecurity groups, and there is an argument that it will avoid collection fees imposed by the Department of State Revenue. On the flip-side, there is no certainty that a local government will make an annual contribution to its representative biosecurity group.

Indeed, in 2016-17 the PHBG will need to explore in detail the opportunities and associated transaction costs of pursuing different funding mechanisms. Some initial thoughts on the options are:

- Given that the PHBG has limited staff, the time invested in preparing funding applications and reporting on expenditure and outcomes, must be off-set with grants of a substantial amount.
- The likelihood of corporate sponsorship is somewhat diminished in the current economic climate.
- Opportunities for fee-for-service and more novel approaches such a crowd funding need to be looked into.
- A declared pest rate would need community support before being actively pursued by the PHBG as a funding mechanism.

Financial summary

An independent audit report for the financial period starting 1 July 2015 and ending 30 June 2016 was compiled by public accountant, Wayne David Nurse, in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

PEEL – HARVEY BIOSECURITY GROUP
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

RECEIPTS

Brought Forward Balance from 1 July 2015	86,130.45
Grant – SNRMO	50,000.00
Grant – Royalties for Regions	55,000.00
Publication Sales	<u>40.91</u>
Total Receipts	191,171.36

PAYMENTS

Advertising	272.73
Audit Fee	300.00
Employment Expenses	3,398.92
Insurance	2,737.22
Management Fee	10,800.00
Meeting Costs	768.02
MV Travel Reimbursement	1,378.00
Postage	276.99
Printing	5,155.70
Project Supplies	117.42
Staff Training	90.91
Stationery	217.79
Telephones	776.37
Wages & Salaries	26,711.78
Website Costs	1,560.00
Weed Control	337.89
Workshops	<u>713.70</u>
Total Payments	55,613.44

NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) **135,557.92**

CLOSING RETAINED CASH BALANCE
AS AT 30 JUNE 2016 **135,557.92**
(AS HELD ON TRUST BY LANDCARE SJ)

Our partners



natural resource management program



Government of Western Australia
Department of Corrective Services



Department of
Agriculture and Food



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Local Landcare centers: Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare and Waroona Landcare