



Implementing Bindjareb Djilba

A plan for the protection of the Peel-Harvey estuary

The Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan provides a framework of actions over at least a 10-year period that, if taken together, will improve the water-quality of the Peel-Harvey estuary. The plan sets management goals to protect and enhance the values of the estuary based on a scientific understanding of the health of the rivers and estuaries in the coastal plain portion of the catchment. The plan collates actions across the estuary and its catchment and asks for many groups to work together to protect the water quality of the Peel-Harvey estuary for future generations.

The recommended actions are grouped into the following categories:

- 1. Catchment actions** to reduce current nutrient and organic matter losses from both the agricultural and urban catchments to the Peel-Harvey estuary.
- 2. Plans, Policy and Partnership actions** to support better integration of planning decisions and reduce nutrients and organic matter entering the estuary in the future.
- 3. Estuary and Measuring Progress actions** to enable, support and measure water quality improvements.



It is envisaged that the plan will be implemented in stages as policy is developed, suitable projects are identified and scopes of work developed.

Plans to improve water quality in the Peel-Harvey estuary and other estuaries are not new. Many of the actions identified in these plans (including the 2008 Water Quality Improvement Plan) were implemented and refined with funding from the recent Regional Estuaries Initiative.

The first stage of implementing the Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan will be to continue those actions that have been shown to be effective, and building on these with new and innovative approaches. This will be achieved through the Healthy Estuaries WA program which works across seven catchments through partnerships between government agencies, agricultural industries, farmers and community organisations.



About \$1 million per year from the Royalties for Regions-funded Healthy Estuaries WA program will be delivered directly to implementing the plan, with a further \$500,000 per year invested by delivery partners.

Actions included in this funding are:

\$740,000

Improved management of diffuse and point-source agricultural nutrients through fertiliser management, use of soil amendments, best-practice agriculture, stock exclusion from streams and effluent management.

(C1, C2, C3, C4, C7, C8, C10)

\$360,000

Improve drainage water quality through the use of innovative material to remove phosphorus.

(C16)

\$300,000

Catchment and water quality monitoring and estuary response modelling to direct actions and report on progress.

(E9, M1, M2, M3, M4, M5)

\$100,000

Developing policy and partnerships, including Bindjareb Noongar participation in estuary management.

(P12, P13)



Protecting the community values of the Peel-Harvey estuary requires broader coordinated policy initiatives which will be progressively implemented over the coming four years, including a revision of the Environmental Protection (Peel Inlet-Harvey Estuary) Policy 1992 and relevant Statements of Planning Policy by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Current policies such as the Government Sewerage Policy and Priority Agriculture and Rural Land Use Policy will also be implemented in a way consistent with the objectives of the Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan.

(P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11)

Fisheries will be managed consistent with the protection of community values.

(E1, E2, E3, E4)

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation will establish a coordinating committee to guide implementation of the plan.

(P1)

