



Pilbara Environmental Offset Fund

A summary of the Implementation Advisory Groups' meeting on 16 March 2021

Name	Position	Sector they are representing
Clare Meredith	Secretariat - Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)	NA
Carolyn Harding	Botanist - Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)	NA
Nygarie Goyal	A/Executive Director – Strategy and Engagement - DWER	CHAIR - State government
Cody Rampant	Manager – Land management north - Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)	State government
Lesley Gibson	Principal research scientist - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	State government
Jo Williams (on the phone)	NRM project manager - Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee (PMMC)	Natural Resource Management
Blair Parsons	Science and Programs Leader – Western Region, Greening Australia	Natural Resource Management
Kimberley Flowerdew	Principal Environment - Analysis & Improvement (BHP Minerals)	WA Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME)
Owen Nevin	CEO - WABSI	Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute
Mallory Owen	Major Projects Strategy section	Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Nygarie introduced herself as Acting ED and Chair of the IAG for the foreseeable future
- Nygarie welcomed Owen Nevin from WABSI, who is replacing Denise True, and noted that Phil Davidson from API, now representing AMEC, had been appointed to the IAG, but was an apology.

2. Progress since last IAG meeting

- MoU signed with the Cwlth in November 2020 to enable EPBC Offset payments to be receipted to the Fund
- DWER invoiced for the first two EPBC Act payments last week.
- A concept plan was developed and endorsed by the Minister for Environment in November 2020 to guide the co-design of projects, with a focus on riparian management, fire, and new information.
- Projects are being developed with regional land managers and Traditional Owners. Land alliance, who is coordinating this work, has drafted a report summarising potential projects.
- The monitoring and evaluation draft framework are still in development – and is taking longer than expected due to resourcing issues.

3. Outstanding actions

Action: DWER to meet to discuss complementary on-ground monitoring approaches in the Pilbara rangelands

Action: DWER to present to the Pastoral Lands Board on the program in June 2021



- Action: DWER to engage with DPC regarding the security for offsets plan. Clare to begin this at the Pilbara Cultural Land Management Forum in Roebourne.
- Action: DWER to follow up with DPIRD on scope of regional biosecurity operational plan.

4. Program updates

Grant Project

- DWER is finalizing the funding agreement with Budadee for Stage 1 of the Woodstock Abydos Project
- The first stage of the project will focus on weed management and establishment of baseline monitoring sites along the Yule River. This will complement other NRM weed management programs in the area.

Pilot Project

- DBCA finalised their floristic survey report in February which will inform discussions with BHP on the fence alignment.
- DWER is entering into a heritage agreement with Karlka Nyiyaparli for the project
- DWER is seeking advice on whether covenants under *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* triggers a future act under Native Title.
- DWER is finalising the scope of stage 2 of the project with Karlka Nyiyaparli and Greening Australia.

Security for offsets plan

- A cross government team (DPLH, DMIRS, DWER) has been established to develop a security for offsets plan by November 2021 - which is a requirement of the MoU with the Commonwealth.
- The project plan has been finalised and the team is providing advice to DWER on government process to assess the suitability of offset protection mechanisms (e.g. from tenure change to biodiversity covenants)
- Consultation with State Government Executive Directors from DMIRS and DPLH will begin over the next month.
- This work will inform delivery of offsets in other parts of the state

Action: Lesley to follow up with DBCA on team and ED contacts for security for offset plan.

Action: DWER to consider how maintaining the offset over term is built into the security plan (or how it is captured)

Action: DWER to seek clarity from DAWE on what minimum-security requirements for project.

TO Membership on the IAG

- Pilbara Aboriginal Voice have still not provided any nominees for the IAG (there are two Traditional Owner positions on the IAG)

Action: DWER will request nomination through the Pilbara Cultural Land Management forum and/or other government advisory groups.

5. Divestment of Aboriginal Lands and management of UCL

- DPLH is investigating removing land from the Aboriginal Lands trust and placing control of it with Aboriginal people



- This could include tenure change and will be done by agreement with the relevant Traditional Owner Groups. DPLH will focus on negotiating with groups that have native title determined and prescribed body corporates with functioning governance arrangements.
- DPLH ran through the different tenure options that could be pursued based on the underlying rights and interests to land.
- DPLH advised DWER to start early engagement and be part of some of the divestment discussions with Traditional Owners, given these parcels of land may provide security for offsets if tenure change progresses.

Actions: DPLH to provide DWER with a map of the proposed divestment sites and a list of the Traditional Owner groups affected.

Action: DPLH to include Clare in conversations via Sian Hanrahan who is the new ALT divestment director.

Action: DWER to provide DPLH with priority area shapefiles (noting that they are a starting point for focusing work)

6. 2020-25 project design

- DWER contracted land alliance to summarise potential projects in each priority area, aligned to the themes of fire and riparian vegetation, based on conversations with regional land managers and Traditional Owners.
- IAG commented that long term projects are needed and is one of the positives of the Pilbara Fund.
- Shift from threat based projects to management of areas for vegetation and habitat outcomes.
- Discussion around the complexity of coordinated fire management in the Pilbara, given there is no organization that currently coordinates fire across tenure.
- Additionality concerns around fire projects raised by the DAWE.

Actions: DWER to provide word version of report to IAG for comment.

7. Project development process – for IAG input

- DWER presented the draft process for co-design of a project for input from the IAG. The IAG provided feedback and highlighted it's clarified it's role in the process.

Action: DWER to update flowchart and circulate to the IAG. IAG advice on defining criteria and parameters for stakeholder engagement to be incorporated into the co-design process going forward.

8. Monitoring and evaluation framework

- DWER presented concepts underpinning monitoring and evaluation framework
- IAGs role is to provide the 'pub' test. Technical information will be compiled and submitted to the IAG and they will review whether the program is delivering against the required outcomes.

Action: Program manager to send Monitoring and Evaluation framework to IAG to consider once complete.

Conflicts of interest noted at the meeting –

- Jo Williams is the sole employee of the Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee and she may be involved in delivering some of the projects being developed (as documented in the land alliance report)

Next meeting: 15 June.