



# peel

PROGRESSIVE | PROSPEROUS | DYNAMIC

## Thriving Industry

Supporting emerging technologies and innovation

## Agriculture and Food Innovation

Transforming ideas into new products and market opportunities

## RED Grants

Helping Peel businesses scale up their operations



# In this issue

<b>SUPPORT FOR AGRIFOOD &amp; BEVERAGE BUSINESSES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PEEL HOSTS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FIPWA OFFICIALLY OPENS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>GOLD AWARD FOR PEEL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>FRONTIER ENERGY'S BRISTOL SPRINGS PROJECT</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>REGION IN FOCUS: SHIRE OF SJ</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PERTH &amp; PEEL HYDROGEN CLUSTER</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) GRANTS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>PEEL BUSINESS PARK NEWS</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>BODDINGTON'S SUMMER BY THE RIVER FESTIVAL</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>KINSHIP FARMS FLAGSHIP PROJECT</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>MANDURAH CRAB FEST</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>WAALITJ HUB BUSINESS BUILDER EVENT</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>MCCUSKER CENTRE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESS</b>	<b>42</b>



Cover: Bystronic Xact Smart Press Brake in operation at Kanyana Engineering in Mandurah. Photo: Nextt Frame Photography.



## Peel Development Commission

45 Mandurah Terrace (PO Box 543)  
Mandurah Western Australia 6210

Phone: (08) 9535 4140

Fax: (08) 9535 2119

Email: [peel@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:peel@peel.wa.gov.au)

[www.peel.wa.gov.au](http://www.peel.wa.gov.au)

[www.facebook.com/  
peeldevelopmentcommission](https://www.facebook.com/peeldevelopmentcommission)

[www.linkedin.com/company/peel-  
development-commission](https://www.linkedin.com/company/peel-development-commission)

## Disclaimer

The Western Australian Government is committed to quality services to its customers and makes every attempt to ensure accuracy, currency and reliability of the data contained in these documents. However, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may affect the quality of this information. Confirmation of the information may be sought from originating bodies or departments providing the information.



Department of  
**Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**

## Peel Development Commission Board

**Mr David Doepel** Chair

**Mayor Rhys Williams** Deputy Chair

**Cr David Bolt**

**Mrs Michelle Sidebottom**

**Ms Sue Daley**

**Ms Adwoa Abban Dwumfour**

## Peel Development Commission Staff

**Andrew Ward**

*Chief Executive Officer*

**E** [andrew.ward@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:andrew.ward@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Stefan Chappell**

*Principal Regional Development Officer*

**E** [stefan.chappell@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:stefan.chappell@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Therese Ejsak**

*Local Content Adviser*

**E** [therese.ejsak@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:therese.ejsak@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Anne Evans**

*Corporate Communications Officer*

**E** [communications@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:communications@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Simone Hutton**

*Grants and Projects Officer*

**E** [simone.hutton@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:simone.hutton@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Zoe Ibbotson**

*Customer Service Officer*

**E** [cso@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:cso@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Natalie Lees**

*Principal Regional Development Officer*

**E** [natalie.lees@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:natalie.lees@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Wendy Muir**

*Principal Regional Development Officer*

**E** [wendy.muir@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:wendy.muir@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Adrian Parker**

*Director, Regional Development*

**E** [adrian.parker@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:adrian.parker@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Ben Robins**

*Regional Development Officer*

**E** [ben.robins@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:ben.robins@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Larissa Stacy**

*Regional Development Officer*

**E** [larissa.stacy@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:larissa.stacy@peel.wa.gov.au)

**Kylie Wilson**

*Executive Officer to CEO & Chair*

**E** [eo@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:eo@peel.wa.gov.au)

## Publisher

**Peel Development Commission**

## Editor

**Anne Evans**

*Corporate Communications Officer*

## Graphic Designer

**Josephine Eynaud**

*Redtail Graphic Design*

## Advertising

**Like to advertise in the next edition of Peel Magazine?**

*Please contact Anne Evans for further information*

**E** [communications@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:communications@peel.wa.gov.au)

Peel Development Commission is a statutory authority established in 1993 by the Western Australian State Government under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. The Commission is one of nine regional development commissions across the State, each established and operating under the same legislation.





# Chair's Welcome



**Welcome to the latest edition of *Peel Magazine*, where we delve into the exciting developments in industry and agri-innovation in the Peel region, aligning with our *Strategic Plan 2023–2025*, which outlines our goals, objectives, and deliverables for the next three years.**

A significant milestone in the Peel's journey towards becoming an innovation hub in the food and beverage industry was achieved with the official opening of the Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia (FIPWA) in February.

We proudly highlight the Shire of Waroona's work in promoting sustainable agriculture, food innovation, and modernising land use strategies, while also exploring opportunities for a Green Industry precinct in the Peel.

With a strong commitment to supporting Western Australia's agriculture, fisheries, and food industries, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) collaborates with government, industry, and business in the Agribusiness, Food, and Trade area to facilitate value-added initiatives, investment, and export opportunities,

solidifying the state's position as a thriving hub for these sectors. Learn more on pages 2–3 about the support available for WA agrifood and beverage businesses.

This edition shines a spotlight on the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (SJ) as our Region in Focus. SJ is a dynamic community experiencing rapid growth and transformation into a bustling urban sector. The Shire's commitment to providing infrastructure, local job opportunities, and a connected community exemplifies the challenges and opportunities that come with this change.

At the recent Peel Regional Growth & Major Projects conference, I delivered a talk titled 'The Peel Region Set for Growth'. The conference highlighted the value of collaboration between industry, investors, businesses, community, and government representatives in driving the region's growth. With projections suggesting a population of up to 444,000 by 2050, creating more job opportunities within the region is crucial to support this growth.

One exciting aspect of our region's future is the potential of hydrogen. Emerging hydrogen projects like

Frontier Energy's Bristol Springs in Waroona hold promise for the Peel's economic development. Learn more about the impact of hydrogen in the region in our articles on the Perth & Peel Hydrogen Cluster and Frontier Energy.

The Peel Development Commission remains committed to driving change and supporting regional development. As advocates and partners, we identify and support opportunities, coordinate across government agencies, and promote sustainable growth, leveraging our strategic advantages and fostering collaboration for a vibrant and resilient future for the Peel.

In this edition of *Peel Magazine*, we explore the successes and initiatives contributing to the region's thriving industry and agri-innovation, celebrating the accomplishments of the Peel and exploring the potential that lies ahead.

**David Doepel**

Chair, Peel Development Commission

## THRIVING INDUSTRY

Peel's comparative advantages, including a strong existing manufacturing industry, position it as a uniquely promising region for substantial economic development and growth in Western Australia.

Photo © Murray Engineering



**“Collaboration: powering growth and creating jobs for a thriving region.”**



# CEO's Management Report



**As the Peel Development Commission continues to work with key stakeholders to enhance the region's current economic base, we remain committed to our goal of attracting investment to the Peel and advancing our industries and businesses to be diverse and globally competitive.**

Our ongoing efforts focus on identifying new market opportunities, supporting industry diversification and growth, and promoting business innovation and capability.

In this issue, we are pleased to share the latest news from Peel Business Park, a vital driver of economic growth that provides opportunities for businesses in a wide range of sectors.

DevelopmentWA did a fantastic job of delivering Stage 1 of the Park, which included the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, Food Innovation Precinct WA, and a renewable energy industrial microgrid providing green energy to Park customers.

Stage 2 is currently underway, with numerous lots already sold and

businesses expressing their interest in joining the thriving park. We're excited to see this development progress and continue to invigorate the Peel region.

In line with our strategic initiative to capture opportunities in the evolving low-carbon economy, we actively collaborate with industry partners in the Perth & Peel Hydrogen Cluster to explore the potential of the emerging hydrogen sector.

Round 6 of the Regional Economic Development Grants (RED Grants) is now open, with a focus on manufacturing and agriculture in line with our strategic plan. RED Grants offer invaluable financial support for projects that drive economic growth in the Peel region, stimulating job creation, encouraging innovation, and expanding industry.

We congratulate the recipients of Round 5, including the historic Exchange Hotel in Pinjarra, which has achieved significant milestones this year. We also showcase two past recipients to demonstrate how the RED Grants program contributes to their operations and growth.

We are proud to have been awarded Gold in our division at this year's W.S. Lonnie Awards for excellence in annual reporting, reflecting our commitment to transparency and accountability.

The Commission also hosted the inaugural Regional Development Collaboration Workshop, bringing together practitioners from across the state. This event provided a valuable platform for collaboration and problem-solving in delivering regional development outcomes.

We thank you for your continued support as we work towards achieving our strategic goals and building a bright and prosperous future for the Peel region. 🌱

**Andrew Ward**

Chief Executive Officer  
Peel Development Commission

## Support for agrifood and beverage businesses in WA



**WORDS & IMAGES** | Department  
of Primary Industries and Regional  
Development

**As Western Australia solidifies its position as a hub for agriculture, fisheries, and food industries, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is committed to supporting the growth and development of these sectors for the benefit of the State.**

The Agribusiness, Food, and Trade area of DPIRD works in partnership with government, industry, and business to facilitate growth in the value, competitiveness, and diversification of WA's agrifood sector through value-adding, investment, and export.





To achieve this goal, DPIRD's Agribusiness, Food, and Trade area offers a range of resources and support to assist businesses in the agriculture, fisheries, and food industries. These resources include enabling investment, agribusiness development, trade market access and export development, food promotion and development, as well as agribusiness knowledge and strategic insights.

If you're a business in the agriculture, fisheries, or food industries looking to access new markets, develop new opportunities, or improve production and processing efficiencies, here are some resources to get you started:

- **Stay informed with DPIRD e-newsletters:**

**Agribusiness, Food & Trade Newsletter:** Provides updates and articles of interest on topics and projects related to this departmental section. Go to: [www.agric.wa.gov.au/newsletters/fii](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/newsletters/fii)

**Western Australian Agrifood Export eNews:** Get weekly updates on WA's agrifood and fisheries exports. It's a valuable resource for anyone involved or interested in the state's

agribusiness, commercial fishing, and aquaculture industries. Go to [www.agric.wa.gov.au/export-services/western-australian-agrifood-export-eneews](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/export-services/western-australian-agrifood-export-eneews)

- **Value Add Investment Grants — Supercharge your WA food and beverage manufacturing business**

DPIRD is offering grants of \$30,000 to \$200,000 to support local agribusinesses in expanding, diversifying, and planning for future growth. These individual grants are available through the Feasibility stream of the Value Add Investment Grants, which is open until 30 June 2024. The Feasibility stream provides financial support for planning, feasibility studies, and de-risking activities to facilitate investment decisions for eligible capital projects.

- **Join the WA Food and Beverage Network Facebook Group**

This Facebook group is a supportive and interactive online space where you can connect and collaborate with others in the WA food and beverage sector. Link: [www.facebook.com/groups/WAFoodBeverageNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WAFoodBeverageNetwork)

## WA to host premier agrifood tech event

AgriFutures Australia's evokeAG. Conference is coming to Perth in 2024, providing a significant opportunity for Western Australia's agrifood innovation community.

Supported by the McGowan Government, evokeAG. is the premier agrifood tech event in the Asia-Pacific region, connecting agrifood innovators from around the world to enhance technology and investment across the agrifood, fibre, and fisheries industries. The conference will attract farmers, processors, innovators, start-ups, researchers, and investors, providing a great opportunity for agrifood businesses in the Peel region to connect with international and national representatives, showcase their innovations, and network. The event will be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on 20–21 February 2024, presenting a significant economic boost for the state and highlighting Western Australia's potential as a hub for agrifood innovation and investment.



Minister Jackie Jarvis MLC, DPIRD's ED Liam O'Connell, Bill Ryan from Agrifutures and Nick Stamatiou from Whole Green Solutions.

### MORE INFORMATION

Visit DPIRD's Agribusiness Food & Trade website for more information and to access these resources: [www.agric.wa.gov.au/agribusiness-food-trade](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/agribusiness-food-trade)





# Regional Development Collaboration Workshop



**WORDS** | Peel Development Commission

**IMAGES** | Peel & Midwest Development Commissions

**The Peel Development Commission hosted the first-ever Regional Development Collaboration Workshop at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on 14–15th February 2023.**

Over 70 regional development practitioners from Western Australia's nine Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) came together for the two-day event. The workshop focussed on collaboration, professional development, knowledge sharing, and problem-solving.

The workshop kicked off with a traditional welcome to Binjareb Noongar Country by Local Elder George Walley of Mandjoogoordap Dreaming. The Hon. Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development, delivered the opening address, emphasising the critical role of RDCs and regional development practitioners in the State Government's commitment to boosting local jobs and diversifying the economy.





The Minister reinforced that while how we build economic diversity and resilience is important, equally significant is liveability; access to schools, health, and services, as is how people feel about living in their region — their sense of pride in community, volunteerism and commitment to engage and participate.

Mandurah Mayor Rhys Williams delivered an engaging talk following the Minister, sharing his thoughts on the importance of regional development and his aspirations for a thriving City of Mandurah.




Topics covered during the workshop included building labour market resilience, supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy, digital connectivity, Aboriginal economic development, activating regional land and housing, creative industries, regional migration, and improving ways of working together for the benefit of regional communities.

Natasha Monks, CEO of the Great Southern Development Commission and Workshop Lead said the workshop provided a valuable opportunity for regional development practitioners to come together as specialists with deep experience in their respective areas.

**“By working together across the regions, we can achieve better outcomes for each of our areas of responsibility, and also for the State,” Natasha said.**

The workshop highlighted the importance of regional development in the State's growth, economic vitality, and living standards, and emphasised the shared priority of the State Government, DPIRD, and the nine RDCs in achieving a strong and prosperous regional economy that supports sustainable, vibrant, and liveable communities in regional WA.

The next Regional Development Collaboration Workshop is planned for February 2024 in the South West. 

## Working for our regions

Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) are statutory authorities established under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993* to drive economic and social development in their respective regions across Western Australia.

RDCs work to identify and support initiatives that benefit their regions, partnering with communities, businesses, industry, and government. The Peel Development Commission is one of nine RDCs and our purpose is to coordinate and promote the economic and social development of the Peel region. Through collaboration with stakeholders, the Commission facilitates projects that drive growth and prosperity in the Peel. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is the State lead agency for regional development and works collaboratively with RDCs, across all levels of government, industries and not-for-profit organisations in the development and delivery of regional programs, policy and services. You can learn more about the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993* on the Western Australian Legislation website.

Read the Commission's *Strategic Plan 2023–2025* on our website to learn more about our strategies and initiatives for the next three years: [www.peel.wa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PDCStrategicPlan2023-25\\_LR.pdf](http://www.peel.wa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PDCStrategicPlan2023-25_LR.pdf)





# Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia launched to drive business opportunities and regional growth

**WORDS** | FIPWA, Peel Development Commission

**IMAGES** | The Shire of Murray

**The Shire of Murray's Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia (FIPWA) officially opened on February 24, marking a significant milestone for the region's food and agriculture industry.**

Backed by a \$45 million investment from the State Government and a \$21.75 million grant from the Australian Government, the FIPWA is an ecosystem for innovation in WA's agrifood and beverage industry.

Located in the Peel Business Park in Nambelup, FIPWA is made up of a food and beverage production centre with a Food Technology Facility, an Innovation Centre, and a Research and Development Centre. Businesses can access comprehensive research and development services (R&D), small-batch manufacturing capabilities, and growth-oriented innovation services all in one location — a first for Western Australia. The anchor partners already using the precinct include Murdoch University, The GrowHub, and Spinifex Brewing Company.







**FIPWA is an ecosystem for innovation in the agriculture and food spaces.**



According to Cr David Bolt, President of the Shire of Murray, "The opening of the Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia is a landmark moment for the Shire of Murray and is the culmination of a huge effort by a large number of people over many years. I am grateful to our hardworking Shire staff, supportive Council, the Australian and State Government, and key industry partners who shared the Shire's vision and worked collaboratively to bring this innovative centre to fruition."

The Hon. Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business, also spoke at the launch, saying, "The precinct provides world-class facilities, equipment and expertise to test, trial and explore options, providing businesses with the confidence to pursue commercialisation and launch their products to the world — creating benefits throughout the supply chain."

FIPWA is expected to boost the local economy by creating jobs, attracting new businesses to the Peel region, and contributing to the growth of the food and agriculture industry in Western Australia. With state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, businesses can develop, test, and launch new food and beverage products quickly and efficiently.

The complex is open to interested parties throughout WA, interstate, and overseas from the commercial, public and academic domains to advance and accelerate agrifood, food, and beverage innovations aiming to capture new market demand.

Learn more about FIPWA and how to become a member at [www.fipwa.com.au](http://www.fipwa.com.au).



#### **A HUB FOR AGRI-INNOVATION**

Representatives from the agrifood and beverage industry, academia, Local and State Governments, and community organisations gathered for FIPWA's official opening.







Dr Chris Vas, Stefan Chappell, Ranjeet Ranjeet Utikar, Himanshu Patel, Ricky Lin and Desheng Theng.

## Life3 Biotech

The recent launch of the FIPWA not only brought together the WA agrifood ecosystem but also drew in collaborators from overseas.

Singapore's biotech startup, Life3, visited Western Australia to participate in the launch events and interact with collaborators including The Lupin Co, Harvey Hemp, Whole, Wide Open Agriculture, Curtin and Murdoch Universities.

Life3 met with the State Government to discuss their interest in aligning with Singapore's Food Security Challenge, which aims to meet 30% of Singapore's nutritional needs through locally produced food as part of their 30 by 30 mission.

The collaboration between Life3 and Western Australian organisations builds on the plant protein trial that kicked off in November last year in partnership with FIPWA, Peel Development Commission and Whole.

## Food Technology Facility

**WORDS** | Excerpt from Murdoch University News

The Food Technology Facility (FTF) at the Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia (FIPWA) is a partnership between Murdoch University, the Future Food Systems CRC, and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The FTF will explore the feasibility of a food manufacturing pilot plant in WA, designed to activate food processing innovation in WA through the fitout and operation of advanced food manufacturing equipment.

Stuart Johnson, a seasoned professional in the food industry, has been appointed as the CEO of the FTF, while Dr Natasha Teakle, an innovation specialist and experienced leader, has joined as the Chair of the FTF Project Management Group. The FTF is funded by the State Government via DPIRD and aims to create value-added agricultural products and innovations in food technology.

The facility will provide entrepreneurs and start-ups with the opportunity to create a viable food production business by ensuring a viable product, knowing their costs, and having customer acceptance. The FTF will also allow commercially focused projects, supported by the Future Food Systems Cooperative Research Centre.

## Mereny Bidi Boodja

In 2022, Bindjareb Elders gave the Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia (FIPWA) a dual Noongar name, 'Mereny Bidi Boodja', meaning 'Food, Pathway, Country'.

The Peel Development Commission worked with respected Bindjareb Noongar Elder George Walley of Mandjoogordap Dreaming to consult other Elders on Bindjareb Country to develop a dual name for the FIPWA.

At the official opening of FIPWA, Mr Walley spoke about how his discussions with Elders about their views, life experiences, and memories to develop a cultural narrative helped inform the name.

The Shire of Murray fully endorsed the name, which recognises the importance of the land, history, and culture of the local area. FIPWA is located within the Peel Business Park, which was also given a Noongar name, 'Nambeelup Kaadadjan', combining the estate's location in Nambeelup with the Noongar word for knowledge and information. These dual names highlight the importance of sharing knowledge and information, reflecting the beliefs and values of the Bindjareb Noongar people.







# CCIWA Roundtable

## explores Western Australia's role in addressing food security needs

WORDS | CCIWA

IMAGE | Peel Development Commission

**Western Australia's role in addressing food security needs was high on the agenda at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA)'s Innovation in WA's Agfood Sector workshop roundtable at the Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia (FIPWA).**

More than 45 people in business, research and government attended the workshop following the FIPWA's official opening. CCIWA's head of the International Trade and Investment Centre Michael Carter said, "Australia is recognised for its abundant production of agricultural crops, both for domestic consumption and for export.

"Western Australia is a key contributor to this productivity. However, it is important to consider whether the large production volumes of raw products in the state are enough to meet our food security needs.

"To create more value, it is necessary to manufacture food and beverages from these raw products for domestic

and export use. The challenge is to move beyond simply extracting raw materials and to develop farm-to-plate product development and value-adding at scale. This requires leveraging our comparative advantages through innovative approaches."

Speakers at the roundtable included:

- David Doepel, Chair, Peel Development Commission
- Greg Riebe, Partner, Triangle Equity Partners
- Ben Cole, Managing Director, Wide Open Agriculture
- Dr Natasha Teakle, Chair, FTF Project Management Group & Managing Director, AgriStart
- Boris Wong, Strategy & Advocacy Manager, City of Canning
- Dr Chris Vas, General Manager, FIPWA
- Brodie McCulloch, Managing Director, Spacecubed
- Michael Carter, Head of International Trade & Investment Centre, CCIWA.

"A primary takeaway from the roundtable was the importance of investing in the industry for growth, to increase job opportunities and solidify WA's position as a strong producer of quality agriculture, food and beverage products," Carter said.

Key themes that arose from discussions included value-adding, functional foods, nutrition, agtech adoption, trade and export markets, packaging and sustainability.

## Online platform

WA Investments is a new online platform launched by the WA State Government and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA to promote investment-ready projects with a value above \$10 million.

The platform provides WA businesses with an investment pathway, market and industry insights, and assistance in identifying opportunities across WA industry sectors, aiming to support them in seeking investment and growing their businesses.

With over 35 projects already listed, WA Investments provides global audiences easy access to the vast investment opportunities available in WA. If you are a WA business seeking to promote your project to national and global investors, visit [www.wainvestments.com.au](http://www.wainvestments.com.au) to learn more.



The FIPWA is a state-of-the-art facility built to foster industry innovation to drive business growth, develop new products and exports, and advance WA's food and beverage manufacturing industry.

"The Food Innovation Precinct will increase confidence and attract investment for WA to grow, harvest and manufacture food and beverages more efficiently and productively," Carter said.

## MORE INFORMATION

CCIWA's International Trade and Investment Centre (ITIC) helps businesses reduce the time, cost and risk of going global. Contact the team for a free consultation on **(08) 9365 7620** or via [trade@cciwa.com](mailto:trade@cciwa.com).

# Peel Development Commission wins gold at W.S. Lonnie Awards



## GOLD AWARD

W.S. Lonnie Awards Judge Des Pearson AO FIPAA presents Gold Award to Anne Evans from the Peel Development Commission.

**WORDS** | Peel Development Commission

**IMAGE** | Institute of Public Administration Australia WA

**The Peel Development Commission has been recognised for excellence in annual reporting at the 38th annual W.S. Lonnie Awards, held in Perth on March 31st.**

The award ceremony, organised and hosted by the Institute of Public Administration Australia WA (IPAA WA), recognises the importance of accountability and transparency in the public sector.

The Lonnie Awards are highly competitive, with all state agencies automatically considered in the judging process. Judges commended the report's visually appealing and enjoyable-to-read nature, using local achievements to demonstrate how KPIs were met. The report also had clear links to government goals and outcomes that aligned with the

Commission's six sub-themes of the *Peel Regional Investment Framework*.

The Pilbara Development Commission won the Silver Award in the same category, with judges impressed by the report's well-structured and user-friendly layout, great graphics, photos and engaging content.

Peel Development Commission CEO Andrew Ward, said, "This Gold Award is a testament to our team's tireless efforts and dedication to transparency, accountability, and exceptional reporting standards and we are honoured to receive this prestigious recognition." 🐦



**The project's unique location surrounded by major infrastructure allows for reduced operating and capital costs**

## Peel Regional Growth & Major Projects

**WORDS** | Peel Development Commission

**IMAGES** | Informa

**The Peel Regional Growth & Major Projects conference brought together a stellar lineup of expert speakers to Mandurah on April 4-5.**

**"We are proud of our report's local relevance and clear links to the Commission's strategic plan, and we look forward to continuing to showcase the unique achievements and challenges of the Peel region."**

— PDC CEO Andrew Ward

Download the Commission's Annual Report at [www.peel.wa.gov.au](http://www.peel.wa.gov.au).



# Frontier Energy

WORDS & IMAGE | Frontier Energy

## Frontier Energy's Bristol Springs Green Hydrogen Project, located near Waroona, is set to become one of Australia's first low-cost renewable hydrogen projects.

Production is scheduled to begin in late 2025, with Stage One forecast to produce around 4.9 million kilograms of renewable hydrogen each year. The Company has plans for significant expansion in production to meet the growing demand for renewable hydrogen.

The project's unique location surrounded by major infrastructure allows for reduced operating and capital costs compared to more remote hydrogen projects. Bristol Springs has access to existing water

pipelines and connections to the South West Interconnected System (SWIS), Western Australia's main energy grid. The project is also surrounded by likely early adopters into the hydrogen industry in the transition from fossil fuels.

Frontier Energy recently completed the Definitive Feasibility Study for Stage One (DFS) which reaffirmed the project's potential as a leader in the Australian green hydrogen industry. The cost of producing hydrogen at Bristol Springs is expected to be approximately A\$2.77 per kilogram, inclusive of capital costs, making it one of the lowest reported costs for a green hydrogen project of this scale in Australia.

"The infrastructure surrounding the Project not only allows for our forecast costs to be some of the lowest in Australia for green hydrogen production, but also provides an opportunity for early production as the industry continues to mature over time," says Frontier Energy's Managing Director, Sam Lee Mohan.

The 36MW first stage electrolyzers at Bristol Springs will be powered by Frontier Energy's 114MW utility-scale solar farm, with excess renewable energy sold into the market via grid.

**Water is an essential component of renewable, or green hydrogen, and the 15-year agreement with the Water Corporation ensures an essential supply of water for the project.**

Frontier Energy's next priority is to secure a foundation customer for Stage One hydrogen production. The company is advancing discussions with a shortlisted group of potential off-takers, and a final investment decision is anticipated later this year.

"The Bristol Springs project is a real opportunity for us to move into a low-carbon hydrogen economy not just for Western Australia but for Australia as a whole." 



The two-day conference, hosted by Informa with support from the Peel Development Commission, aimed to explore investment opportunities, major projects, and economic growth in the Peel region.

Minister for Regional Development, Hon. Don Punch MLA delivered the opening address, emphasising the significance of new development and economic growth in the Peel region. With a projected population of up to 444,000 by 2050, the Peel needs to create more job opportunities within

the region to support this growth. To achieve this, the region must build a diverse economy that incorporates many different industries and has a highly skilled and high-performing workforce.

The conference covered a wide range of topics, including investment and partnership opportunities, strategic development, emerging industries, and innovative approaches to business. Speakers also discussed the potential for growth in areas such as hydrogen, blue tech training and industries,

decarbonisation, renewable energy, and hospitality.

Other key topics included health and aged-care delivery in the region, infrastructure development, transport, primary industries, and building strong, thriving communities. The Commission's Chair David Doepel spoke on the topic of "The Peel Region Set for Growth," and the conference overall highlighted the value of strong collaboration between industry, investors, businesses, community, and government representatives. 





Region in focus

# Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale





**The response to Shape Our Future has been overwhelming.**

*If you could change one thing to make the Shire a better place to live, what would it be?*

**WORDS & IMAGES** | Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

**Serpentine Jarrahdale is a community on the move. Like all communities on the cusp of the Perth-metropolitan zone, change is happening fast as it evolves from a small rural township to a bustling urban sector.**

Undoubtedly, this change brings about unique challenges. Ensuring adequate infrastructure for a growing population, providing enough local jobs and maintaining a connected community are just some examples.

But change also brings opportunity. Opportunity to grow together, to build a community that all residents can be proud of.

This is the mission the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale is embracing alongside its passionate locals: Working together to ensure a bright future.

An exciting phase of growth, new beginnings and tapping into unlimited potential awaits in Serpentine Jarrahdale.

## Shaping a future that fits all sizes

The next 10 years will be a vital period in positioning Serpentine Jarrahdale for long-term success.

The Shire's vision throughout this time is to create sustainability for a community set up to prosper over what promises to be an exciting phase.

However, success can only be achieved by working alongside the locals who call SJ their home.

The Shire is on a journey to build a stronger connection with the people of Serpentine Jarrahdale. Enhancing community engagement and finding new ways to engage with a greater number of our residents and ratepayers is one of the keys to success.

This push for a closer working relationship with the community has been highlighted by the Shire's recent *Shape Our Future — SJ 2033* campaign.

Run across March and April, the campaign centred around gaining genuine feedback from residents to help inform the Shire's new Strategic Community Plan (SCP).

The SCP is the Shire's most vital planning document, outlining the highest priorities and needs in our community over the next 10 years.

The campaign saw Shire staff take to the streets of SJ, engaging locals on what they thought Serpentine Jarrahdale needs the most at a series of pop-up stalls, local events and workshops.

Hundreds of responses were received via online surveys, while thousands of residents stopped by to have their say on the future of their neighbourhood.

Shire President Cr Michelle Rich said the campaign was a great example of what can be achieved when a healthy collaboration between residents and their local government comes to fruition.

"The Shire has been on a journey to get to know our residents and what's important to them for some time now, and this campaign highlighted the strides we've made in that area," Cr Rich said.

"The response to Shape Our Future has been overwhelming. Our locals are passionate about the future of their Shire and have given us a clear indication of what they would like to see included in future planning.

"These past few months have been a fantastic building block for Serpentine Jarrahdale, and I'm excited to see what the future holds knowing the Shire and the community have built it together."

Feedback received as part of the Shape Our Future campaign is currently being reviewed as the Shire continues to develop a Strategic Community Plan that will successfully guide Serpentine Jarrahdale over the coming decade.



## Key projects laying the foundations for success in SJ

With a rapid boost in population comes the need for contemporary and efficacious infrastructure suitable to service a growing community.

Serpentine Jarrahdale is the fastest-growing local government in Western Australia. The Shire has boomed from a population of 29,021 in 2017 to 37,226 in 2023 — almost a 15 per cent increase in less than six years.

This highlights the Shire's evolution from a slow-moving, agricultural district to a highly diverse blend of urban, peri-urban, forest and rural communities. It also emphasises the necessity for facilities and services needed to sustain such an acceleration in population growth.

Medical clinics, sporting hubs, modern emergency services and efficient public transport are just some of the key sectors required.

Fortunately, works are well underway to ensure contemporary infrastructure for each of these fields is installed across Serpentine Jarrahdale.

The future Byford Health Hub will be located in the heart of the Shire's busiest suburb, bringing vital medical resources such as GP services, dental and mental health care to SJ residents. The Health Hub is being delivered by the East Metropolitan Health Service in partnership with the Shire.

The Keirnan Park Recreation and Sporting Precinct will service the vast number of local community and sporting associations based in SJ. Funding was recently secured to progress project planning works for the multi-million-dollar complex, with Stage 1 of the project to include a multi-use pavilion, ovals, BMX track, entry road and car parking.

Enhancing and empowering the Shire's local emergency services is also on the agenda, with a new Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Station set to be built in Oakford. The Shire Council approved a development application for the new station at their meeting in March, while construction for a further Career Firefighting Station to be based in

Cardup was announced by the State Government in November 2022.

Connection between Serpentine Jarrahdale and the Perth CBD is also a critical priority for the Shire, with METRONET's Byford Rail Extension project set to provide easy access between the two. The installation of a new train station in Byford will allow SJ locals to make a swift journey to the state's capital, while in turn offering easier access for visitors.

Shire President Cr Michelle Rich cited each of these key projects as important pillars in Serpentine Jarrahdale's future.

*"These four crucial projects will deliver accessible, modern and most importantly extremely useful services for our community for years to come," Cr Rich said.*

"We have a long way to go with lots of work to do, but initiatives like these are laying the foundations to make SJ the best place to live across the entire Perth and Peel regions."

Other key projects making waves across the community include upgrades to the Byford Skate Park, development of the West Mundijong Industrial Area and the 2023 Road Reseal Program.

More information on all of these can be found on the Shire's website at: [www.sjshire.wa.gov.au](http://www.sjshire.wa.gov.au)





## Jarrahdale: A top tourism town on the rise

By now you've read all about growth, new developments and the Shire's exciting future.

But for all the fast-paced movement happening largely in Serpentine Jarrahdale's northern corridor, the Shire remains proudly connected to its heritage and signature natural backdrop.

Never is this more evident than in Jarrahdale — a tranquil forest community making a name for itself as one of the Peel region's most popular tourist trips.

It's hard to believe just a quick 45-minute drive from the Perth CBD could land you in a wonderland of native Australian forest, but Jarrahdale offers exactly that.



The town's reputation as one of the region's most popular day trips derives from its iconic network of bush trails and the ease with which they can be accessed. Visitors can meander through nature conveniently and safely before heading back to the main town for a bite at one of the great local hot spots like Jarrahdale Tavern or Millbrook Winery.

This easy-going style of day trip has been at the centre of the Shire's ongoing work to develop and promote Jarrahdale as a leading trails tourism destination.

This work ranges from simple initiatives such as installing wayfinding signs through to high-level goals like achieving Trails WA accreditation as a fully-fledged Trail Town.

Shire President Cr Michelle Rich recognised Jarrahdale as a town brimming with potential and opportunity for the tourism sector.

"Jarrahdale is a point of difference for the Shire, offering something unique to the Peel and Perth areas," Cr Rich said.

"The day-trip experience has boomed across Western Australia since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, leading to a huge increase of visitors to Jarrahdale across weekends and popular holidays.

"The Shire is working hard to enhance their experience and ensure the town continues to lead the way in trails tourism across the state."

More information on Jarrahdale's trails network can be found on the Trails WA website. To start your journey, visit: [www.trailswa.com.au](http://www.trailswa.com.au)







# Perth and Peel Hydrogen Cluster

WORDS | Perth & Peel Hydrogen  
Cluster (PP2HC)

IMAGES | Hazer Group Limited, PP2HC

**The Perth and Peel Hydrogen Cluster is a collaborative business network that aims to develop a thriving local hydrogen industry to support industry decarbonisation and the clean energy transition.**





Cluster personnel  
visiting the Hazer  
Commercial  
Demonstration Plant.

Photo © Hazer Group Limited 2022

Since its inception in early 2021, the Perth and Peel Hydrogen Cluster has attracted members from across the hydrogen industry, including hydrogen producers, hydrogen related service providers, industry associations, government bodies and research associations.

In recent weeks, the Cluster has registered as an Australian not-for-profit company managed by a board of industry professionals. The Cluster's vision and mission remains the same: to proactively participate in global decarbonisation by supporting a flourishing local hydrogen industry.

By fostering trusted relationships with our local partners, the Cluster is helping businesses explore hydrogen technologies to take their decarbonisation aspirations from ideas to commercial implementation.

The Cluster is actively pursuing opportunities to support hydrogen production and adoption through the development of projects in our region.

The December publication of the Cluster's *WA Hydrogen Innovation Precinct Report* argued for the acceleration of regional growth of the hydrogen ecosystem through the potential establishment of a Western Australian Hydrogen Innovation Precinct (H2IP).

The concept outlines the opportunity to develop an incubator facility where hydrogen start-ups and small-to-medium enterprise (SME) companies could undertake targeted research and development, testing, demonstration and early-stage commercialisation of their hydrogen technologies and products. This Precinct concept envisages activities

being undertaken without the need for large capital investment typically required for full-scale commercialisation. The Precinct concept would utilise a co-located, or a common-use facility model to reduce and/or defer industry start-up costs with the view that the resultant technology will support local industry's low carbon transition.

With the assistance of the Peel Development Commission, the Cluster will seek funding to take this work to a business case in the coming months.

The Cluster is operating in the context of an industry which is developing rapidly, at a pace that is rarely seen. The challenge for the Region is to embrace this opportunity to scale.

## Q+A

### Why is hydrogen important?

The introduction of new legislation has accelerated Australia's decarbonisation strategy, where Australia has committed to an emissions reduction of 43% by 2030 and the achievement of 'net zero by 2050'. This means we must get serious about how we plan and execute the decarbonisation of our society. Hydrogen can be produced from renewable energy, making it a low carbon form of fuel. Over time we expect that hydrogen will replace some fossil fuels for things like heavy vehicles and remote electricity generation, powering industry and servicing our homes and businesses.

### How big is this industry going to be?

Given all the applications for hydrogen, global demand is forecast to grow significantly from 2025. By 2040, WA's market share in global hydrogen exports is expected to be similar to its share in LNG today. When you consider that WA currently has around 14% of the world LNG market, it's significant.

### How does 'green' hydrogen work?

Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe. However, it is almost always mixed with other elements. The most obvious is, of course, water: H<sub>2</sub>O. We can use the renewable electricity derived from windfarms and solar, to run through a device called an 'electrolyser'. Through this process an electric current is used to split the water into hydrogen and oxygen. We can then store and transport that 'green hydrogen' in large volumes.

### How does hydrogen fit in and how is it useful to the energy transition?

Firstly, we can use stored 'green hydrogen' to regulate our energy supply, as we shift towards increasingly higher proportions of renewable energy. Compressed hydrogen gas can be moved via pipelines or in cylinders so it can be used, transported and even stored in similar ways to traditional liquid fuels like petrol, LNG and diesel. This allows us to move 'green hydrogen' to refuelling stations so it can also be used by buses, trucks,

ships and even planes. Typically, anywhere you need large amounts of energy, over long distances, and/or long periods of time, and where payload matters. Where you can't stop to recharge overnight or where it is impractical to use batteries due to their weight and limitations, hydrogen might fill this gap.

### What will hydrogen mean for the Peel region?

There is a lot of opportunity here. Access to outstanding port facilities, existing transmission networks and corridors, and gas pipeline infrastructure all present unique opportunities to easily integrate hydrogen into large scale energy projects and distribute to both domestic and international markets.

Production of hydrogen attached to major wind or solar projects is a near term and achievable goal. In the medium term, we see hydrogen playing an important role in replacing diesel for heavy vehicle transport and powering local industry and industrial processes.

### What kind of local innovation are we seeing?

The Hazer Group's Commercial Demonstration project in Munster is taking methane from the Water Corporation's treatment plant and converting it to hydrogen and high-quality graphite, suitable for battery manufacturing. This is a novel patented process that started in a small lab at UWA just a few years ago. Now this technology is being tested and commercialised for large scale adoption in places like Canada and Japan.

Last year, the Cluster met with a WA company developing hydrogen powered long-range autonomous drones. The density of energy delivered from hydrogen makes these drones capable of covering 100s of kilometres to deliver urgent medicines, precision agriculture or even search and rescue missions.

Just north of here, ATCO Australia is safely blending 'green hydrogen' produced at their Jandakot facility into natural gas networks to service 2700 homes in the City of Cockburn. This



**RESEARCH  
AND  
DEVELOPMENT**



**EDUCATION  
AND  
TRAINING**



**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**



**ADVOCACY  
AND  
COLLABORATION**

Perth and Peel  
**HYDROGEN  
CLUSTER**

[www.h2cluster.com.au](http://www.h2cluster.com.au)

Project is demonstrating the ability to safely blend hydrogen into existing networks, with the vision to expand hydrogen distribution network-wide by 2030. Reducing the proportion of natural gas used in our homes is a big step towards a decarbonised community.

These local projects demonstrate the skills, capability and desire to be innovative.

#### MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.h2cluster.com.au](http://www.h2cluster.com.au)



# Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants *Round 5*



**WORDS** | Peel Development Commission

**IMAGES** | Overland Media, Peel RED Grants recipients & Nexxt Frame Photography

**The Regional Economic Development Grants (RED Grants) program is a \$50.85 million over nine years (2018–19 to 2026–27) State Government initiative driving the region’s economic development, with funding available for locally-driven projects stimulating investment, job creation, productivity, skills development, and economic diversification.**

The Commission sought applications for Round 5 of the RED Grants program between June and August 2022. The successful recipients were announced on 2 December, 2022 by former Regional Development Minister, Alannah MacTiernan MLC and Member for Murray-Wellington, Robyn Clarke MLA at the Edenvale Heritage Precinct in Pinjarra.

Seven Peel projects shared in \$680,000 grant funding, with the State Government investing in the manufacturing, hospitality, tourism, and training industries in the region.





Jacaranda Hill

*\$80,000 grant*

“

By investing in a variety of regional initiatives, the State Government is helping to grow Western Australia's regional areas into thriving and sustainable communities.

*Round 5 recipients*

Shift Engineering

*\$200,000 grant*



#### 1 Shift Engineering

Shift Engineering will use its **\$200,000** grant to expand and diversify its facilities in Waroona by purchasing a CNC press brake machine to increase metal bending capability in the region, creating jobs and apprenticeship opportunities.

#### 2 Coolibah Care

Coolibah Care received **\$100,000** to redevelop its existing training space into a modern training hub for aged care industry workers.

#### 3 Boundary Island Brewery

Boundary Island Brewery at Mandurah Quay Resort received **\$100,000** to expand its facilities and purchase equipment to increase production, reach the wholesale market and cater to external functions and events.

#### 4 The Exchange Hotel

The Exchange Hotel received **\$100,000** to fit out the central kitchen and bar area as part of a major redevelopment of this historic landmark on the main street in Pinjarra.

#### 5 Jacaranda Hill

Jacaranda Hill will use **\$80,000** to construct a sustainable off-grid farm stay cabin providing visitors with a unique agritourism experience.

#### 6 Dwellingup Adventures

Dwellingup Adventures will use the **\$60,000** to construct and operate a bike/watercraft hire facility and kiosk at the Dwaarlindjirraap (Baden Powell) recreation area at Lane Poole Reserve.

#### 7 Oakford Equestrian Centre

Oakford Equestrian Centre will use its **\$40,000** grant to build 20 new training jumps, expanding and improving the facilities for equestrian training in the Peel region.



Dwellingup Adventures

*\$60,000 grant*



## RED Grants projects update

Projects supported by RED Grants have helped several Peel businesses increase their production capacity by installing essential and/or upgraded equipment to serve growing demand in both local and export markets.

Here is a look at two thriving Peel businesses with an update on how their RED Grants helped scale up their operations.

### Kanyana (\$100,000 grant)

Kanyana Engineering has experienced significant growth and development since the purchase of the Bystronic Xact Smart Press Brake with RED Grant funding. The addition of this high-tech fabrication machine has enabled Kanyana to increase their supply and production capability and better meet project deadlines across various industries, including Defence and Mining. As a result, the company has been able to address its backlog and improve overall efficiency.

The RED Grant has not only allowed Kanyana to upgrade its equipment, but also create new job opportunities. With the new machine, the company hired two apprentices, further contributing to the local economy. This investment has also given Kanyana the confidence to continue expanding its industry presence, helping to meet rising demands while maintaining high-quality client expectations.

Kanyana Engineering has seen substantial growth since receiving the grant, with a 47% increase in revenue and a 17% increase in employment. Kanyana's



**Hunsa Smallgoods**  
*\$90,000 grant*

Accounts Director, Sharon Dawe said, "The RED Grant has helped take some of the financial pressure off the company, allowing the owners to concentrate on crucial decisions in operating and growing the company."

### Hunsa Smallgoods (\$90,000 grant)

Hunsa Smallgoods has witnessed remarkable progress and expansion since the purchase and installation of a new Vemag sausage filling line. This state-of-the-art equipment has led to a 20% increase in production volume and a 25% increase in turnover, greatly enhancing the company's domestic business. The new filling line has also improved efficiency, reduced OH&S risks, and provided better control over portioning weights and sizes.

The RED Grant has helped Hunsa Smallgoods create new job opportunities, with three full-time, one part-time, and one casual position added across production and packing areas. The company has also employed a part-time Quality Assurance and Export Manager to support their export business.

Thanks to the grant, Hunsa Smallgoods is working on new sausage lines for release later this year and actively pursuing export opportunities. The grant has also facilitated employee training and professional development, with five employees receiving specialised training on the new line and its technology.

Paul Dilollo, Managing Director said, "The improved consistency in our sausage lines has given our customers even greater confidence in the quality of the products that we are producing for them."

## Round 6 Announcement

Round six RED Grants now open to Peel businesses and organisations

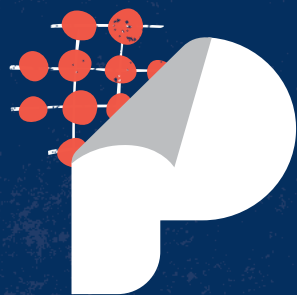
Up to \$250,000 is available for individual projects that support jobs, expand or diversify industry, develop skills, increase business productivity and attract new investment to the regions. The Peel Development Commission is pleased to deliver this program with support from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

**Applications are now open and close on 30 June, 2023. Visit our website to read more about RED Grants and how to apply:**  
**[www.peel.wa.gov.au](http://www.peel.wa.gov.au)**



**Kanyana Engineering**  
*\$100,000 grant*





**Peel**  
**Business Park**  
Nambeelup  
Kaadadjan

# Peel Business Park News

**Peel Business Park in Nambeelup, the first phase of the exciting Transform Peel initiative is going from strength to strength with several businesses now up and running, further construction underway and new businesses eager to join the thriving Park.**

## **STAGE 2 CIVIL WORKS UNDERWAY**

Local Peel-based civil contractor Wormall Civil has recently started civil construction works for Stage 2 of the strategically located Park, just 10km north-east of Mandurah, in the Shire of Murray.

Stage 2 is 5.5 hectares and comprises of 11 lots ranging in size from 1,650sqm to 10,481sqm. The Stage 2 lots were released for pre-sale in late 2022 and received strong early interest with a number already under contract. The remaining land includes a 10,455sqm service commercial lot and three industrial lots, sized 5,590sqm up to 10,481sqm.

Wormall Civil is also completing an upgrade to the Lakes Road/Osprey Link intersection road works, funded by the State Government's multi-million dollar Transform Peel initiative.

Wormall Civil has an excellent track record at the Park, previously delivering civil works for Stage 1 and the trunk infrastructure works.

The appointment of a Peel-based contractor reflects the State Government's commitment to creating greater opportunities for regional owned and operated businesses in their local area.

Stage 2 civil works and the road works are anticipated to be completed by late October 2023.



*Start of Stage 2 construction*



*Lot 2 under construction to be operational by late 2023*

## **DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS**

A number of businesses have completed their building works and are now operating from the Park. These include, the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, the Food Innovation Precinct WA, Bells Engines and Westurn Engineering.

The buildings are testament to the estates Design Guidelines which encourage high quality functional design that promote economic and environmental benefits and protects the investment of all developers.

Construction of Profile Systems office and workshop on Lot 32 is nearing completion and the service station and showroom development is well underway on Lot 2 which fronts Lakes Road. This development is anticipated to be operational by late 2023 and will include fuel and bakery tenants and will also offer five leasehold commercial units ranging from 237sqm to 401sqm.





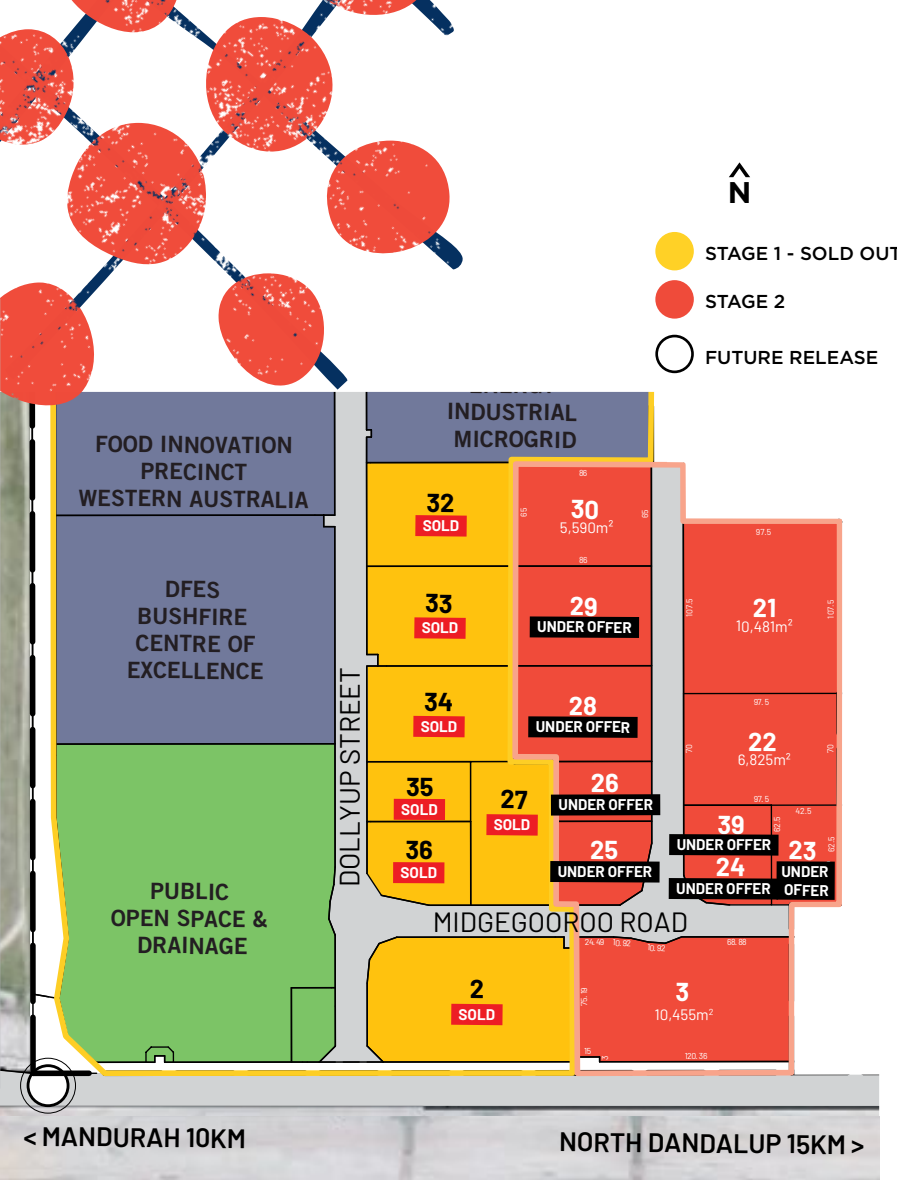
# KEY MILESTONES

- OCTOBER 2018**  
Stage 1 (10 lots) released for sale.
- APRIL 2020**  
Stage 1 subdivision works completed by Wormal Civil
- DECEMBER 2020**  
The renewable energy industrial microgrid begins operation.
- JANUARY 2021**  
Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) opens the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, located in Stage 1.
- JULY 2022**  
Local Aboriginal-owned business Indigenous Managed Services (IMS) completed landscaping works for the Lakes Road roundabout.
- AUGUST 2022**  
Stage 2 (11 lots) released for pre-sale.
- OCTOBER 2022**  
The Park adopts the dual name of *Nambeelup Kaadadjan*.
- FEBRUARY 2023**  
Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia officially opened by the Shire of Murray located in Stage 1.
- MARCH 2023**  
Stage 2 subdivision works commenced by Wormal Civil.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For sales enquiries contact Warick Irving at Industrious Property Group on 0413 863 335 or email [warick.irving@industriouspg.com.au](mailto:warick.irving@industriouspg.com.au)

For more information about Peel Business Park visit [www.developmentwa.com.au/peel](http://www.developmentwa.com.au/peel)



Lot#	Land Size	Land Use	Price (ex. GST)
3	10,455sqm	Commercial	\$1,732,500
21	10,481sqm	Light Industrial	\$1,613,500
22	6,825sqm	Light Industrial	\$1,111,000
23	2,656sqm	Light Industrial	UNDER OFFER
24	1,680sqm	Light Industrial	UNDER OFFER
25	2,992sqm	Light Industrial	UNDER OFFER
26	2,288sqm	Light Industrial	UNDER OFFER
28	5,160sqm	Light Industrial	UNDER OFFER
29	5,375sqm	Light Industrial	UNDER OFFER
30	5,590sqm	Light Industrial	\$892,000
39	1,650sqm	Light Industrial	UNDER OFFER



Industrial Lands Authority

Shaping our State's future





# Shire of Boddington

## Boddington lights up for Summer by the River!

WORDS & IMAGES | Shire of Boddington

**Perfect weather greeted a crowd of more than 500 visitors gathered at Hotham Park in Boddington on Saturday 18 March for the 2023 South32 Summer by the River. Proudly supported by South32 Worlsey Alumina, the Shire of Boddington delivered the free, family-friendly festival to celebrate the end of summer.**



This was the first year the event was held as a major festival, following its previous incarnation as a local micro-event series in 2021 and 2022. The event returned bigger and better with increased live music, entertainment and food vans, as well as the addition of a fireworks display.

**Families with children took in the afternoon enjoying the state-of-the-art facilities including the nature playground, pump track and skatepark.**

For the active and adventurous at heart, Ninja Obstacle Course, Mechanical Wipe Out Challenge, Mega Dome Bouncy Castle, Bungee Run and Mini Golf proved a challenge, and younger children were entertained by the Eco Faeries facilitating nature craft activities and fairy mischief in the park.

As the sun set, families and friends rolled out their picnic rugs and deck chairs in the amphitheatre to relax and enjoy the vibe with live music performed by Kiera Jas, Stella Cain, Trip and Tom Crocker from the rotunda overlooking the stunning Hotham River. The evening concluded with a spectacular fireworks display.

Following a South32 Worsley Alumina partnership with the Shire of Boddington, Summer by the River is set to return in 2024.





## Boddington Careers Expo connects young people

About 250 members of the public comprising secondary school students, TAFE students, home school community and residents based in the Peel and Wheatbelt regions, descended to Boddington on Friday 24 March for the Boddington Careers Expo.

Proudly delivered by the Shire of Boddington and Newmont Boddington Gold, the event connected students and job seekers with local and regional employers, as well as further education providers.

The indoor multipurpose courts at Boddington Recreation Centre were transformed and featured over 35 stalls where employers and further education providers connected with participants to distribute resources, provide training and career pathway advice. Students representing communities including Boddington, Narrogin, Wagin and Collie were chaperoned in small groups to foster meaningful conversations and connections with stallholders. The interactive displays proved popular with young people

taking up the chance to climb scaffolding and participate in truck simulations which emulated real working scenarios.

In addition to employers and further education providers, there were also a number of stalls dedicated to building the capacity of young people to apply for a job, including resume support and assistance, as well as the process for obtaining a learner's permit and driver's licence.

The event was an important occasion to showcase the opportunities available from the region and challenge the perception that moving to the Perth Metropolitan Area is required to achieve their future aspirations. 🌱

*Careers Expo*





# Kinship Farms and the Greenlands Project



WORDS & IMAGES | Kinship Farms

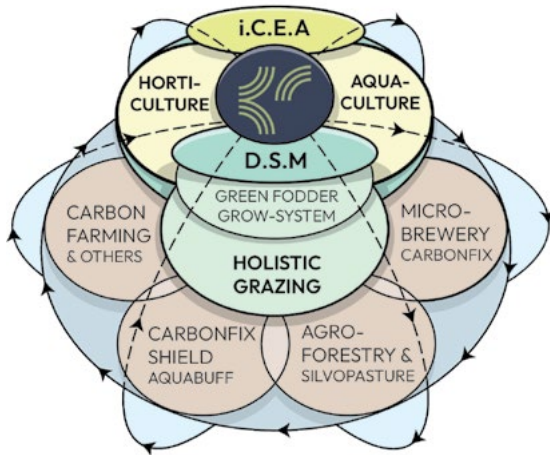
**Kinship Farms is excited to be starting its flagship project in the Peel region; a project that connects strongly with the primary principles of the Peel Development Commission (PDC). In particular, the outcomes from the State Government's *Peel Agri Food Study*, which promotes “innovative food technology solutions while protecting the productive capacity of our soil and water resources, and maintaining WA's world-class biosecurity system to deliver clean, safe and premium products.”**

Kinship Farm's project team commented that this State Government directive clearly recognises, not only regional issues, but by extension, issues facing global food security — “and in that regard, it's an extremely insightful initiative that not only safeguards the region, but establishes global business opportunities”.

Kinship Farm's project in West Pinjarra will see the holistic farming company transition an existing conventionally farmed landholding into what they call “a farm for the future — today”.



## -KINSHIP FARMING- A HOLISTIC FARMING MODEL



Their project is not only an 'agritech' operation, but as the Kinship team describe — *we're initiating a transformational showcase, taking a conventional grazing lot, and transforming it into a regenerative farm, integrating — among traditional farming systems — controlled environment agriculture (agritech) to support the overall operation*". This in part is why it is holistic; every aspect of the project is connected, or feeds back to other elements to bring about a symbiotic balance for the farms eco-system and how Kinship manage it.

The importance of 'Controlled Environment Agriculture' (CEA) is another key element that came from the PDC's research and planning initiatives. The PDC was instrumental in funding the 'Peel Integrated Water Initiative' (PIWI) which was charged with finding the most effective ways to protect the precious water resources and ecology of the district. As stated in the 2021 Report — *"Closed-loop greenhouse horticulture is the preferred option in the PIWI investigation area"* (p. 123). Kinship's planned CEA alone meets this preference perfectly.

At their Greenlands Project, Kinship farms have planned an initial pilot CEA of 1000m<sup>2</sup>. In basic terms, the CEA is what's known as an 'aquaponics system'. Aquaponics is the integration of aquaculture and horticulture in a circulated feedback loop. That is, fish are reared in tanks from which the nutrient rich water, is pumped to an array of grow-beds, as an

organic fertiliser for plants. The plant's uptake and extraction of nutrients from the circulated water acts as a filtering process so the water can be returned to the fish tanks in a closed loop.

It has been shown that circulatory growing systems like this grow higher yields of nutrient-dense food while retaining around 90% of the water used, in comparison to soil based horticulture. Which obviously is exactly what the PIWI Report recommends, thus, a great farming model for the region.

However, with insightful extensions, the Kinship Farms team are taking this further. They plan to extract biomass from the system to be organically processed onsite into bio-fertiliser and soil inoculants. These can then be applied to the soil and grazing pastures that form part of the extended farm. And it's these pastures where we find more innovation at hand, from the dynamic soil management and grazing practices, planned carbon farming project they call 'Pasture Banking', through to the application of a mineral based buffering technology to be trialled for the first time within an agricultural dam.

Kinship have started the process of converting their 48ha rural property to a new, but old model; one of regenerative principles. This means, in basic terms, working with nature instead of against it. It can be observed globally, where farmers have had the fortitude to make the switch to regenerative principles, they have found incredible benefits, alongside a pathway to establish a triple bottom line model within an agricultural enterprise.

### So why wouldn't all farmers make this change?

As the Kinship team explain, going from conventional to regenerative principles entails a transformation period. This is a significant and disruptive gap in operations, which may not have enough scope to ride through what is sometimes referred to as 'the valley of death'. This is why, in fact, so many farmers are reluctant to make the transition — there's not a playbook on how to navigate the change successfully within our region. Kinship recognise this, and are taking the lead.

Kinship, with support from the PDC, the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD), the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), the Food and Innovation Precinct of Western Australia (FIPWA) at Nambeelup, RegenWA — Perth NRM and the Marshall Agriculture Centre which forms part of the C.Y. O'Connor Village Foundation at North Dandalup, are opening their farm's transformation as a documented 'showcase' for peri-urban farmers to gain valuable information, supporting efforts to build confidence, providing key data in bridging the gap of knowledge that to-date, has limited a broader adoption of this holistic and sustainable approach to farming.

This makes for an exciting project in our region to watch, that is in support of the principles and policies the PDC has promoted in the transformation and future success of the Peel region.

### MORE INFORMATION

Go to [www.kinshipfarms.com.au](http://www.kinshipfarms.com.au) or email [info@kinshipfarms.com.au](mailto:info@kinshipfarms.com.au)

L-R: Aharon Neill-Stevens, Dr Chris Vas, Michael English.







# Shire of Murray Exchange Hotel

WORDS & IMAGES | Shire of Murray

**The historic Exchange Hotel in Pinjarra has reached three significant milestones: the community has met the new operators for the first time, the concept designs for the redeveloped heritage building have been unveiled, and a developer has been appointed to undertake the work.**

Since purchasing the site in 2012, the Shire has undertaken a number of conservation works to preserve the building's heritage elements including parts of the original 1866 cottage and the 1925 kitchen, dining and accommodation sections. But now work begins in earnest to transform the full site, with the support and engagement of the new operators, Karl and Janine Bullers.

The Bullers, who have a home in Dwellingup, have extensive experience in managing and running heritage venues. They already own and manage both the National and the Old Court House pubs in Fremantle.

In March, they met their future locals at a community celebration in Pinjarra. Members of the community got their first look at the concept plans for the building, listened to an extended question and answer session with the Bullers, and got to ask them about their plans for the new venue. The new operators also funded a bar at the event, with more than \$3200 raised for local charity Pinjarra Women's Centre.

Shire President Cr. David Bolt said, "The redevelopment of The Exchange Hotel is a monumental project for the



Shire of Murray and we are thrilled to see the project kick off in earnest. The Bullers have an incredible vision for The Exchange Hotel that captures the Shire of Murray Exchange Hotel heritage, history and character of our Shire and we can't wait to share that with the community."

Karl Bullers said, "We have big plans for this much-loved heritage building to bring it back to its former glory as a major drawcard for residents and visitors in Pinjarra and we look forward to sharing these plans with the community."

The Shire of Murray has also formally secured a construction firm to begin the redevelopment of the project. Devlyn Construction, with bases in Canning Vale and Bunbury, has been awarded the \$6.73M contract and will begin working on the site in March.

Devlyn Construction has a long history in Western Australia in heritage and hospitality spaces. The company has been specialising in commercial construction for more than 30 years, and recent projects include The Goose Beach Bar & Kitchen in Busselton, COAST in Port Beach, and the Allied Mills heritage refurbishment in North Fremantle. 🦋





# Mandurah Crab Fest

*dishes up a feast for the senses*

“

This much-loved festival, that first burst onto the scene in 1999, celebrates and showcases the true Mandurah experience, including the iconic Blue Swimmer Crab.



WORDS & IMAGES | City of Mandurah

## **More than 120,000 people came to Mandurah's City Centre and waterfront spaces on March 18 and 19 for the highly anticipated return of the Channel 7 Mandurah Crab Fest.**

After a three-year hiatus due to the impacts of COVID-19, Crab Fest 2023 served up a feast for the senses, from show-stopping entertainment and music, action sports on and off the water, family friendly activities, and of course delicious dishes to suit every palette.

Mayor Rhys Williams said Crab Fest remained one of this State's most significant free regional events, and it was awesome to see it return for one of its most successful years ever.

"This much-loved festival, that first burst onto the scene in 1999, celebrates the true Mandurah experience, including the iconic Blue Swimmer Crab. Since the festival started, locals and visitors from across the state and beyond have flocked to the city to enjoy what we love about Mandurah," Mayor Williams said.

"This years' return of the Channel 7 Mandurah Crab Fest was a phenomenal success and it was a great pleasure to be able to showcase the Mandurah experience, with big crowds coming here to enjoy a variety of food and drinks, including dishes specially created by local kitchens for the event."



The weekend was a foodie's dream, with delicious plates served up across more than 50 food vendors.

There was something for everyone, from seafood and crab-inspired dishes, to festival favourites and lots of options for non-seafood lovers.

Local restaurants, bars and cafés also hosted a range of special events in the lead up to and during Crab Fest, including the famous Crab Boil by Flics Kitchen which was a sell-out.

**Local restaurateur and acclaimed chef Jason Hutchen has been involved in Crab Fest for a whopping 18 years, and was delighted to see the event return this year.**

His long-standing local venue, Redmanna Waterfront Restaurant, was included in the Taste of the State marquees, which featured local kitchens cooking fresh food all weekend.





“

**On the Cooking Stage, to have renowned chefs using and promoting farm-grown local produce was amazing.**



Jason and his team used local crabs sourced by Mandurah fishermen to create highlight dishes of chilli plum crab, and fresh crab and salad, plus his other local venues sold buckets of fresh crabs all weekend, which were a huge hit.

Jason also offered one of Redmanna's signature dishes at the event, sambucca prawns and rice. "People try our sambucca prawns at Crab Fest, and next time they're in Mandurah they want to come into the restaurant to have it again," he said.

"With all the local venues that take part in Crab Fest, there's a huge lead up into the event. Preparations start in October/November the year before to get everything ready. It was a really successful weekend with good vibes and big crowds. I'm looking forward to the next one."

The Spudshed Cooking Stage was a big crowd pleaser at the event, with celebrity chefs Paul West and 'Fast' Ed Halmagyi leading the way in creating inspired dishes throughout the weekend.



Spudshed's Melissa Osterhage said Crab Fest was the perfect opportunity for the business to be part of an event that attracted people from far and wide, and showcase the range of WA suppliers that were available in Spudshed stores.

Spudshed highlighted the fresh fruit and vegetable offerings from local growers across both the Cooking Stage and the Yellow Brick Road experience, and partnered with Buy West Eat Best for both activities.

"We're strong supporters of Buy West Eat Best, which is a trusted authority for consumers to know where products come from, whether it's farmed or produced in WA," Ms Osterhage said. "The event offered us great exposure,

and we had over 6000 people through the Yellow Brick Road sampling WA fresh produce and dairy. We also collected donations to support Telethon, another great cause in WA.

"On the Cooking Stage, to have renowned chefs using and promoting farm-grown local produce was amazing."

There's no doubt Mandurah Crab Fest 2023 gave visitors a true taste of Mandurah and everything the city has to offer. It provided the perfect chance to not only showcase local produce, but the amazing skills of local chefs and quality kitchens that Mandurah is known for. 🌿





# The Waalitj Foundation

**WORDS & IMAGES** | Waalitj Foundation

## The Waalitj Foundation's Business Builder event series is providing specialist support to Indigenous businesses in Kwinana, Peel and the Upper South-West.

Their latest event, hosted in Mandjoogoordap, enabled Indigenous business owners and entrepreneurs to join with industry leaders, to discuss collaborative opportunities.

The Business Builder was a great success with over 30 businesspeople attending the event, representing varied skills and capabilities including mechanical maintenance, electrical services, recruitment resources and hospitality.

Guests first heard from Waalitj Hub Business Coaches Raylene Bellottie and Michael Jack about the support the organisation can offer existing

and emerging businesses. Afterwards, representatives from Alcoa Australia, Veolia, SRG Global and NAB shared their organisations' commitment to working with Indigenous businesses, discussed upcoming opportunities and explained how to navigate their tendering process.

Since its inception in 2020, the Waalitj Hub has serviced over 300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait clients, who have access to a range of services including state-of-the-art facilities, mentoring from business coaches, industry

connections and independent professional services. Facilitating the regional Business Builder events is part of providing the best opportunities and support for Indigenous people in both metro and regional WA. 🌿

### **MORE INFORMATION**

The event was made possible with the support of Alcoa's global charity, the Alcoa Foundation, which provides support to the Waalitj Hub to deliver six Business Builder events annually in areas where the resources company operates.







**Curtin Ignition**  
Igniting innovation globally

**3-8 September 2023**  
Applications open  
25 May 2023  
[curtin.edu/ignition](https://curtin.edu/ignition)

# Do you have an idea or innovation that could become a high-growth business?

WORDS & IMAGES | Curtin Ignition Program

**Curtin Ignition is an intensive one-week training program designed for aspiring entrepreneurs, academics and corporate innovators to both trial and prepare business ideas for the commercial market.**


Ignition comprises of practical teaching sessions, expert clinics, mentor sessions and experienced advice and support from leading entrepreneurs and innovators. The program will give you the tools, contacts and confidence to transform your idea into a successful business venture.

Raechelle Bidesi, co-owner of Mandurah Health was the successful recipient of last year's PDC scholarship. Raechelle is developing an interactive and educational app for chronic pain sufferers and saw the Curtin Ignition program as a valuable opportunity to propel her business idea forward.

"The program was an incredible opportunity for me to learn and to develop my entrepreneurial skill set and education, with practical advice and resources for building a robust business model and the ability to plan and implement our business goals and objectives strategically," said Raechelle.

By attending the program you will have:

- Prepared a business plan presentation and a clear way forward for your business idea;
- Learned how to explain your business opportunity in commercial terms;

- Learned a commercial approach in the development of innovative ideas;
- Learned how to identify good opportunities in a short period with minimal investment;
- Clarified your business idea and tested it within a high calibre and safe environment;
- Had a great week of thinking time to accelerate your ideas. 

## MORE INFORMATION

The next intake of the Curtin Ignition program is September 3-8, 2023. For more information, visit: [curtin.edu/ignition](https://curtin.edu/ignition)

## Sponsorship

The Peel Development Commission is proud to sponsor one fully funded place in this year's program, valued at \$3,750.

The PDC funded scholarship is open to applicants residing in the Peel region. Scholarship applications **open 25 May and close 14 July**.

Criteria for scholarships along with how to apply can be found at [curtin.edu/ignition](https://curtin.edu/ignition).







# Growing Waroona: developing agriculture and food innovation for Peel

Photos © Visit Mandurah and Russell Ord Photography

**WORDS & IMAGES** | Shire of Waroona

**The Shire of Waroona is playing a key role in the growth of the sustainable agriculture and food innovation sectors within the Peel region, through modernising and strengthening significant land use strategies.**

Waroona is home to verdant and productive agricultural land which has long been a mainstay of the regional economy. Data from the

ABS agricultural census in 2016 indicates Waroona had a total value of agricultural production of \$33.5 million.

As a key competitive economic advantage, agriculture represents the largest sector of locally registered business within the Shire, meaning that careful planning is required to consolidate the sector in domestic and global markets.

In what is shaping up to be a proactive and dynamic time of transition and change in Waroona, the Shire has engaged planning consultants, Land Insights, to update its Local Planning Strategy, while concurrently preparing a new Local Planning Scheme.

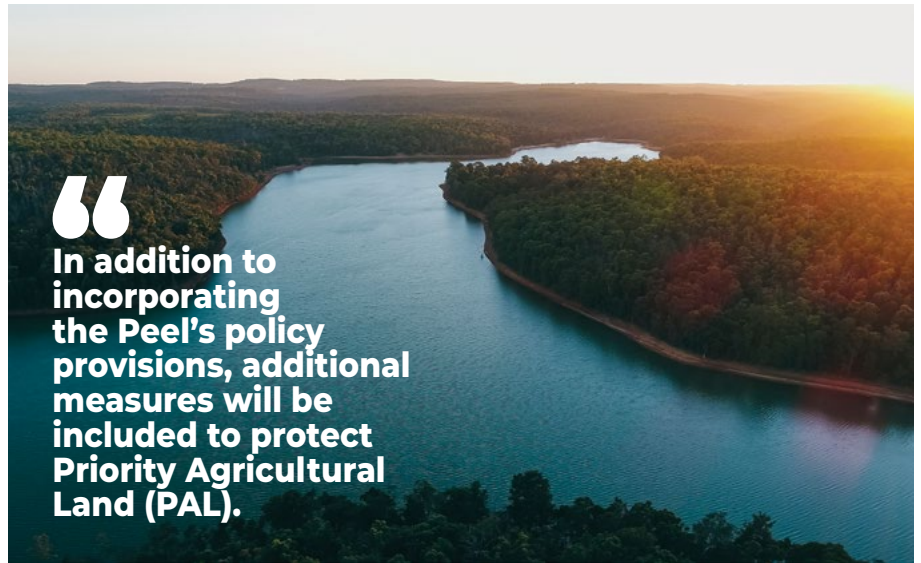
The new strategy and scheme will modernise and strengthen the protection of significant land uses in alignment with the Shire's community

and stakeholder expectations and growth aspirations for the Peel region.

To achieve this, the land use provisions in the new scheme will align with the Peel Region Scheme, Priority Agricultural and Rural Land Use Policy, July 2017.

In addition to incorporating the Peel's policy provisions, additional measures will be included to protect Priority Agricultural Land (PAL). It is proposed that land within 500m of the mapped PAL will also come under these provisions. This will require that applications for sensitive land uses demonstrate that there are measures to mitigate potential impacts from PAL activities, for example, residential development that may be impacted by emissions. Further, subdivision will also be prohibited in the PAL zone, except for boundary realignments.





The new planning strategy and scheme will also encourage the development and growth of food innovation and related activities. To achieve this, the new planning scheme will support new and innovative agricultural related enterprises, from micro-breweries and agri-tourism to carbon farming and largescale food storage and export production undertakings.

To encourage this growth, the strategy will explore opportunities for a new “Green Industry” precinct. This is intended to support the exciting renewable energy projects that are being proposed for the southern part of the Shire, in addition to the growing interest and proposals for revegetation and carbon farming projects.

In order to mitigate potential conflicts arising from the prioritisation of PAL activities, while continuing to meet

the needs of industry, the Shire of Waroona is in the process of adopting a social impact policy. It is hoped this will strengthen opportunities for economic and community growth, along with community connectivity. Similarly, the Shire is developing a modern and sustainable workforce accommodation policy to support PAL and innovative food related land uses.

Other vital considerations include balancing land use conflicts, such as the protection and enhancement of threatened ecological communities, and areas of environmental and cultural importance or significance, including the Darling Scarp, coast, wilderness and woodlands.

Water for agriculture, extractive industries and other intensive agriculture considerations will be balanced alongside the conservation

of public drinking water protection areas and the safeguarding and enhancement of water courses.

The outcomes of the new Local Planning Strategy and Scheme will include supporting jobs creation and balancing other land uses, such as residential, tourism, industrial, commercial, agriculture, aquaculture, and rural living uses.

Education facilities, community facilities, public open space and recreation facilities will all be considered. In taking this pathway to a future Waroona, the Shire aims to cultivate healthy business and social ecosystems, underpinned by its proud agricultural roots. 🌿



# UWA student contributes to long term environmental outcomes *for regional community*

**WORDS & IMAGES** | McCusker Centre for  
Citizenship, Shire of Waroona

**Victoria (Tori) Le-Page, a UWA Environmental Science student, made a significant contribution to the land management strategy for the Shire of Waroona through an internship with the McCusker Centre for Citizenship.**

Supporting the Shire's planning department, Tori gained an appreciation of a regional community as she assisted to update the Shire's land management strategy, including information and guidelines for remnant bushland, and improvements for fauna in the area, specifically red-tailed black cockatoos.

"Site visits where we saw cockatoos in their natural environment, and then located and categorised sites with strong habitat potential, was a highlight of my internship," Tori said.

"The community will enjoy and see the direct benefits of the strategy including improved native wildlife outcomes, and increased tourism and economic potential," she said.

Working with the Shire, in the Peel region, gave Tori an understanding of a small council and their community.

"I was impressed with the council, which takes a personal approach to dealing with issues, as the staff all had good relationships with members of the local community,

"When discussing solutions, it was easier to find ways that could benefit most people, as Shire staff are aware of community needs, being residents of the town," she said.

Karen Oborn, Director Infrastructure and Development Services with the Shire, and Tori's supervisor, said that the internship role Tori took on filled a gap that enabled the Shire to achieve their project goals.



“Site visits where we saw cockatoos in their natural environment, and then located and categorised sites with strong habitat potential, was a highlight of my internship.”

"Tori listed all of our land reserves, what their current and listed purposes were, any considerations of other uses and what their environmental values were, which is really important to us, as there are a lot of people wanting to clear threatened ecological communities, and mining companies wanting to get into the Jarrah forests," Ms Oborn said.

"She also created an extensive report and a GIS mapping tool, where we can add each type of vegetation on in layers, also high value agricultural





# Host a UWA intern through the McCusker Centre for Citizenship

Expressions of interest now open for Semester 2 and Summer internship rounds with the McCusker Centre for Citizenship.

The McCusker Centre for Citizenship partners with more than 400 not-for-profit and community organisations, as well as Local and State Government to provide a structured and quality internship program for UWA students. Interns in the program support organisations and projects in metropolitan area, Peel region, and across regional WA.

More than 2,500 UWA students have undertaken internships to date, with 96% of organisations recommending the program. Expressions of interest for hosting interns in the Winter round close soon, and Semester 2 and Summer rounds are now open. Key dates for these internship rounds are:

## INTERNSHIP ROLES DUE BY:

### WINTER

#### THE END OF MAY 2023

Internship period 19 June to 21 July 2023  
(approx. 3 days per week)

### SEMESTER 2

#### MID-JULY 2023

Internship period 24 July to 20 October 2023  
(approx. 1 day per week)

### SUMMER

#### OCTOBER 2023

Internship period mid-November to mid-December 2023  
(approx. 3 days per week)

land and where waterways are, so we can actually make some really good decisions.

**“We can even compare now what native vegetation and wetlands we have left compared to pre-colonial times; we were quite rapt, it was more than we expected, and it’s a tool that we’re still using,” she said.**

“We decided to get involved because the Centre and the Program was so well run, and it was a great opportunity to build capacity in our sector, in the regions we’re always a bit short in planning or health or building or any of those regulatory services.

“It really did give back to the community overall; it’s a professional development opportunity for the interns, and the project really did make a meaningful contribution to our community.”

## MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about hosting a UWA intern through the McCusker Centre for Citizenship, email [internships@mccuskercentre.uwa.edu.au](mailto:internships@mccuskercentre.uwa.edu.au).

Existing partner organisations can submit a new role through the portal, and the Centre’s Internships Team would love to speak with new organisations in the Peel region about hosting for the first time.

**Due to a large pool of outstanding applications for the Winter internship round, the submission date for internship roles has been extended to the end of May.**

## MORE INFORMATION

Call (08) 6488 1690, email [internships@mccuskercentre.uwa.edu.au](mailto:internships@mccuskercentre.uwa.edu.au) or go to [mccuskercentre.uwa.edu.au/organisations](https://mccuskercentre.uwa.edu.au/organisations)



# Pipelines of opportunity:

## Empowering neurodivergent adolescents through coding

WORDS & IMAGES | Mandurah CoderDojo

**In the Peel region, a group of young neurodivergent teens gather every week to explore the exciting world of tech and coding. Participants in the Autism Academy CoderDojo are known as ninjas — these adolescents take tech outside of the box and the results are limitless.**

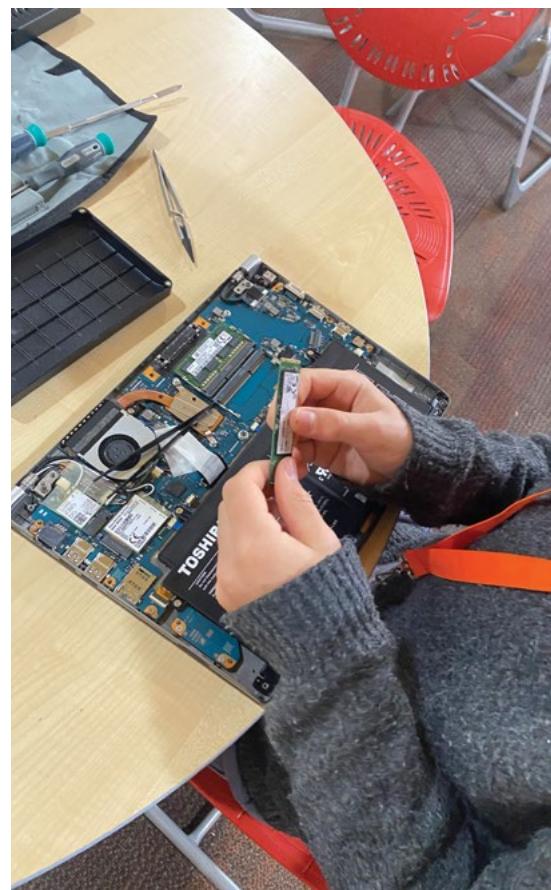


With the support of a group of dedicated volunteers, the ninjas are encouraged to try new apps and build their own and continue evolving their skills with technology. Unlike at school, there is no ceiling on what the ninjas can do, and their innovative talents have not gone unnoticed.

The Mandurah CoderDojo has been established for over four years, and during this time has celebrated many success stories.

This year sees one of the ninjas embarking on work experience with DC Alliance, a data centre in Canning Vale. This high-security workplace has never had a work experience student before due to the high demands of the workplace. Our ninja, however, thrives in such environments, with abilities in tech well beyond their years.

Last year we saw the first Mandurah ninja successfully pass the International Software Testing Qualifications Board assessment, a globally recognised qualification that is traditionally completed after tertiary training. Our ninja was 17 at the time and has now secured himself a full-time role





at CyberCX, one of Perth's largest Cyber Security firms. This ninja is now a mentor at the club and is currently supporting a 14-year-old fellow ninja who will be sitting the same assessment in a few months' time, fast-tracking his education and career.

One of our ninjas has a keen interest in hardware. So keen in fact, there is little electrical device or piece of tech that he hasn't dismantled or tinkered with. With a brain wired for the way things work, this ninja has been introduced to Rob from EchoTech Solutions, a Mandurah business owner specialising in IT repairs and solutions. This young ninja has big ambitions for redeveloping fan systems based on the technology of a jet engine and reprogramming the way a computer currently works. He is only 13 years old, and we are watching this space closely.

Mandurah CoderDojo Champion Michelle Wong is a passionate advocate for these youth, sourcing alternate pathways to their education and employment opportunities. Michelle works with local industry and education to support the ninjas to reach their amazing potential, something that can't always be catered for in a traditional education environment. Successful, long-term outcomes are an exciting part of the program, but it's the weekly celebration of all things autism that makes the CoderDojo truly unique. Creating a supportive environment for young people who face challenges in other areas of their lives is what the club is truly about, and why the ninjas keep coming back each week.

In a world where neurodiversity is often misunderstood or stigmatised, the Mandurah CoderDojo ninjas are a shining example of what can be achieved when young people are given the chance to explore their potential. Their stories are inspiring, and they serve as a reminder that every person has unique talents and strengths that deserve to be recognised and celebrated. 🦋

#### MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in supporting the Mandurah CoderDojo as a mentor or participating in the program as a ninja, visit their website for more information: [www.bustaburpee.com.au/autism-academy-coderdojo](http://www.bustaburpee.com.au/autism-academy-coderdojo)

# The Great Southern Hack-a-thon: Peel's biggest technology event is here

WORDS & IMAGE | GoSH

**Get ready to be part of the inaugural Great Southern Hackathon, in Mandurah on 11-12 August, 2023.**



The event aims to bring together the state's most curious and brilliant minds, providing a platform for young innovators, disruptors, and tech enthusiasts to showcase their talents and explore the limitless possibilities of technology.

The Hackathon will take place over two days and will feature a range of activities designed to inspire and empower the youth of Peel. Day One will be a tech conference, featuring live panels, industry demonstrations, and keynote speakers. Students from years 5-12 across the Peel region are invited to attend, and the conference will offer a wide range of pathways to future careers in the technology field.

**On Day Two, teams from across Western Australia will compete in a major hackathon event, working together to solve real-world problems with innovative creativity and technology.**

The Great Southern Hackathon is more than just a tech event. It's an opportunity for the Peel region to showcase its untapped talent and unique skill sets. At GoSH, our vision is to empower the region's youth and provide them with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed in the tech industry.

Industry leaders will have the chance to meet face-to-face with the future tech workforce and motivate our youth to pursue careers in the technology field. It's a great opportunity to showcase the innovation of your company and attract talent from the largest growing region in WA. 🦋



## Volunteers

The Great Southern Hackathon has created a buzz in our region, and we look forward to involving as many community members as we can.

We are seeking the following volunteer roles:

- **Volunteer Judges** (education, tech, or industry background)
- **Mentors** (willingness to support teams throughout the day)
- **General event support staff**

Visit our website to submit an Expression of Interest\*

\* All volunteers are required to have a valid WWCC

#### MORE INFORMATION

Head to our website to see our full speaker lineup and register your interest to attend! [www.greatsouthernhackathon.com.au](http://www.greatsouthernhackathon.com.au)



# WOTSO Mandurah:

## Fuelling growth and innovation in Peel's business community

**WORDS** | WOTSO, Peel Development Commission

**IMAGE** | WOTSO

**WOTSO Mandurah opened its doors in September last year and has grown significantly since, already sitting at 60% capacity.**

Located in the old Australian Sailing Museum, a historical and architecturally interesting building, WOTSO Mandurah has become a hub for entrepreneurs and professionals alike.

According to Georgia Sharman, Space Leader for WOTSO Mandurah, the flexible workspace offered by WOTSO is instrumental in positioning Mandurah and the Peel region as a thriving business hub. "WOTSO Mandurah can play an important role in building the asset base necessary to establish the region as a prime location for businesses," said Georgia.

WOTSO is always looking for ways to make its spaces and services more accessible and user-friendly. To this end, WOTSO has developed multiple pathways for transactions and support that cater to the various needs of its members. As an example, the company has created an online shopfront that allows casual external customers to book services such as meeting rooms and day passes directly. WOTSO has also implemented an online customer portal that members can access to manage their account, receive site news, and make meeting room bookings.

The partnership with Turquoise Café has been instrumental in providing a full-service meeting space for members. The café extends the working space and offers catering options for meeting room hirers. As Georgia points out, "For our local members, the onsite café provides an extension of their working space, being a place to meet clients or take a break from their desk."

WOTSO has been certified as a Great Place to Work® and offers a range of professional development opportunities, including online training sessions, an annual Personal Growth Conference for Space Leaders, and clear career progression pathways for employees.

Looking ahead, WOTSO Mandurah is in discussion with The Sebel and Mandurah Performing Arts Centre to work collaboratively on bringing conferences to Mandurah and offering a trifecta of spaces: accommodation and gala spaces, breakout and working spaces, and theatre spaces.

Additionally, WOTSO has connected with Visit Mandurah and is working on initiatives to promote Mandurah as a working holiday destination and business conference centre.



“

**WOTSO Mandurah can play an important role in building the asset base necessary to establish the region as a prime location for businesses.**

Georgia says, “I am proud that Mandurah is the first WOTSO in WA. Personally, I think this speaks highly of Mandurah becoming a lifestyle capital. A place we can enjoy living from but also access high-quality and flexible workspace. We no longer need to commute to Perth to access professional office space.”

WOTSO Mandurah is shaping the business landscape in the Peel region by offering innovative and flexible workspaces. The company's continued commitment to the success of the local business community is demonstrated through its growth, new service offerings, and future plans. As WOTSO Mandurah continues to forge strategic partnerships and strengthen its presence in the Peel region, it is poised to play a vital role in the area's economic growth and development. 

## Office spaces

WOTSO Mandurah is proud to announce the release of a new range of offices designed to meet the needs of Mandurah's small business community.

These 2–4 person offices are ideal for sole traders, small teams and satellite offices. With the demand for flexible working space on the rise, WOTSO Mandurah is excited to offer these new offices to serve the local business community.

Contact us to arrange a tour and find out more about how these offices can meet your business needs. <https://wotso.com/locations/mandurah/>



# Turquoise Café

**WORDS** | Turquoise Café, Peel Development Commission

**IMAGE** | Turquoise Café

Turquoise Café has been thriving in the Peel region since its opening in October 2022. General Manager Nathan Young started the business in March 2020 in Fremantle and expanded to a second location at WOTSO Mandurah.

Nathan credits the café's success to its focus on providing an exceptional customer experience. “At the end of the day, we are there so the customer can have a great experience,” he says. This dedication to customer service has helped Turquoise Café build a loyal following and become a community space where people gather for great food and company.

Nathan also emphasises the importance of innovation in keeping a business competitive, citing the café's unique approach to brunch as an example. “There is not a place in WA that serves brunch like we do, and that has really gotten us noticed!” he explains.

As an integral part of WOTSO Mandurah, Turquoise Café provides members with a full-service meeting space, catering options, and a comfortable place to take a break from work.

The café also facilitates apprenticeships and work placements for its team members, providing career growth and development opportunities. Nathan is proud of the community that Turquoise Café has built among its regular customers and team members, saying “Being a hospitality business, it is really important to build a community. We do this through sponsorship and getting to know our regular customers.”

Looking to the future, Nathan is excited about the potential for Turquoise Café's continued growth and success, with plans to expand to a third location in the works. “We are still such a young business, still creating our brand every day!” he says. Turquoise Café's innovative approach to hospitality is setting the standard for great food, coffee and hospitality in the Peel region.

[www.turquoisecafe.net.au/turquoise-mandurah-location](https://www.turquoisecafe.net.au/turquoise-mandurah-location)



## Spotlight on local business:

# Flexi-Tribe Mandurah:

## A business hub providing unique staffing solutions

WORDS & IMAGE | Flexi-Tribe

**When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, many businesses struggled to stay afloat, particularly small businesses that lacked the resources of larger companies.**

Natasja Kleiman, with her mining background, along with a team of dedicated local individuals, identified an opportunity to assist these businesses by offering innovative solutions tailored to their needs. They created Flexi-Tribe—a business hub that now offers both local and remote staffing solutions to a wide range of local businesses.

Flexi-Tribe has experienced an impressive 800% growth in the past year, and their business hub was acknowledged as a finalist in the 2022 Australian Small Business Awards, due in part to the high satisfaction of local businesses with their services.

### Staffing and professional services

Flexi-Tribe is based in Mandurah and provides clients with a pool of locally managed virtual services. Unlike other virtual assistant services, their model allows them to tap into the skills and expertise of a diverse team, providing a higher quality of service tailored to their clients' needs.

Flexi-Tribe offers a wide range of services including Bookkeeping, CFO Services, Human Resources, Digital Marketing, Business advisory, Web design, IT and Development.

The team is comprised of professional freelance staff with expertise in a wide range of fields. Their cost-effective



team of local and remote staff allows businesses the benefits of scaling up and down to accommodate their needs and budget.

### Project Management System to Offer Hybrid Services

Flexi-Tribe is continually innovating to provide better solutions to its clients. They have developed an enviable project management system which oversees their talented and flexible team of remote professionals. This system ensures that the right person is assigned to a task.

Flexi-Tribe offers an overarching umbrella that connects local people working on the ground with remote staff. Each task is lodged as a ticket in the system which is delegated to the appropriate team. For instance, if a business needs marketing assistance, their client success manager will lodge a ticket and a virtual marketing team will take over.

### Private Information and Cyber Security

Flexi-Tribe recognises the crucial nature of data security and privacy regarding sensitive client information and has


established rigorous protocols to guarantee the safe and secure handling of all client data.

Flexi-Tribe has implemented various cybersecurity solutions to protect against potential data breaches and cyber-attacks. Their local team of IT support and developers are trained to identify and mitigate potential risks and they conduct regular security audits to identify any vulnerabilities in their systems.

### Looking to the Future

Flexi-Tribe has experienced continuous growth and the team takes pride in their accomplishments over a short period. They see themselves expanding further and becoming a leader in the industry.

Their vision offers greater benefits and opportunities for the Peel region by allowing local business the ability to grow whilst business owners can focus on what they do best.

The future looks bright for Flexi-Tribe and the Peel district! 

**MORE INFORMATION**  
[www.flexi-tribe.com](http://www.flexi-tribe.com)



# Bluebird Technology:

## Empowering the Peel region through IT Innovation and Community Support

**WORDS & IMAGE** | Bluebird Technology and Peel Development Commission

### In the Peel region, Bluebird Technology stands as a testament to innovation, growth, and community involvement.

Founded in July 2021 by husband and wife team Stuart and Kerriane Millington, Bluebird Technology & Consulting has quickly become a trusted provider of IT services, with a focus on supporting small and medium-sized businesses, including medical centres.

The couple's passion for providing exceptional service was born out of Stuart's 20 years of experience in IT and Kerriane's decade-long customer service background. They launched the business with a mission to deliver better services than they had previously encountered. Their dedication to customer service and willingness to share knowledge has

driven the company's growth and earned them a nomination for a Telstra Best of Business Award in their first year of operation.

Soon, Bluebird Technology will welcome two new staff members as part of their commitment to providing opportunities for people seeking to enter the IT industry. Stuart and Kerriane believe in the importance of fostering great customer service skills and offering ongoing training and skills development for their employees. They partner with leading tech companies like Microsoft, Cisco, Apple, and Google to ensure their team stays up-to-date with the latest industry trends.

Innovation is at the core of Bluebird Technology's competitive edge, and they have embraced the opportunities that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the rise of remote work and telehealth services. Stuart and Kerriane prioritise security and privacy in their offerings, understanding the critical nature of these aspects in the digital age.

**Innovation**  
is at the core of  
Bluebird Technology's  
competitive edge.

While they have worked with national businesses, Stuart and Kerriane are passionate about supporting the Peel region, both in their professional and personal lives. They are active volunteers in the community and aim to foster strategic partnerships and alliances with local businesses. As Stuart and Kerriane put it, "a rising tide lifts all boats."

Looking ahead, the couple envisions steady growth for Bluebird Technology while maintaining their focus on the Peel region. They plan to continue working out of the WOTSO shared workspace, which offers the flexibility to accommodate their expanding team. Their commitment to providing employment opportunities and promoting industry development in the Peel region is a valuable contribution to the area's overall prosperity.

Reflecting on their accomplishments, Stuart Millington, Technical Director, shares his excitement for the company's future, stating, "The thing that is really igniting our passion at the moment is how we can give an opportunity to those looking to enter the IT industry in the Peel region that wouldn't normally get one."

With their dedication to innovation, customer service, and community support, Bluebird Technology is set to make a lasting impact in the Peel region. 🌿

#### MORE INFORMATION

[bluebirdtechnology.com.au](https://bluebirdtechnology.com.au)





# Q&A: Staff profiles

**WORDS** | Natalie Lees  
**IMAGES** | Peel Development Commission

## Introducing

### Natalie Lees

Principal Regional Development  
 Officer



#### 1. Tell us a bit about your role at the PDC?

My role involves overseeing projects within the workforce and community development sectors that aim to enhance socio-economic outcomes for the Peel communities, in line with the Peel Development Commission's objectives.

#### 2. What do you enjoy most about working in the Peel region?

Getting to work with community members and a wide range of stakeholders who are passionate about

making a difference to our community is the best part of the job. Doing so in such a beautiful area surrounded by waterways is also a big perk.

#### 3. How did you decide on a career in regional development?

Growing up in Mandurah and later living and working in the Kimberley and Wheatbelt gave me an appreciation of the benefits of living in a regional area, such as a quieter pace of life, closer community ties, and access to beautiful natural environments.

However, it can also present challenges such as limited access to services, job opportunities, and education and training programs. Limited infrastructure and public transport can make it difficult to access essential services. These challenges can impact the quality of life and opportunities available to those living in regional areas. I want to do what I can to help improve some of these factors for the local community.

#### 4. Tell us about your involvement with the Peel Mental Health Taskforce?

As part of my work with the Peel Development Commission, I am participating in the Peel Mental Health Taskforce meetings to assist with stakeholder engagement and cross coordination with other working groups that I sit on.

The Commission recognises the importance of this taskforce in bringing together the mental health sector to collaborate effectively, and is funding

the stakeholder engagement aspect of the initiative.

My primary focus is on facilitating the implementation of the People of Peel: Human Capital Roadmap and the Peel Away the Mask III Action Plan, which together provide a framework for social and economic development in the Peel region. Both of these plans have emphasized the significance of coordinated mental health services in promoting the well-being and future prosperity of the Peel community.

#### 5. How do you spend your spare time?

Going to the beach with my kids and our playful puppy is always a fun, I also love taking the boat out with the family to explore the Estuary and rivers. When I get time to in between kids sports and everything else I also try to get out bushwalking.

#### 6. In your opinion, what makes the Peel region so unique?

The Peel, or the Bindjareb region, is so diverse with stunning natural beauty, including the internationally important Ramsar listed Peel-Yalgorup wetlands. The region is home to a range of ecosystems, including pristine beaches, forests, and wetlands. It also has a rich cultural history and strong community spirit and is home to many vibrant towns, each with their unique character and charm. 🌿

## Missed an issue?

If you didn't get a chance to read a previous edition of *Peel Magazine*, visit [www.peel.wa.gov.au/the-commission/peel-dc-publications](http://www.peel.wa.gov.au/the-commission/peel-dc-publications). There, you'll find a collection of engaging articles that delve into the essence of the Peel region and showcase the remarkable individuals driving its progress. Happy reading!





# Easier access to mental health services for Peel youth

“

It's about upskilling local professionals, streamlining processes and building relationships.

WORDS & IMAGES | South Metropolitan Health Service

**The Peel Mental Health Taskforce has been given the green light to take the next steps in rolling out a 'no wrong door' initiative for local young people.**

Formed in 2021 to help manage growing concern for people needing mental health support in the Peel region, the taskforce aims to coordinate and improve mental health service delivery, to better prevent mental health crises and improve outcomes at a community level.


It is specifically targeted towards young people aged 12 to 25 years old who live in the Mandurah, Murray and Waroona local government areas.

South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Health Service Planner and Program Lead, Simone Kerrigan, explained the recent announcement of ongoing funding for the taskforce enables them to take the next steps in implementing the 'no wrong door' initiative.

"The 'no wrong door' approach is crucial to ensuring an integrated mental health system, where every door is the right door for young people seeking mental health help," Simone said.

"It would mean that young people could seek assistance via the first person they go to, should that be a teacher, youth worker, their GP or mental health professional, and streamline their pathway to care.

"This approach removes the need for young people to repeatedly retell their story to professionals as they move through the system to find the most appropriate means for treatment.

"It's about upskilling local professionals, streamlining processes and building relationships to ensure young people have easy access to high-quality mental health care no matter which door they take." 

## MORE INFORMATION

The Peel Mental Health Taskforce is now resourced until 2026, thanks to joint funding by SMHS, Mental Health Commission (MHC), Department of Communities and WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA), with assistance from the **Peel Development Commission**.



## WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

L-R: GP Down South Chair Paul Reilly, SMHS Program Manager Simone Kerrigan and lived experience representative Ethan O'Kane.

The Peel Mental Health Taskforce comprises of representatives from:

- SMHS
- MHC
- WAPHA
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Department of Communities
- Department of Education
- WA Police
- Peel Health Campus
- Ramsay Health Care
- Peel Development Commission





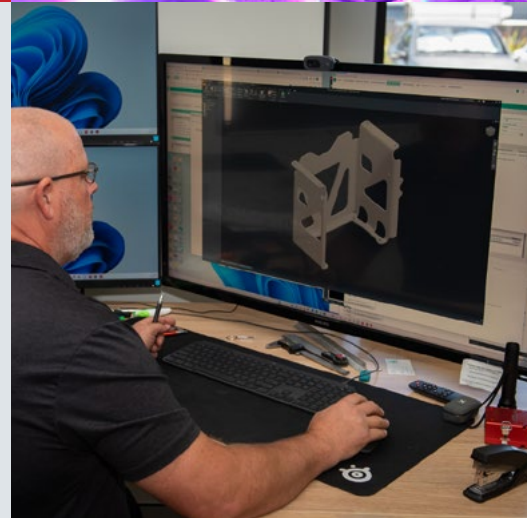
Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development



# Regional Economic Development Grants

Open to businesses,  
local government and  
non-profit organisations

Funding available for projects that  
stimulate job creation and economic  
growth in the Peel.



## Applications close 30 June 2023

The Peel Development Commission has endorsed two regional themes for Round 6 as part of its strategic plan: Manufacturing and Agriculture. Projects that align with one or more of these regional themes, in addition to meeting the RED Grants program objectives, will be considered favourably.

For information visit [www.peel.wa.gov.au](http://www.peel.wa.gov.au) or call 08 9535 4140