



### 3. PEEL ALLIANCE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director  
Date of Report: 12 June 2024

#### Background:

A workshop will be held to review progress on initiatives underway and establish clear shared direction for priorities to be pursued over the next one to two years.

A survey was sent to members by email to capture initial thoughts which will be used to streamline the discussion, highlight areas of strength or potential change, and capture collective priorities.

Overview of agenda:

1. Achievements and challenges over the last three years
2. Current activities
3. Survey feedback:
  - a. Suggested priority focus areas
  - b. How can Peel Alliance provide the most value to your organisation
  - c. Direction or activities we shouldn't pursue (eg not good value or duplication)
4. Agreement on priority focus areas for the next two-three years – considering resources, capacity/capability, other stakeholders

#### Discussion:

The Workshop Presentation pack with overview of information provided, discussion points and outcomes, is provided separately.

Potential priorities identified through the survey and discussion included:

1. Water – implementation of strategy recommendations (5 responses)
2. Mining relationships (2 responses) – continuing implementation of policy position requests and seeking to leverage from the mining industry – long term plans, what's left for communities
3. Primary Health Care Services (3 responses)
4. Aged Care
5. Service provision (community services/infrastructure as well as state services)
6. Housing and homelessness
7. How we manage growth in the region (population, industry, mining)
8. Strategic planning for industrial expansion (2 responses)
9. Environment
10. Tourism
11. Agricultural enterprises
12. Advocacy for Federal and State Government elections in 2025 (specifically broader needs of the region)
13. Transport (road upgrades)

Key discussion points regarding future priorities included:

1. It is important to identify initiatives or priorities that benefit all of the member organisations (is truly regional) and would be supported as value for funding individually.
2. Does the function and purpose of the Alliance need to be reviewed? It was noted that some of the work done in the past eg water & mining have produced reports that have been helpful for organisations as support to address their issues, perhaps this should be their responsibility?

3. Health services had interest to better understand the issues (eg develop a problem statement similar to the Water Initiative by needs analysis and map/gap) but it was not perceived necessarily as an issue for all members.
4. Does the funding model for the Alliance need to be reviewed, eg organisations can opt in to projects that they have a direct interest in, and pay more/less accordingly? Note that this may require a significant change in modelling/operation as the annual budget allows \$50,000 discretionary (project) funding with the balance largely overheads and staff cost.

Outcome:

It was agreed that identification of priorities will be revisited at the next General Meeting in August with consideration of:

- a) The function and purpose of Peel Alliance;
- b) Alternative funding models and their risk/benefit
- c) Suggested scope of works/investigation for the priorities identified to further inform decision making. For example, primary health services/aged care as a priority could involve producing a discussion paper with needs analysis, forecasting, gap analysis and identification of decision makers as an initial step (or other priorities).

#### 4. PROPOSED 2024/2025 OPERATING BUDGET AND FIXED TERM DEPOSIT

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 12 June 2024

Background:

A draft budget for PRLF's 2024/25 operations has been prepared for consideration and feedback. The budget includes forward planning for the following year to enable PRLF and its members to plan and undertake long term strategies.

As per previous years, a fixed and variable element has been applied to the breakdown of the operational funding, with the variable based on local government population (source: 2021 Census data). The proposed 2024/25 contributions are compared below to those estimated in last year's forecast (exclusive of GST):

<b>Proposed 24/25 contribution vs previous year estimate (forecast)</b>				
<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>Credit*</b>	<b>Proposed Total (before credit)</b>	<b>Previous Estimate</b>	<b>Difference</b>
City of Mandurah	\$ 10,000	\$ 92,881	\$ 91,066	\$ 1,815
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale		\$ 52,402	\$ 53,365	-\$ 963
Shire of Murray		\$ 42,581	\$ 44,218	-\$ 1,637
Shire of Waroona	\$ 7,500	\$ 17,948	\$ 18,996	-\$ 1,048
Shire of Boddington		\$ 16,187	\$ 17,356	-\$ 1,169
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council		\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
Peel Community Development Group		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ 222,500	\$ 225,500	-\$ 3,000

\* Adjusted invoice totals (inclusive of credit) for City of Mandurah: \$82,881, Shire of Waroona: \$10,448

Key aspects of the draft budget:

1. The 2023/24 budget forecast a reduction in the operational surplus to \$81,176 by the end of the year; this has been reviewed and will be closer to \$145,000. The surplus has been smoothed over the next three years to gradually reduce the closing balance;
2. The three-year plan now forecasts a depleted closing balance of \$2,611 by the end of 2026/27;
3. Includes a project budget of \$50,000 per year;
4. In 2023/24 policy position advocacy contributions were received in advance from Shire of Waroona (\$7,500) and City of Mandurah (\$10,000). The opening balance for 2024/25 excludes these amounts and will be credited against their contributions;
5. Includes estimated interest earnings of \$3,000 (further detail below);
6. Figures exclude GST.

Proposed Term Deposit Account

Options to earn interest on monies held in the PRLF bank account have been investigated, including standard interest earning transaction accounts, short term funds and fixed term deposit accounts, with the last option being optimal. Bendigo Bank offers fixed term deposit account options of:

4 months	3.60%
6 months	4.00%
12 months	4.75%

This is competitive to other bank offers checked for comparison (Commonwealth Bank 4.6%/12months, Westpac 4.25%/12months).

The expected closing balance for 24/25 is \$91,030, it is therefore recommended that \$80,000 is committed to a fixed-term deposit account for a period of 12 months to maximise interest earnings (~\$3,800 before tax).

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 2: Proposed 2024/25 Operating Budget and Funding Plan

**Motion:**

**Moved: Mayor Rhys Williams**

**Seconded: Cr Rob Coales**

**That PRLF:**

1. **Provides feedback on the proposed 2023/24 budget and proposed contributions, subject to member organisations seeking their own internal approvals. Confirmation and final approval of the budget will be requested at the PRLF General Meeting to be held on 22 August 2024.**
2. **Defers the proposal to invest \$80,000 into a 12 month fixed term deposit account at Bendigo Bank, to be considered at the next General Meeting.**

**Carried Unanimously**

## **5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 11 June 2024

Background:

The Work Health and Safety (WHS) Management System and Manual was endorsed by PRLF at the general meeting held on 23 November 2023.

As part of its implementation, a progress report is provided to members at each general meeting.

Supporting Documentation:

Appendix 3: Executive Director WHS Report June 2024

PRLF noted the WHS Report for the period May 2024 - June 2024.

## **6. 2025 STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTION ADVOCACY**

Author and Title: Anika Serer, Executive Director

Date of Report: 12 June 2024

Background:

Submissions have now been received from all members for inclusion in the state and federal election advocacy publication.

Redtail Graphic Design has been engaged to undertake the graphic design and prepare publications suitable for professional printing and website. This is expected to take 2-4 weeks, allowing time for members to review the draft before it is finalised.

A further update on the timing will be provided at the meeting.

PRLF noted the update provided at the meeting, advising that the draft publication would be distributed to members within the following 3 days for comments and feedback.

## **7. FINANCE REPORT**

The Financial Performance Report for the period ended 31 May 2024 was received.

## **8. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS REPORT [Appendix 4]**

The Outstanding Actions Report was received.

## **9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Dean Unsworth noted that as Secretary it would be appropriate for him to have access to, or a copy of PRLF records as required in that role – Anika to arrange.

## **10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum is proposed to be held at the City of Mandurah on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 commencing at 11am.