

Pilbara Environmental Offset Fund
A summary of the Implementation Advisory Groups' meeting on 9 December 2021

Name	Position	Sector they are representing	Attending
Susie Williams	North West Regional Manager - DWER	CHAIR - State government	Attended
Clare Meredith	Secretariat - Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)	NA	Attended
Cody Rampant	Manager – Land management north - Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)	State government – Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)	Apology
Lesley Gibson	Principal research scientist - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	State government	Attended via Teams
Jo Williams	NRM project manager	Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee (PMMC)	Attended
Blair Parsons	Science and Programs Leader – Western Region, Greening Australia	Natural Resource Management	Attend via Teams
Kimberley Flowerdew	Principal Environment	WA Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME)	Attended via Teams
Phil Davidson	Manager – Environment	Australian Mining Exploration Companies (AMEC)	Attended
Owen Nevin	CEO	Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute	Attended via Teams
Taryn Milroy	Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation	Traditional Owners	Attended
Alicia Whittington	Regional Manager - DBCA	DBCA	Apology
Jenna Dodge	Pilbara Development Commission Officer	Pilbara Cultural Land Management Project	Apology
Invitees			
Mae Noble	Assistant Director – North WA Section	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	Attended
Simon Taylor	Executive Director Regions	DWER	Attended
Grey Mackay	PEOF co-design co-ordinator	Land Alliance	Attended via Teams
Carolyn Harding	Botanist	DWER	Attended
Erin Tuckwell	PEOF Senior Project Officer	DWER	Attended
Rob Thomas	Consultant	Pilbara Cultural Land Management Project	Attended
Alison Gibson	Executive Director, Land Use Management	DPLH	Attended via Teams
Tony Richman	Manager, Strategic Policy	DPLH	Attended via Teams

		Item	Description and Purpose	Who
1	9.00am	Introductions, Conflicts of interest declarations	Meeting attendees introduce themselves and their role. Members declare conflicts of interest with agenda items.	Susie Williams
2	9.10am	Engagement and co-design plan feedback	a. Brief presentation on the approach b. Break into two groups and discuss strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats associated with approach. c. IAG comments	Erin Tuckwell, Clare Meredith, Grey Mackay.
3.	10.00am	Shaw River Business Case	a. Brief presentation/introduction on how it was developed and learnings from the process b. IAG comments and advice	Grey Mackay, Clare Meredith.
	11.05am	BREAK		
4.	11.15am	Updates and Outstanding actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of ratesVegetation mapping/monitoringMNES updateSecurity for OffsetsWebsite and media update	Clare Meredith, Carolyn Harding, Erin Tuckwell
	12:15pm	LUNCH		
5.	1.00pm	Industry Environmental and Social Governance Initiatives	AMEC and CME representatives to present on ESG initiatives from the mining industry in the Pilbara which can potentially link with PEOF.	Kimberley Flowerdew and Phil Davidson

7.	1.30pm	Pilbara Cultural Land Management Project (PCLMP)	Summary of what the PCLMP is, and how it is partnering with DWER.	Rob Thomas and Taryn Milroy
	2.35pm	BREAK		
8.	2.45pm	Update on proposed changes to <i>Land Administration Act</i>	Update on proposed changes to Western Australia's <i>Land Administration Act</i> to introduce a new form of land tenure for unallocated Crown land and pastoral land. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope, purpose, and timing of the amendments? • Opportunities and risks for PEOF? 	Alison Gibson and Tony Richman
9.	3.30pm	Actions from the meeting	Summarise actions from the day.	Clare Meredith
	3.45pm	CLOSE and afternoon tea		

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jo Williams declared a conflict of interest in the Shaw River Business Case.

2. Engagement and co-design plan feedback

The Engagement and Co-design Process was presented, focusing on the intent and process of the approach.

- The purpose of the engagement plan is to outline the department's collaborative approach to developing and funding projects.
- The approach aims to provide a transparent and equitable funding approach, promote collaborate and build capacity within and between project deliverers.

Feedback included:

Strengths and opportunities:

- Developing relationships through first listening, taking time, acknowledging long-term narrative is the strongest and effective way to deliver with minimal resourcing. It can link with many initiatives and be part of larger landscape-scale work.
- Opportunity to articulate a long term vision for the fund
- Scope for PEOF lessons learned to be applied in other contexts.

Weaknesses and challenges:

- No timelines could be challenging if projects take too long, so need to maintain a balance between long term plans and get projects delivered.
- Capacity for Fund to maintain level of engagement
- Reduce the complexity as much as possible

Additional clarity required in the draft document:

- Include a mechanism to maintain the line of sight from project design to completion and stated offset outcomes
- Clarify the four steps of the process of co-design with more detail about what is required to move to the next step.
- Clearly outline the role of governance structures (including IAG) in project development
- Make sure there is always a process to keep new possibilities open for new prospective project deliverers, understanding it is largely driven by land managers and their capacity
- Create a simple version for the public explaining how to get involved

Actions:

- Erin and Clare to amend the Co-design and Engagement Plan to address issues above.

- Erin and Clare to develop a version for the public (particularly prospective project deliverers)
- IAG members to provide further feedback by the 17th December

3. Shaw River Business Case

- Grey outlined the Shaw River project, and how it fits in with the longer-term program vision for biodiversity outcomes in the area. He highlighted how the Shaw River project will fit into a bigger picture of weed, feral animal and fire management.
- The group discussed
 - a. If and how to progress projects and be respectful to stakeholders who are not yet able to engage, but would like to be part of future projects.
 - b. How to set a clear pathway for those groups to become included.
 - c. Different mechanisms for offset security, e.g. covenants, diversification options.
 - d. Opportunities gained by layering projects and building to a larger program over time.
 - e. Owen raised opportunities through discussions between WABSI and agricultural lenders to highlight offsets as a value rather than diminution. Other discussions through Taskforce on Nature Based Financial Disclosure (that build on the climate-related financial disclosures). Timeline to implementation is 3-5 years

Actions

- Grey to follow up with AMEC and CME about contacts for 6 projects currently being developed. Resource companies might be able to sponsor and provide in kind support.
- Clare and Carolyn to continue to work with the Pilbara Cultural Land Management Project (PCLMP) to design methods and tools to collect vegetation and biodiversity information with Traditional Owners.
- Erin to ensure there is a clear pathway for new parties to enter programs in the Engagement and co-design plan.

4. General Updates and outstanding actions

- Rates Review - Clare outlined the timeline and work that will go into the review of rates over the coming year, highlighting the complexity of the process.
- Monitoring and Mapping - Carolyn outlined IAG feedback and next steps for monitoring and mapping. The group discussed different methods and programs for data management.
 - Taryn reaffirmed PCLMP would like to be involved in monitoring and should be notified. The PCLMP coordinator is the best first point of contact.
- Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) – Clare will be progressing work with the Commonwealth to integrate MNES into PEOF
- Security for Offsets – Clare is continuing to work with the Commonwealth for advice.

Actions:

- Carolyn and Clare to ensure any methods used for monitoring and evaluation support appropriate data sharing
- Susie to confirm appropriate groups in the Kimberley to contact regarding monitoring and mapping methods.
- Seek advice from IAG as monitoring and mapping methods are developed

5. Industry Environmental, Social and Governance Initiatives

- Phillip and Kimberley presented Industry's view of ESG. Their key points include
 - ESG and sustainability are considered differently in industry. ESG are standards for company's operations from viewpoint of investors (centred on compliance

- issues), and sustainability as the triple bottom line approach to the life of the activity.
 - Potential to work outside statutory obligations and collaborate with neighbours in regards to a company's 'social licence to operate'.
 - Where it does not impact access to ground, proponents should be receptive and able to provide in-kind support.
 - Industry interested to understand what resources are out there and who is available to assist with existing projects.
- The group discussed whether there were opportunities for these collaborations to provide more stable funding opportunities for ranger programs. Phillip and Kimberley identified that finding partners is a barrier to some projects, while Taryn described the difficulty in establishing new ranger programs and then maintaining them when there are limited long-term opportunities.
- To gain land access and support for PEOF projects, Kimberley suggested it is important to have a champion to push the project through to higher levels of the business.
- Future projects would benefit from having an up-front access agreement.

Actions

- Clare and Erin to follow up opportunities for DWER Director General to have discussions with proponents where appropriate.

6. Pilbara Cultural Land Management Project

- Taryn and Rob outlined the PCLMP, which has Aboriginal ranger programs at the heart of its work. The aim is to provide strategic direction for cultural land management, rather than continuous reactive work to individual requests for TO input (e.g. mining). Programs/projects are based on Culture, community and commercial outcomes.
- PCLMP is partnering with DWER, based on collective objective of conserving country.
- Outlined the potential for rangers to work as a coordinated system (rather than many at a single site).
- Coordinated fire management will be an example
- PEOF/DWER partnership will enable opportunities such as environmental and cultural mapping, vegetation weed monitoring, and developing an app for vegetation monitoring.

7. Update on proposed changes to Western Australia's *Land Administration Act* (with focus on diversification lease)

- The proposed changes include establishing a head power to grant a diversification lease (new form of non-exclusive land tenure). Could enable multiple uses of tenure (e.g. pastoral and carbon farming). It could potentially include offsets
- It will not replace pastoral lease if only intention is to graze.
- A diversification lease would require a pastoralist to surrender part of the lease for those purposes.
- Still obligations to manage the condition of the land
- The Minister would decide the length of the lease, which could extend to 50 years.
- It will require ILUAs and negotiation with TOs for access

Actions

- Clare to follow up with Alison to provide further feedback and to identify whether areas could be set aside for offsets.
- Clare to liaise with Phillip regarding API test case (Western Edge of Hammersley Range)

8. Outstanding actions from previous meetings

Action	Who	Status
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DWER to engage with DPC regarding the security for offsets plan.	DWER Clare Meredith	IN PROGRESS. Clare to seek input from Sue Meaghan as part of developing the plan.
Follow up with DPIRD on scope of regional biosecurity operational plan	DWER Clare Meredith	IN PROGRESS.
Request nominations for TOs on the IAG through the Pilbara Cultural Land Management forum.	DWER Clare Meredith	IN PROGRESS.
Seek clarity from DAWE on what minimum-security requirements for project	DWER Clare Meredith	IN PROGRESS.
DPLH to provide DWER with a map of the proposed divestment sites and a list of the Traditional Owner groups affected.	DPLH Cody Rampant	IN PROGRESS.
DPLH to include Clare in conversations via Sian Hanrahan who is the new ALT divestment director.	DPLH Cody Rampant	IN PROGRESS.
Send Monitoring and Evaluation framework to IAG to consider once complete.	DWER Clare Meredith Carolyn Harding	IN PROGRESS.

Susie Williams
Chair of the IAG meeting