



# Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019

## 1. Message from the Chairperson

"The Peron Naturaliste Partnership member councils are working to bring together information about work of governments and organisations to prepare for coastal climate change impacts in our region. We aim to provide a setting for communities, governments and organisations to gain further understanding of coastal erosion and inundation due to climate change and likely sea level rise", said Tania Jackson, Chair of the Peron Naturaliste Partnership (PNP) and Shire of Harvey President.

## 2. Background

The Peron-Naturaliste Region of Western Australia (WA) was identified in *Climate Changes Risk to Australia's Coast: A First Pass National Assessment 2011* as one of the most vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change. This report identified various risks to the region including:

- inundation: the "local government authorities of Busselton, Mandurah, Rockingham and Bunbury have the highest level of risk" in the state; and
- coastal erosion due to sea level rise: the "stretch of coast between Bunbury and Mandurah [are] the most vulnerable to coastal erosion".

Furthermore, the Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project; *Developing Flexible Adaptation Pathways for the Peron Naturaliste Coastal Region of WA* which assessed potential adaptation strategies to respond to coastal hazards arising from climate change induced sea level rise in the region, identified that from now to 2100:

- erosion is a far more pervasive issue than flooding;
- 800 hectares of residential land would be subject to an increase in flooding risk;
- approximately 200 metre wide strip is at risk from erosion along the whole extent of the coastline;
- the value at risk of the affected assets along this section of coastline is approximately \$1.2 billion; and
- approximately \$1.1 billion of assets can be saved, at a cost of around \$120 million.

Local government has an important role in climate change adaptation due to its statutory responsibilities, particularly in development control. The regulatory functions of planning, building, health as well as emergency management and asset management, are just some functions of local government which will be directly impacted by climate change.

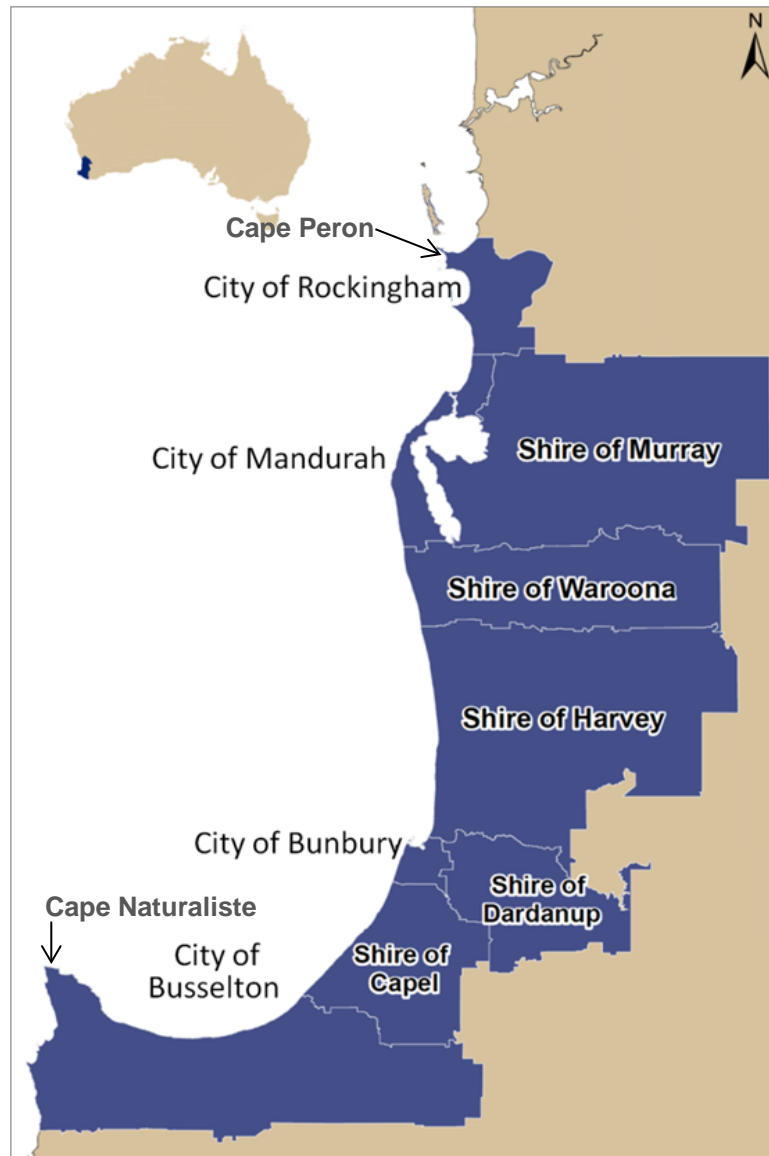


Figure 1: Geographic location of the Member Local Governments from Cape Peron to Cape Naturaliste

### **3. Peron Naturaliste Partnership**

#### **3.1. About Us**

The Peron-Naturaliste Partnership (PNP) is an incorporated collective group of nine local governments between Cape Peron and Cape Naturaliste in the southwest of Western Australia – Bunbury, Busselton, Capel, Dardanup, Harvey, Mandurah, Murray, Rockingham and Waroona (Figure 1). The regional group has been termed the PNP to reflect the geographical area covered - between Cape Peron and Cape Naturaliste.

The PNP recognise the potential vulnerability of this coastline due to climate change impacts and are taking a regional collaborative and integrated management approach in partnership with our coastal communities to ensure a long term effort to developing flexible adaptive management for the Peron Naturaliste coastal region of Western Australia.

The partnership was formed in 2011 through a volunteer Memorandum of Understanding and recognising the long-term benefits of the partnership and the importance of dealing with coastal matters, the PNP became an incorporated group in 2015.

#### **3.2. Our Region**

The Peron-Naturaliste region is located in the southwest of Western Australia. The region is largely sandy low lying open coastline, which is bounded by the rocky coastal areas of the Cape Coast to the south and the Garden Island ridge to the North.

The entire length of coast from Point Peron to Cape Naturaliste is 212 km's. There is 105 km's of urban coast - where the adjacent uses are predominately residential and commercial and there is a high demand for recreational activity, 19 km's of natural coast - with less intensive hinterland uses and concentrations of tourism and associated recreational and cultural activities and 88 km's of remote coast - with limited opportunity for low key tourism and associated recreational and cultural activities.\* The area includes the large estuarine systems of Peel-Harvey, Leschenault, Vasse-Wonnerup and Broadwater.

There is a mixture of residential areas with four major centres – Rockingham, Mandurah, Bunbury and Busselton and a number of smaller coastal communities along the coast. The estimated population at 2015 for the region is in the vicinity of 360,000. Significant economies in the coastal areas in the region include; tourism, agriculture, mining related activities, port facility and fishing.

There are significant coastal values and assets in the region. Environmental values include protected areas and endangered species, EPBC Threatened Communities and Endangered Species. For example Sandfire Meadows, Carnaby

Cockatoo's and Western Ringtail Possum and two internationally protected Ramsar listed wetlands - Peel-Harvey and Vasse-Wonnerup. These have intrinsic ecological values and are highly valued by the community and visitors.

This is an area with cultural connections, a rich traditional ecological knowledge and significant known and unknown culture heritage values. There are areas and specific sites of both historic and current cultural value that need to be conserved and respected.

Furthermore, the beaches, foreshores, natural and built environments in the region provide significant recreational, tourism and social amenity. They provide a meeting place and area for mental and physical health, socializing and recreational activities. The coast and sea also form a part of the areas visual amenity and these ascetic, scenic and visual qualities of the landscape constitute a highly valuable resource in their own right.

### **3.3. Our Structure**

The PNP is governed by a Board of Governors (Board) and a Constitution governs the day to day management of the PNP. There is also a Memorandum of Understanding between the PNP and each local government that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the local governments and the PNP itself. The structure (see Figure 1) of the PNP includes:

- Board who are responsible for strategic direction, policy and management of the PNP. Each Member Local Government is represented on the PNP Board by one delegate appointed by that Member Local government. The delegate is the Mayor / President or delegated Councillor or Chief Executive Officer or delegated Officer as determined by the individual Member Local Government. The Board has a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
- Secretariat who are responsible for the clerical, administrative affairs, hosting of employees, delivery of actions in the Strategic and Operational Plans and other functions as directed by Board. The Secretariat is comprised of the host local government (nominated at the AGM for a two year term) and PNP Coastal Adaptation Coordinator's [equivalent to 1.0 FTE].
- Coastal Planning Committee who are responsible for planning matters on the coast and implementation of actions and functions as directed by the Board and assists in determining strategic direction, policy making and management. This committee is comprised of relevant officers from each Member Local Government who are responsible for planning matters related to the coast.
- Coastal Management Committee is responsible for day to day management of the coast, technical input, implementation of actions and functions as directed by the Board and assists in determining strategic direction,

policy making and management. This committee is comprised of relevant coastal managers from each Member Local Government who are responsible for management of coastal areas.

- Potential for other Working Groups to be created as required and directed by the Board.

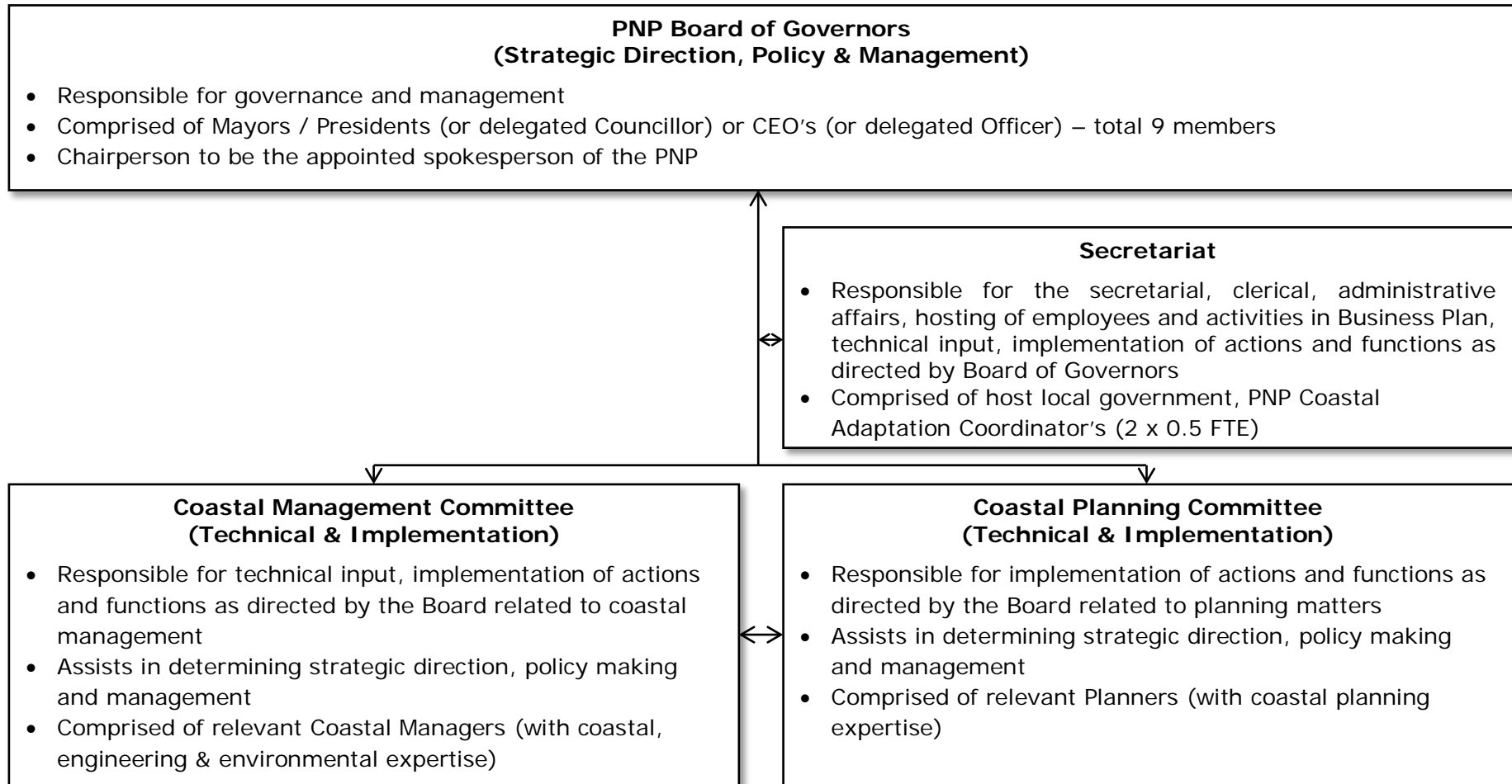


Figure 2: Structure of the Peron Naturaliste Partnership

## 4. Strategic Framework

The Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019 (this document) establishes the Guiding Principles, Vision, Objectives and Strategic Direction of the PNP for the next four years and informs the annual Operation Plan. The Strategic Plan provides PNP Coastal Adaptation Coordinator(s), Member Local Governments, stakeholders and the community with background and current information on the PNP and its strategic direction.

The Operation Plan (financial year) details major projects, actions and activities to be undertaken by the PNP over the year to work towards the vision and achievement of the strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan 2016 -2019. The Plan is reviewed annually and aligns with PNP Member Local Governments annual budget processes. The Operation Plan is a 'living document' that will be evaluated annually.

The Communications Strategy defines the approach that the PNP will undertake when communicating internally and externally to ensure the timely delivery of accurate and consistent information. The Communications Strategy aids in protecting PNP Member Local Governments' image and reputation.

### 4.1 Guiding Principles

The PNP has adopted the following Guiding Principles to inform the development and implementation of strategies and actions by the PNP in the coastal region.

- Protection of the environment and cultural values
- Integrated planning and decision making based on principles of the precautionary principle and Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Sustainable use of coastal and estuarine resources
- Appropriate and meaningful public participation
- The priority for public expenditure is public benefit; public expenditure should cost-effectively achieve the best practical long-term outcomes
- Adopt a risk management approach to address potential adverse impacts of coastal hazards
- Adopt adaptive and flexible adaption pathways to make allowances for increasing risks over time and / or to accommodate uncertainty
- Maintain and improve safe public access to beaches and support sustainable recreational activities in coastal and estuarine environments



## **4.2 Vision**

To empower a resilient regional community to reduce risks and optimise opportunities presented by climate change

## **4.3 Objectives**

The PNP believes a collaborative approach will facilitate and promote the following objectives. The primary objective is to provide a regional mechanism to facilitate effective and timely adaptation responses to climate change. Specific objectives to achieve the vision and overall objective are to:

1. Demonstrate regional leadership to support effective advocacy at all levels of government
2. Facilitate access to data and information relevant to the Peron Naturaliste coastal including estuarine areas
3. Adopt a regional approach to the preparation of applications for grants and other submissions to support timely adaptation responses to climate change
4. Promote consistent information to coastal communities and decision makers about vulnerability and risk and adaptation strategies
5. Share local knowledge and experience to support and inform innovative and effective adaptation responses
6. Collaborate over the management implications of the risk to life and property caused by climate change
7. Identify and address current and potential coastal including estuarine hazards through research and project development

#### 4.4 Strategic Direction

Table 1: PNP Strategic Directions and Strategies 2016 – 2019

Strategic Direction	No.	Strategies
1. Research and implementation of coastal adaptation (Aligns with Objectives 3 & 7)	1.1	Identify and apply for relevant funding and grants
	1.2	Facilitate and undertake Regional Coastal Monitoring Program (including managing regional coastal erosion datasets)
	1.3	Encourage integrated coastal zone management
	1.4	Encourage research and management of coastal processes and incorporation of related issues into land use planning and coastal management actions
	1.5	Undertake local Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plans (CHRMAP)
	1.6	Support Member Local Governments in ensuring the public use of the coast while ensuring ecosystems and access are preserved and risks to life and property is minimised
	1.7	To encourage the recognition, respect and protection of cultural heritage
	1.8	Encourage partnerships and undertake research and works to understand long term impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems
2. Collaboration among Member Local Governments, stakeholders and our	2.1	Provide information and regular updates on PNP activities and relevant policies, plans and emerging issues to Member Local Governments

communities (Aligns with Objectives 2, 4, 5 & 6)	2.2	Develop communication tools and best practice case studies / guidelines for Member Local Governments
	2.3	Develop and enhance research and resource capacity and technical knowledge of Officers in PNP and its Member Local Governments
	2.4	Promote community consultation and participation in PNP activities
	2.5	Facilitate partnerships and activities with research and academic organisations
	2.6	Communicate and facilitate implementation of PNP project outcomes
	2.7	Investigate potential insurance / liability matters relevant to Member Local Governments and the community
	3. Advocate for effective coastal adaptation (Aligns with Objective 1)	3.1
3.2		Advocate for appropriate support and resourcing
3.3		Facilitate working relationships and collaboration with government and non-government stakeholders and partners
3.4		Promote the PNP and its activities in the media, at relevant meetings, forums and conferences
3.5		Influence and improve sustainable, appropriate and consistent land use planning