



Peron Naturaliste  
**Partnership**

# 2020 - 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

## **Vision**

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

Prepared by Joanne Ludbrook and Craig Perry

### *Message from the Chairperson*

*“It has never been more important to work together to address the increasing challenges posed by climate change along our coastline”*

*Cr Mark Jones, Chairperson of Peron Naturaliste Partnership.*

### **Mission**

Effective and timely adaptation responses to climate change.

### **Strategic Directions**

1. Science Communication
2. Collaboration
3. Advocacy

### **Objectives**

The PNP believes the following objectives can be met through collaboration, advocacy and science communication.

1. Promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management and support member local governments to collaborate and share knowledge and experience regarding coastal adaptation planning and management
2. Advocate for effective coastal legislation, policies and regulatory frameworks
3. Advocate the need for effective leadership, funding, and guidance on coastal climate change adaptation from State and Federal Governments
4. Assist member local governments to adopt a shared consistent approach to address State Planning Policy 2.6: WA Coastal Planning Policy
5. Ensure member local governments are aware of the potential coastal and legal risks
6. Identify and develop research partnerships with relevant organisations and agencies
7. Communicate coastal climate change science and adaptation with the community
8. Share knowledge and experience in climate change related matters to coastal communities in the region
9. Communicate our regional effort, gaps and findings of local Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning.

# BACKGROUND

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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 and as emergency management and asset management, are just some functions of local government likely to be directly impacted by climate change.

## ABOUT US

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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 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.

These local governments recognise this vulnerability and have formed a regional group to further investigate the vulnerability and risk to the region in a changing climate. The regional group has been termed the Peron Naturaliste Partnership to reflect the geographical area covered - between Cape Peron and Cape Naturaliste. 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.

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## *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, fishing, sand mining, port facility.

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.

# 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.



# OUR STRUCTURE

The PNP is governed by a Board of Governors. The PNP Constitution sets out the rules 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 of Governors (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, 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 (Executive Committee) 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 and Management Committee are responsible for planning and management matters on the coast and implementation of actions and functions as directed by the Board. This committee is comprised of relevant planning, engineering and environment officers from each Member Local Government that are responsible for planning matters related to the coast and/or for day to day management of the coast. This committee assists in determining strategic direction, policy making and management and provides 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.



# DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

The Strategic Plan 2020-2022 (this document) establishes the Guiding Principles, Vision, Objectives and Strategic Direction of the PNP for the next three years and informs the annual Operation Plan. The Strategic Plan provides PNP Officers, Member Councils, stakeholders and the community with background and current information on the PNP and its strategic direction.

The Communications Strategy will be developed as part of the 2020 Operations and will be developed for a 3 year term to compliment the Strategic Plan and our objectives. This document will define 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 Councils' image and reputation. The Operational 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 2020-2022. The Plan is reviewed annually and aligns with PNP Member Councils annual budget processes. The Plan is a 'living document' that enables the PNP to track, measure, evaluate, report and improve on our efforts over time.

<b>Strategic Direction</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
<b>1. Advocacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communicate our effort, gaps and findings of local Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning to state and federal governments</b></li> <li>• <b>Advocate the need for effective leadership, funding, and guidance on matter regarding coastal climate change adaptation from State and Federal Governments</b></li> <li>• <b>Advocate for effective coastal legislation, policies and regulatory frameworks</b></li> </ul>
<b>2. Science Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Identify and develop research partnerships with relevant organisations and agencies</b></li> <li>• <b>Communicate coastal climate change science and coastal adaptation with the community</b></li> <li>• <b>Share in knowledge and experience in climate change related matters with coastal communities in the region</b></li> </ul>
<b>3. Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promote ICZM and support member local governments to collaborate regarding coastal monitoring, adaptation planning and long term coastal management</b></li> <li>• <b>Assist member local governments to adopt a shared consistent approach to address State Planning Policy 2.6: WA Coastal Planning Policy</b></li> <li>• <b>Ensure member local governments are aware of the potential coastal and legal risks</b></li> </ul>